



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Outlook

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HIGH SPEED RAIL 2

AS THE CONSULTATION PERIOD STARTS, THIS IS HOW WE SEE THE ISSUES

The Government published its preferred route for HS2 from London to Birmingham at the end of 2010. The intention is to hold a period of public consultation leading to a decision late in 2011. The consultation is expected to be announced at the end of February and to take the form of “village hall meetings” or roadshows along the route, mostly in May and June. The Department for Transport will explain why they believe a high speed line is necessary and HS2 Ltd will explain their choice of route. We urge our members, whether directly affected or not, to attend these various meetings, at which local concerns should be expressed. The details of the route are available on [the website of the Department for Transport](#). Proposals for the route north of Birmingham are expected early in 2012.

CPRE is not opposed to the principle of high speed rail – in fact many argue that this infrastructure should have been developed many years ago, when other European countries were actively building their high speed systems. But our acceptance of this principle is heavily conditioned:

- Train speeds should be restricted so that the route can be modified, to allow the impact on countryside and communities to be minimized;
- Investment in the existing rail network must not be sacrificed for the high speed system. Instead, the quality of service from the existing network should be enhanced;
- Landscaping of the route and infrastructure, including tunnelling, must be applied to avoid unnecessary visual and environmental damage and to reduce noise;
- Compensation for those properties unavoidably blighted or damaged must be prompt and adequate.

The influence the Branch can have on the debate over the high level economic and environmental issues raised by HS2 is limited, although members will of course take all opposing actions they see fit. It is, however, essential for CPRE in Northamptonshire to focus on the specific details of the proposed route through the county. The West District proposes to hold a study day to consider, in an objective manner, the details of the proposed route, with the assistance of expertise in high speed rail planning.

CPRE has already played an important role in the critical analysis of the first high speed project, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (HS1) in Kent. The Kent Branch has agreed to share their experience with us, as the consultation on HS2 gets under way.

We in CPRE Northants have now met four Parish Councils, to clarify Branch policy on HS2 and to propose assistance in evaluating the impact of the line on particular stretches. The reception has been constructively critical and the offer of assistance in detailed analysis of the route has been well received.

Let us have your views: info@CPRENorthants.org or PO Box 7939, Market Harborough LE16 9XW

THE FOUR PEARS

THE STORY OF A NEW LOCAL FOOD BUSINESS IN LITTLE HOUGHTON (AS TOLD BY ONE OF THE PEARS)

Opening our doors on Christmas Eve 2010 was a special day – the re-opening of Little Houghton's only village pub in its new guise. Gone is the old Red Lion and in its place we now have The Four Pears. May we tell you a little about ourselves?

For some time, a group of us, four couples (or pairs) – Gerald & Liz, Hasse & Anne, Dick & Alex from the village and Godfrey & Resa (local friends) have "dreamed a dream". We had a vision of rescuing our pub for the village, its friends and everyone to enjoy. We saw our village pub with its For Sale board flying high for so long. The threat of losing it was looming closer and its future as a pub seemed uncertain.

With the purchase completed in June 2010 we arranged for a one-off opening and closing evening on Midsummer's Night, enabling all villagers and friends to come and look around the old Red Lion before its doors were closed for refurbishment. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of everyone present and their keenness to be involved in our "re-naming or not" competition. The four pairs of us unanimously adopted the suggestion that the Pub should be called THE FOUR PEARS.



The remainder of 2010 was very hectic: old walls knocked out, new walls and staircases built - a complete refurbishment. So many decisions on interiors, such a lot to do but so much fun and, as promised, the pub opened its doors for drinks in its new guise on Christmas Eve.

We are delighted to have on board Leon Barker as our manager and we are confident that he and his staff will make your visit a pleasurable one. We feel we have created a relaxed and friendly bar atmosphere, serving quality real ales, exclusive wines and global spirits, as well as freshly brewed coffee and teas. Danny Tomkins, our Head Chef, has joined the team; our restaurant and Conference Pear Suite opened on 2nd January 2011. Our food is all home cooked to order, using fresh seasonal and locally sourced produce wherever possible.

We four pairs already feel that the Four Pears is our second home! We would love to welcome you there. Please visit our website www.fourpears.com, which is launching mid February 2011.

50/50 has started!

The inaugural January draw of our pioneer 50/50 stakeholders has produced two winners:

Sir John Greenaway of Lois Weedon, a member and generous supporter for over twenty years won the second prize of £15, but seven month old **Clementine Harrison** of Barnes, London, a 50/50 stakeholder for just twenty days, won the first prize of £25. More stakeholders have since joined, so next month's prize money will increase accordingly.

Make sure that you and your family are stakeholders when the next random numbers are generated at the end of February. It will cost just £11 per stake for the remainder of 2011: [click here](#), visit www.CPRENorthants.org, email 5050@CPRENorthants.org, phone 01858 43313 or see the enclosed application form. Remember, half of each stake goes to the prizewinners, half to protecting the Northamptonshire countryside.

THE TOWN & COUNTRY AWARDS PRESENTATION EVENING:

AN AWARD WINNER'S PERSPECTIVE FROM GILL PAWSON

It was a cold, crisp winter evening on 16 December when members and friends gathered at Sir John and Lady Robinson's home, Cranford Hall, for a carol concert and the presentation of the 2010 CPRE Northamptonshire Town & Country Awards. The concert took place in historic Cranford Church in the grounds of the Hall. By candlelight and warmed by mulled wine, we were entertained by seven choristers led by Sir Paul Hayter, chairman of the county Branch. Paul also led the congregation in the singing of some popular carols.

After the concert, we enjoyed a delicious hot supper, which provided an opportunity for members to meet and talk about matters of mutual interest, not least about the proliferation of wind farm applications in the county. During the supper, Alan Mayes gave a short presentation on the two projects in the county that the judging committee had agreed should be awarded a CPRE Mark. The projects were selected from a dozen that were put forward for consideration.



Gayle Robinson (left) presents the CPRE Mark to Gill Pawson, who accepted it on behalf of her company's client and the operator of the Earls Barton facility, Viridor

THE 2010 AWARD WINNING PROJECTS WERE:

The **Materials Recycling Facility** has a green 'living' roof, a sedum carpet which absorbs CO₂, offsetting the carbon footprint of the building and providing a carbon sink for years to come. It effectively acts as camouflage, allowing the building to merge into the natural surroundings of the countryside. Rainwater stored in the sedum is to be harvested for use in site processes, reducing the run off rate of the roof by up to 90%, and minimising mains water consumption. The roof will provide a haven for biodiversity, a home for insect and bird life, and the sedum will flower in summer in a variety of colours.



The aim of the **refurbishment of the historic Market Place in Kettering Town Centre** was to create a space which could accommodate performances, markets, with informal and café seating - a place that was more welcoming for families. The project was paid for with grant money secured from outside the borough. It is the first step in the creation of the Restaurant Quarter: the next phase of public realm works are underway and will be completed this spring.

Paul Thomas, Programme Manager at Kettering BC, received the Award on behalf of the council, Savills Planning and Regeneration and the project team.

Robin Jones (right) from Brixworth joined us in December as Treasurer designate. Now retired, Robin, a qualified accountant, worked for many years as finance director of the Robert Horne Group. Immediately after retirement, he spent seven months in Tanzania as a volunteer with Voluntary Service Overseas. In addition to his work for CPRE, Robin also acts as treasurer of Care & Repair (Northampton), another local charity. His hobbies include cycling and challenging hill walking (at home and abroad) and that makes him all the keener to protect our threatened countryside.

Robin is currently working through a handover with our Treasurer David Watson, who is stepping down at our AGM in May after fifteen years of valued service in the post.



WIND FARMS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - OUR LANDSCAPE UNDER SIEGE

OUR WIND ENERGY EXPERT BRIAN SKITTRALL'S REVIEW AND OPINION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

The lull in activity by windfarm developers following the change of government seems to be over. Once again our county is being targeted by developers, despite our low wind speeds. Long Buckby and Pytchley are the latest sites where applications have surfaced, making 28 to date.

Things are unlikely to change until either the subsidies are reduced or the planning system changes to remove the bias in favour of wind farms. The review of the subsidies is not due for around 18 months, but there are three private members' bills in the parliamentary system that could mean a greater separation between turbines and homes.

One bill is from Daventry MP Chris Heaton-Harris. It will allow local authorities to set their own separation distances. The second reading is in June: could the tide be turning? If his bill is passed, be prepared to lobby your local planning authority to create a new policy.

Spring dates for your calendar

Events: Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org or 01858 433136

Friday March 25 to Sunday April 3

This year's Stop the Drop litter campaign: make sure your parish is entering for the **cash prizes!**

Thursday April 14

Planning Road Show at Great Houghton Village Hall for parish councillors and others interested in the Localism Bill. Starts at 6.30 (refreshments) for 7.00pm, ends 9.00pm

Saturday April 16

11.00 am to 1.00 pm - exploring the grounds of Great Addington Manor. Tickets £10 for a garden tour, wine or soft drinks, canapés.

Wednesday May 4

Guided walk with Brian Skittrall through the bluebell wood from Bozeat to Lavendon - £10 including pub lunch at The Green Man. For reservations please contact Brian.Skittrall@CPRENorthants.org or 01933 663699

Saturday May 21

West Northants supper party, with choir, at Farthinghoe. Tickets £20

Thursday May 26 - 7.00pm

CPRE Northamptonshire AGM, to be held at the Four Pears, Little Houghton

Friday July 15

Summer event at Fermyn Woods Hall

Wednesday July 27

Golf Day, Wellingborough Golf Club - further information from David Charlton-Jones

Location	Turbines	Status	Comments
Alderton	16	Planning	
Bozeat	12	Application	Appealed for non-determination putative planning meetings Jan/Feb 2011
Brackmills	1	Refused	ASDA depot refused on safety grounds
Brixworth	4	Abandoned?	Holding company delisted
Brixworth, Mercedes	2	Withdrawn	
Burton Wold	10	Operational	Operating at 19% capacity factor
Burton Wold Ext	7	Approved	Awaiting connection date
Burton Wold South	6	Planning	In scoping
Byfield/Upper Boddington	2	Planning	
Chelveston	9	Application	Planning meeting Feb 2011
Crick	2	Approved	80 & 90 m turbines on industrial estate
Gt Cransley	4	Abandoned?	Holding company delisted
Harrington	7	Refused	Appeal refused
Helmdon / Greatworth	5	Application	
Kelmarsh	7	Refused	
Lilbourne	8	Application	
Long Buckby			Mast application
M1 (Roade)	6	Planning	
Pytchley			Mast application
Ringstead	5	Planning	Complications with quarry proposal
Rushton/Pipewell	7	Approved	Complaint made to ombudsman over how application was handled by KBC
Sudborough	5	Application	Planning meeting 19 th Jan 2011
Sulgrave	9	Withdrawn	
Watford Gap	7	Planning	
Watford Lodge	5	Application	
Winwick	8	Application	
Preston Capes / Woodford Halse	5	Mast refused	Refused on safety grounds
Yelvertoft	8	Allowed	Appeal overturned English Heritage advice

Can you help Billing Parish Council?

Mrs Sue Harris, clerk@billingparish.co.uk 01604 890968, is appealing for help. The PC wants help in renovating a dry stone walled ha-ha around St Andrew's churchyard and in recording local people's memories and experiences of the whole parish of Billing as oral history. The parish project is for all age groups to research the area that was once Great Billing Hall Park, now Great & Little Billing, Ecton Brook & Bellinge.

Please contact her!

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Comments to info@CPRENorthants.org