



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

Secretaries: Gill & Dave Gray - 01275 857746

Report to ALCA, North Somerset Group Thursday 11th February 2010

National Grid - Consultation on Hinkley C Connection

CPRE locally, regionally and nationally have been involved in responding to this consultation and in North Somerset we have also been working closely with local groups. These proposals are for new infrastructure to connect a new 3600mw nuclear power station at Hinkley Point to their high voltage electricity transmission system by September 2017. This would include the need for an overhead 400kv power line from Bridgwater to Seabank north of Avonmouth in Bristol. We consider the impact of these pylons over land would be very damaging to the landscape and that the consultation has failed to consider other options.

Our CPRE South West specialist Energy group have made an initial response to this proposal and this can be found on the CPRE Avonside website at www.cpreavonside.org.uk

For further information on Electricity Pylons see

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/library/results/electricity-transmission> for documents

- 'A countryside friendly smart grid' and
- 'Power connection – at what cost to the landscape'

The National Grid intends to make an application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission for a Development Consent Order under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008. This proposal will be one of first to go to the new Infrastructure Planning Commission.

CPRE's view on the new Infrastructure Planning Commission can be found on:

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/planning/planning-system/planning-system-our-view>

Bristol City Football Stadium

Bristol City Council has approved the planning application for a Stadium on a new site at Ashton Vale. The proposal is outside the current Local Plan, it is not mentioned in the SWRSS and is completely opposite to Bristol's current and proposed policies on Green Belt and Green Spaces.

It will now need to be referred to the Secretary of State although North Somerset Council is still to make a decision on the access and car parking. A considerable amount of the car parking is proposed for North Somerset and will directly impact on North Somerset residents, particularly Long Ashton where it may mean a permit scheme for residents! Bristol City Council planning officers admitted that without North Somerset's approval it would require a re-think although it was said that North Somerset Planning Officers had already indicated their approval!

The application has been recommended for refusal by North Somerset Central Area Committee but will go to North Somerset P & R in the next couple of weeks.

New report: Green Belts: A greener future

A new CPRE report examines to what extent Green Belts are both fulfilling their purposes and positive land use objectives. A summary document of the findings asks how this vast national asset might better connect urban centres to the wider countryside and to food production; how it can help us to tackle the huge challenges posed by a changing climate; and how it can be valued as part of a nationwide ecological network providing breathing places for people and for nature long into the future. The reports are available through the CPRE national website at

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/planning/green-belts/green-belts-campaign-update>

The findings from the Bristol Area Green Belt Survey can be found in the 'Avon Green Belt Fact Sheet' can be found on the CPRE local website at

<http://www.cpreavonside.org.uk/>

Are you troubled by light pollution?

You may be one of the many people affected by light pollution. More street lights, security lights, advertising, all having an impact on the environment in numerous ways.

Please help do something about it by taking part in the CPRE survey. This will provide the evidence to be presented to the Government when they are asked to improve controls over light pollution in the International Year of Astronomy.

The survey will only take a couple of minutes of your time. Go to the following website to complete the survey <http://www.cpre.org.uk/home>

Bristol International Airport

'Stop Bristol Airport Expansion' (SBAE) group have written to the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) requesting a 'call-in' for the planning application for expansion of the airport to 10 million passenger movements per year. The application is still to be formally considered by North Somerset Council at a meeting on the 3rd March 2010. SBAE are asking for letters of support for this call-in to be sent to GOSW. Please go to:

<http://www.nobristolairportexpansion.co.uk/> for further information.

**Visit our stand at the
NORTH SOMERSET SHOW, Wraxall
MONDAY 3rd May 2010**

Georgie Bigg

District Chairman, CPRE North Somerset, February 2010

Local website: www.cpreavonside.org.uk

Local Email: info@cpreavonside.org.uk

National website: www.cpre.org.uk