



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

Secretaries: Gill & Dave Gray - 01275 857746

**Report to ALCA, North Somerset Group
Thursday, 11th June 2009**

'Our final opportunity?'

The South West Regional Spatial Strategy (SWRSS) is beginning to feel like a lifetimes work!

The strategy, setting out plans for future development in the South West due for publication at the end of June 2009 is still with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government although this is no longer Hazel Blears but John Denham, appointed in the recent Government re-shuffle. This doesn't change anything and we will continue to campaign to get a number of vital changes before the strategy is 'signed off'. The most important changes we want for our local area are:

- **Reduce the number of new houses allocated and remove the need for a minimum number of houses.**
- **A sequential approach across local authority boundaries.**
- **Commitment to regenerating urban areas and using previously developed land first.**
- **Brownfield first policy enforced.**
- **Ensure priority is for fully funded affordable homes.**

35,000 responses to the SWRSS have already been sent to the Minister and we believe John Denham needs to be reminded of the strength of feeling on these issues. People have become more aware and there is now a 'groundswell' of public concern. CPRE are part of a new coalition with an agreed manifesto to promote further letter writing so that the message to Government is 'loud and clear'.

Save our Green Spaces is a coalition of groups, irrespective of their size able to come together with one voice. CPRE has been able to assist these groups by setting up a system via the CPRE national website to write to the Secretary of State. The aim is to repeat and if possible, exceed the original 35,000 responses.

We want individuals and Parish and Town Councils to help!

Please write to the Secretary of State. It doesn't matter if you've already written; we want you to write again!

Do this via CPRE national website <http://www.cpre.org.uk/home>

The direct link is

<http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=21&ea.campaign.id=3617>

It's very easy to do and it gives you the chance to write to your local newspaper at the same time.

Bristol Green Belt Survey

This survey is being carried out on behalf of CPRE in three Green Belt areas, Bristol, London and Merseyside by independent researchers in Bristol and London by Sustain: the alliance for food and farming and in Merseyside by Myerscough College.

Your responses will help CPRE to influence a current Government investigation of how to make the best use of Green Belts and other countryside in the future. The survey aims to:

- Find out your opinions about the most important future uses of the Green Belt.
- Discover the views of a range of people in large towns and cities on the main benefit of having countryside near to where they live.

There are two types of survey forms:

- individual members of the public and members of community groups
- landowners, land management professionals (such as planners and surveyors), tenant farmers and local authorities.

You can also complete the survey online via the CPRE national website via <http://www.cpre.org.uk/home>

The direct link is:

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/planning/green-belts/green-belts-green-belts-for-a-greener-future-survey>

Please telephone us if you require paper copies of the survey.

The deadline for responses 31st July 2009

'A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World'

The Government want people's views on making roads safer. Here's another chance to make your voice heard and help improve road safety on rural roads.

Do this via CPRE national website <http://www.cpre.org.uk/home>

The direct link is:

<http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=21&ea.campaign.id=3689>

Bristol International Airport

A planning application for expansion of Bristol International Airport is still planned despite the downturn in passenger numbers and the potential wider impact of recession on the airlines.

In the meantime, Bristol International Airport are using their 'permitted development' rights to start work on a new two storey walkway which just under a third of a mile long.

Georgie Bigg

District Chairman, CPRE North Somerset, June 2009

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National website: www.cpre.org.uk