



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England

Secretaries: Gill & Dave Gray - 01275 857746

Report to ALCA, North Somerset Group  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009

## **'Government decide Sustainability Appraisal required for South West Regional Spatial Strategy'**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009 the Government announced that it would carry out a new Sustainability Appraisal of proposed changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (SWRSS).

In the light of the High Court's judgment on challenges to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, the Government has said it wishes to be satisfied that the Sustainability Appraisal for the South West tested reasonable alternatives to Areas of Search for strategic housing, business and other development proposed in the Strategy. It has therefore decided to carry out a new Sustainability Appraisal, to ensure that alternatives to its proposals are properly tested. It expects the new Appraisal to be completed early in the New Year.

In the light of the Appraisal's finding, the Government will then decide what action to take to progress the Strategy.

CPRE are still pursuing the following issues as the most important changes required before the draft SWRSS is 'signed off'.

- **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.**

### **Premature development applications**

We are seeing a flood of premature applications anticipating approval of the SWRSS including 'Ashton Park' – the south west urban extension of 9,500 homes in Green Belt, Bristol International Airport including development in Green Belt south of the airport for car parking and Bristol City Football Stadium development which is partly in Bristol and partly in North Somerset Green Belt. These are all under consideration by North Somerset Council.

## National Grid

During this year National Grid have been carrying out Regional Stakeholder consultations regarding their proposals 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.

Parish Councils are currently being consulted. There are two stages to the consultation – 12<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> January on the two Route Corridor Options, and February 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 on a detailed alignment and preliminary environmental information. 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.

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

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

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'

Please contact us for a copy of the CPRE response to the consultation.

## HGV'S in the south area of North Somerset

Long-term work by the group TMTV (which includes CPRE) means that a section of the A368 now has a permanent weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes for non-delivering HGV's. The section of road between Churchill and Burrington Combe is a strategic link in the HGV movements and the restriction has substantially reduced the numbers of non-delivering HGV's passing through the area. More work is to be done with BANES and Somerset County Council to ensure this benefit is extended to a wider area.

## Bristol Green Belt Survey

Many thanks to those of you who completed the Bristol Green Belt Survey carried out earlier this year. Results of the survey should be available soon.

**CPRE Avonside AGM and Village of the Year Awards**  
**10.30 a.m. on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009**  
**Sawmill, Tyntesfield**

**Georgie Bigg**

District Chairman, CPRE North Somerset, October 2009

**Local website:** [www.cpreavonside.org.uk](http://www.cpreavonside.org.uk)

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**National website:** [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)