

## **South Gloucestershire District Report 2009**

Over the past year we have held regular monthly meetings at Poole Court and reviewed a wide variety of planning applications and responded to various consultation documents. Throughout the year members have attended and assisted at various events including help with manning CPRE stands at the North Somerset Show and at the 'Save our Green Spaces' event at Kingswood Civic Centre in May.

S Glos committee members have represented CPRE at consultation events for the Joint Waste Core Strategy and also the South Gloucestershire Partnership Conference. Hilary Severn has been actively involved as the CPRE representative on the Local Food Partnership.

My thanks to Jill Kempshall for her work on the South Gloucestershire district pages of the Avonside CPRE website.

Yate Town Council invited us to utilise their foyer display cabinets in the month of February to promote the work of CPRE. We gratefully accepted the offer and put on an eye-catching display featuring the 'Stop the Drop' campaign.

Our annual Craft Fair was held at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall in October 2008, but unfortunately business was down on previous years so, with some reluctance, we agreed that we would not run a Craft Fair in 2009.

At our AGM in November we enjoyed an interesting talk by Richard Spalding entitled 'Growing Veg not houses' - about agricultural land at risk of development in South Gloucestershire.

This year we have taken part in South Gloucestershire Council's consultation on their Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document. There will be further consultation on the Draft DPD before it is submitted to the Secretary of State in May 2010. There will then be an Independent Examination in September 2010 before adoption in January 2011. We objected to the inclusion in the DPD of a very large site at Tanhouse Lane, Yate. We also expressed concern about the proposal to increase density at several existing sites in the Green Belt, as this would increase the harm to the Green Belt.

We have been anxiously awaiting the Secretary of State's response to the Regional Spatial Strategy, but the announcement has been delayed due to legal challenges made against the Government regarding the South East Plan. In the meantime, however, a planning application was submitted for 450 houses in the Green Belt at Oldland Common. We strongly objected to this premature application and rejected the developer's claim that the land in the Area of Search has already been released from the green belt.

The application was refused by South Gloucestershire Council but an appeal has been submitted. We strongly support the sequential approach to development and consider it is completely inappropriate for developers to cherry pick Green Belt sites whilst there are adequate appropriate development sites available.

CPRE was represented at the recent Windmill Green planning inquiry for 220 houses and retail floorspace adjacent to Park Farm at Frampton Cotterell. Unfortunately the Inspector upheld the developer's appeal, so this valued green field site will be lost and roads in the locality will become even more congested.

In the coming year we are likely to see more large planning applications being submitted in and around South Gloucestershire and, although the Council may refuse them, there is every likelihood that appeals will be heard and in the current climate it is likely that Inspectors will let a lot through.

Finally, it has recently been announced that a new nuclear power station is proposed to be built at Oldbury. The application will be decided by the new Infrastructure Planning Commission and this will bring new challenges. The construction period alone would have an enormous impact on the area around Shepperdine and Oldbury.

As always, my thanks to all the loyal committee members for their continued hard work and support.

Marilyn Palmer, S Glos District Chairman  
26.11.09