



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England

Secretaries: Gill & Dave Gray - 01275 857746

## Report to ALCA, North Somerset Group – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006

### Regional Spatial Strategy

The consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West 2006-2026 ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> August. CPRE North Somerset's response has been included in the major response for the region. We will be following this through to the Examination in Public (EiP) due to start on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April and run for 9 weeks, ending around Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007. It will be at the Thistle Hotel, Exeter. There will be no sub-regional sessions elsewhere. Details can be found on [www.southwesteip.co.uk](http://www.southwesteip.co.uk)

The RSS plans for North Somerset are particularly challenging with a total of 26,000 new homes, 9,000 of these on Green Belt land and 12,000 in and around Weston-super-Mare on flood plain.

We have provided a detailed critique of the proposals and have directed the Regional Assembly to its own Strategic Sustainability Assessment that provides a clear argument **against** many of the main document's proposals.

Of interest may be the latest RPG10 Annual monitoring report (2004) for the South West. Up until 2003, the figures show that despite policy directing development to be concentrated in Principal Urban Areas (PUA's), 40% of development is in PUA's, with 39% in towns over 10K and 20% in settlements fewer than 10K. The latest figures do show a rise of 2.5% in PUA's, but this still doesn't meet the aims of RPG10.

For further information, not just on housing, but on transport and the environment, go to [www.swrpm.org.uk/Monitoring/](http://www.swrpm.org.uk/Monitoring/)

### Roads and Transport

CPRE has been working with the RAC Foundation and has produced a paper 'Guideline for Road Signing in Rural Areas' and new information on Quiet Lane Regulations can be found on the Department of Transport website.

### Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study (GBSTS)

The proposals in the GBSTS cause us great concern.

New roads do not solve traffic problems as our latest CPRE research 'Beyond Transport Infrastructure' shows. The analysis of Highways Agency data finds the benefits of road-building are often, at best, unproven. Its recommendations promote more informed decision-making on road transport schemes. See [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk) for more information.

## **Bristol International Airport**

BIA Master Plan proposing further expansion of the airport is due shortly and we would urge all Parishes to consider the major impact this will have. We have consistently resisted expansion plans, holding the view, with all other regional airports also wanting to expand; passenger numbers at 6M is the maximum the area can support.

## **Local Planning Issues**

Planning queries from CPRE members and the public are becoming more frequent. We continue to monitor planning applications on a weekly basis, but our resources have limited the work we could do. We would welcome contact from Parish Council's where they have particular issues with planning applications.

## **Local Foods**

On a lighter note, CPRE has just published a new report '**The Real Choice**' – how local foods can survive the supermarket onslaught.

This report shows how local foods – grown, processed and consumed in the same district – can flourish, provided the growth of supermarket chains is restrained by sound planning policies.

See [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk) for more information.

## **Events**

We attended the Nailsea Showcase on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

We were kept very busy. Discussion with residents illustrated the concern over proposed new roads and other local controversial planning applications.

**CPRE Avonside AGM** will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at Marksbury Village Hall.

**Georgie Bigg,  
District Chairman, CPRE North Somerset  
September 2006**