



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

Secretaries: Gill & Dave Gray - 01275 857746

Report to ALCA, North Somerset Group Thursday 14th June 2007

New website

The new CPRE Avonside website is now live and can be found at <http://www.cpreavonside.org.uk/> The website has pages for each of the districts in the area, including North Somerset and will be updated on a regular basis. We also have a new email address at info@cpreavonside.org.uk Members and non-members will continue to be able to access various levels of information on our national website <http://www.cpre.org.uk/home> and a link is available between websites.

Date for your diary

CPRE Avonside AGM & Village of the Year
Saturday 24th November 2007
Cleeve Village Hall

North Somerset Replacement Local Plan

The North Somerset Replacement Local Plan has now been adopted and is being put to the test. Last week an Appeal was held in Wrington to challenge the decision to refuse a proposal for the restoration of Brook House and 12 new dwellings on the site which is within the village development boundary. The development had been refused by North Somerset Council stating the development would lead to urban housing needs being met in Wrington, where employment opportunities are more limited, and with high levels of out-commuting the development would contribute to the creation of a dormitory settlement contrary to Policies H/1, H/7 and GDP/1 of the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan and policies 1,2 and 34 of the Joint Replacement Structure Plan.

We await with interest the Inspector's decision.

Full commentary on the three day appeal (with pictures) can be found on the Wrington village website at <http://www.wrington.org.uk/>

Draft Regional Spatial Strategy Examination in Public (EiP)

CPRE has been attending all sessions of the EiP and is being represented appropriate to the topic and location. The West of England session, which includes North Somerset, was heard on the 15th, 16th and 17th May. All the sessions on these days were lead by Barton Willmore for the developers who challenged the housing numbers for our area, wanting them increased to around 140,000 from the current figure of 92,500 proposed in the RSS.

In the RSS, North Somerset is allocated 26,000 new homes for the period 2006-2026 with 9,000 of these on Green Belt land and 12,000 in and around Weston-super-Mare.

Other sessions that will have our local involvement are transport on the 26th & 27th June and retail on the 4th July. 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.

Our full southwest response can be found on www.cpresouthwest.org.uk

The EiP is being held at the Thistle Hotel, Exeter. There are no sub-regional sessions elsewhere. Details can be found on www.southwesteip.co.uk

The Planning White Paper

The Government published its Planning White Paper on Monday 21st May 2007.

It is divided into two major sections. The first concerns planning for Major Infrastructure Projects. The second deals with streamlining the planning system.

Five additional consultation papers have been issued alongside the Planning White Paper including a new way to manage large scale major planning applications. Despite the major reform of the planning system following the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the White Paper proposes further sweeping changes to the system.

The Government's primary concern appears to be that there is a bias within the current planning system towards sustainability and environmental protection, with insufficient weight being given to economic development. This was the thinking behind Kate Barker's Review of Land Use Planning, published in December last year, which underpins the White Paper. The arguments in CPRE's critique of this review **Deconstructing Barker** are highly relevant to aspects of the Planning White Paper. Copies can be downloaded from <http://www.cpre.org.uk/library/campaign/planning-system> <http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/planning/planning-system/planning-system-what-you-can-do> gives further information from CPRE and how you can respond. **The deadline for responses is August 17th 2007.**

CPRE North Somerset AGM 24th May 2007

Our recent AGM included a presentation from the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) who talked on the deficiencies of the Air Transport White Paper published in December 2003, action since then and what is required for the future. It was good to see Parish & Town Councillors attending, together with many residents with a keen interest in the topic.

SASIG is part of the Local Government Association and as such any local authority in England and Wales with an interest in strategic aviation issues is welcome to join. At present SASIG have over 70 local authorities in membership. North Somerset Council is presently not a member. North Somerset Councillors were well represented at the AGM and we will continue to encourage North Somerset Council to become a member of SASIG so that they may be well informed on aviation matters. This will be particularly relevant in relation to the proposed expansion plans of Bristol International Airport.

For further information on SASIG go to <http://www.sasig.org/>

Off-Site Airport Parking

Concern is being expressed by residents at the proposals for the parking of 1200 cars at the Langford Mushroom Farm, Stock Lane, Langford to accommodate travellers using Bristol International Airport. This is against policies in T/12 of the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan, which say

Car parking for the airport will not be permitted except in the following locations:

- a) within the Green Belt inset at Lulsgate
- b) in association with overnight accommodation, provided that the number of parking spaces on site does not exceed three times the number of bedrooms
- c) within the settlement boundary of Weston-super-Mare or within the Weston Regeneration Area, where the provision is planned as part of an integrated transport strategy for the town and its links with the airport that contributes to the creation of more sustainable travel patterns.

Georgie Bigg

District Chairman, CPRE North Somerset

June 2007