



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

Secretaries: Gill & Dave Gray - 01275 857746

Report to ALCA, North Somerset Group Wednesday 21st February 2007

Regional Spatial Strategy

The time allowed for the Examination in Public (EiP) on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West 2006-2026 has been extended and will include a new session on climate change. The EiP will start on Tuesday 17th April and run until Friday 6th July 2007. CPRE has been invited to all sessions and will be represented appropriate to the topic and location.

The West of England session, which includes North Somerset is due to be heard on the 15th, 16th and 17th May, although there are other sessions, for example transport, which could have important impacts for us. 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.

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

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

North Somerset Replacement Local Plan

The residential development strategies in the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan Policies H/1 and H/7 support more sustainable patterns of development giving preference to new residential developments on previously developed and other suitable land within Weston-super-Mare, Portishead, Nailsea and Clevedon, these being the four main towns in North Somerset. New residential development outside these towns must be able to provide employment and local community facilities and not contribute to creating a dormitory settlement with high levels of out-commuting.

A number of recent planning applications have challenged this policy and have been refused on these grounds (Policy H/1 & H/7). It looks like this is now to be tested with an appeal in progress for the Richards Garage, Wrington development. The outcome of this will be important for all rural villages in North Somerset.

New CPRE publications on planning: Future Planners, The Great Landbanking Carve-up and Compact Sustainable Communities – available to download from www.cpre.org.uk

Bristol International Airport

The final version of BIA's Master Plan was submitted to North Somerset Council in November of last year. North Somerset Council then carried out their own consultation on the final Master Plan which ended on the 22nd December 2006 with 4757 letters of objection and 250 letter of support to the plans. The Master Plan has been considered at all the Area Planning Committees, the Strategic Planning & Economic Development Policy & Scrutiny Panel, Planning and Regulatory and two full council meetings.

At the last full council meeting on the 20th February 2006 the council agreed:

'that the Bristol International Airport Master Plan be noted and the Airport advised of this Council's significant concerns regarding the following issues:

- (1) the absence of a viable and sustainable surface access strategy, evidenced by the anticipated growth in private vehicle movements on roads in the area, the proposed growth in onsite parking spaces and their proposed expansion outside the original airport perimeter, and the lack of sufficient compensatory subsidised public transport services;
- (2) the need for independent environmental and biodiversity impact assessment prior to any development being authorised to answer anticipated growth in noise and other pollution issues arising from aircraft and motor cars, and also light pollution and water run-off from existing and planned hard surfaces together with an assessment of potential solutions;
- (3) the need to identify committed funding for works to overcome the above issues in (1) and (2) ahead of any new development of the airport services, including Regional Assembly, Government and private funding allocations;
- (4) the need for an independent assessment into the economic cost/benefit impact on local and regional businesses as a result of the proposed retail expansion, onsite hotel and monopolised car parking and taxi services;
- (5) the need to consider any other detailed issues raised through the Council's internal and public consultation and the officers' conclusions.
- (6) we call for full consideration of the Stern Report relating to Climate Change effects of an expanded Airport. We particularly note the apparent contradictions of expanding Bristol airport whilst calling for reductions in emissions from Bristol Industry in order to attain Government targets within our Kyoto Treaty obligations, and as outlined in the Regional Economic Strategy of the SWRA.'

Planning applications from BIA for expansion are expected shortly.

New website

CPRE Avonside is soon to have a new website. This will also include information on North Somerset district. Members and non members will continue to be able to access information at our national website and a link to our site will be available on www.cpre.org.uk

Dates for your diary

North Somerset Show – Monday 7th May 2007

We will have a stand at the above event. Do come and see us.

CPRE North Somerset AGM

Cleeve Village Hall Thursday 24th May 2007 at 7.30 pm

CPRE Avonside AGM – Saturday 24th November 2007

**Georgie Bigg,
District Chairman, CPRE North Somerset
February 2007**