

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Bath & North East Somerset District Committee

Newsletter

Issue 1

August 2007

Julia Sherwen, chairman, writes:

“We have many challenges ahead of us some local some regional and others national. We are a small committee of active members but really need some more support if we are going to make a difference in helping to protect the countryside in our locality.

Between us we try to monitor all the planning applications in our area and comment if we feel that they run counter to the basic principles of:

- protection of the Green Belt or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- sustainable development - e.g. which would not cause increased problems in terms of additional commuting traffic, overburdening existing infrastructure without providing acceptable additional infrastructure to make the development sustainable.

We respond to planning documentation issued by B&NES council on areas of interest and have been involved in the Enquiry in Public of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy which is going to shape all development in our area over the next 20 years”

Other committee members:

Rob Wilkins: active in monitoring for us the developments locally on Waste

Henrietta Sherwin: the Transport lead in CPRE for the South West Region

Eric Potter: the CPRE Planning Officer of the Avonside District

Nigel Hall: Treasurer

Rob Scott: monitors developments in the Batheaston area.

Barry Smith: Secretary

If you would like to help us protect our local rural area, please contact us. The more people we have helping us, the more we can achieve. Contact either Julia or Barry by e-mail at:

julia.sherwen@tiscali.co.uk or
barry@smith4104.fslife.co.uk

Issues

The Planning White Paper.

We need your help.

Enclosed you will find 3 fliers, please distribute them and register your concern over the proposals in the Planning White Paper by posting them to the Planning White Paper Team. You may well have seen articles in the national press and the CPRE Countryside magazine regarding the planning White Paper, which is seen by many as an impending disaster for our countryside.

We are opposing the Government's proposals to change planning rules which would make it easier for major

development such as airports, supermarkets and incinerators to be built locally regardless of the environmental consequences. These proposals would prevent us from having an effective say about how our area is developed and would result in further destruction of our valuable countryside and wildlife.

We are opposing the proposed shake up of planning rules because under the new system:

- The Government would be able to force through major development, such as the expansion of Bristol International Airport without affected people having a proper say or proper consideration of environmental impacts;
- Supermarkets would not have to prove a need for new out-of town stores, which we fear will make it easier for them to build stores which could devastate town centres and local businesses, and gobble up precious countryside.

The CPRE wants the Government to rethink its plans. Decisions on new developments must take full account of people's views and the impact on the environment. We believe that the planning system is the best way communities like ours can ensure development is good for local people, for local business and for the environment. The changes proposed in the Planning White Paper would strip local people of their right to a real say in development, and will allow airports, roads and incinerators to be dumped on us even if we don't want or need them. This would place further strain on our already fragile and threatened countryside".

CPRE's Head of Planning, Marina Pacheco has said:

"This Planning White Paper has the potential to change radically the character of the urban and rural environment by putting the needs of business first. The Government needs to rethink its proposals and introduce reforms which

strengthen the role of planning in protecting the environment and allow people to have a greater say on the big Decisions that affect their local area."

Take Action!

Care about your countryside?

Did you know the CPRE has a letter writing action group? Details from Louise Cook (Campaign Outreach Officer) LouiseC@cpre.org.uk or direct line: 020 7981 2822.

You really can make a difference!

Do you receive *Fieldwork*? It's the CPRE quarterly newsletter. If not e-mail or write to Laura Jansen: fieldwork@cpre.org.uk. You won't regret it.

Advance notice of our AGM

Member's opportunity to elect and appoint the committee, will take place in the Widcombe Room at Manver's Street Baptist Church, on 11 Oct 2007, 19:30hrs.