



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

Bath & North East Somerset District Committee

Newsletter

N° 2

October 2007

Welcome to our second newsletter:

It was gratifying to meet those of you who were able to attend our AGM on the 11th October. Unfortunately the postal strike meant that many of you did not receive the calling notice until too late.

Our committee will stay the same with Julia Sherwen as Chairman, Barry Smith Secretary and Nigel Hall Treasurer.

B&NES Region Spatial Strategy – RSS

not a month seems to pass without a crisis arising that appears to threaten our countryside. B&NES is reviewing its planning policies - to stimulate discussion about how our area should evolve over the next 20 years. To this end it has published a document - the Core Strategy (CS) that identifies the major issues it thinks we are facing. A public consultation exercise is being held on the proposals contained within the CS between **25th September and 17th December 2007**.

Why bother? This is a crucial time when we can affect the future of the B&NES area. If we fail to respond there is a danger that the Council will not take our

views into account when more detailed plans are brought forward.

The CS is a sub policy of the RSS. The RSS mandates B&NES to build another 16,000 homes - c.f. Keynsham has 8000 homes!

B&NES Core Strategy: the CS for B&NES will be based on the RSS but tuned to reflect the “local distinctiveness of the area”

The current RSS proposals are that:

1500 new homes should be built somewhere in the SW quadrant outside Bath (i.e. an urban extension)

6000 new homes in Bath (including the Western Riverside Development)

6000 in an urban extension to Bristol within the B&NES boundary, in an “area of search” which extends from the Whitchurch area close to the A37 to Hicks Gate on the A4.

2000 in the remainder of the B&NES area

Land has already been committed in the existing Local Plan for development of 700 houses in the south west of Keynsham.

We responded to the current Local Plan but this will be superseded when the new suite of planning documents (RSS and CS) is agreed, so the opportunity for consultation is the CS.

Consultation closes on 17 Dec 2007 so urgent action is needed. The Council asks for comments on three aspects:

- What you think of the issues set out in the "Core Strategy launch document".
- Do you agree that these are the main issues?
- What are the best options for tackling these issues?

Take a look at the "Core Strategy launch document". And if you want to influence policy for the next 20 years by submitting your comments to B&NES we would be grateful if you would send us a copy (to either Julia or Barry) so that we can submit a *CPRE B&NES District* response. We welcome your views on all issues, but in particular any discussion on where you think new building could be accommodated.

The CS can be viewed on: www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/environmentandplanning/planning/localdevelopmentsscheme/corestrategy.htm or purchased for £5.00 from B&NES offices in Trimbridge House, Bath.

Please let us have your comments by 22nd November.

Other News:

Park and Ride: east of Bath. You might have read that the search for suitable land has been widened. *CPRE B&NES District* welcomes this. We are opposed to the

expansion of P&R facilities; we want better public transport with enhanced facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

New maps show Bath and North East Somerset only 30% undisturbed countryside (from 50% in early 1960s). Maps have been produced that allow comparison over time of the level of disturbance by noise and visual intrusion from urban development, major infrastructure, road traffic and airports.

The South West is England's fastest growing region. We are under pressure from developers. In the 1960s our region was the least disturbed by noise and visual intrusion with 15% of its area affected, but now it is over 40%!

Bristol International Airport

It was interesting to hear that plans for the ~~expansion~~ were ~~being~~ ~~delayed~~ ~~renewed~~ about the continuing increase in flights noise and traffic impact on the B&NES area. If you wish to take a stance against the expansion plans please contact either Julia or Barry.

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!

Contacts

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