



The Northern Distributor Road and urban sprawl will damage precious Broadland countryside

NDR: high cost and low benefit for taxpayers and the Norfolk countryside

As we go to print, the Planning Inspector is carrying out an Examination of the proposal by Norfolk County Council to build the NDR. We have consistently objected to this proposal for many years on the grounds that:

- The road will destroy large amounts of countryside;
- It will inevitably lead to infill development in the countryside north of the city;
- It will cost the Norfolk taxpayer many millions of pounds which would be better spent on other transport improvements;
- There has not been a valid public consultation (see also main article, right).

Corbin Prize and CPRE Norfolk Awards

The dramatic and often destructive impact that people have on Norfolk's beautiful countryside was revealed in this year's entries for the Corbin Prize, CPRE's annual photographic competition for Norfolk schoolchildren, sponsored by Wex Photographic.

CPRE challenges Norfolk County Council over lost NDR submissions

After initially denying that they had ever received our responses to their consultation into the Northern Distributor Road (NDR), Norfolk County Council have finally admitted that CPRE's submission was indeed received but then subsequently 'lost', and so were the submissions of two other heavyweight objectors; the Norwich Green Party and Stop Norwich Urbanisation (SNUB). A lengthy investigation by NCC into the disappearance has recently concluded that they were 'unable to arrive at a definite view as to what happened', ie: they don't know.

This disappointing and unsatisfactory outcome does not however conclude the matter. There are two possibilities that can explain the disappearance, both of which require further action. If the emails were deliberately deleted by someone, then further investigation needs to be taken to determine who this was. However, if it was just a technical or accidental error; then the probability of the problem being limited, by coincidence, to three major campaign groups, is so statistically unlikely as to be discounted and we can presume that this 'error' happened to other responses which have also been accidentally deleted. Either possibility continues to bring into question the validity of Norfolk County Council's NDR consultation process. We will now be taking legal advice as to our next steps, including investigating the possibility of reporting the incident to Norfolk Constabulary.

The winners of this year's competition were announced at a prize-giving ceremony at the Fairhurst Gallery in Norwich at the end of March and the winning images can be seen on the Corbin Prize pages of our website. Next year the Corbin Prize will be incorporated into a new-look CPRE Norfolk Awards which we will be relaunching later this year.

AGM Information for Members

CPRE's AGM will be held this year at 2pm on Monday July 21st in the Stanley Cooper Hall at the Charing Cross Centre, Norwich.

This is an important AGM for CPRE Norfolk as we are asking members to vote on a new constitution for CPRE Norfolk. See page 2 for further information,

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE



Vintage film shows were popular and successful fundraisers in West Norfolk

Farewell to West Norfolk District Committee

It is with some sadness that we must report the end of CPRE's West Norfolk District Committee which decided at its recent AGM to close down after many years of active campaigning, fundraising, dealing with planning issues and organising social events for CPRE members in the west of the county. Members and parish councils in West Norfolk can be reassured that the CPRE Norfolk branch office in Norwich will deal with any questions or issues that previously you have might have raised with the West Norfolk District Committee. CPRE Norfolk would like to thank and congratulate all those who have been involved with the Committee over the years.

CPRE Norfolk 2014 AGM

Our AGM will be held this year at 2pm on Monday July 21st in the Stanley Cooper Hall at the Charing Cross Centre, St John Maddermarket, Norwich, NR2 1DN. All members are welcome to attend, in particular to ask questions about and vote on the proposed new Constitution. Refreshments will be provided after the AGM. Please contact the Branch Office on 01603 761660 to reserve your place.

A New Constitution for CPRE Norfolk

Members of CPRE Norfolk will be asked to vote on a new Constitution for the charity at our AGM on July 21st.

A draft Constitution has been prepared, based on a model used by other CPRE branches. The proposed new constitution is very much in line with this model, with amendments to reflect frequency of meetings, volunteer availability, the lack of District Committees and the realities of modern communication methods.

Perhaps the most significant change is in the composition of the CPRE Norfolk Executive Committee. We are now proposing to have 10 non-officer members of the Executive Committee, in addition to the Honorary Officer roles of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-Chairman. This is a reduction from the 14 additional members which are provided for under the existing constitution. This draft Constitution has been approved by CPRE Norfolk's Executive Committee and by the CPRE National Board. The final stage of the process is approval by CPRE Norfolk members.

James Parry, CPRE Norfolk Chairman, explains why the new Constitution was prepared: "CPRE Norfolk's current constitution was written over 20 years ago, at a time when many of our activities were carried out by volunteers reporting to district committees. This was reflected in the wording of the Constitution and the representation of Trustees on our Executive Committee. The last decade however has seen the demise of many of our district committees, with the last one, West Norfolk, deciding to close early this year. This new constitution more accurately reflects the current structure of CPRE Norfolk and the way we work today, in which groups and committees are formed around projects and activities rather than geographical location."

The proposed new Constitution is available on the CPRE Norfolk website and is also available on request from the Branch Office.

CPRE Executive Committee Nominations

The following members have put themselves forward for election to the CPRE Executive Committee:

Honorary Officers:

Chairman: James Parry

Vice-Chairman: Position vacant

Treasurer: Position becoming vacant

Secretary: Bryan Robinson

Trustees (and area of expertise):

David Hook (Planning and Light Pollution)

Keith Bacon (Public Access to the Countryside)

Matthew Martin (Succession Planning)

Greg Peck (Fundraising and Patron Development)

Barry Porter (Communications)

Rosalie Monbiot (Events)

Ian Shepherd (Planning)

Chris Dady (CPRE Norfolk Awards and Green Buildings)

Terry Stanford (Communications and Visual Identity)

Rob Lodge (Engaging Young People)

Other nominations for election to the CPRE Norfolk Executive Committee should be made to the CPRE Norfolk Honorary Treasurer Bryan Robinson no later than July 1st.

Honorary Treasurer Wanted

CPRE Norfolk's current Honorary Treasurer, John Davies, will be stepping down in July 2014 and we are seeking a replacement, ideally to start as soon as possible to enable a suitable handover period. The Honorary Treasurer's role includes overseeing the work of the charity's Finance & Admin Officer; making recommendations to the Board and advising on issues of finance, budget, insurance and charitable status. This is not a book-keeping role but an advisory position on the Trustee Board. The role is voluntary although all expenses can be paid. We anticipate that the time commitment will be around 12 hours a month, with a quarterly meeting of the Trustees on a Monday an essential requirement. For further details about the role, please contact the Branch Office.

Sound financial management in 2013 pays dividends

After a difficult financial year in 2012, CPRE Norfolk began 2013 with a simplified staffing structure in place, a project-based, externally funded approach to our activities and a new initiative to recruit Patrons to support our work.

This strategy has been extremely effective, reports Honorary Treasurer John Davies. "Our income position has strengthened this year and that there was a surplus for the year to the 31st December 2013 of £45,337, plus restricted funds of £12,024 committed for our Anniversary Open Days and for our Connecting Threads projects. We are hopeful that if we continue with our current structure and activities this should help secure the long term stability of the branch and ensure it continues to work effectively for members and to fulfil its objectives.' Copies of the full 2013 financial accounts will be available at the AGM on July 21st, and will also be available on our website.



A walking tour of Litcham Common, held as part of our Anniversary Open Days, a project funded by a National Lottery grant

Win with us!

Many CPRE Norfolk members are members of the 100 Club, a form of a lottery which costs £12 a year to join, with two draws a year giving cash prizes ranging from £20 to £50. You are not limited on how many numbers you buy, so why not buy one for yourself and one for a friend or family member? For further information, contact Paula Coombe, our Finance & Admin Officer, at paulac@cprenorfolk.org.uk

The winners of the June draw were Mrs P W Shanahan, Mr & Mrs D Manning, Miss B Yates, Mr & Mrs G Hemmings, Mrs R Hadman, Mr & Mrs T Eagling, Mr J B Porter, Mrs M Buckell.

ACTIVITY ROUND-UP

Connecting Threads

The last few months have been a whirl of activity for the four parishes involved in our Connecting Threads: Exploring our Footpaths project.

The groups in Beachamwell, Thompson, Horning and Reepham have undertaken an impressive amount of research and (literally) leg work, investigating and celebrating the history of the footpaths in their parish. Their findings have been fascinating, and they have been reported and celebrated in a variety of creative and exciting ways including a walking weekend and commemorative quilt by the Beachamwell group; an exhibition and specially-commissioned film by Horning; new footpath interpretation boards at Thompson and with creative writing workshops in Reepham.

Connecting....and continuing?

The Connecting Threads project was such a success that we are investigating the viability of a similar project, specifically targeted at parishes in the quadrant of countryside north-east of Norwich.

This section of the county is particularly vulnerable, given the housing and infrastructure proposals planned for the area. By identifying and promoting a network of pedestrian and cycle friendly routes that connects the urban areas of Norwich to the Broads, we hope to help protect areas under threat from development. It will also have positive economic benefits to parishes along the routes, through increased tourism and other recreational activities.

Light Pollution Campaign

We are in the throes of writing a funding bid to develop our Light Pollution Campaign in 2015. If successful the project will involve new research, new guidance and a conference to raise awareness of best practice and featuring a high-profile speaker on the importance of dark skies.



Lutenist Jamie Akers and tenor Andrés Hernández-Salazar performed to a capacity audience at Voewood in April

Spring fundraiser

A warm spring evening was the perfect time to explore the Grade 1 listed gardens and the stylish and eclectically furnished rooms of Voewood, the outstanding Arts and Craft house in North Norfolk which was the venue for this year's fundraising concert. The 100 guests enjoyed tapas on the terrace and complimentary fizz, before sitting down to hear tenor Andrés Hernández-Salazar and lutenist Jamie Akers performing a selection of pieces from *A Musical Banquet*, the 'hit parade of the 1600s'. The event raised over £1,400 for CPRE Norfolk.

We are looking for beautiful and unusual venues in which to hold our next fundraiser in 2015. If you are aware of a property that can seat at least 100 people, and whose owners might be willing to support CPRE Norfolk, please let us know!

Anniversary Open Days Success

Over 400 people attended our Anniversary Open Days which took place across the county over the past six months. The event was funded by the Big Lottery Fund and featured guided tours and landscape and architectural projects, all of which have won CPRE Norfolk Awards in the past. Among the projects taking part were The Litcham Common Grazing Project, Itteringham Mill, Manor Farmhouse, Denver and The Warrens of Breckland. Bespoke tours were arranged for people with mental and physical health issues, reinforcing our campaign message that free access to the countryside and green spaces is beneficial to well-being.



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

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