Over the last six months we have achieved notable campaign goals locally and nationally, responded in great detail to local and national government consultations, handed in petitions and a suggested green belt design for Norwich which have influenced local planners, seen our ‘Vision for Norfolk’ being adapted by other CPRE Branches, launched this year’s CPRE Norfolk Awards, and are looking forward to the Annual Lecture in May by the artist Gerard Stamp. On a sadder note, in April we lost a long-term Vice-President and friend Martin Walton, who will be greatly missed.

CPRE Norfolk Awards 2018

We are pleased to announce that we are once again running the prestigious CPRE Norfolk Awards. The Awards Ceremony will be held at The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral, on Monday 19th November this year.

The CPRE Norfolk Awards scheme was launched in 1979 to recognise significant achievements in buildings and landscape. It is one of the longest running Awards schemes in the county and to date almost 500 projects have been given Awards.

The Awards have been refreshed and revived for 2018 to reflect our major campaign focus ‘A Vision for Norfolk’ [www.v4n.org.uk](http://www.v4n.org.uk) which looks at the challenges to our County over the next several years and proposes common-sense solutions which encourage sustainable growth and benefit all of us.

There are four Award categories:

1. Green Build
2. Thriving Countryside
3. Engaged Youth
4. Successful Campaign

Awards Reception at The Great Hospital September 2015

More information and application forms can be found at [http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/home/2018-awards/](http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/home/2018-awards/)

If you know of a project which may be worthy of an Award, please let us know—you can even nominate yourself!

Deadline for entries is the end of August and judging will take place in September.
We are very sad to announce that one of our longest-standing and most valued Trustees, Martin Walton, died in April after a short illness. A Vice-President and Patron of our organisation, and a much-loved and valued work colleague for many years, Martin had first become involved with CPRE around the time that Bacton was built and Halvergate Marshes might have been ploughed up. Starting with our then extant North Norfolk Branch, he went on to be involved in several CPRE publications on campaigns and new buildings, always recommending the positive approach of influencing new buildings, rather than just saying ‘no’ to them.

Along with his partner, conservationist and teacher Nancy Legg, Martin was a key figure in the expansion and development of the CPRE Norfolk Awards. Established in 1979, the CPRE Norfolk Awards emphasize the importance of giving positive recognition for projects which promote sustainable development, and aim to inspire and encourage others. Martin first joined the committee in 1980 and became a part of the award scheme in 1985. Under his Chairmanship of the Awards, beginning in 1987, experts were brought in to assist in the judging. The awards grew in scope to include education projects, sustainable buildings, landscape improvements and restoration projects, as well as conservation schemes. Martin and Nancy served as the key contributors to a booklet, produced in 2005, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the awards and highlighting past winners. Over 1,000 copies were distributed, contributing to greater visibility for CPRE.

John Sansby, one of our past Chairmen said: ‘Martin was a wonderful man and he and Nancy did so much for CPRE. The Annual Awards were always a highlight of the year and they put so much time and effort into making them a success.’ In 2008 Martin won the first CPRE National Marsh Award in recognition of his amazing work. The CPRE Norfolk awards continue to be a successful demonstration of CPRE’s positive and forward-thinking vision.

Martin had a wide variety of interests encompassing countryside issues, architectural matters and more – as well as being a wonderful artist. His large, brightly coloured abstracts effervesce with joie de vivre [http://martinwaltonart.co.uk/paint.htm]. His CPRE colleagues and others have described him as gentle, funny, intelligent, talented, kind, sensitive, welcoming, a gentleman who led with humility, a great champion of good architecture, and a leading light for the countryside who perfectly represented the values of CPRE and did so much for Norfolk. Lady Walpole, one of his fellow Vice-Presidents said ‘I would almost go so far as to say that there would be no CPRE Norfolk today if it wasn’t for Martin. His dedication to the cause was amazing. But he also had such a lovely sense of humour too and I can remember so many happy times when we worked together. I have just looked at two of his paintings hanging in our front hall and thought how good it is to be an artist so that you will not be forgotten.’

Martin and Nancy were still actively engaged in CPRE events until very recently and his passing is a great loss. Donations may still be made in his name to Cancer Research. Obituary in The Eastern Daily Press. Great Yarmouth Mercury.
GNLP Consultation

Across Norfolk the various Local Authorities all have their Local Plans for managing development and a whole range of policies at various stages of development. These Plans are revised every few years, with the one for Norwich, South Norfolk and Broadland, collectively known as the Greater Norwich Development Plan (GNLP) going through its public consultation phase at the start of this year. This has provided a focus for a lot of work over the last few months, with more to come as the Plan goes to an Inspector later in the year.

A condensed draft response from CPRE Norfolk was written and circulated to all parishes within Broadland and South Norfolk, encouraging them to consider our viewpoints before making their own submissions, with this hopefully being of particular relevance and interest to the 64 pledge signatories. These 64 Parish and Town Councils have all signed our pledge saying that the vast majority of existing housing allocations in the current Local Plan should be built-out before any sites in the new Plan are allowed to be developed. Our final response to this consultation included five key themes: a plea to include phasing of housing development so that the vast majority of allocations in the existing Local Plan are built-out before any sites in the new Plan are allowed to be developed; for the concentration of new housing in and close to Norwich, whilst being against dispersal options; creating a Green Belt for Norwich; maintaining the Norwich Policy Area and Rural Policy Area; maintaining the existing settlement hierarchy.

In addition to forming and circulating the CPRE Norfolk response, a meeting was held with Mike Burrell and Phil Morris of the GNDP for a formal submission of the following hard copies of our documentation: CPRE Norfolk’s response to the consultation questionnaire; response to the sustainability appraisal; CPRE Norfolk’s initial Green Belt proposal map; a copy of our 1,932 Green Belt petition signatories and accompanying comments; a copy of the 64 Broadland and South Norfolk pledge parishes pledges, along with an accompanying list and map; a copy of the ‘protecting Norfolk’s countryside’ 2,271 petition signatories and associated comments. Both these petitions remain open and can be accessed via our website homepage.

#GreenBeltforNorwich

Hopefully you have seen our initial proposals for a Norwich Green Belt, whether in the EDP or at our website: http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/planning/policy-statements/green-belt-for-norwich/. Owing to our lobbying, a question about having a Green Belt for Norwich was included in the GNLP consultation, although it was framed in a rather negative way. Hopefully, sufficient pressure has been mounted for the GNDP to listen to local demand. We feel that our proposals based on “green wedges” will be seen as a way of providing lasting protection for valuable green corridors radiating from Norwich whilst still enabling necessary development to take place.

CPRE Norfolk’s initial Green Belt proposals 21.02.18

We are grateful to Jeremy Baverstock for producing this map for us.

Please sign and share our Petition calling for #GreenBeltforNorwich

https://www.change.org/p/broadland-district-council-and-south-norfolk-council-green-belt-for-norfolk. Let’s get to 2,500 names!
Other Planning Work

A draft revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published by the Government at the beginning of March. CPRE Norfolk has written to all Norfolk MPs with our views regarding the need for a form of phasing of housing development, so that the majority of existing allocations are built out before any new ones proceed. In addition, clarification and strengthening of policy has been sought for light pollution. CPRE as a national body will be submitting a ‘one CPRE’ response to this draft revision, to which CPRE Norfolk has also contributed.

Work continues with monitoring the Food Enterprise Zone (Food Hub), the A47, Norwich Western Link Road and onshore works associated with offshore wind farms. The issues surrounding wind farms were discussed on Radio Norfolk’s Breakfast Show on Wednesday, 25 April, when I was part of the panel. As well as a one-hour discussion, several other people were interviewed during the course of the programme, providing a balanced and thought-provoking debate.

CPRE Norfolk is pleased that, following lobbying from us and other local groups, Vattenfall (the company responsible for the Vanguard and the forthcoming Boreas offshore wind farms) has committed to using a HVDC system for the former. This system will result in less damage to and loss of countryside than using a HVAC system, because there is no need for Cable-Relay Stations and the cable corridor and trenches are approximately half the width for HVDC than for HVAC.

Routine planning work continues, which includes the monitoring of planning applications across the County, submitting objections where appropriate and attending various meetings and consultations, as well as offering advice to members and to the wider public. The Planning and Campaigns section of the website has been reorganised and updated, in particular by providing position statements for various key areas, so please have a look to find out more about CPRE Norfolk’s views on important projects and issues.

Michael Rayner
CPRE Norfolk Planning Campaigns Consultant
More positive news locally

Keeping Norfolk’s dark skies

As well as the success with persuading Vattenfall to go for the DC cabling option over the more damaging AC as mentioned in Michael’s report, we were pleased to hear that, based on information provided by us on the problems with light pollution, Mundesley parish council took down some truly hideous cliff-top lights which were causing excessive light pollution and upsetting many of the locals. Well done to Kathryn Moore for bringing this to our attention and to North Norfolk District Council for ordering the lights to come down, which had been put up without planning permission. It is worth recalling that our survey of all Norfolk parish councils in 2015 as part of our major campaign fighting light pollution showed that the majority of those surveyed were concerned about the effects of light pollution and use the CPRE standard light pollution clause when commenting on planning applications. For this and all our advice on lighting issues visit: http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/planning/policy-statements/light-pollution/

Using up already allocated land first

Many of you will have seen our full page advert in the Eastern Daily Press on 27th January launching our petition addressed to all Norfolk local authorities aimed at persuading them to insist that sites already allocated are built out before new sites are allocated in the GNLP. So far 64 parish councils in the GNLP area (Norwich, Broadland and South Norfolk) and over 2,300 members of the public have signed. You can still sign at https://www.change.org/p/norfolk-s-local-authorities-protect-norfolk-s-precious-countryside

The announcement back in March by Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Environment, that after a 10 year campaign by CPRE and others, the Government has finally announced it will introduce a deposit return system for drinks containers is fantastic news for all parts of the country, including Norfolk. Fingers crossed it may eventually see a reduction in the amount of litter blighting our county and which so many groups all over Norfolk work so hard to contain. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. And just a reminder that we do have litter picking equipment you can borrow at any time. Contact helens@cprenorfolk.org.uk for more details. The latest scourge on the increase is of course the hideous problem of fly-tipping. It was encouraging to see the recent jailing of a persistent culprit, but it remains a very difficult crime to tackle and sucks up a lot of local authority resources. No doubt Norfolk County Council will welcome any innovative ideas anyone may have on solving this problem.

A Vision for Norfolk

Our major new campaign publication ‘A Vision for Norfolk’ #v4n which offers common-sense solutions to problems affecting the Norfolk countryside, continues to be well-received and we are thrilled that other CPRE Branches are starting to adapt it to their own counties’ issues. You can read the report in full at v4n.org.uk

This problem of landbanking has been brilliantly explored by CPRE National Planning Campaigner Paul Miner in his blog: http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4782-the-scandal-of-land-banking. In Norwich, Broadland and South Norfolk there is an 8 year supply of land for housing. For Norwich City outstanding planning permissions at 1 April 2017 could deliver 4,219 dwellings.
Events in 2018

Several events are coming up (or have already happened) this year:

1. Tree Planting at Mannington Hall
   As mentioned in our last Norfolk Voice, we have been left four generous legacies recently which will secure funding for our campaigning over the next few years. Our benefactors were four wonderful ladies whose love of the Norfolk countryside lives on through their bequests: Miss Pamela Bird, Mrs. Pamela Ulyat, Mrs. Helen Corbin and Mrs. Josephine Kemp. All four were honoured at a tree-planting ceremony at Mannington Hall, once again through the generosity of the Lord and Lady Walpole, on Sunday 29th April. It was an occasion for friends and family to remember their loved ones through memories, stories and poems in the beautiful grounds around the chapel and the planting of two birches, an oak and a cherry.

2. AGM and Annual Lecture
   On Thursday 31st May our AGM is in the Weston Room at The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral at 5.30pm followed shortly afterwards by the inaugural CPRE Norfolk Annual Lecture “Artistic Licence” in which the well-known artist Gerard Stamp will take a look at Norfolk landscapes over the last 200 years, particularly through the eyes of the Norwich School of painters. Tickets are available via Eventbrite.com although there are now very few left.

3. Celebrating Volunteers
   On Sunday 10th June we will have a stall in the Cloisters of Norwich Cathedral as part of the Celebrating Volunteers Day organised by the Diocese. If you are interested in learning more about our work or in helping out as a volunteer, particularly if you have any particular skills you think will help us, please do come along and say hello between midday and 3pm.

4. Norfolk Day
   We are pleased to announce that we will be taking part in the celebrations of Norfolk Day on Friday 27th July. We have teamed up with Norwich Cathedral and The Ramblers to offer an early morning taster walk on the old Pilgrims’ Way to Walsingham. More details will soon be available on our website and the Norfolk Day Facebook Page but it will be a walk of up to two hours starting from Great Ryburgh and ending at Walsingham in time for a hearty breakfast.

5. CPRE Norfolk Awards
   As mentioned on the front page, the Awards will be held at The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral on Monday 19th November. Attendance will mostly be by invitation, but CPRE Norfolk members are of course welcome too. Please email helenl@cprenorfolk.org.uk if you would like to attend.

6. CPRE Norfolk 85th Anniversary
   On Thursday 29th November this year it will be exactly 85 years since the formation of this Branch and we would like to invite all our members to a special Evensong at Norwich Cathedral at 5.30pm followed by a drinks reception at The Hostry. Further information and invitations will be sent out later this year, but do put the date in your diary now.

   For anyone interested in the history of this Branch we have 25 copies of a fascinating book ‘Sixty Years of The Norfolk Society’ (as we used to be called) written by EW Young, Chairman in the 1980s, for sale at £6 each including postage. Please send a cheque to us at CPRE Norfolk, 15 Pigg Lane, Norwich NR3 1RS.

You can now keep up-to-date with all our events via the new events calendar on our website.

Keep up-to-date with our work by visiting www.cprenorfolk.org.uk and CPRE nationally on www.cpre.org.uk where you can also download a wide range of important and useful reports.