



The countryside charity
Norfolk



Where the GNLP falls short

Excessive and unjustified housing targets and a failure to take account of the climate emergency are two key areas in which the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) falls short, CPRE Norfolk argues.

CPRE Norfolk is challenging the soundness of the GNLP during the legal Regulation 19 Examination in Public hearings. To be justified under the National Planning and Policy Framework, the plan must enable the delivery of sustainable development, yet the GNLP does not include clear evidence-based carbon reduction targets. CPRE Norfolk contests the requirement for 49,492 new dwellings by 2038 as unnecessarily high, making it difficult to meet climate change targets, including the legally-binding commitment to reach net zero by 2050. A lower target, set at 42,568 to cover local housing need (40,541) plus a 5% buffer

(2,027), could be met by current commitments (31,452) combined with housing completions 2018-2020 (5,240) along with new prioritised brownfield allocations e.g. East Norwich, and windfalls, without the need for new allocations in less sustainable rural locations.

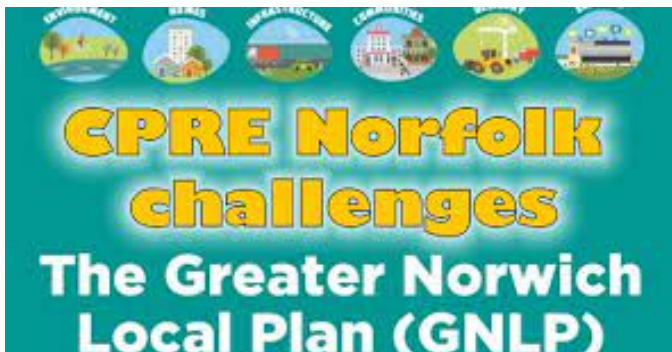
CPRE Norfolk is also challenging the decoupling of the housing allocations for the South Norfolk Village Clusters from the rest of the GNLP. While it is reasonable for a Local Plan to comprise several separate documents, both the GNLP and the SNVCHA should follow the same, or at least a very similar timetable, otherwise it is impossible to judge whether the two (or more) documents are based on proportionate evidence.

CPRE Norfolk also contends that further small 'windfall housing' under Policy 7.5 of the plan is unsound given the generally unsustainable

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locations of any new housing proposed. Additionally, insufficient baseline evidence regarding the establishment of a green belt for Norwich has been collated; the Norwich Western Link is not compatible with climate change statements and there has been insufficient public scrutiny of new sites and amended policies attributed to the cancellation of the Regulation 18d consultation. CPRE Norfolk considers that given that the GNLP is planning for a period up to 2038 that much greater attention should have been given to climate targets to accommodate the more demanding laws and regulations that will come into play.

Read more about CPRE Norfolk's challenges to the GNLP here:
<https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/news/cpre-norfolk-challenges-the-gnlp/>



Welcome to our spring edition

We continue to protect Norfolk and its landscapes from further unnecessary damage, working online from home to reduce our carbon footprint and costs to good effect.

We see many proposals for developments which seek to build housing on remote Greenfield agricultural sites, whilst other schemes simply industrialise the countryside. Many such proposals and actual schemes that have started this year pay no real heed to biodiversity or helping the fight against climate change.

Our plans going forward include forming a new West Norfolk Group which has been possible through a generous donation from CPRE Norfolk vice president, Peter Forbes who sadly passed away last year. We were successful in also attracting funding for the new group from the national CPRE charity.

As our constitution places a time limit on our trustee officer positions, this will be my last few months as Chair, albeit I hope to stay fully involved in CPRE Norfolk.

Best wishes, Chris



Chris Dady, Chairman
CPRE Norfolk

Christmas cards a great success

Two CPRE Norfolk Christmas cards featuring two beautiful designs by local artist Niki Bowers proved very popular and generated a good profit for the charity. We will be selling cards again this year and hope for good sales again.



Green Spaces gap in Norfolk

New research published by CPRE has explored access to local green spaces across the country, with findings demonstrating that there are worrying gaps in the availability of green space in many places.

Local Green Spaces bring health and wellbeing benefits to their local communities and make a positive contribution to tackling the climate emergency.

However, there is also plenty of evidence showing the huge inequality of access to these much valued green space across the country, particularly for poorer communities and people of colour. The coronavirus pandemic, and our reliance on nearby nature, has made these inequalities even more stark.

Bridging this ‘green space gap’ and levelling up access to nature should be a key priority for any government that cares about people, climate and the environment. In this context, the Local Green Space (LGS) designation, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), is an important planning policy tool with which local communities can protect the local green spaces they value most and feel confident that they will not be lost to development. The significant extent to which it has been used so far confirms how much people who are aware of the designation value this opportunity. Maintaining, improving and also broadening the use of the LGS designation should be seen as a critical part of levelling up. In particular, the designation can help secure a thriving natural environment that supports our wellbeing and the fight against climate change

CPRE Norfolk has long argued the need for green spaces in communities and continues to press for a green belt for Norwich to be included in the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

The table below from the report shows where Norfolk sits in the Green Spaces League:

Counties	Number of LGSs	Number of LGSs per 100,000 people
Bedfordshire	124	19
Berkshire	109	12
Bristol	11	2
Buckinghamshire	153	19
Cambridgeshire	137	16
Cheshire	271	25
Cornwall	177	31
County Durham	43	5
Cumbria	20	4
Derbyshire	132	12
Devon	369	31
Dorset	282	36
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0
East Sussex	118	14
Essex	25	1
Gloucestershire	146	16
Greater Manchester	21	1
Hampshire	224	12
Herefordshire	181	93
Hertfordshire	77	6
Inner London	66	1
Isle of Wight	20	14
Kent	239	13
Lancashire	78	5
Leicestershire	384	36
Lincolnshire	200	18
Merseyside	28	2
Norfolk	73	8
North Yorkshire	95	9
Northamptonshire	408	54
Northumberland	54	17
Nottinghamshire	158	14
Outer London	51	1
Oxfordshire	197	29
Rutland	1	2
Shropshire	43	8
Somerset	245	25
South Yorkshire	59	4
Staffordshire	240	21
Suffolk	227	30
Surrey	124	10
Tyne and Wear	1	0
Warwickshire	136	23
West Midlands	41	1
West Sussex	272	31
West Yorkshire	238	10
Wiltshire	110	15
Worcestershire	107	18
Total	6,515	11.5

read the report here: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/local-green-spaces-new-research-proves-their-value-to-people-and-nature/>

"It should be a national priority to protect our local green spaces so that everybody, no matter where they live, has access to the benefits of nature."

Crispin Truman



Access to green space brings health and wellbeing benefits

AGM and Annual Lecture - a date for your diary!

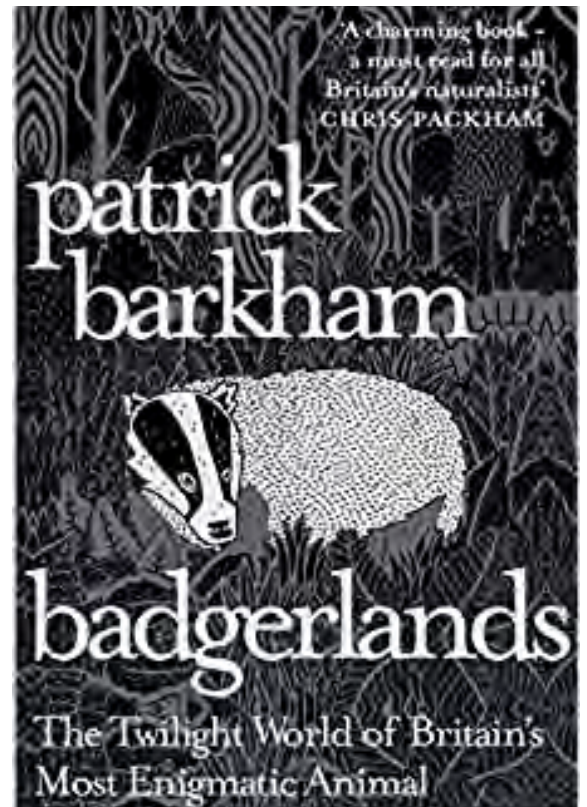
Dereham Memorial Hall has been booked for the CPRE Norfolk AGM on Thursday May 26th 2022 at 5.30pm and we are delighted that Patrick Barkham will give the Annual Lecture following the AGM.

Patrick Barkham was born in Norfolk and educated at Cambridge University. He is a natural history writer for the Guardian newspaper and one of a generation of British authors who has engaged readers with the marvels of the countryside through his writing. Both his first two books *The Butterfly Isles*, and *Badgerlands* were shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje prize.

Book your place at the AGM here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cpre-norfolk-agm-and-annual-lecture-with-patrick-barkham-tickets-309321197027>

Please contact info@cprenorfolk.org.uk if you have any queries.



Dereham Memorial Hall (gallery)

Biodiversity Net Gain - a flawed concept

Natural England are consulting on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - so now is your chance to read up on the proposals and send in your thoughts on the emerging legislation, processes and guidance.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/defra-net-gain-consultation-team/consultation-on-biodiversity-net-gain-regulations/>

CPRE Norfolk has reservations about how BNG will work in practice and has just submitted a response to the consultation.

The BNG process sets out how new roads, houses and developments must achieve no net-loss of biodiversity.

Clearly any policy which is intended to increase biodiversity is to be welcomed. The question is whether this policy will actually achieve its aims. We have major concerns about how BNG is currently being used, and may continue to be used. Several CPRE Norfolk Trustees feel that BNG is being used as an inadequate excuse for covering up degraded ecosystems and poor quality habitat, and encouraging by a form of ecological deceit, the continuation of landscape and wildlife-damaging development.

BNG alone cannot make the great leap forward in facing our crisis in ecology. There is no guarantee that the so-called "30 by 30" objective seemingly committed to by the UK Government (30% of highly biodiverse habitats protected for all time by 2030) will be met. At the very least there should be a 'duty to cooperate' to reach this vital objective on every level of government and particularly through strategic planning rather than planning applications and BNG.

There is a significant flaw in a policy of trading known present biodiversity losses for future gains which are at best uncertain. The strategy proposed in the consultation provides no guarantee for the safeguard of endangered species or valued landscapes of great historical and aesthetic as well as moral significance. This absence of protection is a fundamental flaw in the BNG concept.

The best option is to avoid losses in the first instance, but this places considerable emphasis on the quality of the initial assessments and on the experience and skills of planners and designers.

There also appears to be some problems with the BNG matrix itself as developed.

Read CPRE Norfolk's full submission to the consultation on BNG on our website www.cprenorfolk.org.uk

Norwich Western Link

Claims that BNG can be applied in the case of the Norwich Western Link (NWL) road connecting the Broadland Northway (formerly known as the Northern Distributor Road or NDR) to the A47 to the north-west of Norwich to allow the road to be built in an "environmentally responsible way" demonstrate a flawed approach.

There are massive problems with the BNG approach, as the impacts of constructing a major road through precious and sensitive habitats including the River Wensum Special Area of Conservation (SAC), three County Wildlife Sites, a SSSI and established woodland, as well as impacting on a super-colony of legally protected Barbastelle bats cannot be addressed by creating new habitats, or through offsetting ecological losses. The NWL experience epitomises the failings of this consultation. BNG is not a substitute for known and much scientifically studied biodiversity. It is being deployed as an excuse for a development which has proven alternatives which are far less ecologically damaging and supported by government and official agencies whose duty of ecological care is frankly lacking.

Renewable energy is key to a thriving countryside

We think that the gold standard for onshore renewable energy done well means community energy – renewable energy projects proposed, designed, and owned by local people. We know that the climate emergency threatens to damage many of our most loved landscapes and ecosystems. Places that are precious to us all, including the Broads, the north Norfolk coast and the wildlife-packed Brecks, could all be changed irreparably as our climate shifts.

We need to act fast to cut our greenhouse gas emissions, and to do that we need more low-carbon renewable energy. We're working to see these new renewable energy projects done well, in a way that minimises impacts on landscapes, and makes sure that the rural communities who host wind turbines or solar farms get to keep the money these schemes generate.

The message from CPRE Norfolk's David Hook is simple:

“If energy efficient housing was introduced at scale, it could be very economical. We want to see a lot more energy efficient, socially rented houses being built as that is where the real need is. Every new home should be built to the highest eco standards.”

Borrow litter-picking equipment

Litter-picking equipment (gloves, hi-visibility jackets, grabbers and bag hoops) is available for loan from CPRE Norfolk. Parish councils, resident associations, schools, scout groups and individuals are welcome to borrow this equipment – please contact us to arrange.

info@cprenorfolk.org.uk



CPRE Norfolk is recruiting a new chairman

CPRE Norfolk is seeking a new chairman as long-serving trustee and chair Chris Dady steps down this May.

Chris, a Norfolk born chartered surveyor who has lived in the Broadland area for over 30 years with his wife Sally, became involved with CPRE Norfolk through the Green Buildings open days. They were able to have their own self built eco house included as part of this event. Chris has been volunteering for CPRE Norfolk for over ten years in addition to his other voluntary work.

Chris's drive and enthusiasm for the Norfolk countryside have made a great difference to the range of activities that CPRE Norfolk has engaged with over many years, and we are indebted to him.

Do you know someone who could join our trustee board in a leadership role?

By volunteering with CPRE Norfolk you'll be helping us to find positive solutions for the issues facing the countryside and the environment in our beautiful county.

We are looking for a new trustee to join our trustee board in a leadership Chair role, working with the Vice-Chair and Treasurer to develop all aspects of the charity, including governance, campaigning, promotion and financial.

The role involves being an active committee member by attending meetings and contributing ideas to develop and implement our Vision for Norfolk strategic plan (<http://v4n.org.uk>); supporting the effective administration of our charity; contributing to investment decisions; managing staff, volunteers and contractors; ensuring compliance with the charity's constitution and charity law; being a positive advocate for CPRE Norfolk and encouraging others to support our work.

You will have good leadership, management and organisational skills, and good interpersonal skills, and previous experience of working with committees plus commitment to CPRE policies.

Find out more and apply here:
<https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/news/new-trustee-chair-recruitment/>



100 Club winners

Winners of the CPRE Norfolk December 100 Club draw were:

- £75 (number 63) Mr B Taylor
- £50 (number 75) Mr and Mrs M and V Palmer
- £25 (number 25) Mrs Rosalie Monbiot
- £25 (number 82) Mr Iain Stocker
- £15 (number 47) Mrs Ruth Hadman

People

Sandra Walmsley

We welcomed Sandra to the trustee board in October. Sandra has extensive experience of national and local organisations in the voluntary sector and government at executive level and is a trustee with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme Charitable Foundation <https://www.mcscharitablefoundation.org/> which works to accelerate the widespread adoption of renewable energy and low carbon technologies.

Pallavi Devulapalli

We welcomed Pallavi to the trustee board in April. Pallavi will be working to establish a new group to cover CPRE Norfolk's interests in the west of Norfolk so we can help drive up membership and help local people with particular challenges they are facing in the area. Pallavi is a GP, Parish Councillor and involved in many activities to improve the local environment.

Alice Francis

Alice joins CPRE Norfolk as part time administration officer, replacing Su Waldron. Alice has a strong background in administration, marketing and event management and has a deep love for Norfolk.

Su Waldron

We said goodbye and thank you to Su who joined as administration officer at the height of the pandemic. We wish Su all the best for the future.

Peter Forbes

We were very sad to hear of the passing away last autumn, of Peter, who was a long-time supporter and vice-president of CPRE Norfolk.

Rosalie Monbiot

We were very sad to hear that Rosalie passed away this March. Rosalie was a long-serving Norfolk County Councillor, and vice-president of CPRE Norfolk.



Join in:
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