

Yare Valley Society Newsletter



The objects of the society are to protect the natural landscape and wildlife habitats of the Yare Valley south and west of Norwich, principally between Harford and Bowthorpe. We oppose any development that would detract from its natural qualities and support projects which would preserve the valley for the benefit of all.

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What a relief! This Newsletter comes without a call to arms to protect the Valley. Much time has been taken up recently countering threats of development: Norwich Rugby Club at UEA, Bartrams/McCarthy and Stone, Development Site proposals for the Greater Norwich Local Plan, and the Keswick Triangle Employment Zone. Now that the dust is settling, what does the future hold?

Norwich Rugby Club at UEA

YVS has been party to discussions on how to mitigate the effects of the Rugby Club development. The discussions are now on hold, awaiting clarification. It seems there are still issues that need to be resolved by the Club before they can progress. Please tell YVS of anything you hear that is more than rumour.

McCarthy and Stone at Bartram's Mowers on Bluebell Road

YVS shares many of the serious concerns that Norwich City Council has about the McCarthy and Stone Phase 2 development proposals. Details of the concerns can be found at reference 18/00265/F at <https://planning.norwich.gov.uk/online-applications/> Click on the documents tab, then "View associated documents", then select document dated 10 July. Concerns include Planning use class; Design, layout and character; Transport, Flood risk; renewable energy/sustainability; and Open space. Quite a list! The Council are negotiating with the developers on these concerns.

Greater Norwich Local Plan

A big thank you to the many who wrote with comments on the Development Sites being proposed for inclusion in the Local Plan. Some sites, if included in the plan, would have a dramatic adverse effect on the Valley. The draft Local Plan is now being prepared and will eventually go out for public consultation. We shall see then which, if any, of the proposed Valley sites are included. Be ready to respond again!

Employment Zone: "Keswick Triangle" between Mulbarton and Ipswich roads.

The application was approved. We continue to hold the view that this is the wrong development for this location. That being said, we can claim that our representations along with those of others have lessened the impact of the development and have achieved positive gains over and above what might have been. Go to our website for the details. The gains include:

- a buffer zone between the Valley to the west and the Development. It will consist of woodland planting along the west side of the Mulbarton Road between the track to the small Keswick church and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust wetlands at Harford Bridge. A conservation field margin will border the woodlands.
- a 3.3 m wide footway/cycleway along the west side of the Mulbarton road between Harford Bridge (approximately) and Mulbarton road/Low Road (to Keswick Village) junction. The footway/cycleway will complete a safe circular route for walkers and cyclists: taking in Church Lane, Keswick Mill, Keswick bridleway, the new footway/cycleway, Ipswich Road and Marsden Lane. It will also give safe access to the tiny Keswick All Saints Church – an interesting detour.

The Strawberry Field on Bluebell Road

The field is now formally open to the public. The City Council has consulted YVS about the plans for the field, and on the design of an interpretation board, and possible waymarking signs. Work on these matters continues. Sign design is being considered that could eventually be used for waymarking the whole of the Yare Valley Walk. A variation of the design could be used to identify circular walks linked in with the Valley Walk.

Our AGM – a date for your diary

The AGM will be on Wednesday 12th September 7.00 to 9.30pm in the Cringleford Pavilion. You will be sent more details closer the time.

Giant Hogweed.



YVS member Martin Pooley has spotted several Giant Hogweeds growing in the Valley and has provided us with numerous recent photographs. Giant Hogweed is an invasive non-native species. The sap can cause severe skin burns and can pose a serious risk to people unaware of its harmful nature. More on our website:

www.yarevalleysociety.org.uk

Please post photographs of plants and animal activity or other activity in the Valley on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Yarevalleysociety/

Please email articles, photographs, and comments for our website and/or our next Newsletter to yarevalleysociety@gmail.com.