

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.

Issue 101 November 2017

Norfolk Wildlife Trust strengthens its commitment to the Yare Valley.

The NWT has long worked with landowners and local authorities to improve wildlife habitat in the Yare Valley Corridor. YVS gives a big welcome to the purchase by the Trust of two parcels of marshland on either side of the river at Harford Bridge. NWT carried out botanical surveys during the summer, and these will inform future management - most likely to be low intensity grazing and possibly some dyke restoration and fencing to enable grazing.



View of NWT Purchase from Harford Bridge

Landowners and Developers eye up green space in the Yare Valley.

Planners are preparing the next Greater Norwich Local Plan. As part of the process they are asking landowners and developers what parcels of land they would like to see available for future development. Already over 600 potential development sites have been suggested in the Greater Norwich area. The suggestions reveal that land in the Yare Valley designated as "Open Space" in the present Local Plan is now targeted for development. Details of the areas under threat are at <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/planning/greater-norwich-local-plan/call-for-sites/> . In Norwich they include extensions of the UEA Campus towards the University Broad, and into the "Strawberry Fields" beside the Bluebell Road. In South Norfolk, in Colney and Cringleford, they include substantial areas of woodland etc., between the river and Colney Lane.

All the suggestions will be rated according to certain criteria before deciding which might go into the new local plan. At present they are only "suggestions".

Keep your powder dry! More details will be available when the draft Greater Norwich Local Plan goes out to public consultation in January 2018. Then will be the time for you to express your concerns.

McCarthy and Stone and the Strawberry fields – Is a deal close?

McCarthy and Stone should soon come forward with proposals for public access arrangements to the Strawberry fields. A condition of development is that an agreement is in place before the first new occupant moves in. YVS have asked the Council have consideration for good connections with existing paths, an easy access circuit suitable for use by pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters, natural landscaping to blend with existing river landscape, enhancement of wildlife habitats, and dog waste bins, amongst other things.

The Strawberry Fields: McCarthy and Stone or UEA?

The McCarthy and Stone bit is up to the fenced in part for horses. The rest is UEA.

Improving Access to Yare Valley.

With the help of volunteer supporters, YVS is looking at ways to improve access to the Yare Valley for pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooter owners. If you could support this initiative in any way, please let YVS know.

Yare Valley Calendar 2018.

Local Residents, Eaton Village Residents Association and Fringe Project volunteers responded well to the appeal for photos for the 2018 YVS Calendar. Unfortunately not all could be used. The residents' and volunteers' enthusiasm highlights their use and enjoyment of the special natural landscape of the Yare Valley. Full acknowledgements in the Calendar.



The 2018 Calendar cover.

The Calendar is now on sale from Eaton Post office, Cringleford Stores and members of the Yare Valley Society. Price £6.

South Norfolk Council rejects Keswick Triangle Development Proposals.

The triangle lies between the diverging Mulbarton and Ipswich Roads, and is opposite the Tesco Store. It is only three hundred metres from Harford Bridge. YVS made detailed objection. YVS tries to be constructive in its objections, and in this case the proposals on the road configuration were modified to be more in accord with YVS comments. The proposals will no doubt return for consideration in modified form, and YVS will scrutinise them carefully and act as necessary.

Norwich City Council rejects Cock Inn Proposals.

YVS objected to plans for a housing development on the site of the Cock Inn at Lakenham. See Dan Grimmer's article in EDP at <http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/politics/anger-mounts-over-bid-to-replace-norwich-pub-with-new-houses-1-5174528>. This was an unwelcome intrusion into the Yare Valley wildlife and recreational corridor and thankfully was refused.

Action to reduce impact of Rugby Club Development.

Tim O'Riordan continues to represent YVS and the Parishes of Colney and Cringleford in formulating plans with UEA and the Sportspark that will reduce the impact of the Rugby Club Development. Attention is directed at a co-ordinated Biodiversity Plan, a drainage plan to limit run off, avoidance of possible toxic run off, cross valley routes for pedestrians and cyclists, upgrading of the riverside path, and reducing the number of car parking spaces adjacent to the club house. Work has not yet started on the site. At the time of writing Norwich Rugby Club has yet to complete its deal with the developer interested in purchasing its existing site north of Norwich.

Norwich Research Park Liaison Meeting supports buses and cycling.

The NRP Liaison Meeting is an opportunity for the NRP, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, and UEA to examine matters of common concern. YVS, South Norfolk Council, Councillors, and local parishes are consultees at meetings. At the November meeting much attention was directed at improving access to the three sites by means other than by car. Without action, traffic and car parking will become unmanageable. One part solution in hand is to extend the period of daily operation of Costessey P&R buses (to become 6.30am to 8.00pm) and double the frequency. Another part solution is to encourage cycling by creating cycleways beside Hethersett Lane, and beside the Watton Road between the NRP and the By-pass. Plans are in hand and the cycleways will link the growing residential population of Little Melton with the NRP, NNUH and UEA. The Norwich Pink Pedalway across the Valley forms part of the network.

Appeal for YVS Volunteers.

YVS has plans to change the way in which the YVS Website is managed, moving to a more user-friendly program, Wordpress, for up-dating. Updating the site will become easier. We are looking also at how a Facebook group/page might be launched. If you would be interested in helping with either of these two enterprises, please let YVS know.

Contact for YVS.

Offers of help, contributions for future Newsletters, etc., are welcome at yarevalleysociety@gmail.com