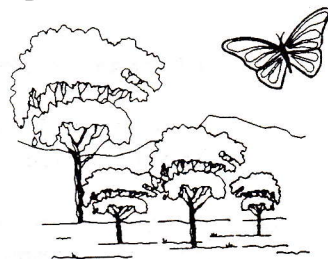


THE YARE VALLEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13, JUNE 1991



CONTENTS

The Society's AGM	Page 1
Chairman's Report	Page 1 - 2
Summary of Activities, 1990/91	Page 2 - 3
Flats in Eaton Village	Page 3
Names and Addresses of Committee Members	Page 4

Yare Valley Society AGM, 13th May, 1991

The AGM was well attended and proved to be quite a lively event.

We have been joined by two new committee members, Claire Harris and Pam Ford. Our thanks go to Andrew Salisbury and to Tom Green who have stood down from the Committee, for all their hard work since the Society's beginning.

This issue features our Chairman's Report, for all of you who were not able to attend the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Intense pressure on the Valley has continued. The Society has once again been primarily concerned with planning matters.

As expected, this has turned out to be a critical period. The Southern Bypass, now so obviously under construction, is a magnet for developers: we have seen applications for retail, leisure, residential, academic and commercial development this year, all threatening to erode the precious open space of the Valley and surrounding areas.

The detailed Local Plans for the area produced in draft form by South Norfolk District Council last year and by Norwich City Council this year are still unadopted, although they contain proposals which would afford a welcome measure of protection to the Valley.

Meanwhile there is a window of opportunity for developers and clear evidence that applications are being pressed urgently forward before local plans get onto the statute books.

Two major issues stand out:

- * There have been several proposed retail developments (at Harford Dairy, Keswick and on the A11 southwest of Cringleford). We have reservations about all of these although the latter is outside the Valley area and the former is already developed. Our foremost

Chairman's Report, continued

concern will be to oppose the Keswick proposal (A140/B1113 intersection) - by far the most damaging of the three.

- * At the other end of our area, there has been much activity around the UEA campus and regrettably some ground has been lost.

The proposed Science Park on the Watton Road was initially turned down by SNDC, but allowed following a Public Enquiry at which the Society gave evidence. Some 5ha of the valley side will be built on, overlooking Earlham Park.

More recently, student residences have been allowed at UEA within an area designated for protection in the draft local plan.

The society accepts the need for a healthy, expanding university but we believe that the failure to explore alternative sites and the Council's failure to support its own draft planning guidelines will result in environmental damage and does nothing to enhance the local reputation of UEA.

In order to assist the committee in deciding how to approach planning issues, a paper was prepared giving guidelines as to which kind of proposal would properly fall within our terms of reference. We trust that members will approve this.

Another feature of the year has been growing links between conservation groups with aims similar to our own. We have affiliated to the Norfolk Society, attended meetings of the SNDC Conservation Forum and have supported and have been supported by, Friends of the Earth and the Ramblers Association in various campaigns. Such links can be developed.

Our membership stands at 205, nearly an all time 'high'. We have acted mainly as a pressure group rather than as a social club. We hope this coincides with members wishes but the committee would welcome ideas (and above all volunteers) if there is support for a wider dimension.

My thanks to all the committee for their work and support. Thanks also to those members who distribute the excellent work of Janet Johnson and to Pam Johnson for secretarial support.

John Thurman, April 1991

Summary of Activities, 1990 - 1991

Comments on Planning Applications

- * Opposed the proposed Science Park on the Watton Road, and gave evidence at the Public Enquiry. (The enquiry found in favour of developments.)
- * Opposed plans for residential development on the UEA Campus, and suggested alternative sites. (Plans were slightly amended but have been passed in outline.)
- * Opposed application for flats/maisonettes at Softley Drive, Cringleford. (Permission refused; appeal pending.) * See p.3
- * Comment on design proposals for pavilion at Cringleford. (Still under consideration.)

Summary of Activities, 1990 - 1991 Comments on Planning Applications
continued ...

- * Opposed unauthorised ventilation plants on Roy's Roof. (Removal ordered, appeal pending.)
- * Comment on proposed retail development at Harford Dairy (Still under consideration.)
- * Opposed retail/leisure development at A140/B1113 intersection at Keswick. (Still under consideration.)

Comments on other matters

- * Letter to Gurney Trust about possible development at Eaton Golf Club.
- * Letter to National Rivers Authority about water quality.
- * Contact with contractors about environmental impact of Colney Hospital Sewer Connection.
- * Letter to Anglian Water about future work on Yare Valley Main Sewer.
- * Support to Friends of the Earth in their campaign to curtail gravel extraction on Whitlingham Marsh.
- * Written comments on the Norwich City Council Draft Local Plan.

Rights of way

- * Further evidence collected for our application for footpath on Eaton Marsh. (Now approved by County Council.)

Miscellaneous

- * The Society affiliated to the Norfolk Society.
- * The Society was represented at meetings of the SNDC Conservation Forum.
- * Members assisted with tree planting near Cringleford Bridge.
- * The Chairman addressed a branch meeting of the Liberal Democrats, about the Society's work.

Flats in Eaton Village

There is a proposal to build 21 flats in two three storey blocks, between Chestnut Hill and the existing flats on Eaton Street.

The Society feels that these would be quite out of keeping with the 'village' character of Eaton (they would overlook the conservation area) and has written accordingly.

If you wish to object, please write to the City Planning Officer, City Hall, Norwich NR2 1NH quoting reference no. 4910353/F, before 24th June.

- * **STOP PRESS** Softley Drive building refused at appeal. Details next month.

Names and Addresses of Committee Members

I reported on Page 1 that there have been some changes in the composition of the Committee as a result of the AGM on the 13th May.

I'm including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the new Committee for 1991/1992, in case you want to contact the Society on an issue concerning the Valley.

Chairman:

Dr John Thurman
20 Bluebell Road.
Tel. 55329

Secretary:

Anne Girling
14, Blakeney Close
Tel. 507024

Treasurer:

Gordon Prest
4, Cheyham Mount
Tel. 51262

Members:

Steve Dawson
7, Elveden Close
Tel. 503171

Pam Ford
35, Brentwood
Tel. 56021

Claire Harris
15, Blakeney Close
Tel. 250387

Peter Hunter
8, Gurney Lane
Cringleford
Tel 507544

Janet Johnson
21, Chalfont Walk
Tel. 52271

Elaine Tucker
1, Yare Valley Drive
Cringleford
Tel. 58657

Editor Janet Johnson, 21 Chalfont Walk, Norwich NR4 7NH
End of Yare Valley Society Newsletter Issue No. 13