

YARE VALLEY SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 20, AUGUST 1992



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South Norfolk District Council Norwich Area Local Plan

*DOE Inspector makes important recommendations affecting the Yare Valley*  
*Elaine Tucker writes...*

At the end of last year, an Inspector listened for nearly three months at County Hall to the pros and cons of hundreds of proposals in the Local Plan. He has now submitted his conclusions. The District Council is not obliged to accept his recommendations but is required to consider them and to decide what action to take on each one.

Where this results in important modifications to the Plan, there will be time for further objections and, maybe, even another enquiry. South Norfolk intend to make their decisions in September. The Inspector's report is freely available for all to see at South Norfolk's offices in Long Stratton, where a copy may also be purchased at a price of £5.50.

In general, he supports Structure Plan policies, especially regarding housing numbers and protection of the landscape - so important to us as a Society. Also, he is particularly emphatic that the Norwich Southern Bypass must not be seen as a 'new defensible limit to Norwich itself or the many settlements passed en route'.

In the Cringleford area he recommends a strong landscape objection to the Tesco Foodstore proposal (or any business park) at the junction of the A11 and A47, suggesting that the store would be better placed at the old Dairy Crest site at Harford Bridge; he also recommends a similar objection to the Cantley Lane housing allocation, south of the A11.

He supports the closure of Colney Lane, but also advocates a new link road from the A11 to Colney Lane, serving a limited allocation of new housing extending from the built-up area north of the A11. He sees this road as also serving the hospital, and so potentially eliminating the Colney Lane traffic problem. Clearly all this has important implications, so if you have any comments please make them known.

At Colney he agrees with the Local Plan that there should be no further housing allocation but recommends an extra 6 hectares for Science Park use on the Bypass side of the John Innes Institute. He also upholds the proposed Bowthorpe perimeter road.

Members gave evidence in favour of the footpath right of way on Eaton Marsh at the public enquiry.

Detailed comments and objections were made to aspects of the deposit version of the City of Norwich Local Plan.

Committee members attended the South Norfolk District Conservation Forum.

#### **Members' Meetings**

- \* Woodland walk at Easton
- \* Visit to the Norman House and Magistrates Court

#### **Photo Competition**

The photo competition was won by Graham Hussey for a view of canoeists on the Yare River, near the University. We thank Mike Neill of Norwich Camera Centre for his donation towards the prize and for taking on the difficult task of judging the competition. Thanks also to Claire Harris, the organiser of the competition.

The business of the meeting we had two short talks on the flora and fauna of the Yare Valley, both of which were well received by the members present.

Elaine Tucker used maps and slides to tell us about the spring and summer snowflakes which were introduced into the valley on the north side of the river, near Cringleford Bridge, by Mr Harmer, a local builder, resident and botanist. A series of canals were built near the river and boats used to sail up to this area, to visit these canals which were lit with fairy lights. This area is privately owned, but Elaine promised to try to organise a visit for a small party next spring.

Tom Green gave us an interesting talk on the birds of Eaton. In conjunction with another ornithologist in the area he is collecting observations and sightings of birds, and he provided us with a printed list of the results of his investigations over several years. 116 species have been recorded, some quite rare.

#### **Parkland Rangers Work**

Don Vine was present at the AGM to publicise the Marston Marsh Fun Day which was held mid-May. He brought along some new City Council Leaflets which give details of the Yare Valley Walk.

#### **Congratulations**

To Anne and Clive Girling on the birth of a baby daughter, Carla.

#### **In Appreciation**

We thank Claire Harris and Gordon Prest, the two committee members who retired at the AGM, for their work on behalf of the Society.

Claire Harris has only been with us for just over a year, but her practical concern for the environment and her interest in and knowledge of the Valley area will be missed.

Gordon Prest has been the Treasurer from the early days of the Society and has kept us afloat. We thank you, Gordon and Claire on behalf of all of our members.

#### **Norwich Local Plan**

A very large number of comments and objections have been received by City Hall concerning the Valley area. Thank you to everyone who wrote. A public enquiry to determine the final statutory plan will begin on December 1st. The Society will represent the views of those who have nominated us as 'Agent'.

#### **Access to Colney Hospital**

This matter of concern was raised by several people at the AGM

We have written to John MacGregor, Minister of Transport, and to the Health Authority about the problem of access to the new hospital, and the effect that an anticipated 11,000 vehicle movements a day will have on the area.

A large number of individuals and organisations have also written. The reply received so far indicates that these views have at least registered in the appropriate places, and that access via Colney Lane is not a foregone conclusion. We will keep you informed.

#### **Subscription Reminder**

Don't forget to renew your subscription, if we did not see you at the AGM! The form is below.

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Editor Janet Johnson, 21 Chalfont Walk, Norwich NR4 7NH  
End of Yare Valley Society Newsletter Issue No. 19

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#### **Subscription Renewal Form**

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Send to Pam Ford, Membership Secretary, 35, Brentwood, Norwich.

Please renew my subscription to the Yare Valley Society for a further year, 1992-1993

Name: .....

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