

Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 39

April 1998

**YARE VALLEY SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 11 MAY 1998
7.30
CRINGLEFORD PLAYING FIELD
PAVILION**

Change of speaker at AGM

Pete Bush is moving to a new job in Derbyshire but we are very fortunate in that **Bob Cronk, Project Officer** for the **Norwich Fringe Project** has kindly agreed to give an illustrated talk entitled *What future for the Norwich Fringe?* A very pertinent question, particularly relevant to 'our part' of the Yare Valley at this time.

Also at the AGM, we shall be discussing a Society project for the millennium. One possibility is the provision of way marks along the valley. However we are keen to have members' views on this subject! Similarly, if you wish to nominate someone for the committee, please notify Elaine Tucker (address overleaf).

Bartram Mowers proposed development

As indicated in the notice circulated recently to all members, the Yare Valley Society has made a strong objection to Bartram Mowers' current proposal for residential and other development. The City Council's Outer Area Planning Sub-committee will now make its decision on this proposal at its meeting on 30 April. There is, therefore, still time to write to the City with your opinion if you missed the earlier deadline.

Bartram Mowers is currently also appealing against the refusal by the City for yet another extension, this time 36 metres by 12 metres, to its mowers' warehouse. The informal hearing before a DOE inspector is on 28 May at City Hall at which a member of your committee will be present.

Colney Hospital

There have been some amendments to the hospital plans though none on which we saw the need to comment apart from the fact that the proposed chimney stack is now to be even higher than the one approved earlier.

Colney Hall

The present owner of the Hall and parkland has invited committee members on a walk over his grounds to view changes he would like to make and to comment upon them.

Earlham Hall and surrounding land

The City has prepared a development brief for this area, seeking to preserve its character but nevertheless introducing some new building. We have been able to comment on this document and have made the following main points: that a detailed traffic analysis should form part of any proposal and that the conservation of the attractive open area and views over it should be the main issue to be considered.

UEA

We are concerned that UEA's application for a licence to abstract water could affect the sensitive wetland in the valley and have written to the Environment Agency accordingly.

Also, we inquired of UEA back in February as to what is being done to continue the invaluable conservation measures adopted during the time Mr Hovey (now retired) worked for UEA as Grounds Superintendent. We have not yet received a reply.

Norfolk Structure Plan

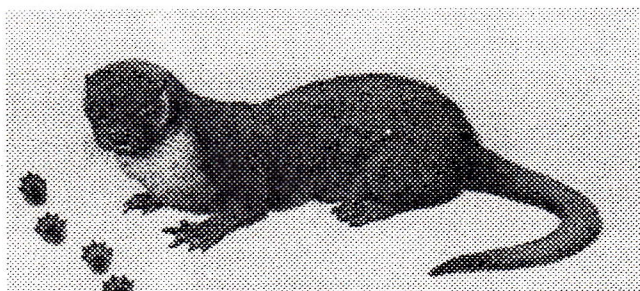
The revision of this Plan to take it well into the 21st century has now reached the deposit stage. We have taken the opportunity afforded to comment on it in readiness for Examination in Public later in the year. Briefly we have asked that the general environmental policies be strengthened to give better protection to the river valleys. Also, we have given our support to the strengthening in

the Plan of the particular policy protecting the valleys in the Norwich area, though we have also suggested ways in which we would like to see it strengthened further.

City of Norwich Local Plan

An update of this Plan is still in its early stages but we have been asked to comment on particular aspects that we would like to see reviewed. Needless to say, we have asked for stronger protection for the valleys (in line with the above Structure Plan), including the introduction of a policy providing for development on the edge of valleys to be sensitive to their proximity.

Otters



A recent EDP article said that a favourite haunt of otters was between Barford and Trowse in the Yare Valley. Has anyone seen them between Harford and Earlham bridges, or at Earlham or Bowthorpe? If so, we should like to know!

Finances during 1997

Income for 1997 totalled £146.50, £132 of that being membership fees. A significant proportion of membership fees are still outstanding for 1997. Expenditure during the year was £76.38, made up of secretarial expenses, AGM room hire and membership of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

The balance at the end of the year was £503.98. As no expenditure has been necessary for special projects for the last few years, it has been possible to retain the £1 annual membership subscription for 1998.

*If your subscription is still outstanding for 1997 or 1998, please either let a committee member have it or send it to the YVS Membership Secretary,
35 Brentwood, Eaton, Norwich NR4 6PN*

Treasurer

Steve Dawson who has been treasurer to the Yare Valley Society since 1992 has decided that he must resign at the AGM. We are extremely grateful for all that he has done for the Society. He has not only managed the finances but he has also spoken on behalf of the Society at planning meetings, notably in relation to the new hospital at Colney Lane. Thank you Steve.

Marston Marshes

Advance notice of *Countryside on your doorstep*, a Family Open Day on Sunday 5 July 1998 from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm. There will be guided walks and environmental activities such as pond dipping.

Community Power Group

Some members will have received the leaflet about the proposed Eaton Village and University Community Power Group and may have read further details in the Citizen and Norwich Advertiser.

Pam Ford has been involved in the initial steering group and feels that, given the interest and involvement of local residents, it could prove to be another means of protecting the nature of the valley. She does not see it as a rival to existing organisations but rather as giving us an additional voice in local plans and discussions at an early stage with direct contact with the local councils. The function of the Group will be similar to that of a parish council.

Watch for notices of future public meetings.

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Articles, comments and letters for possible publication in the Newsletter can be sent to:

*Elaine Tucker, 1 Yare Valley Drive, Cringleford,
Norwich NR4 7SD*