



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 42

February 1999

LAND AT BARTRAM MOWERS, BLUEBELL ROAD - PUBLIC INQUIRY

In our Special Edition newsletter in November, we alerted members to the fact that Bartram Mowers had lodged an appeal against the Norwich City Planning Committee's unanimous decision to refuse permission for residential development on this site. Originally the appeal was going to be decided on the basis of exchange of written statements by the parties involved and a site inspection visit by an Inspector. However we learned at the end of November that the Department of the Environment had said that the appeal would have to take the form of a **public inquiry** because of the amount of interest generated.

We have just heard that the inquiry will be held on **2, 3 and 4 March 1999** in the **Council Chamber**, in the **City Hall**, starting at 10.00 am. The Society hopes that it will be given an opportunity to give evidence at the inquiry. We would welcome support from members who are able to attend at least part of the inquiry if not all of it. **It is important that we should be seen by the Inspector to be actively concerned.**

In addition we would encourage any members who have not already done so, to write to the DOE expressing grave concern at this proposed residential development. The address to write to is:

The Department of the Environment
Room 10/07 Tollgate House
Houlton Street
BRISTOL BS2 9DJ

Quoting DOE Appeal Ref: **APP/G2625/A/98/301045**. The letter can be marked for the attention of Mr Devereux, who is the case officer for the appeal. Letters will be accepted even at the inquiry.

If any member has already written but has something new to add, we suggest you might write a second letter.

Please make sure your views are clearly known to the inquiry Inspector.

New Year, new treasurer

We are delighted that Liz Varge has kindly agreed to join the committee as acting treasurer, taking over from Steve Dawson who did a splendid job and expended much effort on behalf of the Society for a number of years and to whom we offer our sincere thanks.

Subscriptions

Whilst on the topic of finance, the New Year also means that subscriptions (still only £1 per family) are due for 1999. If you have not already paid, please either give your sub to a committee member, or send it direct to the acting treasurer at 9 St Peter's Close, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 6UL.

Visit to UEA Farm

William Buhler who gave a talk at the 1997 AGM has very kindly agreed to take members of the Yare Valley Society around the UEA farm on Saturday 17 April, meeting at 10.30 am at the North Park Avenue entrance to UEA. Numbers for this will be limited, please contact John Thurman on 01603 455329 to book a place.

Advance notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Monday 10 May 1999 at 7.30 pm in the Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion. Please make a note of this date in your diary now. The speaker at the AGM will be **Dr Tom Williamson** who is a lecturer in Landscape History at the Centre of East Anglian Studies, UEA. He is the author of several books on the archaeology and history of landscape, including *The Origins of Norfolk* and his latest book *The Norfolk Broads*. His subject will be 'The Landscape of the Yare Valley

John Ayton

Refurbishment of Cringleford Sluice

We have recently heard from the Leisure and Community Services that the Environment Agency will begin refurbishment work to the Cringleford Sluice on 1 February 1999. Their contractor expects the work to take approximately six weeks and, because of the location of

the sluice, they will be using part of the Yare Valley Walk to gain access for their vehicles etc. They will also have a small number of site huts located near the car park area. Signs will be erected at either end of the affected section, advising people of the work and asking them to take extra care during the period the contractor is on site. The letter indicates that any reinstatement of the area will be carried out on completion of the work and this may include the replacement of some small trees that are removed to gain access to the sluice.

Elaine Tucker

Millennium Green, Bowthorpe

Interesting developments have been taking place in the section of the valley north of the Earlham Bridge.

The walk by the river continues beside Earlham Church and one is soon in the area designed as a Millennium Green. Opposite the bottom of Bridge Farm Lane the path turns left along the boardwalk. In previous winters the first part of this has been under water, but this year it has been realigned and, even with all the rain we have had, has remained dry. It swings left past a new 'scrape' (or pond) before reaching the river bank. Work is proceeding on a boardwalk to the right of the scrape. The foul smelling dyke has gone, replaced by a clear one which goes under the boardwalk to join the river.

At the moment the path from the end of the boardwalk to the stile at the end of Wilberforce Road is very muddy, but a new all-weather path has been constructed from that stile along by the hedge, past the entrance to Bowthorpe Marshes and nearly to the road. The foul smelling dyke by the entrance to the marshes is now clear and clean, and further work is obviously in progress.

When all this work is finished it will add to the already considerable pleasure of walking in the northern section of the Yare valley.

Ronald Bocking

Volunteers

Amongst our members, who now number 323, we are certain there is a wealth of expertise and we should be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to be more actively involved in the Society. This could include appearing at planning appeals on behalf of the Society; helping to compile a booklet for the Millennium about the Yare Valley Walk from Harford Bridge to Bowthorpe Marshes; or distributing newsletters (three or four a year) in your locality. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Elaine Tucker (01603 458657) or Alison Ward (01603 452330).

Norfolk Structure Plan Inquiry

The Society was given the opportunity to express the vital importance of retaining the policy specifically protecting the Yare valley. Many others also upheld it, though not surprisingly the developers present did not want it included in the new structure plan.

Elaine Tucker

Articles, comments and letters for possible publication in future Newsletters can be sent to: Alison Ward, 20 Brettingham Avenue, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 6XG

