



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 48

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Bartram Mowers

The appeal in May was dismissed BUT there is another application in for an extension!

As you will remember, the appeal in May was against the refusal by Norwich City of an extension to the industrial-type building. The Inspector dismissed the appeal on the grounds that the development was inappropriate in the light of current planning policies and that it would have an adverse impact on the valley landscape. In addition, he was concerned about encouraging further similar piecemeal proposals on the site, making it progressively more difficult for the Council to resist them and thus causing cumulative harm to "the open character of this sensitive area".

Several YVS members, including Councillor Judith Lubbock, attended the hearing and some of us were allowed to take part in the discussion. The Inspector had received as many as 30 letters objecting to the proposals and this, together with the presence of interested parties, must inevitably have helped the Inspector to realise the concern of the community. So thank you to those who attended the hearing or took the trouble to write. It is always worth it.

BUT now for the new application! This is for yet another extension of the large building and is "to provide additional workshop space". It is smaller than the one just dismissed but encroaches to a significant extent on the concrete apron on the river side of the building that is used for deliveries, parking and the storage of the many pallets involved in the business. This apron has already been reduced by an earlier extension. Large quantities of unsightly pallets already continually spill over on to the grassy area alongside it, which is part of the landscaping of the building on the river side. A further reduction in its size would exacerbate this. The current proposal is yet another example of the cumulative harm continual piecemeal extensions to the premises have on the valley. The Society has therefore objected to it.

The application may be seen at City Hall, number 4/2000/0490/F. Comments on it should be sent to the

City Planning officer, City Hall, Norwich, NR2 1WP as soon as possible but certainly by 3 August, when the planning sub-committee meets to discuss it.

An autumn walk on Marston Marshes

Matt Davies, now Project Officer of the Norwich Fringe Project who took many of us on such an enjoyable walk on Earlham Marshes last year, has kindly agreed to lead a walk on Marston Marshes (including the newly opened section of the Yare Valley Walk) on **Thursday 7 September from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm**, meeting at the junction of Church Lane with Marston Lane. Please ring Elaine Tucker on 458657 or Alison Ward on 452330 if you are interested. Don't delay. It's not that far away.

Possible bus route across the Yare valley between UEA and the new hospital

We know that this is of very great concern not only to our members but to hundreds of others who appreciate the peaceful, pollution-free countryside qualities of the Yare valley.

The Norwich South West Sector Traffic Study which is considering this amongst many other issues will not now report until another stage in the South Norfolk Local Plan is resolved in the autumn. In the meantime, we are aware that the preferred commercial service pattern for a hospital bus service involves an extension of existing bus services to UEA, ie, the new cross valley route. The County Council recognises the "significant local environmental impact on the river valley" that it would involve and is currently carrying out work "to assess the overall environmental costs and benefits of such a route". Members need to be very aware of what is going on. We have set up a sub-committee to keep abreast of what is happening and to alert us to action when appropriate.

A tribute to on-going research

Bowthorpe may seem just an area of new development to many but in fact it is steeped in fascinating history. Thanks to **Jim Moore**, one of our members, this heritage is being rediscovered through his persistent and

painstaking research. He is actively seeking to ensure that its interest and romance will be not just academic but will result in lasting walkways along which everyone can feel their roots in history. He has already persuaded Norwich City Council to reinstate the Bowthorpe side of the ancient, possibly Saxon, bridleway connecting Bowthorpe to Colney. He is currently promoting the re-use of other historic routes in the area, one possibly being Bowthorpe's first street way back in the early centuries AD. His aim is to create a modern complex of ancient ways that will add character to the area as well as give pleasure to future generations of walkers.

We are greatly indebted to him for the benefit he is bringing to the Yare valley as well as to the inhabitants of Bowthorpe. If we awarded "Oscars", he would certainly have one!

Extracts from Chairman's Annual Report 1999/2000

'When I was preparing the summary of our activities for the last year, I realised afresh what a variety of work we have carried out in connection with every part of our valley between Harford Bridge and Bowthorpe. There has even been some innovation on our part compared with other years, such as a social evening in October, the decision to have a stall at the West Norwich Festival in June 2000 and above all the successful production of a guide book to the Yare Valley Walk - our millennium project. . . . There have also been the usual planning applications and statutory and other plans to deal with, as well as many other items that involve the conservation of our beautiful Yare Valley.'

'... The landscape of the valley of course becomes even more valuable as further development takes place around it and I am glad to report that this seems to have been recognised in the new Norfolk Structure plan by significant strengthening of policies that relate to the environment of the Yare Valley. In the recent report of the Inspector into the review of the South Norfolk Local Plan, similar policy changes are recommended for that Plan too.'

'We continue to receive invaluable help and encouragement from our local councillors, for which we are always very grateful. We also look forward to cooperating with the Eaton Village and University Community Power Forum, whose recent Community Plan sets out policies on the environment that we fully support. It is indeed good to be part of communities on both sides of the river that so much appreciate the value of the Yare Valley south of Norwich.'

Guide to the Yare Valley Walk

This new 16-page guidebook, published in May as the Society's millennium project, provides full details of the riverside path between Harford and Bowthorpe. With large scale maps, and illustrated with photographs and

original drawings, the booklet also provides walkers with information on the history, architecture and wildlife of the area.

To obtain a copy of the Guide, please send a cheque or postal order for £1 (payable to the Yare Valley Society) and a stamped self-addressed envelope (16 cm x 23 cm minimum, with standard first or second class postage stamp affixed) to *Yare Valley Publishers, 20 Bluebell Road, Norwich NR4 7LF*.

To quote from Elaine Tucker's annual report, 'as a Society, we are indebted to those who have made such a magnificent job of this guide. Much time and expertise have been expended on it with the result that we have an attractive booklet, with a distinctive front cover, informative reading, beautiful pen and ink drawings, finely drawn maps, sensitive photographs and an easily readable layout. What an excellent millennium project this has turned out to be.'

Photo Bank

If you have any photographs of the Yare valley which you would like to donate to the Society, please contact Graham Hussey (452996) who is setting up a "bank" which could prove invaluable in future planning inquiries as well as helpful in promoting the Society generally. We should be most grateful for any contributions.

Countryside on your Doorstep 2000

This free event is intended to introduce people to the natural beauty which lies within easy walking distance of their homes.

Site: Earlham Millennium Green (entrance by Earlham Church)

Date: Sunday 13 August

Theme: Access and information

Events: Mobile farm, face painting, dog agility course, bench building, displays and information, refreshments

Contact: Matthew Davies on 01603 423303

West Norwich Festival

The Society had a stall at this community event on the Earlham High School playing fields on 24 June. Despite rain early on (and emergency measures to protect our display of literature and photos), the festival was well attended. There was sufficient interest in the Yare valley for us to sign up two new members, sell 25 copies of the new Guide to the Walk and for an offer of a mention in the Bowthorpe community newsletter.

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