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THE YARE VALLEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5, MARCH 1990

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ALL MEMBERS WELCOME !

AGM AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL, CHURCH LANE, EATON

FRIDAY 18th May 1990 at 7.30pm

A Yare Valley Project Officer is being recruited, who will liaise with the recently-appointed Wensum Valley Project Officer. He or she, or George Ishmail, the Landscape Officer at City Hall to whom the appointee will report, will be our speaker at the AGM.

Nominations for officers and committee members for this year, 1990/1991 should be lodged with the Secretary, Ann Girling, 14 Blakeney Close, before the AGM.

Members will be invited to renew their membership for the year - the subscription will be £1. An increase, but still very reasonable !

THE NEWS PAGE

NEW DISTRICT HOSPITAL AT COLNEY

The final decision, announced at the end of February, to site the new District Hospital at Colney, will not have surprised members. Work is due to start in 1993 and the first phase of the building is should be completed in 1996.

The principal impact on the valley will be the severe increase in road traffic. During the 1988 Public Enquiry into the site, it was admitted that traffic on the Watton Road would grow by 300% by the year 2000. We are in correspondence with the local authorities about the very serious implications for Cringleford Bridge, Eaton Village, Bluebell Road and the Fiveways Roundabout. It also seems probable that Colney Lane will be closed to through traffic.

BARTRAM MOWERS SITE

We still wait for news of the outcome of the August public enquiry. There will be press coverage when the result is announced and a feature in the Newsletter.

FOOTPATHS

Several members have commented on the blocked footpaths on the Marsh between the Bartram Mower's site and the River Yare.

Although the official Yare Valley Walk has not been under threat, access to trackways on other parts of the marsh had never been prevented until Summer 1989. The Society has now responded to members' concern by making an official application for a right of way along the eastern boundary of the marsh.

SOUTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL: NORWICH AREA LOCAL PLAN

The discussion draft was the subject of public meetings in February, and the Summary Leaflet was distributed to members in January/February. We made the following main points to the District Planning Officer:

- * The road traffic situation should be reviewed urgently.
(Details as in the item on the hospital.)
- * We oppose the Science Park Development at Colney Lane.
(The site is now the subject of a forthcoming public enquiry since SNDC turned down the planning application from UEA.)
- * We support the closure of Colney Lane to through traffic, but have asked for an emergency through access.

THE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF NORWICH

The first consultation draft of the City's Plan (equivalent to the SNDC plan in its implications) should be available in May and so details will be given in the next Newsletter, if the information is ready.

SMALL NEWS ITEMS

- * A planning application for flats on Softley Drive (off Colney Lane) has been turned down.
- * Permission for excavation and dumping in the watermeadows at Woodchip Farm, Keswick has been refused (work on this site was therefore illegal: the owner should reinstate the land).
- * We are in correspondence with the authorities about the use of Howes Lime Pits, Keswick, for dumping.

WELCOME TO A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Steve Dawson was co-opted onto the Committee in January, following the resignation of Don Jary through pressure of other commitments. Steve's expert knowledge of traffic issues will be a great help to the Society.

EATON GOLF CLUB

In view of press reports on the future of the Eaton Golf Club, and the possibility that an attempt may be made to develop the land in the future, the Society will be watching events closely. The Chairman would like to make contact with any member who is also a member of the Golf Club.

End of Yare Valley Society Newsletter Issue No. 5

Editor Janet Johnson, 21 Chalfont Walk, Norwich NR4 7NH

YARE VALLEY SOCIETY

A happy new year to members!

Our next newsletter will be issued when the decision of the public enquiry on the Bartram site is published. This decision is still awaited, some two months after the time originally estimated.

The Norwich Area Local Plan (South Norfolk District Council) has now been published as a consultation draft. In its final form it will form the cornerstone of future planning decisions in Keswick, Cringleford and Colney.

It is therefore of great interest to the Society, and we are generally pleased with the additional protection afforded to the valley. A brief summary is enclosed, and the full plan can be seen at Anne Girling's home, 14 Blakeney Close.

Please note the exhibition and public meeting at Cringleford School on February 6th and 7th.

Advance notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be on May 18th. Please note the date in your diary. More details later.

JOHN THURMAN
21st January, 1990

STOP PRESS

BARTRAM APPEAL REJECTED !

The Department of Environment's decision has been received today, 19/3/90.

In rejecting the proposed housing development on the Bartram Mowers' site the Inspector concludes an 18 page report as follows:

'I am in no doubt that residential development as proposed, as well as running directly counter to the important policies referred to above would have a marked and adverse impact upon the actual and perceived extent of the valley as a largely unspoiled and particularly attractive landscape feature.'