



# Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 50

February 2001

## Date for your diary

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14 MAY 2001

7.30 pm

### CRINGLEFORD PLAYING FIELD PAVILION

Dr Mike Hulme, executive director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at UEA, has kindly agreed to be our speaker. As an international expert on climate, you may have seen him being interviewed on national TV from time to time about global warming. His topic after the AGM will answer some of the important questions we may have about our own area, being entitled '*Norwich-by-the-sea: is climate change really a problem?*' Make sure you come to find out. It should be an interesting and informative evening.

## Bartram Mowers' appeal

The appeal for yet another extension arranged for November last year was withdrawn by the applicant shortly beforehand. We do not know why. Thank you for the extra twelve letters which Elaine received to present to the Inspector had the hearing taken place. In the event they could not be used but it is always worth remembering what an important part public opinion plays in these appeals.

## Appeal for new Treasurer

Sadly, our treasurer, Liz Varge, is having to resign because of family commitments. We are very grateful to her for all that she has done so efficiently for us. If any of you would like to volunteer for the job, please contact one of the committee. Liz combined the post of treasurer and membership secretary. In her stead, Dr Andrew Salisbury has kindly agreed to become the membership secretary.

## Bowthorpe news

An important planning condition prior to further housing development now requires an archaeological investigation on what could be the site of the medieval village of Bowthorpe. Our thanks go to Jim Moore, one of our members, for keeping us informed about such issues so that we can join others in seeking to protect our cultural heritage.

Jim is also pursuing, via an appeal, registration as a right of way of the southern part of the ancient bridleway between Bowthorpe and Colney, ie, from the existing section to the river. If you have any information that would be helpful to him, please let us know (address at end of newsletter). In the meantime, the County's recent decision to make an Order for the final part of the bridleway across the ford to Colney has been suspended.

We understand that owing to the weather this winter, the walk from Bowthorpe Marsh to Chapel Break will not be open until the spring.

## Millennium booklet - new sales outlet

Sales of the Yare Valley Walk booklet have reached over 250 but we are sure that such an interesting and worthwhile project could achieve far more if people only saw it and knew about it. The booklet can be obtained from *Cringleford Post Office & Stores*, Intwood Road, or from the bookstall in the *Sainsbury Centre*, UEA, or direct from the *Yare Valley Publishers*, 20 Bluebell Road, Norwich NR4 7LF, enclosing a cheque for £1 payable to the Yare Valley Society and an A5 self addressed envelope with standard first or second class postage stamp affixed.

## Walk

Our winter walk up the valley from Cringleford bridge

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**or to a committee member, or send it to the**

**Membership Secretary, 42 Bluebell Road Norwich NR4 7LG**



with Matt Davies, Project Officer for the Norwich Fringe Project, proved to be a truly wintry one but under blue skies on a beautifully sunny and clear afternoon. There were nineteen of us, including Matt's deputy and a few of his friends. We discussed various issues as we went along and appreciated afresh the unique countryside quality of this corridor of land—mud and all! Afterwards, some of us were able to accept the welcome offer of a cuppa at Andrew and Val Salisbury's—many thanks to them.

### **Bird watching walk**

Mike Freer has very kindly agreed to lead a bird watching walk in the grounds of Colney Hall paying particular attention to the heronry, on Saturday 24 March 2001 in the morning. Please ring Mike Freer on 01603 458084 after 20 February for further details and to book a place on what should be a fascinating walk. Numbers will be limited to 12.



### **Proposed park and ride site at Harford**

A current planning application on behalf of the County Council proposes the triangular site opposite Tesco and between the Mulbarton and Ipswich roads as the location for this development of 1,000 car spaces. This is a prominent site on the side of the Yare valley protected by County planning policies from inappropriate development. There are other site options available. We have written accordingly to object to this proposal.

### **Hospital site**

The open space between John Innes and the hospital buildings is becoming totally built up. First there was permission for housing, clinical and crèche facilities and now there is an application for a four-storey nursing school, together with extra car parking on the Cringleford side of the hospital roundabout. The original vision of the hospital being in 'rural' surroundings is fast disappearing!

We have objected to this development on the grounds of over-development of the hospital site and extra traffic implications.

### **Possible bus route across the Yare valley**

On 8 December 2000, John Thurman, Andrew Salisbury and Graham Hussey met Mr Ralph and Mr Kutesko of Norfolk County Council department of Planning and Transportation to discuss the possible bus route across the valley. The County Council are fully aware of the Society's view that a road would be very damaging to the environment of the valley. They are also sensitive to the fact that it would be contrary to

three sections in the County's own planning policy in the Structure Plan (Policy N6 (i), (ii) and (v) and for this reason they will not promote such a route. They made clear, however, that if the university and the new hospital submit a joint planning application, they will not oppose it. Thus, having endorsed a policy that should protect the valley against such a route they are apparently willing to stand aside and allow the planning decision to be determined by others.

The route from the university to the hospital would cross the river Yare which is the boundary between the city and the county. The route, along land on either side of the river, would thus be the concern of the City and South Norfolk councils. At this (district council) level, the land is protected by eight different Planning policies. We were told that in the event of a planning application, either each council could consider its own area involved, or the whole route could be considered by one of the two councils if the other agreed to delegate the determination of the application. It would also be possible for each council to agree to delegate the decision to a joint committee set up specifically for that purpose.

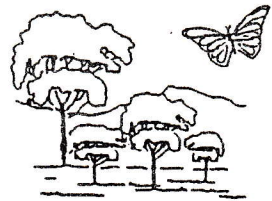
The Society fears that even if the route consisted only of a single track, it would eventually open up the way for a two-lane carriageway with all the features of an urban road including lighting. With the future development of the Science Park and medical school the amount of traffic along the road would be substantial. This possible route must be firmly resisted if the valley is not to be irreparably damaged.

Do write to your county councillor and district councillor and make your views known about the cross-valley route.

See stop press for the latest information.

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





## ***Stop Press !!***

### **Possible bus route across the Yare valley**

1. We have now seen a copy of the County Council's report on bus routes to the new hospital. This includes a variety of options with the cross-valley link coming out as the preferred option from the bus service point of view, though not immediately - apparently because of the cost of the engineering works involved. These are estimated to be at least between £600,000 and £900,000 depending on the option accepted. There are *two possible options for the route*, both of which would involve replacing the existing bridge. Both options would follow the present private track from UEA, with one then crossing the playing fields to a T junction on Colney Lane and the other running around the east side of the pitches to join Colney Lane at the new hospital roundabout. There are *two possible carriageway standards*: a single track 3.75 metres wide with passing bays, or a standard two-lane carriageway with a width of 6 or 7.3 metres. In both cases, there would be a separate pedestrian and cycle track and bridge. At least we know what we are up against!
2. On 1 February 2001, Andrew Salisbury and Elaine Tucker took the opportunity to discuss the bus routes to the new hospital at a public meeting of the Norwich Area Committee of Norfolk County Council.

It had already been resolved by a County Council Working Group to support a direct bus service from the new Costessey Park and Ride to the new hospital and then on to the city centre via Colney Lane and Newmarket Road, together with an extension to the hospital of the service 25 bus along Watton road. At the Area Committee, there was much public discussion about many important unresolved details concerning these routes.

In the longer term, the Working Group had also recognised the transport benefits associated with a *two-carriageway cross-valley link*. Again, there was much discussion at the Area Committee, with clear opposition from several quarters to any kind of new cross-valley road. The officers present admitted that it would also be against County Council planning policy so that any planning application for it could be 'called in' by the Secretary of State for a *Planning Inquiry* to be held before a decision could be made. Evidently, we shall have an opportunity to put our case when the application is made. Another opportunity will certainly be when the *Southwest Sector Transport Study* becomes open for consultation in June. We shall keep you informed about this.

3. Some of you may have seen a news item in the EEN recently reporting, in error, that the cross-valley road was part of the current planning application for the new nursing school. We shall let you know should there be such a proposal. The news item also reported that City Council planners are encouraging a green travel plan in the hospital-UEA area, as well as a legal agreement to control and limit the use of the existing private road across the Yare.

To end on a positive note. We are very much in favour of the cycle and footpath across the valley - but a cycle and footpath that can be enjoyed by its users, encouraging people to travel in that way to the hospital and research park, so taking much pressure off the roads. The noise, fumes and disruption of a nearby bus route would certainly not be a good idea!