



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 51

April 2001

URGENT

HARFORD PARK AND RIDE DECISION DEFIES PLANNING POLICIES

One thousand, with the possibility later on of 2,000, cars in one enormous car park on the slopes of the Yare valley!

As you may have seen in the press, the County's Planning and Highways committee has just given permission, by 8 votes to 7, for this development by the County in spite of its own statutory planning policies protecting the site from such development. See plan below.

We entirely agree with the provision of Park and Ride sites but not where it means despoiling the protected landscape of the Yare valley and especially when other sites are available that would do much less damage.

Because this permission conflicts with planning policies, the decision has to be considered by the Secretary of State for the Environment, with the result that he could decide that a Public Inquiry is needed. We (like many others) intend to encourage him to call for one and invite you individually to do likewise because, as usual, it will be by volume of letters that we will be heard.

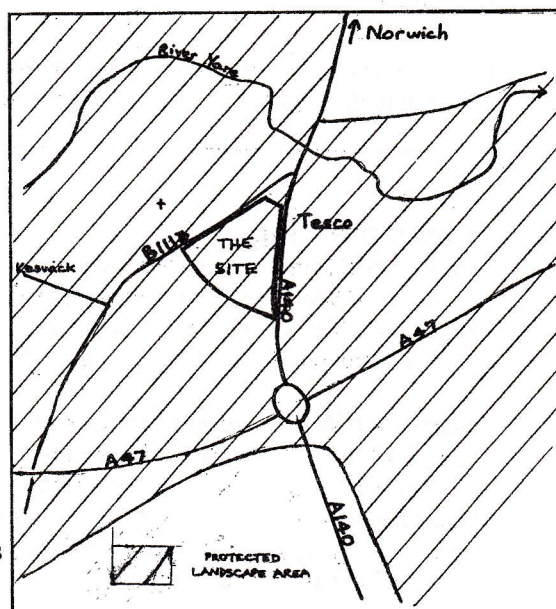
If you want to continue protecting the whole valley, please **write immediately, in your own words**, asking for a Public Inquiry into this amazing decision, to:

Mr C Bambury, GO-East, Planning and Transport Division, Heron House, 49-53 Goldington Road, Bedford MK40 3LL and also send a copy to your MP at the House of Commons. Please use this reference (sorry it is long!): The Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultations) (Departures) Directions 1999; Proposed Harford Park and Ride site, Keswick, at junction of A140 and B1113, Norwich.

Remember every letter counts and the more the better. Here are some ideas.

The main point is that the decision is a **departure from the County Structure Plan** and Local Plan policies that protect the Yare valley from inappropriate development and seek to conserve its appearance and character. (Ironically, these policies were strengthened in the most recent Plan).

The site is on a wide and rising spur that is an **integral part of the Yare valley landscape** and can be clearly seen from valley walks and roads. It could not be disguised as



suggested behind bunds and bands of trees on terraces that would in themselves destroy the landform. Also, it is over twice as large as the brownfield site on which Tesco was

developed and much more prominent. No satisfactory reasons have been given for turning down some of the alternative sites.

Remember that the valley is a unique and irreplaceable recreational asset for the people of Norwich and its environs and provides a beautiful setting for the city. But it is limited in size and so is especially vulnerable to the wrong kind of development. Please help us defend it!

Yare Valley Society Annual General Meeting

Monday 14 May 2001

7.30 pm

**Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion
(End of Oakfields Road)**

The short business meeting will be followed by a talk to be given by Dr Mike Hulme, executive director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at UEA entitled '*Norwich-by-the-Sea: is climate change really a problem?*' Dr Hulme is an international expert on climate and global warming and we do hope that as many members as possible will come to the meeting. It is an excellent opportunity for members to make their views known about what the Society is or is not doing!

At the AGM the committee is elected for the year. If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer yourself for election to the committee, please contact Alison Ward (01603 452330) before 1 May.

Fun in the fringe

The Norwich Fringe Project has produced a most attractive leaflet of their programme of events for 2001. These include *Bird Song Breakfast*; *Catching Skaters and Scorpions*; *Quarry Questions*; *UEA Broad and Farm Visit* and a *Bug Safari*. You can pick up a leaflet in Cringleford PO, Eaton PO, local libraries or direct from the Norwich Fringe Project, telephone 01603 423303, e-mail: fringe.ncc@gt.net.gov.uk.

Summer Walk (subject to foot and mouth restrictions being lifted)

Matthew Davies, the Norwich Fringe Project Officer, has agreed to lead a walk on Bowthorpe and Earlham Marshes on SUNDAY 15 JULY at 2.00 pm, meeting at the lay-by near St Mary's church, Earlham on the Watton road. It is hoped the walk will cover some new territory where the Yare Valley walk has been extended. At the time of going to press, the extension of the walk from Bowthorpe Marsh to Chapel Break is not yet open because of flooding which we trust will have subsided by July!

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