



THE YARE VALLEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7, JULY 1990

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AGM REPORT

The AGM of the Society was attended by 40 people - a measure of your concern for the beautiful area in which we live.

The Chairman, John Thurman, presented his report and then the business of the meeting was conducted, with the present committee members being re-elected unopposed. Your Newsletter Editor was also elected to the Committee: I will now be able to report the news first-hand to you all.

Bob Cronk, the new Norwich Fringe Conservation Officer, gave us a most interesting talk, illustrated with slides from other areas with which he's been involved, and presented us with some of the recreational and planning issues he would try to resolve. There was then an open discussion, where members aired their concerns - water quality was one in particular which we will be taking up.

This Newsletter will concentrate on the Chairman's Report, a good summary of the problems we have been addressing and successes we have had in the past year, for those of you who couldn't attend the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1989/1990

The relaunch of the Society in 1989 was timely. This has been a very eventful year, as predicted at our inaugural meeting last Spring, with several important planning landmarks and continuing pressure on the valley and its fringes from a number of sources.

There is a clear need for a focus of community concern: the Yare Valley Society fulfils that role, and the fact that we now have 230 members reflects this and leaves developers in no doubt that the community's voice is strong, and one to be reckoned with.

The new Southern Bypass and the District Hospital at Colney are now certain to go ahead. A great deal of attention has been focused on this side of Norwich by both developers and planners. This will continue as the south-west fringe of Norwich is seen as a prime area for new residential and commercial development.

Planning policies recognise the value of the Valley as an unspoiled open space between the City and the bypass. We are pleased that the County Structure Plan review and the detailed local plans being drawn up by the District Councils give rather stronger protection than previously.

Public pressure has led to the formation of a draft Green Belt policy by the County which, if implemented, would place almost all of the Valley within the Norwich Greenbelt. At the time of writing, it is not clear if and when the greenbelt will become formally established.

Also in 1989, UEA announced a far-reaching development plan which would add further to pressure on the area. Some of the more controversial aspects of this plan such as a new road across the marsh at the river have, for the moment, been shelved.

The Society's relaunch coincided with the excellent news about the final defeat of Bovis' application for housing at Yare Valley Drive, Cringleford. In March we had good news about the Bartram site on Bluebell Road, following a public enquiry at which the Society gave evidence last year. These two decisions are highly significant and must make the valley more secure for the future, **but there is no room for complacency.**

We are under no illusion that further threats will not occur. The future of Eaton Golf Club and the expansion of UEA will need careful monitoring. Also rapid expansion around the Southern Bypass will put strain on the infrastructure - especially on road traffic - which will affect the valley environment indirectly but significantly.

The following summary of action and events for the past year concluded the Chairman's Report. Ed.

Public Enquiry

- 1 Written and verbal evidence supporting the refusal of planning permission at the Bartram Mowers Site (successful outcome).

Written Comments on Planning Applications

- 2 Colney Hall Leisure development (final decisions pending).
- 3 The 'West Road' from UEA to Colney Lane (application withdrawn).
- 4 UEA Science Park, Watton Road (decision deferred, appeal pending).
- 5 Housing development in Softley Drive, Cringleford (permission refused).
- 6 Excavation and dumping at Woodchip Farm, Keswick (permission refused).

Written Comments on Planning Reports

- 7 The UEA Development Plan
- 8 The County Structure Plan Review (- support for a green belt)
- 9 The South Norfolk District Council Local Plan for the Norwich Area.

Miscellaneous

- 10 Letters requesting weights limits on Cringleford Bridge and Bluebell Road (negative result so far).
- 11 Formal application, with evidence, for a footpath right of way on the eastern edge of the marshes north of the Cringleford Bridge (being processed by the County Council).
- 12 Lobbied Roy's about tree planting at the Eaton Centre (planting now complete).
- 13 Sought clarification on the use of Keswick Lime Pits for dumping spoil.
- 14 Letter to the solicitors of the Gurney Trust opposing possible building on the land used by Eaton Golf Club.
- 15 Letter pressing for minimising damage to marsh when connecting hospital site to Yare Valley Sewer.

Meetings

- 16 Candidates for the Euro elections were lobbied. Committee members met Paul Howell, M.E.P.
- 17 Guided walk by George Ishmail (Landscape Officer) on Marston Marshes.
- 18 Members meeting on the greenbelt, addressed by John Ayton, County Planning Officer.

John Thurman, Chairman, April 1990

DEVELOPMENTS AT UEA

Science Park

The application for the development of a Science Park on the Watton Road which is opposed by the Society has been rejected by South Norfolk District Council. There will be a public enquiry in early September. In our next Newsletter we will present some of the issues which members will be encouraged to raise with the Department of the Environment.

New Buildings on the Campus

UEA has recently submitted planning applications for several important new buildings on the campus. These will not be considered by Norwich **City** Council until September. In the meantime the Society will be having discussions with the City Planning Officers and will report to members in the next Newsletter.

STRENGTHENING OUR VOICE *-joining the Norfolk Society*

An important campaigning strategy is to make links with other organisations which have similar aims. To this end we have decided to join the Norfolk Society. We are also contacting other conservation societies in Norfolk with the aim of speaking with a united voice.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' NAMES AND ADDRESSES

If you wish to contact the Society or raise an issue with a Committee Member their names and addresses are:

Chairman

Dr John Thurman
20 Bluebell Road
Eaton, Norwich
Tel 55329

Secretary

Mrs Ann Girling
14 Blakeney Close
Eaton, Norwich
Tel. 507024

Treasurer

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Eaton, Norwich
Tel 51262

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Mr Peter Hunter
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Cringleford
Tel 507544

Committee Member

Mrs Elaine Tucker
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Cringleford
Tel 58657

Committee Member

Mr Steve Dawson
7 Elveden Close
Norwich
Tel 503171

Committee Member/Newsletter Editor

Mrs Janet Johnson
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Eaton, Norwich
Tel 52271

Committee Member

Dr Andrew Salisbury
42 Bluebell Road
Eaton, Norwich
Tel 55327

Committee Member

Tom Green
11 Bluebell Road
Eaton, Norwich

RIVER QUALITY

This issue was raised by several members at the AGM, so we are contacting the National Rivers Authority and finding out which are the most effective channels! through which to make our views known.

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* **ADVANCE NOTICE - GUIDED WALK AROUND UEA CAMPUS** *

* *A date for your diary...* *

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* John Hovey, UEA Grounds Superintendant, will be leading a guided *

* tour around the 200-acre campus on Sunday afternoon, 23rd September. *

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* The tour will take in the Broad and areas of tree planting and *

* finish with a slide show and refreshments at the Sainsbury Centre. *

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* Further details of time and cost in the next Newsletter. *

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

End of Yare Valley Society Newsletter Issue No. 7