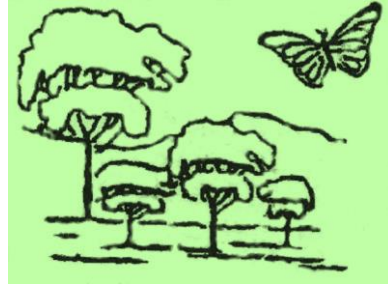


Yare Valley Society

Enhancing the Valley
for wildlife and Informal recreation

Newsletter 116 January 2023



McCarthy Stone's contribution to the Festive Season were two planning applications for their Bluebell Road site. Please protect the valley by giving them your attention, but first:

Andrew Salisbury 1931-2022

It was with great sadness the committee learned of the passing of Andrew Salisbury. Andrew was a Stalwart of the Society for many years and a past Chair. John Thurman, also a past Chair, knew him well and writes:

“Andy Salisbury, who died last August aged 91, was a prominent figure in the Yare Valley Society during six decades. He was part of a small group who founded the Society in the late 1960s in response to the threat of building a large cinema and car park on a site between Bluebell Road and the river. With that development fought off, the Society became dormant until it was re-formed in the late 1980's after an application by Tesco to build on the same site. Andy became Chairman for a short time in 1993, and again for almost 10 years from 2007. He was a robust defender of the valley and represented us at countless events; saw our membership grow to over 400 and, as an early user of I.T., brought greater professionalism to our newsletter and membership records, with able help from his wife Val, who pre-deceased him.



Andy was a mathematician who taught maths and trained teachers at Keswick College and, later, UEA. He was also an enthusiastic bell ringer and sailor. His organising skills and leadership were of great value to us, and his good humour and friendship continue to be missed by his many neighbours and friends.”

The Yare Valley Society continues to build on Andy's good work in striving to mitigate the impact of development between the Bluebell Road and the river.

An Application Withdrawn

A big thank you to all who responded to our call to comment to the Norwich City Planning Department on the McCarthy Stone (Bartram's Bluebell Road) phase 3 planning application. See Newsletter 114 August 2022. Following the response of you and others, McCarthy Stone withdrew the August application.

Two Revised Applications submitted

McCarthy Stone's contribution to the Festive Season has been two new planning applications for phase 3. If you wrote in about the first application, you should have been notified of this and been given the opportunity to comment again on both. Do your previous comments still apply? If so, please request the Planning Department to carry them forward for the new application.

The first of the two new applications (planning reference 22/01447/F) is for the "demolition of existing buildings, erection of 23 No. bungalows, 74 No. apartments, ancillary communal facilities, landscaping, access and associated works." This is a slight reduction on the number of bungalows in their previous (withdrawn) application for phase 3. The configuration of the layout of the bungalows has been changed, and the original two apartment blocks have been combined into one. These changes, together with the retention of more of the mature vegetation on the north side of the site, should reduce the visual impact of the development as seen from the Strawberry Field: but it will do nothing to improve the view from the public green space that should become available as part of the Phase 2 development, or to address other issues of concern about this development.



Attenuation Pond for Phases 1 and 2. Note the steep unattractive sides.

The second of the two new applications (planning reference 22/01567/F), is for enlarging the attenuation pond, constructed for water runoff of phases 1 and 2, to cope with run off from phase 3. The use of “pond” although not technically incorrect may give a misleading picture of what is being proposed. Attenuation ponds for developments can be unsightly and potentially dangerous. An attenuation pond in a public access green space linked into the projected Yare Valley Parkway should be more than a hole in the ground. It should be safe, and add to the amenity of the open space rather than detract from it. The attenuation pond will form part of a SUDS (Sustainable Drainage System), and good modern designs for SUDs in public green spaces maximise the potential for a SUDS to contribute to the ecology and amenity of its surroundings. Key design principles for a SUDS can be found on p 11 of the RSPB publication “*Sustainable Drainage Systems – Maximising the potential for people and wildlife*”.

(See <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/positions/planning/sustainable-drainage-systems.pdf>).

The Yare Valley Society committee views the proposals as falling short of best practice for a SUDS in a public open space. Its concerns include: the pond’s size; its design and planting; its water quality; and what needs to be in place for future management. It is also concerned about the reduction in green space for public access.

If you act in the next two weeks your response to the applications will be considered. If you have not already done so, please have a look at the applications on the Norwich Planning Website (<https://planning.norwich.gov.uk/online-applications/>) and make your views known.

Do your previous comments still apply? If so, please request the Planning Department to carry them forward for the new application.

Good starting points to get an overall view of what is proposed are the “Layout Plan – Proposed” under the “documents” tabs dated November 15, 2022 for 22/01447/F, and dated December 16 2022 for 22/01567/F.

The Yare Valley Society has already responded to these applications and its submissions are at:

<https://yarevalleysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/YVS-Consultee-Response-to-Bartram-Mowers-22-01447-F.pdf> and <https://yarevalleysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/YVS-Response-to-Bartram-Mowers-22-0156-F.pdf>

50 years of Climate Science

Congratulations to the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia (UEA) on celebrating 50 years of its work on furthering our understanding of climate. The CRU did much to alert us to the threat of global warming. The UEA Campus is situated in the Yare Valley, a green corridor that has key roles in combatting climate change, and limiting its consequences. (See for example YVS Website News item for the Dasgupta Review dated 2 February 2021.)

As part of the celebrations a mural has been created for Norwich City Council’s debating chamber. See <https://stories.uea.ac.uk/a-climate-mural-for-our-times/>.



An "official" gap in the hedge

Desire lines given hardcore surfaces

As a further improvement to the Strawberry Field, selected gaps through the hedgerow between the Field and Bluebell Road have been given a hardcore surface. This is a great improvement on the mud that is often to be found there. They follow existing desire lines, and so presumably are gaps people will want to use. Hopefully they will become the access points, and there will be no further forcing of gaps in the hedgerow.

The gaps offer a way to join the Strawberry Field Track and by-pass the cycleway and the noise of the Bluebell Road traffic.

Stories, pictures and news of activities for possible publication in the Newsletter and/or on the YVS website and Facebook are always welcome at yarevalleysociety@gmail.com.