

CPRE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH

Report of the Trustees for 2009

Background

Our last AGM was held on 23 August 2008 in Beaconsfield.

As most members are aware, the Bucks Branch of CPRE includes four Districts based on local government areas. The Aylesbury Vale District is chaired by Andrew Wild, the North Bucks District by Peter Hall and the Penn Country District by David Harris.

The Mid-Chiltern District has no chairman or committee at present. The Executive Committee of the Bucks Branch is made up of the District Chairmen plus the Branch Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman.

The Bucks Branch of CPRE has around 500 members at present.

Finance

The audited accounts for 2008-2009 will be available at the meeting and are posted on our website. Our income comes mainly from our share of national subscriptions to CPRE plus local donations and interest on money invested. Expenditure has been fairly low, allowing us to build up a capital sum for use if we need to mount a substantial campaign.

The Branch treasurer, John Hayzelden, is standing down after 5 years in office.

Activities

Housing

The most pressing issues have related to proposed housing developments. These have included possible development on farm land at Princes Risborough (700 houses), on an old airfield near Winslow (3300 houses) and on the A 41 at Fleet Marston (3000 houses). We have also taken part in discussions on the proposed South East Plan.

The largest proposal is for the building of 10,000 houses near Aylesbury.

Following a long consultation process, which included a change of direction from AVDC from a southern arc to an eastern growth arc, the core strategy examination is due to start in February 2010.

There is also a proposal for development on land adjacent to Pinewood Studios (1400 units). On this, Penn Country District has been working with the local Parish Councils, Iver Heath and Fulmer, to mobilise support against the proposal, which is on Green Belt land. We funded a leaflet for distribution to all local residents.

Local District groups have also been engaged in commenting on numerous smaller planning applications where it is felt these are detrimental to the landscape, be it AONB, Green Belt or an attractive landscape area, and have responded to various consultation documents from the local Councils.

Waste

The Bucks minerals and waste local development framework is still under consideration. Regarding waste disposal, Bucks County Council have selected a contractor who proposes to operate a heat-from-waste facility at Stewartby in Bedfordshire. The alternative site at Calvert in Bucks was not selected. We shall be considering the transport implications.

Wind farms

There are various wind farm proposals affecting the northern borders between Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. We have supported local authority objections.

Bucks County Show

We had a stand at the Bucks County Show on a busy day in August. We received many enquiries about the work of CPRE and much literature was distributed.

Web site

Work on the Branch web site has continued, under the guidance of David Jarman, with a view to ensuring that its content is informative and up-to-date.

Other organisations

Many CPRE members also belong to other organisations with similar aims, such as the Chiltern Society. We strive to maintain mutually beneficial relations with such organisations.

National Office

We have very close links with the national office of CPRE and we enjoy a free exchange of ideas, visits and correspondence with them.

Proposed Constitution Change

Item 5 of the AGM agenda proposes a change to the Branch Constitution document. This arises because the Secretary, Treasurer and other members of the Executive Committee have served for periods close to or exceeding the maximum five year term allowed by the existing Constitution. We would welcome the appointment of other members and the proposed Resolution, if passed, would give us more time to find replacements. The present members of the Executive Committee support the Resolution and intend to vote for it and they encourage other members of the Branch to do the same. There will naturally be an opportunity to discuss this at the meeting. The text of the present Constitution paragraphs as far as the proposed alterations, which are highlighted, is printed on the back of the Annual General Meeting Notice.

Chairman and Treasurer

We need to fill the vacancies for the offices of Branch Chairman and Branch Treasurer. We have tried various sources of recruitment without success. Any suggestions would be very welcome!

January 2010.