



**Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough**
Campaign to Protect Rural England

Cambridgeshire Voice

Summer 2017

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is our local branch of CPRE, a national charity. We speak up for the English countryside: to protect it from the threats it faces, and to shape its future for the better.

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“CPRE as guardian of our rural heritage must continue to argue that our countryside, valued for its own sake, is a unique and wonderful asset vital to our health and well-being”

CPRE's response to the housing white paper

National CPRE was a major contributor to the government's housing white paper consultation. We and other CPRE branches informed the national office of the issues we considered important. The following is a summary of national CPRE's response.

CPRE believes that the key objectives that the government should pursue, in relation to planning for housing, should be as follows:

- Ensuring every part of the country has an up-to-date plan
- Devising a standard approach to determining objectively assessed housing need that is reasonable and supports the following point
- Maximising use of suitable land for development and enforcing more strongly restrictions against building on land that is generally unsuitable, in particular green belts and other designated areas
- Reforming the proposed housing delivery test to shift the emphasis away from penalising

local authorities and communities for housebuilders' failure to deliver

- Providing more resources for planning authorities

To view CPRE's full response visit www.tinyurl.com/cpre-response

You can also view additional general comments submitted by CPRE by visiting www.tinyurl.com/cpre-comments



This stunning photograph of the River Welland was taken by Nicholas Jackson.

He also took the picture on the front cover, which captures the harvest of wheat fields around Peakirk.

As ever, we would love to receive photographs of the Cambridgeshire landscape from our members for consideration for publication in the next issue of Cambridgeshire Voice. If you would like to see your photography in the newsletter, send your images to office@cprecamb.org.uk

Introducing our new website manager: Jean Prince

As website manager, I update the website for the CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough branch - www.cprecamb.org.uk. I also contribute to social media.

In recent years, I have noticed what seems to be an intensification of development in the Cambridge area, so I'm glad to be part of the CPRE's efforts to protect the countryside.

In my spare time, I enjoy all things cultural. I also feed the birds, and like to think we have some of the most spoiled birds in the village!

Jean Prince



Take the 30:30 challenge



to get **30%** of your food within **30** miles

We're asking people across the county to try the 30:30 pledge and find out more about local food for themselves.

CPRE supports the diversity and importance of local foods and local food producers for the local economy and the benefit local food has on the landscape.

- Local food offers a great opportunity to support vibrant town centres and countryside.
- Local food webs are essential to the character and attractiveness of towns and countryside across England.
- With around 50p in every £1 we spend in shops spent on food, local food presents a tremendous opportunity for businesses, from farms to retailers of all sizes, to engage shoppers in making a difference to the quality of their local area.

CPRE wants local food businesses to flourish and provide readily available produce at a price that is affordable for consumers and fair for farmers.

We hope to harness the enthusiasm of rural communities

for local foods and demonstrate to both businesses and government that there is a huge opportunity and an urgent need to take steps to develop and promote the local food industry.

Over the past couple of decades there has been increasing concern that we have become alienated from the sources of our food.

Locally distinct produce is at risk of being lost

- Today, supermarkets compete for our food custom by price; as a consequence, the amount farmers are paid for their produce is continually squeezed.
- Supermarkets have 85 per cent market share of food and disproportionate buyer power. Farmers are faced with the threat that if they don't take the price offered, food will be sourced from abroad, where

production costs are lower.

- The carbon cost from food miles then rises and the nutritional value of food can be lost in the time it takes to get from field to plate.
- Over the longer term, locally distinct produce is at risk of being lost, and our rural economies damaged.

We want to encourage you to buy from your local independent stores - butchers, greengrocers, bakeries, soft fruit farms, farm shops and farmers' markets.

The food is fresh, tastes nicer than that from supermarkets, and, being in your locality, is just as convenient - if not more - than travelling several miles to the nearest supermarket.

CPRE has recently produced a pocket guide to local food - please visit www.tinyurl.com/cpre-food, contact our branch office on 01480 396698 or email office@cprecambs.org.uk for your free copy.

Planning workshop for parish councils

Understanding the planning system and responding to planning applications: a workshop for parish councils.

This CPRE workshop will take place on Thursday 2 November, from 9.30am to 1pm, at St Ives Corn Exchange.

If you, or someone you know, is involved with a local parish council the workshop is sure to be of interest.

Led by planning consultant Jed Griffiths, it will enable delegates to gain an understanding of the planning system and learn how to effectively respond to planning applications using real-life examples.

For further information please contact Tracey Hipson at our office: call 01480 396698 or email office@cprecams.org.uk.



Concerns over Oxford-Cambridge corridor development

CPRE Cambridgeshire has been working with colleagues in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire to form a joint response to the consultation launched by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), which is seeking to maximise the potential of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor over the next 30 years and beyond.

CPRE fears plans to create a "Silicon Fen" along this corridor have the potential to swallow up villages and countryside and lead to massive ribbon development along the 80-mile stretch.

Plans for an "expressway" road between Oxford and Cambridge will almost certainly be used as a reason to locate more and more

development along its route, over and above the significant numbers of houses already being planned.

CPRE supports local strategic planning but believes there is a danger here of swamping the already overheated South East and East of England.



Top: a solitary canoeist paddles the Great Ouse at Hartford; bottom: harvest beneath a giant Cambridgeshire sky looking out towards Brington. Both images by Gareth Ridewood.

Shaping the future: Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan officially adopted

At a full council meeting of Peterborough City Council on Wednesday 19 July 2017, the Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan became a partner of equal status with the city council plan in the Peterborough Local Plan.

The Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan referendum was held in Peakirk Village Hall, on Thursday 6 July, where it received overwhelming support from the parish.

After voting closed at 10pm, the votes were counted and Gillian Beasley, chief executive of Peterborough City Council, announced the result:

- 152 people voted in favour of introducing the plan
- 14 people voted against
- The overall turnout was 47.7 per cent

This process has taken nearly four years and we are the first neighbourhood area in Peterborough to complete a plan.

On behalf of the Peakirk Neighbourhood Planning Group, I would like to thank everyone who took part for such a positive response to our neighbourhood plan referendum.

We now look forward to working with the city council to shape the future development of our parish.

Sally-Ann Jackson



Neighbourhood plans guidance from CPRE

CPRE has released new guidance featuring advice to help community groups develop strong landscape policies in their neighbourhood plans, to influence future development decisions that would affect their local area. It will also be helpful for anyone who is interested in protecting what is special about their local landscape.

You will find examples of existing neighbourhood planning policies that could inspire your own, such as to conserve landscape character, hedgerows, designate local green space and protect dark skies. This guidance could help you put your landscape centre-stage in decisions that will shape it in years to come.

You can find the guidance here: www.tinyurl.com/cpre-plan-guidance.

A number of villages have already adopted neighbourhood plans, which in turn form part of each district's local plan. They are listed below. We expect there are other villages which have made a start on the quite lengthy, but worthwhile, process. If your village hasn't made a start, we suggest you speak to your parish council. You can also encourage councillors to attend the CPRE workshop on 2 November (see facing page).

South Cambridgeshire: Swavesey, Stapleford and Great Shelford, Great Abington Former Land Settlement Association Estate,

Whittlesford, Melbourn, Cottenham, Foxton, West Wickham, Waterbeach, Gamlingay, Histon and Impington, Linton and Hildersham.

East Cambridgeshire: Bottisham, Sutton and Witchford.

Huntingdonshire: Alwalton, Brampton, Bury, Godmanchester, Houghton and Wyton, Huntingdon, St Neots, The Stukeleys.

Fenland: None

Peterborough: Peakirk (see above). Ailsworth and Castor have submitted their plans to the city council, while Northborough and Glington are making good progress with their plans.

Announcing the Cambridge Sustainable Food Hub

Sometime, and sometime soon, the global food system is going to change. It has to. It is inevitable: climate change and the depletion of natural resources dictate that “business as usual” in our food supply simply cannot continue for much longer.

However, this article isn’t about doom and gloom, it’s about a very positive and forward-thinking project that is meeting the challenges in the food system head-on: the Cambridge Sustainable Food Hub.

The vision for the food hub is ambitious. It will be a large-scale food distribution and business incubation centre where everything that takes place is at the cutting edge of sustainability.

Not only will the very fabric of the building itself be uncompromisingly designed for energy efficiency, water conservation and human well-being - the activities and processes that take place within it will also be geared first and foremost towards sustainability.

For example, it will include an innovative low-energy cold store, delivery vans will be electric vehicles that charge from photovoltaic cells and the food that is handled onsite will predominantly be sourced from local farms.

The impact this will have on the city of Cambridge will be significant: locally and sustainably produced food will feature much more frequently in local restaurants and on the menus of local schools, and the city will be enriched as more food entrepreneurs are given the opportunity to start or expand their businesses. There will be the most amazing shop and café for people to visit.

Not only that, it is also going to be an amazing educational resource, and most importantly, a place for innovating new solutions for sustainable food distribution where researchers can come to try and answer that pressing question of how we are going to sustainably feed a growing global population in the future.

The Cambridge Sustainable Food Hub is a project of Cambridge Sustainable Food, an organisation dedicated to advancing the amount of sustainably produced food consumed in Cambridge and responsible for Cambridge’s inclusion in the Sustainable Food Cities network.

At its inception, Cambridge Sustainable Food asked members of the local community what one thing could be done that would be most helpful in addressing some of the most pressing food-related issues in Cambridge.

The top response was provision of a physical space that could offer space and facilities to small businesses, charities and organisations, where produce from local farms would be abundantly

available and where everyone could come together to work collaboratively and efficiently: a food hub.

The exciting latest news is that a site for the food hub has now been found. It is to be a part of a new research park development to the south of Cambridge.

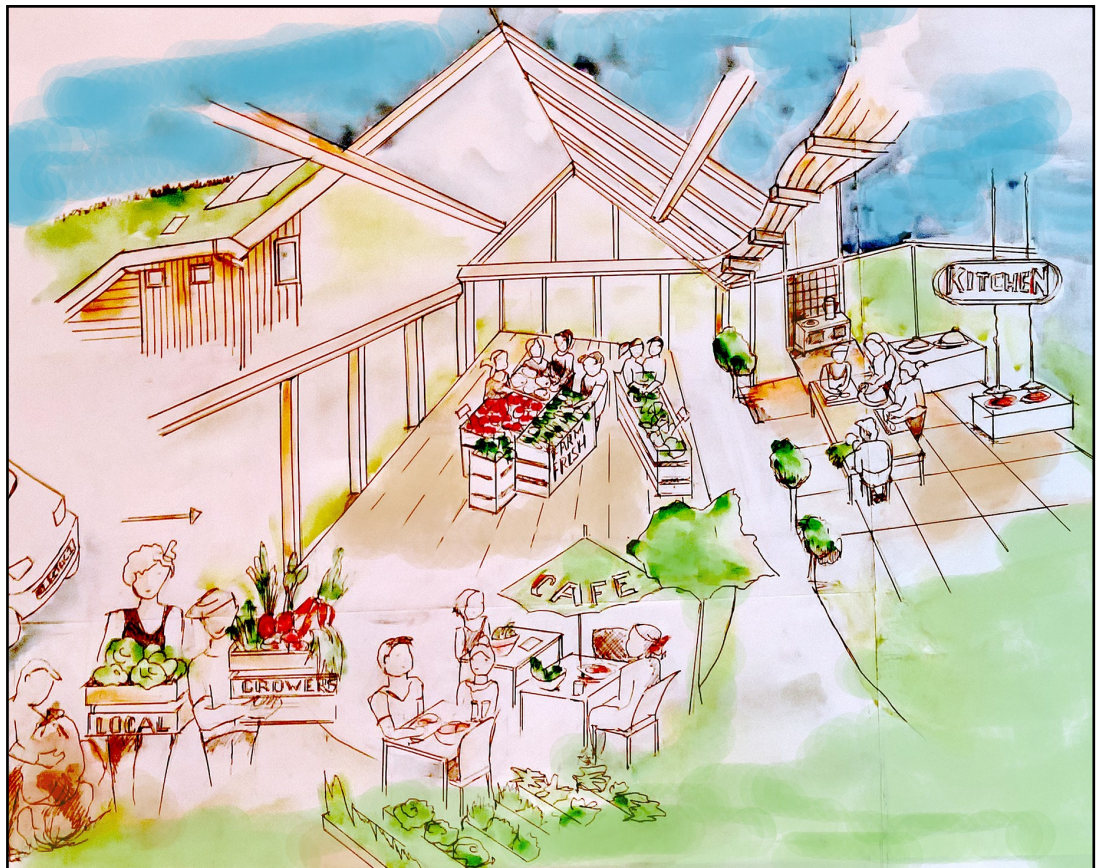
The developers themselves are going to contribute significantly towards the cost of the project, meaning it has moved on from the concept stage to having a very good chance of becoming a reality.

The team behind the project are now appealing to everyone and anyone who believes the food hub is a good idea to show their support.

A website has been launched which includes a sign-up form where people can register their name as a supporter. It also includes a short film about the project.

Visit www.cambridgefoodhub.org to find out more.

*Duncan Catchpole,
Cambridge Sustainable Food Hub*



Discover your countryside: Elgood's Brewery Gardens, Wisbech

In recent issues of Cambridgeshire Voice we've been drawing your attention to the 200+ houses and gardens in England to which you, as members, have discounted entry. In Cambridgeshire, this includes Elgood's Brewery Gardens in Wisbech.

Elgood & Sons is a family-owned brewing company situated in the heart of the Fens in the historic Cambridgeshire town of Wisbech.

Home to Elgood's is the North Brink Brewery, which stands on the north bank of the river Nene. The brewery was established in 1795, and was one of the first classic Georgian breweries to be built outside London.

Wisbech has a long history as a thriving fen town. In medieval times it was an important port, and the draining of the fens in the 17th century saw increased agricultural development in the area. The classical Georgian architecture of the brewery and other buildings on North Brink reflects this historic heritage.

In 1878 the brewery came under the control of the Elgood family, and so it remains today, with the fifth generation of the Elgood family now coming through to run the business.

Behind the North Brink Brewery is a four-acre, family-owned garden. Established at the same time as the brewery in 1795, the garden remained virtually unaltered until the Second World War, when the Victorian garden was destroyed and given over to the growing of vegetables for the war effort. After the war the land was grassed over, until the discovery in



Beautiful autumnal colours on the garden rockery.



The Japanese Garden is planted with azaleas, rhododendrons and grasses, and includes water features.



Fittingly, the maze is planted in the shape of a yard of ale

1993 of some old photographs of the garden as it existed before the war. This led to the redevelopment of the garden and the restoration of many of the Georgian and Victorian features.

The specimen trees - some around 250 years old - still remain. These mature trees include oak, variegated sycamore, beech, tulip tree, tree of heaven and ginkgo biloba. These provide a backdrop to the garden design.

Beyond the walled gardens are lawns leading to a maze, planted with thuja and laurel.

Traditional and new features are incorporated in the garden, including a lake with golden and ghost carp, rockery, herb garden, hot house with exotic plants, water and grass garden. It is a peaceful oasis within the town of Wisbech, about three quarters of a mile from the town centre.

The brewery visitor centre caters for snack lunches and teas and has a licensed bar, shop and plant sales area. A visit to the garden can also be combined with a tour of the brewery. The garden, visitor centre and museum are wheelchair-friendly (guide dogs only allowed).

There are special events in the garden throughout the year and information about these can be found on the Elgood's website. In 2017 the garden will remain open until 5 October.

Opening Times: 11.30am to 4.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For more information visit www.elgoods-brewery.co.uk/elgoods-brewery-gardens, call 01945 583160 or email info@elgoods-brewery.co.uk.

Writing, proofreading and editing services

We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter, which is edited and produced by James Burton.

James is a freelance writer and editor with experience of writing for a range of printed and online publications and producing commercial copy for company websites.

For more information about James and the services he offers email james@jsbeditorial.com or visit www.jsbeditorial.com

About CPRE

We campaign for a beautiful and living countryside. We work to influence how we plan our towns and cities to make them better places to live and work, to ensure the countryside is protected for all to enjoy for now and future generations.

Our Patron is Her Majesty the Queen.

We have around 60,000 members and a branch in every county. CPRE is a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning. Writer and poet Sir Andrew Motion is our president.

CPRE is a Registered Charity (No. 1089685)

Please note the opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of individual contributors, or the editor, and do not necessarily represent the views of the branch or the national charity.



A view of the Maxey Cut, which runs between Peterborough and Market Deeping. The cut was originally created as a flood relief channel for the River Welland.

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: who we are

President
Christopher Vane Percy

Branch Officers

Chairman: Vacant

Vice-Chairman: Lawrence Wragg

Treasurer: Nick de Chenu

Committee Members:

Simon Blackley
Shirley Fieldhouse
Jane Williams
Jean Prince

Branch Administrator: Tracey Hipson

Tel: 01480 396698
Email: office@cprecams.org.uk

Press Officer: Alison Sargent

Tel: 07776 255193
Email: Ali.sargent01@outlook.com

District contacts and specialists

Cambridge, South Cambs, East Cambs and Fenland

Shirley Fieldhouse

Huntingdonshire

Gareth Ridewood

Peterborough

Sally-Ann Jackson

Volunteer Manager

Vacant

General planning issues

Branch office (contact details on right)

Website Manager

Jean Prince



We are happy to help you. To get in touch, please contact our office:

Tel:

01480 396698

Email:

office@cprecams.org.uk

Website:

www.cprecams.org.uk

Write:

CPRE, The Town Hall, Market Hill, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AL