



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

Cambridgeshire Voice

Winter/Spring 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”

Housing on brownfield sites: a member writes

At the beginning of November, CPRE issued a report on brownfields which estimated that enough suitable brownfield land exists to accommodate more than a million new homes.

Members will have received the appeal letter from Emma Bridgewater (CPRE national president). One member was moved to respond to Emma as follows:

“The excellent CPRE report *Brownfield comes first* was very powerful in proving that development of brownfield sites is on average six months faster than that of greenfield sites.

“The reasons are fairly clear as well. Roads and paths are often in

place and just need resurfacing. Also in place are drainage and sewers, conduits for utilities and probably street lighting. Sites do not need levelling or contouring, so earth-moving is reduced. Foundation materials are often available on-site.

Development of brownfield sites is six times faster than greenfield sites.

“All these factors speed up delivery but speed is not the only major plus factor here. The reuse of all of these facilities and the fact that new materials do not have to be quarried, hauled, manufactured or installed, as well as the fact that earth-moving on

site is minimised, adds up to a huge saving in energy use and carbon dioxide production.

“I am sure that for one million homes this saving would be a major contribution to the nation’s carbon dioxide reduction targets. Brick and cement production alone are energy-intensive processes which emit large quantities of carbon dioxide.

“Perhaps this is a theme that CPRE could develop as a follow-up message to government when encouraging them to reuse land.”

The report can be found at www.tinyurl.com/brownfieldreport



This photograph by Tracey Hipson shows the River Great Ouse on the edge of St Ives.

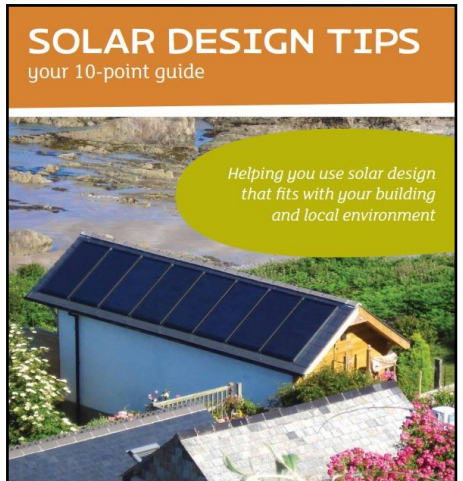
The picture on the front cover is taken from a series of shots by Nicholas Jackson that show the landscape around the village of Peakirk.

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 magazine, send your images to office@cprecambs.org.uk

Solar Design Tips: your 10-point guide

CPRE and BRE National Solar Centre have published a leaflet to show how solar panels on buildings can look good whatever the structure or surrounding landscape. Among the various design principles, CPRE advocates the use of panels that match the size and shape of existing roof tiles.

Other suggestions include installing panels symmetrically or ensuring that panels fully cover the roof. This leaflet is aimed at property owners. If you are thinking of installing solar panels on your existing house, or especially if you are building a house, take a look at the leaflet at www.tinyurl.com/solardesigntips



SOLAR DESIGN TIPS

your 10-point guide

Helping you use solar design that fits with your building and local environment

A pocket of peace, 20 years on: returning to Bourne Wood

The small village of Landbeach lies 4.5 miles, as the crow flies, to the north of Cambridge. There you will find a rather special wood. On a Saturday summer morning in June, I took advantage of a car-owning relation staying with me and made the trip.

We parked at the village hall, by the crossroads, and then walked 100 yards up Cockfen Lane, marked “no through road”, and came to the gate to Worts Meadow Open Access Area, a meadow in which towards the far side are the remains of a moated medieval manor house, surrounded by a ditch which was, no doubt, once filled with water. However, we didn't venture into the meadow, as cows and a bull were grazing. We instead continued to the next gate, which gives access to Bourne Wood.

Twenty-four years ago I remember coming here on Saturday, 1 March 1992, to what was then a meadow. (An information board here erroneously suggests the event I am about to describe happened in 1991, as it was originally scheduled to take place in December of that year.)

Cecil Bourne was the chairman of CPRE Cambridgeshire for 29 years, from 1969 until his sudden death at the age of 69 in July 1990. He was an architect, whose work had included repairs to the Landbeach parish church. His wife Pat, her extended family and friends and CPRE members decided to plant a wood in his memory, raising £1040



to do so. This was supported by a further £1000 from the Monument Trust.

The county council provided the tools and whips, and 2000 native trees and shrubs were planted. Our committee minutes record that Pat Bourne ceremonially planted an oak.

whips could be planted at random - though care was taken to place the precious oaks at suitable intervals. Soon after we had finished, the rain arrived to give our newly planted trees a good soaking.

Back in June 2016, the trees are strong and tall and already some thinning has taken place. Benches can be found in couple of clearings. The paths are covered in bark. They are too narrow to be used as bridle paths, which we believed had been the original intention. Leading off the paths are informal tracks. This is ideal for children, as we learnt when we spoke to four small girls and their parents who arrived while we were taking a final look at the information board. The parents told us they lived locally and came occasionally; it was obviously popular with the girls who were anxious to “go exploring”.

“This was a truly rural scene.”

About 100 people of all ages turned up at the planting. The county council had ploughed the land and marked out the boundary path and inner circular path which were to be avoided. Otherwise the

The parents, with their local knowledge, advised us to avoid the path by the hedge in Worts Meadow because of the bull! So we went into the lane and took a look at the view on the other side. It was a huge expanse of wheat field - not a building in sight, no traffic noise, just the sound of many birds. This was a truly rural scene. Long may it be protected by its green belt status.

Shirley Fieldhouse



Directing the future of Peakirk: the 2030 Neighbourhood Plan

The Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan, which will influence the growth of our village up to 2030, was submitted to Peterborough City Council by Peakirk Parish Council on 20 December 2016.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. Like other development control plans, the Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory planning framework for the area and be used to help decide future planning applications in the parish.

The Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan is the result of over three-and-a-half years' work by the qualifying body, Peakirk Parish Council (PPC) and the Peakirk Neighbourhood Planning Group (PNPG). Peakirk faces many challenges over the coming years. The plan offers a chance for residents and businesses to have their say on future development within the parish and influence how the neighbourhood evolves to meet the challenges.

The PNPG has consulted those living and working in the village, together with key stakeholders, on how they wish to see the village develop to 2030. The results fed into a draft version of the Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan, which was subject to a six-week pre-submission consultation held from

29 August to 15 October 2016. The version of the plan submitted in December took account of comments received.

Our Vision for Peakirk

“Our Vision for Peakirk is for it to remain a small, green village within a rural parish with a rich heritage and culture which can be enjoyed, protected and where possible enhanced, whilst supporting appropriate and proportionate growth.”

What happens next?

In winter/spring 2017 Peterborough City Council will check that the submitted proposal complies with all relevant legislation and, if it meets the legal requirements, will proceed as follows:

- Publicise the proposal for a minimum of six weeks and invite representations (Regulation 16 Consultation).
- Notify consultation bodies referred to in the consultation statement.
- Appoint an independent examiner (with the agreement of Peakirk Parish Council).

Independent examination

Peterborough City Council (PCC) will send the plan proposal and representation to the independent examiner, who will undertake the

examination and then issue a report to both PCC and PPC.

This report will be published by PCC and a decision made whether to send the plan to referendum. Peakirk Parish Council will also publish an information statement.

Late spring 2017: referendum and “making” the neighbourhood plan

If the plan passes these tests, PCC will organise a public referendum so that everyone who lives in the parish and is eligible to vote can decide if they support it. If more than half of the voters who express a view support the plan, PCC must bring it into force.

PCC will consider the plan in relation to EU obligations and European Convention of Human Rights law.

If the plan is compatible with EU obligations and does not breach convention rights, PCC will ‘make’ the plan.

This will mean the plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for Peterborough. Any future decisions about whether to grant planning permission in the neighbourhood area will have to be made in accordance with the Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan.

Fingers crossed!

Sally-Ann Jackson



This photo by Nicholas Jackson shows the confluence between the River Welland, Maxey Cut, Folly River and South Drain just outside Peakirk, clearly demonstrating why control of the water levels is so important when considering new development. It also shows the recently upgraded Spalding-to-Peterborough railway, cutting across the picture.

Help us create better places near you: the Groundwork project



Cambridgeshire boasts many beautiful rural areas - but it's not all green and glorious. Despite the idyllic settings, there are social and environmental challenges that prevent people and wildlife from flourishing.

Groundwork is the community charity with a green heart. We know that unsustainable living and working leads to an unfeasible demand for and impact on natural resources. We know that people's health and wellbeing suffers if their surroundings are neglected. We know that social isolation means that many people struggle on their own, rather than being supported by - and contributing to - their community and its surroundings.

We're working to make places look better, streets safer and outside areas green and beautiful. We want people of all ages to be able to do things together to make the best of where they live. We have a vision of a society of sustainable communities which are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper. Creating those sustainable communities means developing initiatives which cut across economics, social issues and the environment.

The Groundwork movement was established more than three decades ago as a one-off experiment to galvanise communities, businesses and government in a joint effort to improve the quality of life and promote sustainable development

in places that had become run-down and neglected. It has since grown into a national network and international movement of independent Groundwork Trusts, together forming one of the UK's largest charities and social enterprises.

We're working with CPRE to create better places across the region - and we'd like to hear from you

Groundwork Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is based at Alconbury Weald and the team uses its local knowledge to implement projects across the county. Our work is diverse, but all of it helps to achieve our vision. Now we'd like to hear from Cambridgeshire residents about

areas or projects that could benefit from the Groundwork approach.

We understand the various threats to green spaces and the biodiversity they support. Funding cuts mean that there is pressure on local green spaces and wildlife habitats, whether that's a neighbourhood park or a nature reserve, a public right of way through open countryside, or a waterway meandering through an urban setting.

Our projects address these issues in the most appropriate way for each site - we might get together a team of local volunteers to create community growing spaces, or send in our Green Aiders to tame residents' gardens so they have a manageable wildlife-friendly plot, or help groups access funding to enable their own greenspace improvement projects through Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, which we're proud to administer.

We know we'll only achieve our vision by working together with passionate individuals, proactive public services and innovative parts of the private sector. For this reason, we're partnering with CPRE in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We're working together to create better places across the region - and we'd like to hear from you. Do you know of a green space or community that could benefit from a Groundwork project? If so, please contact Hugh Cripps, Operations Manager for Groundwork Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, at hugh.cripps@groundwork.org.uk or on 01480 587140.



South Cambridgeshire planning application updates

We objected to S/2764/16/OL, for 58 dwellings in Caldecote on the grounds of the emerging local plan, and await South Cambs District Council's (SCDC's) decision.

We also objected to S/2876/6/OL, for up to 154 dwellings at Rampton Road, Cottenham.

The application S/2273/14/OL for 110 houses in Teversham Road, Fulbourn was dismissed on appeal as not being socially sustainable. However, S/1442/15/OL for 50 houses at Lanthorn Stile, Fulbourn, was approved on appeal.

Application S/2647/15/OL for 215 dwellings in Papworth Everard was approved as SCDC couldn't demonstrate a five-year land supply.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires local plans to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, which unfortunately the current 2004 plan for South Cambridgeshire fails to do, and we have to wait for the emerging plan to be approved. That plan is still being examined by the inspector; hearings are scheduled to go on until mid-March 2017, so the final report is still some way off.

In the meantime, we are saying in our objections that due weight should be given to the emerging plan, which is at an advanced stage. We advocate that the allocation of sites for development outside the village framework should come forward at the review of the local plan and not at the behest of developers.

We think that forthcoming housing at Northstowe is capable of fulfilling the need for housing in the next one or two years until the revised local plan is approved, which will show the location of additional land allocated for a substantial amount of housing in the district - possibly at Bourn airfield. In the case of Cottenham, we also pointed out that the village had experienced a lot of growth in the past few years, and we believe the village has accepted its share of the housing deemed to be required in South Cambs.



From top: the bridle path between Caldecote and Bourn in early December; Fulbourn Mill on a January morning; and crocuses heralding the arrival of spring on Cottenham Green in March.

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Discover your countryside: The Manor, Hemingford Grey

In the last edition of *Cambridgeshire Voice*, we drew your attention to the 200+ houses and gardens in England to which you, as members, have discounted entry. In Cambridgeshire, this includes The Manor at Hemingford Grey.

Built about 1130, The Manor is one of the oldest continuously inhabited houses in the country. For most of the time it was rented (they obviously did a lot of "buying to let" in the past!). Oliver Cromwell's grandfather owned it at one stage but gave it back to the Crown in exchange for Hinchinbrooke.

Author Lucy Boston bought The Manor in 1939 and lived in it until her death in 1990. It is the setting for her *Green Knowe*

children's books, so going round the house and garden visitors feel as though they are walking into the books, with many of the toys and other features mentioned in the books existing in reality. The house, particularly, is a magical place for children to visit. In the winter Lucy sewed exquisite patchworks. They form the only collection of this calibre worldwide which can be seen in the house where they were made.

When Lucy bought the property the land in front of the house was a field. A keen gardener, she started by planting trees and shrubs including small yew plants on either side of the path going down to the river, with the idea of creating topiary inspired by the Levens Hall topiary she had got to know well as a child. During the war years gardening took a back seat as Lucy Boston offered the house for hospitality, convalescence and music, often having airmen to stay. She also gave gramophone record recitals twice a



week in the music room (which is virtually unchanged from when the house was built). The recitals were for airmen based locally and the old EMG gramophone is still played during the tours today.

After the war Lucy seriously applied herself to gardening, planting old roses at a time when they were out of fashion, along with irises and herbaceous perennials. She was advised in her choice of roses and irises by Graham Stuart Thomas who was at the Cambridge University Botanic



Article by Diana Boston; photographs © Marcus Harper

Garden at the time. In his first book on shrub roses he had a photograph of "La Reine Victoria" at The Manor.

The eight yew bushes bordering the path to the house were made into topiary crowns, orbs and the dove of peace from the old sceptre. These were created to celebrate the Queen's coronation. In the early 1950s she planted another 12 bushes with the intention of making them into chess pieces. These now stand in squares of purple-leaved ajuga and grey-leaved stachys, representing the black and white squares of the chess board.

Bordered by a moat on three sides and the River Great Ouse on the other, the garden is four acres in size, with one acre deliberately left as wilderness as a haven for wildlife. It is divided into different sections, including the hidden garden with splendid mature yews.

There are large herbaceous borders full of scented plants with plenty of self-sown annuals intermingled. The atmosphere is of carefree tranquillity, which means there are weeds as well as planned plantings. It is not a manicured garden. Lucy Boston's philosophy was that it would be a pity if one won against the forest and wildflowers waiting to take over.

It is a perfect garden for accompanied children to explore both because of the books and because of the different spaces, with many paths to follow.

The garden is open daily from 11am to 5pm (dusk in winter). No appointment is needed. The House is open throughout the year but strictly by appointment. For further information about opening times, prices, and directions see your members' guide, or visit www.greenknowe.co.uk

CPRE pocket guide to local food

Hot off this press, this pocket-sized guide will help you find good local food and give you plenty of great reasons to buy it.

For your copy, contact Tracey at our office on 01480 396698, or email office@cprecams.org.uk

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.



Hereward Way footpath near Little Downham.

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CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: who we are

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