

Media and policy round up: 7 April 2017

Media highlights

**Please note The Times, Financial Times, The Sun and some articles on the Daily Telegraph website are now behind a pay wall, meaning you require a paid-for log-in to read them. Where no links are provided below, the coverage is not accessible online. Please contact national office for more details if you require them.*

Planning

Director of campaigns and policy Tom Fyans appeared on [Radio 4's 'Moral Maze'](#), in an episode focused on the Green Belt (29 March). Tom argued that Green Belts are not a barrier to getting enough houses built.

Rural Affairs

Tom Fyans spoke to [The Telegraph](#) about a report suggesting 400,000 phone masts could be needed to bring 5G mobile networks to rural areas (31 March). Tom argued that infrastructure could be added to existing buildings to minimise its intrusion. Tom was quoted in The Sun (31 March) and the [Daily Mail](#) (1 April) on this issue.

Dark Skies

CPRE's Night Blight maps were featured in a [Daily Mail](#) article giving advice to stargazers (31 March).

Transport

CPRE's ['The End of the Road'](#) report has continued to receive coverage in trade and regional press, as well as being the subject of [letters to The Guardian](#) (24 March).

Blogs

Planning Campaign Manager Paul Miner looked at the consequences the Housing White Paper could have for the Green Belt in [When exceptional circumstances aren't exceptional](#) (30 March).

Head of Government & Rural Affairs Belinda Gordon wrote about how land should be considered more, debated more and used more wisely in her blog [Land: a 'shared asset'](#). (7 April)

There are a series of vlogs (video blogs) on various topics available now on the [CPRE Facebook page](#) and [Youtube channel](#). We welcome suggestions for future topics and if you would like to get involved and create a vlog yourself, please contact mattc@cpre.org.uk.

Policy and campaigns

Housing need vs housing demand

On 6 April, National Office hosted a policy seminar to explore the issue of housing need and housing demand. The aim of the seminar was to distinguish between these concepts; outline how they are currently treated within planning policy; and look at how a new approach could be set out. The output from the discussion will be taken forward and used to inform a forthcoming housing foresight paper on this topic.

Upcoming consultation on single methodology to assess Objectively Assessed Need (OAN)

We are still awaiting information on when this consultation will be launched, having simply been advised by civil servants that it will be “soon”. If branches or regions are working on any specific projects relating to OAN methodology then please let National Office know in advance of the consultation being launched. This would be helpful to get a sense on how we can best respond as ‘One CPRE’.

Fundraising

Membership Review

The Membership Review Project is progressing with the final qualitative research groups being held in the South West this week. Findings and recommendations for next steps will be presented to the Trustee Board at the meeting on 11 May. Following this, we will look to disseminate findings to the wider organisation. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Vicky Haywood (vickyh@cpre.org.uk) or George Shelley (georges@cpre.org.uk).