

CPRE Shropshire Campaign Briefing

No 7: 10 July 2010

1. Welcome to Sarah Jamieson

Sarah is CPRE Shropshire's new administrator. She was appointed after a tough competition: we had 67 applications for the post and interviewed six highly qualified people. Sarah is based in New Invention, South Shropshire. She is an artist with a degree in English Literature & Classical Studies and Postgraduate Diploma in the History of Art. Working freelance, Sarah is currently Coordinator for the Land, Life and Livelihoods project in the Clun Valley and PA to the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group.

Sarah can be contacted on 01547 528546, admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk.

2. Shrewsbury

Your help needed to win North West Relief Road battle. Shropshire Council's Development Services Scrutiny Panel will review the Council's involvement with the NWRP on 13 July at 7pm. Please attend to give a show of support. We will assemble outside Shirehall at 6.30 pm for banner waving and photos. Your presence at the meeting will remind councillors that we care about the landscape and tranquillity that this unnecessary road will destroy. County planners report that the recent consultation exercise shows increased public support for the road (agenda & papers: <http://is.gd/dnbYJ>).

Tesco are once again bidding for extra space for non-food items as their Harlescote store, after analysis by CPRE's Charles Green forced the retail giant to withdraw its previous application. CPRE Shropshire's Selby Martin said: "Tesco are describing this as an inadvertent breach but I think it is deplorable that a firm like Tesco should abuse its position and strength and push through an increase in comparison goods and sales space in conflict with the condition imposed on them and it shouldn't be allowed" (Star: <http://is.gd/dl1bU>).

Incinerator. The Battlefield incinerator proposal will be considered by Shropshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee on Monday 26 July at Meole Brace School, 2pm.

3. Oswestry: Keep Our Town Special

Coalition member Chas Nicolson wrote to the Star rejecting claims that "Oswestry is dying on its feet" (<http://is.gd/dhq67>). Cambrian Heritage Railways said that the proposed cycle way from Burbidge will impinge on their heritage railway plans (Star: <http://is.gd/dhq67>).

This weekend is Oswestry Food Festival and the Coalition is collecting hundreds of signatures in support of the Fifth Option. A copy of the letter is attached. Please sign it and send it in—whether you live in Oswestry, Ludlow or London.

We need to Keep Oswestry Special! You can get a copy of the Keep Our Town Special leaflet explaining the Fifth Option here: <http://is.gd/dneFD>.



4. Marsh Christian Award for Oswestry Campaign

The Oswestry campaign has attracted widespread attention for the quality and innovation of its campaigning. A few weeks ago, campaigners learnt that they had won the Group Award for campaigning within CPRE awarded by the Marsh Christian Trust. On Thursday, *Small Island* author and CPRE President Bill Bryson presented the award to Mike & Hilary Bullen, Charles Green and Wendy Clewes. Bill said: "When I came to this country I fell in love with the unique character and eccentricities of England's towns and countryside. It's through the work of many volunteers and people like those receiving awards today that these endearing qualities will be preserved" (Press release: <http://is.gd/dnfJZ>).



5. CPRE Annual Review Dedicated to Vivian Hancock

CPRE's Annual Review for 2009/10 "is dedicated to the memories of CPRE volunteers John Venning [Hampshire] and Vivian Hancock [Shropshire] who made outstanding contributions to protect the countryside during 2009". Our Oswestry campaign is featured on page 16 "The Future" (<http://is.gd/dnDDo>).

6. Landmark Polytunnel Ruling

Wye Valley Action Association has won a High Court ruling that polytunnels near sensitive sites must be subject to a Environmental Impact Assessment. The ruling recognised the impact of the development on the surrounding countryside, not just on the farmland where the polytunnels were erected. Paul Stookes for the WVA said "There are real tensions in food production. We should be producing food locally, but you have to question whether we should be producing summer fruits in February." The NFU is to support a Herefordshire Council appeal against ruling in the Appeal Court in November (Guardian: <http://is.gd/deVJb>).

7. Coalition Government

It's been a dizzying few weeks for planning and the environment. The new government has announced new legislation but has been far from clear how much of the new planning system will operate. In brief:

Out: Housing targets, garden grabbing, housing density targets, National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, Commission for Rural Communities, Regional Strategies, Infrastructure Planning Commission, Regional Development Agencies, Housing and Planning Delivery Grant, pay as you throw charges, farming red tape.

In: Localism, Local Housing Trusts, Green Investment Bank, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Regional Growth Fund, simplified planning consent, incentives for communities to accept development, cooperation between planning authorities, housing energy retrofit, rural broadband, swinging budget cuts to housing and much else.

More information in the CPRE South East eBulletin: <http://is.gd/dnCFo>.

8. Lots of Planning and Campaign Help

- ◆ Confused by the planning system? Don't know your RSS from your LDF? CPRE provides a comprehensive online guide at www.planninghelp.org.uk.
- ◆ The Royal Town Planning Institute runs Planning Aid, its free and useful (<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/>; West Midlands: <http://tinyurl.com/35lchx2>).
- ◆ The government sponsored Planning Portal is an excellent source of information about the formalities of planning permission and policy (<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/>).
- ◆ CPRE South East publishes a monthly eBulletin on planning and environmental news. You can subscribe here <http://tinyurl.com/nc3cmj> or just drop me an email.
- ◆ If you don't already do so, please subscribe to CPRE's national email circular: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/support/make-a-difference>.
- ◆ You might also want to receive the excellent twice yearly CPRE magazine Fieldwork. Its free and you can receive it by email or post. Contact fieldwork@cpre.org.uk.
- ◆ The Environmental Law Foundation is also a useful source of campaign advice and potentially of legal support (<http://www.elflaw.org/>).

9. Media Coverage

- ◆ 10 July. Twitter talk: Andy Boddington talks about using Twitter for CPRE campaigning, rescuing cats and falling in love (Shropshire Star: <http://is.gd/dnBuh>).
- ◆ 8 July. Housing targets: Letter from Selby Martin "Village proposal now put on hold" (Shropshire Star: <http://is.gd/dnFPh>; text: <http://is.gd/dnFNe>).
- ◆ 8 July. Selby Martin objects to Tesco Harlescote: "Shrewsbury Tesco wants more space to sell non-food items" (Shropshire Star: <http://is.gd/dl1bU>).
- ◆ 8 July. Andy Boddington spoke to John Darvall on BBC Radio Shropshire about the marsh award and why people in London can't pronounce "Oswestry" (Listen Again, <http://is.gd/dnGkd> at 48 minutes).
- ◆ 8 July. Oswestry: "Bill Bryson presents campaign with award" (Shropshire Live: <http://is.gd/dnFSO>).
- ◆ 7 July. Oswestry: "Campaign against new town store wins prize" (Shropshire Star: <http://is.gd/dnFVQ>).
- ◆ 6 July. Coalition says "Oswestry is not dying on its feet" (Shropshire Star: <http://is.gd/dnFZ7>).
- ◆ 6 July. Housing targets: Letter from Andy Boddington "Time to rethink county house building plans" (Shropshire Star: <http://is.gd/dnG1V>; text: <http://is.gd/dnFNe>).
- ◆ 6 July. Budget cuts: Andy Boddington says "Shropshire's rural areas 'risk being forgotten'" (Shropshire Star: <http://is.gd/dnGae>).

Read our full media coverage online: <http://cpreshropshire.org.uk/News/media/index.htm>

10. Diary

13 July. 7 pm. Shropshire Council Development Services Scrutiny Panel will consider whether to abandon the Council's pursuit of the North West Relief Road. Council Chamber, Shirehall. Please arrive early for the banner waving at 6.30pm if you can.

15 July. 5.45pm. Craven Arms Local Joint Committee meets at the Beambridge Club Room, Millichope Estate, for a farm tour, to examine how modern day farming can contribute to both the local economy and environmental sustainability. All welcome.

22 July. 5.45pm. Stretton Dale Local Joint Committee meets at Acton Scott Farm Museum. Includes museum tour. All welcome.

29 July. Oswestry supermarkets planning meeting.

11 August. CPRE Shrewsbury and Atcham District meeting.

12 August. CPRE Shropshire Executive, Shirehall.

16 October. World Food Day with major food event in Shrewsbury. More details soon.

30 October. Climate change themed conference, Shrewsbury. More details soon.

11. Briefing

I welcome short contributions for future Briefings, including notes on planning cases and campaigns. Could you also let me have a list of meetings and public events for the diary? Also local press mentions? I often cannot obtain local editions of the Star and weekly newspapers. Please feel free to circulate this Briefing to our members and friends. If you would like me to send the Briefing directly to anyone, please let me have their email address. The Briefing also goes to our national and regional teams.

If this Briefing has been copied to you and you wish to subscribe, please email cpre@cpreshropshire.org.uk. (The same applies if you no longer wish to receive it.)

Andy Boddington