

Round Robin: e-news from CPRE Gloucestershire, September 2015

Volunteering

Lotti, a young woman from the Gloucestershire village of Windrush is one of the volunteers profiled on the national CPRE website. Read about why she feels so passionately about our work in Lotti's story. If you would like to volunteer locally, please contact our office in Community House by Gloucester Cathedral, where Lisa Belfield, our office manager, can put you in touch with your local group (Phone 01452 309783 or email lisa.belfield@cpreglos.org.uk). There are many ways to get involved, including joining your local Committee, supporting a stand at County shows, promoting our work through social media for campaigns such as Our Green Belt, as well as reviewing planning documents and keeping tabs on updates to planning law and policies. If you are already a volunteer for CPRE Gloucestershire, THANK YOU! We would love to hear your story about what inspired you to help protect our countryside. Contact Rachel at rachel.reeves@cpreglos.org.uk if you would like to share it.

Funding National Office research

We are very happy to be supporting research work at our National Office, thanks in part to very generous legacies gifted to CPRE Gloucestershire and are funding Luke



Burroughs' post as Policy and Research Advisor. Luke's work has already been recognised for insights into house building and is helping to shape CPRE's campaign work. His latest two papers, [Removing Obstacles to Brownfield Development](#) and [Increasing Diversity in the Housing Sector](#), are available to download and he is a regular contributor to the [CPRE blog](#).

Cotswold Water Park project

CPRE Gloucestershire is now actively supporting the Cotswold Water Park Trust by co-funding a consultant to re-invigorate stalled plans from 2008. If this project to restore some of the 150 lakes in the 40 square mile water park is kick-started, the Trust will be able to build on their successful work to date. The lakes formed by historical extraction of marl gravel, now provide a major rural tourist attraction offering a huge range of water sports and other activities, balanced with tranquil areas managed with a robust conservation remit. Visitors can now see and help support the nature conservation and ecological work on site. If you would like to find out more or see the beautiful lakes for yourself, details are available on the Trust's website at <http://www.waterpark.org>.

Local campaigns

CPRE Gloucestershire has issued a strong objection to the massive solar farm proposed for the Awre peninsula currently submitted to Forest of Dean District Council. On low lying land with several Grade II listed properties and a 12th Century church, Awre is a Doomesday Book village surrounded by pastureland

down-river from Slimbridge and highly visible both from the rolling slopes of the Severn escarpment on the Forest side and from Berkeley Vale.

CPRE's response to fracking licenses

The Forest of Dean is one of 132 areas across the country being considered for the award of licenses, pending environmental assessments. (See a map of the areas on the [Oil and Gas Authority and Department of Climate Change](#) information pages.)

In response to the announcement, Nick Clack, senior energy campaigner at the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), said:

“If fracking is to go ahead anywhere, it needs to be within the strictest safeguards and with community approval. Yet the Government is announcing that new licences will be offered just as ministers threaten to take fracking decisions away from local communities and while environmental controls in protected areas remain inadequate. The public understands the need to diversify our energy supply, but a licence to frack should not give licence to trample over local people and their environment.

“There now needs to be a decisive shift to shore up environmental safeguards and reassure communities. We need financial guarantees up front to restore any affected landscapes, and a requirement to fully assess the local environmental impacts of multiple wells in the same area. The Government has also never assessed the potential national impact of shale oil, as opposed to shale gas, so Ministers must now set out their full rationale for its exploration.”

Food forays

For anyone interested in the work of the Food Hub in the Forest of Dean, which was set up with the help of open source information provided by StroudCo, they are holding an open weekend called the [Forest Food Hunt](#) on September 5th. Prospective and current members and families are welcome to visit the farms, small-holdings and gardens where food is sourced from.

CPRE Stroud are combining fund raising with awareness of local food by producing and selling home-made jam. Please support them if you spot them at your local shows!

Government overruled in High Court

At the end of July, a High Court decision quashed controversial changes to planning guidance introduced in March that removed any requirement to provide affordable housing on small development sites. CPRE and many rural local authorities welcomed the decision as most much needed affordable housing in villages is provided as a result of small site development. It is possible that the Government may try to reverse the decision in the Court of Appeal

Campaigning on the Internet

Thanks to all those who have visited our Facebook Page (*CPRE Gloucestershire*) and support us by following our Twitter accounts. This work helps to build rapport and strengthen links with new campaign groups such as [Save Our Riverside Awre](#), as well as enabling us to bring current national and local campaigns to your attention. To find us on Twitter, follow @CPREGlos (Nicky Godding, Press Officer) and @CPREGlosRR (Rachel Reeves, Campaigns Manager). Read some of the stories from city dwellers and those who live and work in green belt areas at <http://ourgreenbelt.cpre.org.uk/>. Do you have ten minutes to spare? Why not contribute by sharing your thoughts and photos of England's green belt via the new page set up by CPRE at <http://ourgreenbelt.cpre.org.uk/submit-your-story/>.

If you would like to receive these on a regular basis, you don't have to do anything, but if you would prefer not to, please reply with 'Unsubscribe' as the subject. Please do forward the Round Robin onto friends and family who are interested in our work. We are always keen to welcome new members to CPRE Gloucestershire.

CPRE Gloucestershire is a registered charity number 248577