

CPRE Gloucestershire Views

Campaign to Protect Rural England
Standing up for your countryside



Issued each Spring and Autumn. For the latest information see our website

www.cpreglos.org.uk
President Charles Martell

**SPRING
2019**

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Full Steam Ahead for CPRE

THIS IS an exciting time for CPRE. Following extensive consultation with the national CPRE Network, national CPRE is nearing the final stages of a re-branding exercise which will be publicly launched later this year. A new National Strategy will emphasise the importance of creating much greater awareness of CPRE and of engaging wider public support for protecting and enhancing our precious countryside. Whilst there will be no diminution of in our efforts to fight inappropriate housing developments and other planning issues, there is a clear recognition that CPRE will become a much more influential organisation – locally and nationally – if many more people become committed to this agenda.

Here in Gloucestershire, we are increasing our efforts to engage many more people in helping to promote the importance of our market towns and villages and the countryside of which they are such an integral part. This year, once again, CPRE Gloucestershire will be celebrating outstanding examples of good rural development through our Awards. Together with our seven Districts, we will continue to work tirelessly to fight potentially-damaging housing and other developments. Working with partner organisations in the County, we will be seeking to promote more

*Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE
Branch Chair*

sustainable building, more protection for our precious natural environment and more understanding of the importance of farming in sustaining our countryside. We will be working with national CPRE on vital policy issues such as delivering the Government's 25-year Environment Plan and Brexit, fracking, the need for affordable rural housing, the running sores of plastic and litter and on a range of other topics of importance to our countryside.

We will be reporting progress on these and other CPRE Gloucestershire activities more regularly than before via our new e-newsletter to all our supporters who have allowed us to use their email address. (Sign-up is easy via our website www.cpreglos.org.uk)

The heart of the Forest of Dean at Speech House

At a time of great national uncertainty and with the unprecedented impact of climate change looming, it is good to know that CPRE is being re-energised by a clear vision of its future priorities.

I would like to thank all of our members for your continuing commitment to CPRE Gloucestershire. If you are reading this Newsletter and are not yet a member, please consider joining us. In the face of intense challenges to the countryside we love, your support has never been more needed.

“the importance of creating much greater awareness of CPRE”



Richard Lloyd

GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP WELCOMES CPRE TO THE BOARD

Jackie Jobes, GLNP Partnership Manager

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) is formed of over 30 organisations from public, private and third sector bodies from across the county, all working together to recognise the importance of embedding nature's value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.

CPRE Gloucestershire has been a member of the GLNP since the beginning, providing a great deal of support and encouragement to ensure the success of the partnership for the greater good of Gloucestershire. At the beginning of 2019 we were pleased to invite Richard Lloyd, Branch Vice-Chairman to serve on the GLNP Board.

The GLNP has recently released its draft three-year strategy for review

by members. There will be many opportunities to work collaboratively with CPRE across our joint priorities, one of these being 'green infrastructure'.

CPRE, among other partners, will be influential in helping the GLNP in advocating green infrastructure across the county. We will continue to raise the profile of the 'Building with Nature' benchmark for all new development and regeneration projects, and we will also seek the power of local champions to spread the word about the clear benefits that nature can provide to ensure a resilient future for all of us.



GIVING OUR COUNTRYSIDE A STRONG VOICE Celebrating a 30 year contribution to CPRE

Lucy Blyth

MAJOR TOM Hancock has been involved with CPRE Gloucestershire for over



30 years. For many of us this would seem half a lifetime but since Tom is now in his nineties this is a mere third! Still an amazing contribution to the protection and promotion of our Gloucestershire countryside.

Tom says he fell in love with the Cotswolds from a young age but did not settle here until he retired from the army. One could hardly call it retirement since he soon became involved with Tewkesbury Borough Council and CPRE. Tom has always been a strong voice for the countryside and he recounts that a barrister he once faced at an appeal commented "I like fighting you, Tom!"

When I went to visit Tom we worked out he had probably chaired up to 250 CPRE meetings. This kind of commitment reflects the 'time donation' many of our volunteers make to CPRE. Keeping

on eye on bad development proposals, new government planning policies and unnecessary loss of countryside takes many hours from a dedicated few.

Tom is one of those few. He is rightly proud of his, and his committees' level of contribution to help maintaining the beauty of our Gloucestershire landscapes. If Tom's time (and that of other volunteers) was valued in money terms, it would be in, at least, six figure numbers. That is a huge lifetime donation to a countryside charity.

Thank you, Tom, and to the many teams across our County who give valuable time for nothing in return

“He fell in love with the Cotswolds from a young age”

A NEW WAY FOR MANAGING THE FOREST OF DEAN?

Colin Evers

IN JANUARY the Forestry Commission published for consultation its plan, entitled 'Our Shared Forest', for managing the Forest of Dean for the next 100 years. This followed a series of workshops involving its local workforce, Forest of Dean District, Town and Parish Councils and other local interest bodies. CPRE has responded to the online consultation which sought the views of organisations and individuals on the proposals.

“CPRE has welcomed the proposals contained in the plan”

The vision is to nurture a shared forest unlike any other and to create a diverse and inclusive forest that is a global example of what can be achieved through forward-thinking forestry. It is supported by six primary 'Principles of Land Management'. These cover Trees and Woodlands, Wildlife and Wild Spaces, Geology and Soils, Water, Cultural Heritage, and Built Heritage and Archaeology. Against a backdrop of how people use the Forest of Dean, two secondary principles are also addressed – Community and Recreation.

To support each of the Principles, the Forestry Commission makes a number of commitments. For example, for Trees and Woodlands, these are:

- to progress towards a mosaic of mixed tree species with a genetic match linked to the aim of the right tree in the right place for the right reason;
- management aimed at

reducing pest and disease damage;

- and to engage in less environmentally damaging felling practices.

For wildlife and wild spaces, the commitments are:

- bigger better and more joined up habitats,
- the restoration of lost or degraded habitats such as heathland and mire, and
- tackling unwanted invasive species.

Commitments to assist in water management and pest control include the carefully controlled reintroduction of wildlife species previously native to the Dean such as beaver and pine marten; and for geology and soils they are aimed at a better understanding of the environmental/habitat relationship between these two subjects and promoting the story of the Dean's geological sites of interest. Water courses will be allowed to become more 'natural' with a commitment to improving their connectivity and functionality so that they can be seen as a vitally important life-saving asset to both migratory and permanent resident fish and other aquatic species; active mires and bogs will be restored to create habitat, and ponds created to reduce flood risk.

Notwithstanding the above, the plan recognises that many of the Dean's water features (eg Cannop Ponds) are man-made and are now part of its numerous and diverse cultural and built heritage and archaeology assets. Commitments are proposed to help maintain and where possible enhance the understanding of the importance to the Dean of all these features. Key to this is a proposal to



The Shaden Tuft Oak in Churchill Enclosure in the Forest of Dean

establish a Built Heritage and Archaeology Advisory Panel for the Forest of Dean.

Last but not least, the Forestry Commission sets out how it intends to maintain a balance between the Dean's community and the recreational interests the area provides, including a proposal to establish a Visitor Advisory Group.

As an interested organisation, CPRE has welcomed the proposals

contained in the document and this is reflected in our consultation response. We now wait to see what the impact of all the various responses will have on the Forest of Dean Land Management Plan final version, and what effect the plan will have on the long-standing ambition to achieve a designated Forest of Dean Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

Where next?

Richard Lloyd

MUCH OF England's finest countryside has the status of a protected landscape. These are the parts of the country which have been designated a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (usually referred to as AONB), safeguarding our most important landscape heritage for the benefit of this and future generations.

There are now 10 National Parks and 34 AONBs in England and they cover 23% of the land area. In Gloucestershire, we have three AONBs:

- the largest part of the Cotswolds, designated in 1966 and extended in 1990;
- about a third of the Wye Valley, designated in 1971; and
- a tiny part of the southern end of the Malvern Hills, designated in 1959.

Some History

CPRE has had an interest in protected landscapes from the beginning and can take much of the credit for the system today. The story begins in 1929 when the newly created CPRE persuaded the first Labour Government to appoint the Addison Committee "to consider and report if it is desirable and feasible to establish one or more National Parks in Britain with a view to the preservation of natural characteristics, including flora and fauna, and for the improvement of recreational facilities for the people". Addison duly recommended the creation of National Parks but nothing was done because of the economic climate of the time.

In 1936 the voluntary sector combined forces, setting up the Standing Committee on National Parks, now the Campaign for National Parks, to keep up the pressure. Further reports followed during the Second World War and in 1942 the Scott Committee on Land Utilisation in Rural Areas recommended that National Parks



Wye Valley AONB – Brockweir

should be established for the whole nation. The Government responded by appointing John Dower to develop the idea. In his 1945 report National Parks in England and Wales Dower defined a National Park as "an extensive area of beautiful and relatively wild country in which, for the nation's benefit and by appropriate national decision and action:

- the characteristic landscape beauty is strictly preserved;
- access and facilities for open-air enjoyment are amply provided;
- wildlife and buildings and places of architectural and historic interest are suitably protected; and
- established farming use is effectively maintained."

Dower proposed 12 National Parks. He also listed 34 what he called "Other Amenity Areas" which he judged to be "deserving and requiring the special concern of local and central planning authorities". His ideas were taken forward by the Hobhouse Committee which had the task of putting flesh on the bones. Hobhouse also recommended designation of land in addition to National Parks, termed Conservation Areas and defined as "fine country and coast which possess outstanding landscape beauty, are often of great scientific interest and, in many cases, include important holiday areas". When legislation finally came in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, the term Conservation Area was dropped in

favour of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Hobhouse proposed the designation of the Cotswolds, Malvern Hills, and the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley as AONBs. However, only the Wye Valley part of the last area has been designated and achieving statutory recognition for the Forest of Dean remains 'unfinished business'.

Purposes and Governance

National Parks have two statutory purposes: to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area. They also have a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park. An independent National Park Authority manages the area and is the planning authority. Overall policies for the Park are guided by a statutory management plan.

For AONBs, the primary purpose is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Planning responsibilities remain with the local authorities as does responsibility generally for promoting the purpose of the AONB, usually achieved through a partnership of the local authorities involved and organisations with interests in the area, including CPRE.

"a review of National Parks and AONBs should be delivered later this year"

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 enabled the setting up of AONB Conservation Boards. These are analogous to National Park Authorities including the second purpose and the duty but without planning responsibilities. Two Boards have been set up – for the Cotswolds and the Chilterns.

A Government Review

In May 2018 the Government announced a review of England's National Parks and AONBs to be advised by an independent panel chaired by Julian Glover. The panel's report and recommendations should be delivered later this year (2019), 70 years after the founding legislation. The announcement said:

"In the context of meeting both local and national priorities and wider environmental governance, the review will examine and make recommendations on:

- the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
- the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25-Year Plan for the Environment
- the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
- how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets
- the financing of National Parks and AONBs
- how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
- how to build on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks and to connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing
- how well National Parks and AONBs support communities."

CPRE Gloucestershire input to a comprehensive OneCPRE response to a 'call for evidence' and made a separate submission on the case for AONB status for the Forest of Dean area and on whether the Cotswolds should be redesignated a National Park, something which has been under active discussion over the past year.

What CPRE has said nationally – a summary of main points

- AONBs with two or more constituent planning authorities should have a consistent set of specific area-based policies adopted by each authority in its local plan



Cotswolds AONB – Walking the Cotswold Way

- New housing should focus on meeting identified need for truly affordable housing to support local communities
- The duty of regard on relevant authorities for the purposes of protected landscapes in exercising their functions should be strengthened: the current duty is largely ineffective
- Implementing the statutory management plans should be made mandatory
- Protected landscapes should be exemplars of how to enhance wildlife and habitats with ambitious targets set in management plans
- Expertise from protected landscape staff should be involved in the design and delivery of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme which will replace payments to farmers under the EU Common Agricultural Policy
- Access to protected landscapes needs to be improved for all ages and backgrounds, including by public transport
- AONBs should have greater independence from their local authorities, and additional conservation boards should be encouraged
- Funding for AONBs should be reviewed: current resourcing is woefully inadequate
- There should be a clear, collaborative, transparent and consistent process for prioritising new designations by Natural England.

We look forward to the report. England's network of protected landscapes has served the nation well and has the potential to deliver even more for society. That potential must be realised.



CPRE Gloucestershire AWARDS

Richard Lloyd

LAST YEAR, the eleventh year of our Awards scheme, we made six Awards to a very diverse range of projects across Gloucestershire. The Awards were presented to representatives of each project by

Viscount Bledisloe at a ceremony in October at the Gambier Parry Hall in Highnam.

Below is a brief description of each project, a photograph and the citation – read by Anna Jones, one of our Awards

judges. You can find details of all the projects that have received an Award over the years on the Branch website (www.cpreglos.org.uk/awards) and clicking on Awards recipients 2007 to 2018.

Greystones Farm Discovery Centre, Bourton on the Water ▷

Farm buildings imaginatively converted to provide a hands-on education centre at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Greystones Farm Reserve helping people of all ages to discover what's special about the Cotswolds countryside and learn about its wildlife and history.

■ **CITATION:** For a project combining renovation of farm buildings, wildlife conservation and development of 'old skills', creating a sustainable community and educational centre used by all ages, helped by volunteers and continuing the work previously carried out at Greystones Farm and to the same high standard



Richard Lloyd



Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway

▷ **Hayles Abbey Halt, near Toddington**

Located on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway, Hayles Abbey Halt has been rebuilt. The structure of the new halt faithfully follows that of the original which closed in 1960. Its construction was undertaken entirely by volunteers with meticulous attention to detail.

■ **CITATION:** For planning and implementing the reconstruction of a missing feature on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway with local support and involvement, and completed by volunteer labour in less than a year

Kings Lodge, Cinderford ▷

92 homes on a brownfield site in a mix of house types and tenures. The development is contemporary in style with a well-chosen palate of external materials and has achieved a distinct character and sense of place. The properties are also highly energy efficient.

■ **CITATION:** For the completion of a well-designed partnership housing project that has transformed a derelict brownfield site into an attractive environment for sustainable living



Richard Lloyd

The Raymond Fenton Centre, South Cerney ▷

A community building comprising a sports hall, café with an outside area, and a smaller 'group' room. Designed to a brief from the Parish Council and with community input, the building looks good, fits in well with its surroundings and is energy efficient.

■ **CITATION:** For planning a community centre with local consultation, which sits sympathetically within new residential properties, is well designed, energy efficient and used by the local community for a variety of pursuits



Richard Lloyd



Tewkesbury Nature Reserve

◁ Tewkesbury Nature Reserve

A 114 acre wetland reserve created and managed by volunteers following the setting up of a Trust in 2012. It is the brainchild of local residents who saw the potential of this flood prone area to enhance wildlife and provide a real asset for the community.

■ **CITATION:** For planning, implementing and managing the creation of an extensive wetland nature reserve with public involvement and benefit

Whittington Close, St Briavels ▷

Nine affordable homes on a rural exception site. The development has benefited greatly from engagement with the community which influenced its design. The properties are small scale with a reduced eaves height, dormers and hips following the vernacular style of the older parts of the village.

■ **CITATION:** For engaging with partners and the community in developing design principles leading to the planning, construction and letting of sustainable, affordable housing in a rural village, satisfying local needs



Richard Lloyd

**16 JULY
2019**
**GAMBIER PARRY HALL
HIGHNAM**
9.45am – 4pm

CPRE & GRCC JOINT EVENT

**DELIVERING AFFORDABLE
RURAL HOUSING TO MEET
LOCAL NEEDS**

WHAT COMMUNITIES CAN DO

The event will:

- encourage communities to consider solutions to providing affordable housing in rural areas
- increase knowledge & understanding of need and potential solutions
- inspire communities by showcasing good practice case studies and visiting two nearby completed schemes



There is a charge of £25 to attend. This includes a sandwich lunch and coach travel to and from the site visits

Booking is through GRCC:
<https://tinyurl.com/RuralHousingEvent>

Supported by GAPTC

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2050 VISION - WHAT NEXT

Richard Lloyd

OUR RECENT newsletters have reported on the six month consultation last year on a Vision for our County by the middle of the century jointly developed by Gloucestershire County Council, GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership and the University of Gloucestershire. The Vision was mainly about economic growth aspirations and included six “big ideas”. Our reaction was one of alarm at the unrealistic scale and pace of growth envisaged and led us to develop an alternative Vision. This focusses on improving the existing urban and rural communities and environments which make Gloucestershire unique and special rather than destroying them with grandiose projects no-one wants. Published under the title *There is a Better Way*, it was submitted as CPRE’s response to the consultation and featured in our last Newsletter. And it can be found on our website www.cpre.org.uk.

Last September, the University of Gloucestershire published a full report on the consultation. This was followed in October by a paper from ‘Leadership Gloucestershire’ in the form of a Concordat charting the next steps.

Note: Leadership Gloucestershire is the committee which brings together public sector organisations which allocate and spend significant resources in Gloucestershire and has a role to provide vision, leadership and strategic direction in those areas where it is vital for organisations to work together. Chaired by the County Council, membership includes our District Councils, GFirst LEP and the police and health services

The 2018 Consultation: what people said

The consultation generated some 2,500 written responses of which 44% were from those aged 25 and under. The organisers were particularly concerned to hear the voice of younger people and their aspirations for their future. Predictably the most-lively debates were around the six big ideas.

- **The Super City** drew the most comments with the majority concerned about undermining the distinctive character of Gloucester and Cheltenham and with urban sprawl. Those in favour thought the concept would lead to better quality development thereby helping to retain and attract younger people to the county.
- Most respondents viewed the **Cyber Park** favourably as a means of creating highly-skilled, innovative jobs and building on the specialisms which already exist within the county.
- Around three-quarters of those responding on **Regional Parks** viewed them positively, helping to preserve what they see as one of Gloucestershire’s key assets.
- Respondents were the most uncertain about the **Lydney-Sharpness crossing**, with almost half not sure if they agreed with it or not. Those in support believe it would help connect the Forest of Dean to the rest of Gloucestershire, improving residents’ access to jobs and tourists’ access into the Forest, thus boosting the local economy. Responses in opposition were concerned about increased traffic damaging the character of the area, and potential negative impacts on wildlife habitats.
- By a small margin, a **Cotswold Airport** was opposed, mainly because it was seen as unnecessary given the proximity of other major airports – the need was improved transport links to and from these airports. Respondents also opposed a new airport on environmental grounds.
- Over half of those responding on the **Cotswold Water-Park** agreed with its further major recreational development. Those not positive about the idea were mostly ‘not sure’ rather than opposed.

The Concordat

Leadership Gloucestershire consider that they now have a mandate for taking forward Gloucestershire Vision 2050. The Concordat includes statements on the six big ideas and proposals on how to make things happen.

In the central area of the county a “super-city” as such is rejected in terms of ‘merger’ and loss of identity of Gloucester and Cheltenham. Instead, there is strong support for greater coordination and supportive development that addresses the issues faced by Gloucester and Cheltenham while enhancing their distinctive characteristics.

The idea of a major airport in the Cotswolds is dropped but there is recognition that better international connections will be vital by 2050 and that work should progress to create stronger strategic links and better sustainable transport connections to Heathrow, Bristol, Birmingham, and Cardiff airports.

On the Lydney–Sharpness crossing there is the following statement: “Wherever a new crossing is promoted it is recognised that this development should be more than simply an element of local transport infrastructure. Within Gloucestershire, this development would create stronger links between the Forest of Dean and Stroud districts, and even Gloucester, but beyond that it would connect much of England to South Wales in a new way that takes pressure off the M4 and M5. The local dividend will be the potential for new communities and economic growth based on the ambitions set out in the Vision.”

To drive the Vision forward, three new Boards are being set up:

- **A Central Gloucestershire Growth Board** will provide the vision and strategic context for the area covered by the Gloucestershire, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and will have an influential role in the JCS review.

“Leadership Gloucestershire consider they now have a mandate for taking forward Gloucestershire Vision 2050”



Welcome regeneration in Gloucester
– Blackfriars Student Residence

- **A Severn Vale Board** will perform a similar role in the Berkeley Vale, including consideration of the potential new river crossing.
- **A Rural Ambition Board** will also be set up. This is a welcome development which chimes with

the CPRE Alternative Vision for the County. The Concordat says “As the title suggests, this Board should be looking for a positive vision of a vibrant rural economy, which allows market towns and villages, communities and businesses to be as proud of their contribution to

Gloucestershire as they are already proud of their landscape. It should be looking at ways in which a vision for our rural assets compliments the vision for growth elsewhere in the County.” The regional parks concept and the Cotswold Water Park will come under the brief of this Board.

RAISE FREE FUNDS FOR CPRE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH WITH YOUR EVERYDAY SHOPPING!

IT'S TRUE, you can raise money for us and it won't cost you a penny! We have signed up to 'Give as you Live'. This means if you shop online at over 4,000 major retailers, like Amazon or Tesco, or use a reloadable in-store card, you can raise money for CPRE Gloucestershire every time you do. It is very simple to sign up. Here are the steps:

- 5 Click on charity details
- 6 Support this charity
- 7 And then sign up!

How to give as you buy?

- 1 Before you buy, go to the Give as you Live website and sign in
- 2 Then search for the store you want to use
- 3 Once you have found the store you want to shop with, click on the “Shop and raise” button. You will be redirected to that store and shop as normal
- 4 The good news is once you have shopped a donation will come to us!

So next time you shop online or use a reloadable card, shop to help save our Gloucestershire countryside.

How to sign up?

- 1 Go to www.giveasyoulive.com
- 2 Choose Sign up for free
- 3 Choose a charity to support
- 4 Search for our charity (make sure you type **Campaign to Protect Rural England Gloucestershire Branch**)

Give as you Live™ 



SIR FABIAN WARE

The First Chairman of CPRE Gloucestershire

David Brooke

OVER THE generations the inspirational work of Sir Fabian Ware has done much to heal and help those touched by the loss of a loved one in war. Closer to home, Fabian Ware was the founder and first Chairman of CPRE Gloucestershire. A strong link exists between those facets of his energetic life.

Fabian Ware, who died seventy years ago in April 1949, was born in Clifton in 1869. He attended the Universities of London and Paris and forged an early career in education, first as a schoolmaster and later as an educational administrator in the Transvaal. An abrupt change of direction brought him back to London in 1905 as Editor of the *Morning Post*. There, his socially-inclusive political views caused increasing concern to the proprietors of the newspaper and he resigned in 1911.

Flying to the colours in 1914, Fabian Ware brushed off his rejection from the army (he was 45) and took command of a Red Cross mobile ambulance unit. Stationed in France, he became appalled at the lack of any mechanism to record and mark the graves of those who had died in battle; and found himself deeply moved by the forgotten: those whose bodies had never been found.

Fabian Ware reacted to such disregard by founding an organisation within the Red Cross to record and mark all those who had lost their life to war. By 1915 the organisation had been successfully absorbed into the British Army as the Graves Recording Commission,

with Ware in charge and its continuing driving force. In that capacity he rose to the rank of Major-General.

By 1917 with characteristic vigour he had cajoled the government into founding an Imperial War Graves Commission, a name it was to hold until 1960 when it became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The first Chairman of the new Commission was Edward, Prince of Wales with Ware as its Permanent Vice-Chairman (effectively its chief officer).

Honoured by Knighthoods to two separate Orders in 1920 and 1922, and remaining as its Vice-Chairman, Fabian Ware ensured that the Commission's war graves were maintained in perpetuity to provide dignity to the dead and hope for the bereaved. His respect for the fallen found form in his calm, reflective cemeteries, simple Portland Stone gravestones with well-formed text, and dignified memorials for those with no known grave.

Ware also wanted something more, something deeper as a way of giving purpose to the sacrifice of a million deaths in war, and to the gap in the lives of grieving families. The continued beauty of Britain's countryside and green spaces, he thought, would be a perpetual memorial to their bravery and ultimate demise.

This was his constant exhortation, most notably in Gloucestershire where he had moved to Dial Cottage, Amberley with his wife Anna, son Arthur and daughter Margaret. He was instrumental in establishing the Gloucestershire Rural Community



Sir Fabian Ware's memorial in Gloucester Cathedral

Richard Lloyd

Council in 1923; and in founding the County Branch of CPRE in 1928. He was our first Branch Chairman, remaining in post for 21 years.

Although by then largely retired, the Second World War saw Fabian Ware returning as Director of Graves Registration at the War Office. He also maintained his role of Vice Chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission until 1948.

Throughout this time Ware prospered in his role as CPRE Chairman, although his signature in the Branch minute books becomes increasingly feeble. Towards the end CPRE meetings were often chaired in his absence by Lady Ware, his wife.

Sir Fabian Ware died in Gloucester on 28 April 1949 aged 79. He is buried at Holy Trinity, Amberley. In the *Times* of 30 April 1949 Viscount Bledisloe (then President of CPRE Gloucestershire) recalled ... a most lovable personality, he entwined himself in the affection of Gloucestershire folk ... by his obvious devotion to their social welfare, his pride in the beauty of the county ... and his vigorous leadership in combatting its scenic despoilment. Memorials to the man and his life can be found in Westminster Abbey and in Gloucester Cathedral.

It is also good that seventy years later we, in his Branch, can still honour his name and feel part of his enduring achievements.

Sir Fabian Arthur Goulstone Ware
KCVO KBE CB CMG (1869 - 1949)

Sir Fabian Ware (with a sheaf of papers) inspecting an early Imperial War Graves Commission cemetery with King George V



DON'T MISS OUR BRANCH AGM on Thursday 30th May

Rendcomb College



■ This year our Branch AGM is to be held at Rendcomb College, off the A435 between Cheltenham and Cirencester. It will be on Thursday, 30th May when members and guests are invited to arrive from 1.45pm.

■ Rendcomb College is a public school founded by the Wills family. But it is centred on a fine Victorian mansion with the adjacent parish church dating back to the 12th century. It has a superb position overlooking the Churn Valley. Our meeting will take place in the state-of-the-art Griffin Theatre, close to the church. Members and guests will be able to visit the grounds and church before the meeting. The other school buildings, however, will not be open.

30th
MAY
2019

The AGM will start at 2.30pm.

We are delighted to welcome CPRE National President and well-known designer of contemporary ceramics Emma Bridgewater as our guest speaker. Her talk will be followed by tea.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find your invitation to the meeting, along with your copy of the Branch Annual Review for last year, the agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the previous AGM. Summary accounts are included in the Annual Review while nominations for the Executive Committee can be found in the Agenda. Please return the slip at the bottom of the invitation whether or not you will be coming to the AGM. Do please include your email address (if any) and tick the box below it. We need this, and your permission to use it, if we are to maintain an effective way of communicating with you quickly and cheaply.

SAVE THE DATE 18th SEPTEMBER 2019



DAME FIONA Reynolds DBE will be giving the first joint RAU/CPRE Gloucestershire lecture at 6pm on 18th September

at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester.

Her lecture, entitled 'The Fight for Beauty', will build on the views expressed in her book 'The Fight for Beauty; Our Path to a Better Future' published in 2017. This has made a considerable impact in drawing attention to the importance of our countryside and our need to protect it.

Dame Fiona is a well-known champion of rural England. Currently Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, she was formerly Director General of the National Trust and

Dame Fiona Reynolds



has been Secretary of the Campaign for National Parks. And she is a former Director of CPRE.

Among a range of other roles, Dame Fiona is currently a member of the Glover Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty commissioned by Environment Secretary, Michael Gove in 2018. This Review is due to report in the Autumn. All are welcome.

Those interested are encouraged to advise the CPRE Office in Gloucester by email info@cpreglos.org.uk, by telephone (01452 309783, Tuesdays and Thursdays) or by writing to CPRE Gloucestershire, Community House, College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LZ.



David Levinson

Berkeley Vale

Prue Vernon, Chairman

“the Emerging Stroud Local Plan needs land for 5,700 more dwellings”

THE DISTRICT has submitted a detailed commentary on the Emerging Stroud Local Plan for 2020 which needs land for 5,700 more dwellings. There are strong feelings about the large sites proposed and about possible sites in Kingswood and Dursley. The proposed Sharpness and Newtown development area is poorly defined and includes a large area in the flood zone. Stroud District Council is reviewing all the comments submitted and will be reporting on them in March.

In 2017 Stroud District Council adopted a Severn Estuary Recreation and Mitigation Strategy which should increase protection for the ‘RAMSAR’ site at Slimbridge and the sensitive land on either side of the Sharpness Canal and between the canal and the Severn. The increasing

development in the Vale will bring more recreational pressure on these sensitive wildlife areas, especially around Sharpness. We shall encourage SDC to reinforce it. It can be viewed on the Council website.

Permission has been given to repair and convert the former Standish hospital buildings – Standish House Grade II, stable block and the later hospital ward buildings – into 48 dwellings. Westridge Hospital is to be demolished. In order to fund this, 99 new dwellings are to be built in the grounds. The result will be an eyesore however much screening is planted as the site is on the Cotswold escarpment. It is bound to have serious traffic implications.

The huge proposed solar park at Longney has been refused but another application is expected. A

further large solar array is proposed at Denfurlong Farm, Frampton on Severn. This would join up with the existing large solar array at Cambridge. We are particularly concerned about the area called ‘The Marshes’ by Wicksters Brook, on the opposite side of the canal from Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust. It is unimproved grassland which retains some identifiable ridge and furrow, supports an interesting variety of plants and is used by all forms of wildlife. The environmental impact is currently being assessed. Please would anyone with particular knowledge of the site comment on this application (Stroud District Council reference 2018/0581, case officer John Chaplin).

William Morris House at Eastington has submitted

an impassioned objection seeking refusal of the football stadium at Junction 13 – its residents have an overwhelming need for tranquillity. It is requesting that the noise impact be assessed using a more up to date approach.

Gladman have submitted an application for 90 dwellings at Kingswood on a site not included in the current Local Plan or the Emerging Local Plan. We have objected. However they have succeeded in their application for 90 houses next to Cam-Dursley railway station. Some land will be allocated for parking at the station but not enough.

Please keep alert for opportunities to comment on the Emerging Local Plan and attend Stroud District Council’s local consultations – it is the best way to get our voice heard.

The sensitive Severn estuary at Slimbridge



Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury

Tom Hancock, Chairman

THE DISTRICT Annual General Meeting is be held at Stanway House at 7pm on Thursday, 11th April – too soon for advertisement here but a separate notice will have been sent to District members.

We are pleased to see that the Cotswolds Conservation Board has erected more Gateway marker stones on roads entering the Cotswolds AONB. So far there are 33 in all.

When the National Planning Policy Framework first came in, we were struggling to deal with developer-led planning proposals and relying on the outdated Tewkesbury and Cheltenham Local Plans. Now the Joint Core

Strategy is in place and underlying local plans are well advanced we have more ammunition to argue our case when we consider applications to be in the wrong place, not suitably designed or otherwise unacceptable. Meanwhile the forward planning processes are continuing. We have just participated in the public examination of the Cheltenham Local Plan which, provided it is found to be 'sound', should come into effect later this year. But the JCS is about to be reviewed so we are facing changes not long after its adoption. Some difficult decisions may need to be made in the near future as the Tewkesbury area is expected to face more housing.

Some applications are

hard to deal with when they are part of rural farming but not wanted by local residents. We have had several applications for broiler houses and chicken farms in the recent past. CPRE does try to foster a lively and buoyant rural business community so we have to consider carefully whether or not there are grounds to object to such applications. Similar problems have occurred with recent applications for large agricultural buildings within the AONB.

The Government proposes financial help for new large rural villages with schools, community centres and other facilities that a sustainable village requires. We are not opposed to new

villages in principle, but they must be carefully placed within the landscape and accessible to suitable highways.

Our small team continues to carry out strict monitoring of applications, but we are always looking for volunteers to help us. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with CPRE offices in Gloucester.

Cotswold AONB marker stone on Cleeve Hill going towards Winchcombe



Ron Harrison

Forest of Dean

Clive Osborne, Chairman

A FULL-DAY public consultation on proposals for the derelict industrial buildings at Pine End Works near Lydney Harbour attracted more than 400 people, including members of the Forest of Dean committee. The Severn and Wye Smokery Company is proposing to develop a smokery, eel farm, visitor centre, shops and restaurant. The display at Lydney Town Hall in December featured drawings and maps, plus photographs of other restoration work undertaken by the company at its current base near Westbury-on-Severn. The 14-acre industrial site was

developed for wartime production of components for aircraft such as the De Havilland Mosquito fighter bomber, and finally closed its doors almost 20 years ago. Committee members generally welcomed the suggested outline design and construction standards, and await more definite proposals.

Plans for 80 homes in Newnham fall far short of the standards we would expect for such an architecturally rich village, which has 104 listed buildings and is described by the District Council as having national importance. The committee's response to the proposal states that

Plans for 80 homes in Newnham fall far short of the standards we would expect

the development – part of the Allocations Plan – presents an opportunity for an exemplary design to complement the character and architectural heritage of the village. Instead, we believe, the current proposal's inappropriate materials and design will create yet another anodyne "anywhere" development. We have suggested collaboration between CPRE and developers Freeman Homes to improve the designs, and feel the current proposals should be rejected.

The interest around Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation for the Forest of Dean continues. Our AGM at The Village Shop, Brockweir, in September was

followed by a talk by Andrew Blake, Wye Valley AONB manager and an informative discussion. The AGM saw all the committee officers re-elected.

In October, committee members attended a presentation on Biosphere Reserve Designation, organised by the district council and presented by Andy Bell from the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. Our delegates accepted that the Biosphere status appeared suitable for North Devon but were uncertain whether this applied in the Forest of Dean. We also recognise that a Biosphere Designation would not replace AONB designation – not least because it would not relate to the landscape.

North Cotswolds

Michael Green, Acting Chairman

AFTER A quiet autumn and early 2019 we are beginning to see some activity in our District. We are looking at recent planning applications in Moreton-in-Marsh. One is for a 52-bed Care Home with additional units for key workers. But it will lie only 300 metres from a 60-bed Care Home which recently got planning approval. Unsurprisingly it is receiving

objections from Moreton residents who feel there are sufficient care homes in their town and that there should be more emphasis on providing affordable housing for local people. The other application is for 67 dwellings on the Evenlode road. This is another controversial site with a large number of objections from local residents. Some members will remember

the 2017 application for 150 houses at Dunstall Farm on the outskirts of Moreton to which we strongly objected and for which the developers have withdrawn their proposal for the present.

As the Cotswolds is being proposed as a National Park, with encouragement from some of our members we have decided to hold a meeting at St Edwards

Hall in Stow-on-the-Wold on 26th April at 7pm when the speaker will be from the Cotswolds Conservation Board. We are hoping that members from all Districts and of the general public will come to this free event.

Plans are ongoing for an AGM and other events during the summer with the hope that the weather will be as kind to thus as it was last year.

“an application for 67 dwellings on a controversial site on the Evenlode road”

South Cotswolds

Nicholas Dummett, Chairman

“this interpretation of the NPPF would set a terrible precedent”

OUR LONG drawn-out fight to save the Hare and Hounds Pub on the Fosse Way from over development ended in failure. The landscape officer eventually withdrew her opposition to the development on landscape grounds, saying it was outweighed by the economic benefits of the proposal.

Apart from this there have continued to be no major planning applications in our area but a steady stream of small ones. Some were perfectly acceptable but we have felt it necessary to object to six, including one appeal. The latter is probably the most worrying – the developer is claiming that the new NPPF allows multiple housing development in the open countryside; this overrides the Cotswold Local Plan policy which strictly limits

new houses even when in or adjacent to larger villages. The developer is relying on a curious reading of the NPPF policy which in the past was designed to allow single country houses of exceptional design – and even that has led to some pretty odd battles and decisions. The developer's

reading would be a game changer. We have objected strongly and pointed out that if the inspector accepted this interpretation of the NPPF it would set a terrible precedent.

Of the remaining applications, two have been for quite disproportionate and out of sympathy

extensions to traditional cottages and three have been for small developments of one to four houses outside the natural boundaries of small settlements – one in Poulton. So far Cotswold District Council have refused all the applications although two are still pending a decision.

The site in Poulton – a typical edge of village location where we see the countryside connection, the developer sees profit. Countryside won!



Nick Dummett

Stroud

Pippa Schwartz, Secretary

STROUD DISTRICT, together with Berkeley Vale, has been involved in submitting a response to the Stroud District Emerging Local Plan which is essentially a review of the extant Plan for the district, as required every 5 years.

The council proposes putting most of the housing requirement for the district in the Severn Vale, with the aim of protecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the flood plain of the River Severn from development. One anomaly is their proposal to locate development sites for 200 houses in Minchinhampton which is not only in the heart of the AONB but also home to an internationally-valued Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI),

Minchinhampton Common. It is hoped that this curious allocation, the only one in the AONB in the whole of the proposed Plan, will be removed in the final document.

The committee has been following with interest a planning application

for an equine incinerator in Waterlane, an area not ideally suited to the frequent use by heavy traffic for carcass delivery. They were pleased to see that, while the application has been allowed, the County Council has imposed many conditions on the

development in order to restrict its traffic and pollution implications in this rural location.

The committee is hosting a small coffee morning at the home of one of the committee members on 29th April, as detailed in the 'Diary of Events'.

“an anomaly is the proposal to locate development sites for 200 houses in Minchinhampton”

The site allocated for development in Minchinhampton would extend the town further into open countryside



Pippa Schwartz

Tetbury

Jeremy Lodwick,
Chairman

“significant movement on the development of sites in Kemble”

MOST OF the news over the past several months comes from Kemble. There has been significant movement on the development of the sites in Kemble identified in the Cotswold District Local Plan as suitable for housing.

The Bathurst Estate is going ahead with developing the plot known as K1B on the Northern side of the village. This is probably because it can be done relatively quickly compared to the long term and complex development of the much larger Chesterton

site. The Bathurst Estate representatives appear eager to engage with the local community and it can be hoped that the house design will be in keeping with local building tradition.

The other site that is being developed in Kemble is on the allotments, also known as the Community Gardens. Cotswold District Council own the land so are understandably enthusiastic to see it developed. The council Cabinet has approved funding to investigate the setting up

and running of a Housing Trust to supply affordable housing, in conjunction with Kemble and Ewen Parish Council. A portion of the land will be developed to accommodate eight housing units and the undeveloped area will be transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council to be kept as a community garden and green space. This appears to be potentially a good compromise.

The potential re-opening of the branch train line from Kemble to Cirencester as a light railway continues to

be mooted. We struggle to see how this could possibly be an economic proposition. As things stand buses run between Cirencester and Kemble Station largely empty and a huge new car park has just been built next to the station. A re-opening of the line would have major adverse implications for the landscape in the Kemble and Ewen Special Landscape Area about which CPRE and other conservation groups would have serious concerns. So it is an unlikely development but one to watch.

IT ONLY TAKES A LEGACY

... to help save
countryside

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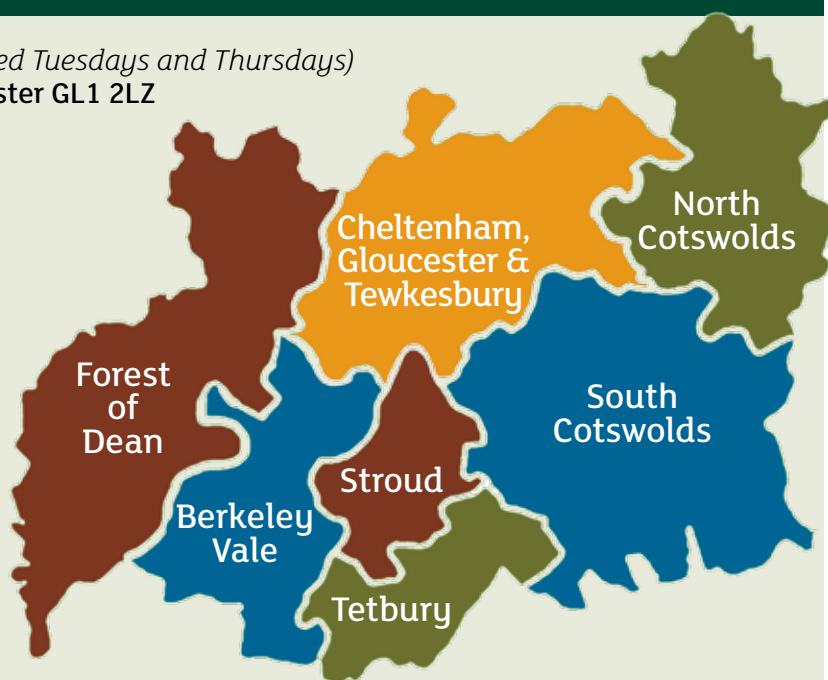
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