



Northamptonshire
Campaign to Protect Rural England

www.cprenorthants.org.uk

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The newsletter of CPRE Northamptonshire

Photograph of poppies at Ditchford
courtesy of Suzanne Bowen

OUTLOOK

June 2019

On 14 May James Brokenshire (the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) issued a written statement setting out the steps that will be taken to transition the local government in our county into two unitary councils. It is anticipated that the

Northamptonshire Unitary Authorities

- Brian Skittrall

structural change order to formalise his decision will be laid before Parliament in October or November.

As we have known for some time, the two unitary councils will be West Northamptonshire covering the areas currently served by Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire councils and North Northamptonshire, covering Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. However, rather than the transition to unitary taking place in 2020, as was originally planned, it has been decided to defer vesting day to 1 April 2021.

There will be elections in May 2020 to create two shadow unitary councils together with elections for town and parish councils. The shadow councils will oversee the creation of the new councils and the recruitment of the senior officers. This will allow the shadow councillors to shape their new councils and to be established in their positions before vesting day, when the district and borough councils will be disbanded along with the county council. The shadow councillors will then become full councillors and form the first administration of the unitary authorities.

The Children's Commissioner who is currently overseeing children's services at NCC has recommended that a single trust should manage children's services across the county. The Minister has accepted this recommendation and will establish a Children's Trust, which will include representatives from both unitary authorities.

The minister's statement is available at:
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-05-14/HCS1556/>

Music for a Midsummer Evening

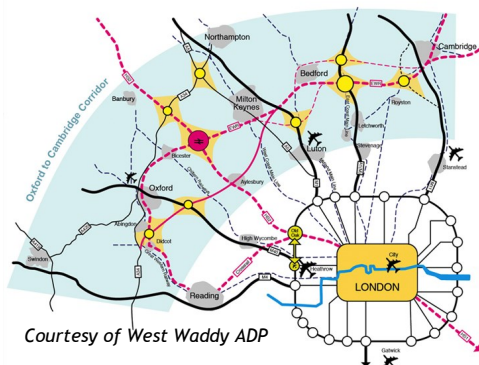
There's still time to get tickets for this delightful event. The weather looks like holding, the setting at The Old Rectory, Quinton is beautiful and the Musica Choir are in full voice. For tickets you can email Jane.Kimbell@CPRENorthants.org.uk or call Jane Kimbell on 07790 695025

Town and Country Awards

Just a reminder that entries for this year's Town and Country Awards should be submitted by 30 September. Please be on the lookout for good new buildings, restoration or regeneration projects. Entry forms are available on the CPRE Northamptonshire website or call Alan Mayes on 01933 650369

Oxford Cambridge Arc

- Alan Mayes



Courtesy of West Waddy ADP

The Government is currently taking forward the proposal for rail and road links between Oxford and Cambridge with an arc of development opportunities following the new transport links. This will obviously have a major impact on the

countryside. CPRE nationally are concerned that these proposals are forging ahead with, as yet, no proper public consultation. In this context Paul Miner from CPRE National Office has led a team of CPRE county chairs, including Northamptonshire and a random survey has been carried out to assess public feeling. In Northamptonshire, while respondents appreciated the need for housing, there was a distinct concern at the loss of yet more countryside.

Whilst Northamptonshire may not be affected as much as the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire there will inevitably be an impact on our countryside in the south. At this stage it is a case of 'watch this space' for further developments.

CPRE Northamptonshire Annual General Meeting 2019 - Martin Gaskell

Our AGM this year will be held on Tuesday 16 July, at the Northampton headquarters of ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), at Hunsbury Hill Centre.

As you know CPRE has teamed up with ACRE to secure funding for and to promote the Village Awards for Northamptonshire. The presentation of these Awards will take place on the same evening. The AGM of CPRE Northamptonshire will begin at 5.30 pm in the Low Barn at the Hunsbury Hill Centre. The essential business will be expeditiously dealt with under the direction of our president, David Laing, HM Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire. I do hope that you will come along to hear how the Executive Committee has conducted the affairs of the organisation over the past year and to receive the report of the Trustees.

All members of CPRE are invited to

remain for the Awards Ceremony commencing at 6.30pm. This is always a lively and entertaining occasion. It will include a short presentation on the work of CPRE, along with the announcement and handing-out of our own Litter Awards (this year entitled 'The David Laing Awards' reflecting our president's generous sponsorship).

Following that there will be refreshments for all those attending. We do hope that you will find all this an interesting addition to the routine of the AGM and that it will ensure an entertaining evening.

You will see from the AGM insert in this issue that we need you to inform us if you intend to attend the AGM and Awards Ceremony so that we know how many to cater for.

I look forward to welcoming you and to participating in the Awards Evening.

South Northants Needs You

Have you got a passion about the way in which your area is being developed?

CPRE Northamptonshire is looking for volunteers to help keep an eye on planning in the South Northants area. A few hours per week is all that is required. No previous knowledge of planning is necessary as you will work with a team of volunteers.

If you would like more information please call Sally Hanrahan
01604 780000

or email Sally.Hanrahan@cprenorthants.org.uk



Notelets Now on Sale

The six lovely pictures that won our photographic competition are now available for purchase as notelets at £4 per pack with all proceeds going to CPRE Northamptonshire. Contact Sally Hanrahan to place your order or look out for them at the next event.

01604 780000
or email Sally.Hanrahan@cprenorthants.org.uk

We at CPRE Northamptonshire are happy to support any initiative promising to grow our county's rural economy. We will therefore be watching closely to see how this one develops. Northamptonshire produces a wide range of good quality food and drink, and now, thanks to a new

gin, honey, ice cream and many other products - and have them delivered to your door. The website is operated by Made in Northamptonshire (MIN).

This project has been in hand for some time and now, thanks to the support of MIN member Kirsty Clarke of Waterloo Cottage Farm, and the team behind the

county's tourism campaign, Britain's Best Surprise, it is up and running. The county has a multitude of passionate and

talented artisan producers and in recent years it has been pleasing to see many local stores and farm shops start to stock their wares. The new website offers exclusively Northamptonshire

produce so customers know they are truly supporting local. Over 200 products are already listed. The door-to-door delivery service helps protect

Northamptonshire's tastiest treats at MINonlyne

the environment by cutting individual car journeys and reusable delivery boxes mean there won't be a plastic bag in sight.

Customers can now place orders at www.madeinnorthamptonshire.org and, while not all parts of the county are currently covered by the delivery service (usually priced at £7), special deliveries can be arranged both locally and nationally.

Local Food Delivered to Your Door

website, buying local is made very easy. This new initiative, MINonlyne, means you can now find many of the things on your shopping list - bread to beer, chocolate to cheese, not to mention

Mike Latham



We are delighted to welcome Mike Latham as a volunteer technical secretary for Corby and the North Northants district.

He has lived in the county for many years, initially in the Welland valley and for the past 32 years in East Carlton Park.

Having retired from textile manufacturing & retail in 2017, he now enjoys playing more tennis and walking in the Northants countryside. Additionally, he now has more time to enjoy his four grandchildren and his garden. He is looking forward to working with CPRE Northamptonshire and we appreciate his commitment to our work in the county.

Proposed Development at Cowthick Plantation, Corby - Alan Mayes

A planning application has been submitted for a major warehouse and distribution park on land adjacent to the A6116 and A43 in Corby known as Cowthick Plantation. This reclaimed land has a plantation of fir trees abutting the A6116 and the proposal is to develop behind the trees with large scale buildings similar to those currently being erected on the adjacent sites to the west of the A43/A4300. On the plan the A43/A4300 road is containing the easterly spread of Corby and stopping the villages of Stanion and Weldon from

becoming enveloped in further expansion. CPRE Northamptonshire, after careful consideration, has objected to this application because of the increase in traffic on the A6116 and the visual impact on the open countryside to the east. Although it would offer more employment opportunities, it is our view that an audit of vacant warehousing and offices is needed in Corby. This would enable existing buildings to be brought back into use or redeveloped rather than taking up open countryside which under



the Joint Core Strategy is currently designated as part of the Harper Brook Green Infrastructure Corridor.

Planning Roadshow - Looking to the Future

The Roadshow this year is on 10 October at Great Houghton Village Hall. Paul Miner from CPRE National Office will be our main speaker. Please save this date.

At this gathering we will be looking to the future. With the many uncertainties of Brexit and the coming of the Unitary

Authorities in our county, we hope that our speakers will update us on the future of planning in the light of current change. Full details of this event will be circulated nearer the time.

- Alan Mayes



Nominate your Local Food Hero

Do you know a Northamptonshire business that's doing more than most to promote the county's wonderful produce? Maybe a community shop whose shelves are stacked with local cheese, chutney and chocolate? Or perhaps a project that's helping to teach youngsters that food comes from farms not supermarkets! If so, it's your chance to ensure that they get their deserved moment in the spotlight. The 'Weetabix Local Food Hero of the Year' recognises excellence whether it's a dining venue, a community food project, a favourite farm shop or an individual who promotes local food.

Sponsored by the Burton Latimer-based breakfast cereal company and supported by CPRE Northamptonshire, this category invites nominations

from the public for those individuals or businesses that go further than most in promoting local food or keeping down food miles.

Last year the award was won by the Head Chef at the Silverstone Circuit, Dean Hoddle. He has been a keen and longstanding champion of local produce, not to mention proactively supporting the county's up and coming chefs.

To nominate a business or an individual who you believe deserves a public pat on the back for their efforts, please download a nomination form from the awards' website. Visit www.northamptonshirefoodanddrinkawards.co.uk - or call the awards team on 01933 664437.

'What a Swell Party That Was'

- Martin Gaskell

CPRE Northamptonshire's Spring Party was held on 5 April at The Mere in Little Houghton, by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Gerald Dutton.

We welcomed a grand crowd. It was a particular pleasure to welcome many who were not members of CPRE and to have the opportunity to tell them about the organisation and the work we do.

Everyone enjoyed a sparkling drink before a splendid curry supper and stacks of homemade chocolate brownies. Music

throughout the evening was provided by Neil Astbury and dancing continued long after many of us older ones had departed.

I cannot thank enough the members of the Social Committee and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the evening such a success. Such fund raising events do not happen by chance and take a lot of preparation, organisation and hard work. But most especially our thanks must go to Liz and Gerald for their warm welcome, generous hospitality and sponsorship. We are indeed most grateful.

As a result of everyone's efforts we raised the grand total of £2,387 which is vital to support the continuing work of CPRE in Northamptonshire.

Dates for your Diary

- ♦ **Musica Choir**
21 June 7.30 pm
Enjoy a varied musical programme at The Old Rectory, Quinton, NN7 2ED.
See page 1
- ♦ **CPRE AGM and Awards Evening**
16 July 5.30 pm
ACRE, Hunsbury Hill
See page 2
- ♦ **Planning Roadshow**
10 October 6.30 - 9.00 pm
Great Houghton Village Hall
See page 3
- ♦ **Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies**
15 December 4.00 pm
Easton Neston Church

Whittlebury Bakery



Manning the stand at Rockingham

CPRE Northants welcomed newcomers, Whittlebury Bakery, to the CPRE marquee at the Rockingham International Horse Trials event that was held from 17 - 19 May 2019.

Whittlebury Bakery was born from a desire to produce great

tasting bread for the local community. It is hand-crafted and baked in the traditional way using only the highest quality locally sourced ingredients and without the use of artificial additives or processing aids. They also bake a wide selection of rolls, flavoured breads and sourdoughs and have gained an enviable reputation for cakes, buns and traybakes.