



The countryside charity  
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

[www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

Spring 2022

# Oxfordshire Voice



Call for County-wide  
Renewable Energy Strategy  
p.5

George Eustice MP visits  
our Hedgerow Heroes  
p.6

Opinion - Creating a  
Regional Nature Park  
p.7



# Oxfordshire Voice

Spring 2022

## CONTENTS

- 3 Uffington White Horse under Threat
- 5 Call for County-wide Renewable Energy Strategy
- 6 George Eustice MP Visits our Hedgerow Heroes
- 7 Opinion - Creating a Regional Nature Park
- 10 The 20 Minute Neighbourhood
- 11 Flooding and Pollution Report

## DIRECTORY

Views expressed in the Voice are not necessarily those of CPRE Oxfordshire, which welcomes independent comment.

Editor: Julia Benning

Cover: George Eustice MP helping out at the Watlington Hedgerow Heroes site.

Photo: Nicola Schafer

Articles, letters, comments and suggestions for articles are welcome. Please contact the Branch Office below. Published April 2022

## BRANCH CHAIRMAN

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch

Richard Harding

prof.richard.harding@gmail.com

## DISTRICT CHAIRS

Cherwell: Contact the Branch Office as below

Oxford: Contact the Branch Office as below

South Oxfordshire:

Geoff Botting

c/o administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Vale of White Horse:

Heneage Legge-Bourke

heneageb@gmail.com

West Oxfordshire:

Philippa Phelan

c/o administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

## BRANCH OFFICE

CPRE Oxfordshire, First Floor, 20 High Street, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5PY (Registered office)

T: 01491 612079

E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

www.cpreoxon.org.uk

CPRE Oxfordshire is registered in England as Charity No.1093081 and Company No. 04443278.

## Chairman's voice



### Looking back on 2021

2021 saw our 90th birthday celebrations. Despite the Covid restrictions we celebrated with style, with a garden party (socially distanced), in the garden of one of our founders, and a fascinating four part webinar series on the future of the English Countryside. Thanks to all those that contributed to our successful 90th birthday appeal which has allowed us to move forward with the appointment of a Planning Co-ordinator (see p3) to help strengthen local voices in the planning system.

CPRE Oxfordshire was very sorry to learn of the death of Wren Wooster, a previous member of our Vale of White Horse District Committee and an influential campaigner in the fight against the Abingdon Reservoir. Thanks to our many volunteers who take on a variety of roles to help CPRE Oxfordshire. We always have opportunities for anyone keen to get involved, please get in touch with the Branch office to find out more.

It's been a busy year, with many successes and setbacks. Of our many successes our Hedgerow Project stands out. Hedgerows are important for carbon storage, flood prevention and to provide wildlife refuges and corridors, but, perhaps most importantly, they are a quintessential part of our modern landscape and add considerably

to the beauty of our countryside. CPRE and Wild Oxfordshire have been working with the community groups and parish councils of Kidlington, Watlington and Eynsham to plant new hedgerows and rejuvenate ancient ones. This is a real community effort to protect and enhance our environment.

I don't know whether it is a 'success' but our report on flooding and sewerage pollution (see p11) invoked a lot of interest. CPRE Oxfordshire sent a survey to the 235 Parish Councils, 15 Town Councils and 68 Parish Meetings in Oxfordshire. The report showed that at least 17% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems and at least 20% of towns & parishes experience issues with sewage/sewerage infrastructure. This is a shocking conclusion and there is a growing demand that our rivers need cleaning up. In many ways the River Thames and tributaries define the Oxfordshire countryside. Throughout Covid times many people discovered our rivers, for swimming, boating, walking and nature, and there is an increasing demand that they be made 'fit for purpose' and, practically, sewerage discharges should be stopped and our rivers have designated bathing water status.

Through 2021 the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan has been developed and consulted on. We welcome strategic planning, but it is vital it is got right! We have made robust representations, covering, for example, the growth forecasts and the need to protect our existing designated landscapes (the Green Belt and AONBs) and expand this protection to the Nature Recovery Networks. We have serious reservations about the methodologies used to project future populations and the decision making processes. Who decides what growth Oxfordshire will aim for in the future? Is it the communities or developers? We will be following the plan very closely in 2022.



Follow us on Twitter  
@CPREOxfordshire



and like us on  
www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire

A major concern across the county is the rash of applications to build solar farms in our open countryside. These are big developments, typically exceeding 100ha. Most worrying is a recent application at the Baldons, South Oxfordshire, which was approved despite being in the Oxford Green Belt. The 2021 Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report ([tinyurl.com/2p8p4nbm](https://tinyurl.com/2p8p4nbm)) suggests we might need 60 such farms across Oxfordshire. The same report suggests we might have to reduce the amount of food we grow as land is diverted to other purposes. I should emphasise we are not against renewable energy but there are other ways (one is to put solar panels on all the industrial warehouses popping up over the county). What we do need is a detailed land use plan and a public debate on how to use and nurture our countryside.

Many of us have developed a new appreciation of our green spaces and countryside in last two years. Despite the gathering storms (both real and metaphorical) I would encourage everyone to step back and marvel at our woods, hedgerows, rivers and vistas. They are worth protecting.

**Richard Harding**  
Branch Chairman

### Planning Co-ordinator joins the CPRE Oxfordshire Team



We are delighted to welcome Lynda Moore to CPRE Oxfordshire in a new planning coordinator role. She

will be helping our volunteers, members, and local communities to have a strong and effective input to local plan-making.

Lynda can be contacted via email [lyndam@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:lyndam@cpreoxon.org.uk) or call 07780 120332.

## Uffington White Horse Hill under threat



Dating back to the Bronze Age and over 3000 years old the Uffington White Horse in the Vale is the oldest example of the many White Horses across the country. This uniquely formed chalk figure is carved into Whitehorse Hill just above Dragon Hill where legend has it that St George, our national saint, slayed the dragon.

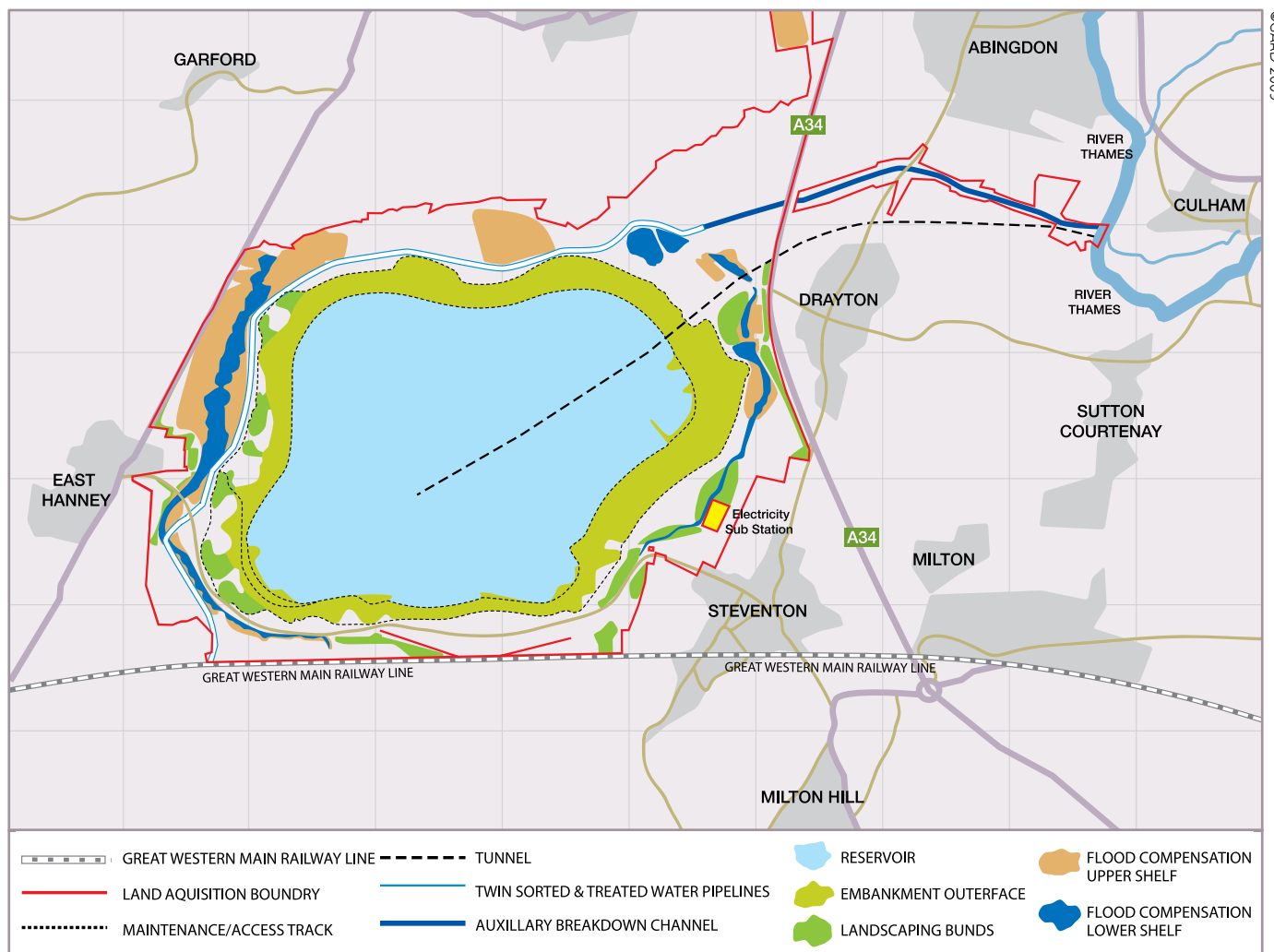
The ancient landscape and natural beauty around these national treasures is now under threat. Lovat Parks, a developer of luxury holiday parks, has purchased from the estate of the previous owner of Britchcombe Farm (which ran a tea room and camping area), 142 acres of the land immediately below Dragon Hill and the White Horse. Last year, they revealed plans to install static

caravans in one of those fields, with the associated infrastructure such as utilities, minor roads and hard standings for caravans and cars. All these within the North Wessex Downs AONB and next to a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Unsurprisingly, there has been considerable interest from local residents who are appalled by the prospect of this potential development and concerned that a developer would be permitted to desecrate such an unique and historic site and its magnificent landscape which attract visitors from all over the world. A local group of volunteers has got together to monitor closely developments at Britchcombe Farm to oppose these future planning applications.

**Heneage Legge-Bourke**  
District Chairman  
Vale of White Horse

# Abingdon Reservoir – update



Water Resources South East (a group of water companies including Thames Water and Affinity Water) consulted on their Emerging Regional Plan for the area, with responses closing in March. Oxford County Council, Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire District Council and even OFWAT have responded critically.

For nearly 20 years, CPRE Oxfordshire has been challenging Thames Water's case for a mega-reservoir near Abingdon in Oxfordshire. It was even turned down by a Planning Inspector at a Public Inquiry.

But Thames Water is still determined to press ahead, now with an even larger proposal for a reservoir that would store 150 billion litres of water, cover 10 square km of the Oxfordshire countryside and have an embankment of 80 feet high: now

called the 'SESRO' – the South East Strategic Reservoir Option.

Securing a sustainable water future for the region is a critical task, for both people and the environment.

Whilst at first glance building a mega-reservoir might seem a simple solution, in fact it is a project with massive environmental and carbon costs that would add significantly to customers' bills – whilst sitting comfortably on Thames Water's Asset List! This is a fixed, non-adaptable response that would take a long time to deliver and even then would not actually bring more water into the region or provide security against a 1-in-500 year drought.

Instead, a number of smaller schemes (such as water transfers and water re-use) should be explored, to provide more flexible solutions, not only offering longer-

term resilience but also quicker relief to our precious chalk streams that are currently being devastated by over-abstraction.

Alongside a more realistic assessment of likely population growth (based on Office for National Statistics figures rather than overblown growth scenarios) and a more ambitious approach to fixing leaks (bringing Thames Water more in line with industry averages), it seems likely that there would be no need for the SESRO.

CPRE Oxfordshire believes the case for the SESRO has not been effectively made and should be dropped from the Emerging Plan entirely, or at the very least pushed back to later in the programme of actions so that this enormously costly project is only undertaken as a very last resort.



# Call for county-wide renewable energy strategy

CPRE Oxfordshire is calling for a properly thought out strategy for the location of renewable energy, as more of Oxfordshire's farmland is targeted by solar companies.

With applications increasing dramatically, we have published a map showing existing solar installations in the county and those currently under consideration.



Explore the interactive map here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2bb7dcea>

It is time to halt the reckless loss of Oxfordshire's countryside. Climate change, energy security and fuel prices all mean that increasing renewable energy is vital. But we also need our countryside for food, wildlife and people's health and well-being. We are calling for a county wide strategy so that we get what is needed in the right locations, rather than being at the whim of speculative developers bringing forward whatever sites they can get their hands on.

We should have solar panels on commercial roofs, new housing developments and brownfield sites, not greenfield sites, and if necessary these should be supported by investment incentives.

We also think that there is significant potential to increase use of biomass



across the county. In addition we need well-insulated houses, with ground, air or water source heat pumps, particularly in new-build developments.

The fact that we are still building homes and commercial buildings that are not zero-carbon is nothing short of scandalous.

## Cumulative impact

CPRE Oxfordshire is also worried about the cumulative impact on particular areas. For example, two major solar installations have already been approved near Tetsworth in South Oxfordshire and a third is now under consideration. **Together, these cover an area equivalent to nearly half the parish of Tetsworth.**

## Latest application

The latest application to come

forward is near Burcot, South Oxfordshire – a 57 hectare site in the Oxford Green Belt, just a short distance from the controversial 123 hectare site at Nuneham Courtenay that was recently granted permission.

## The national picture

Nationally, CPRE supports the Climate Change Committee's ambition for 54GW of solar photovoltaics in the UK by 2035. CPRE believes this can be achieved without harmful impacts on the countryside, and will vigorously campaign for robust, positive planning policies to make that possible, and against applications that fall short of our expectations.

Helen Marshall,  
Director, CPRE Oxfordshire

# George Eustice MP visits our Hedgerow Heroes



We were delighted to have George Eustice, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, pay a visit to one of our Hedgerow Hero project sites in March.

CPRE and Wild Oxfordshire have been working with the community groups and parish councils of Kidlington, Watlington and Eynsham to plant new hedgerows and rejuvenate ancient ones.

Mr Eustice visited the Watlington site, a great example of a community project restoring and replacing a neglected hedgerow. Hedgerows can play an important role in Nature Recovery – this revitalised hedgerow will provide important habitat to wildlife such as small mammals, farmland birds, perennial wildflowers and many invertebrates.

The CPRE hedgerows campaign is calling for a 40% increase in hedgerows by 2050.

We are delighted that Mr Eustice spoke about the inclusion of hedgerows in the Governments Sustainable Farming Incentive, being rolled out from 2023.

With less than half of the UK's hedges in good condition small steps can make a big difference. We hope we've created a template to inspire other communities.

#40by50

## Members' Visits

July 2022 (date to be confirmed)  
Nuffield Place

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nuffield-place>

15 places available. Further details to come.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Simon Olliver

Saturday 10th September  
A Guided Walk around Jericho, Oxford

Meet outside the main entrance to the Ashmolean Museum at 2pm.

15 Places available. Cost is £7.50 (for St Barnabas Church), payment cash/cheque on the day.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

For both visits, please register your interest for with Becky Crockett.

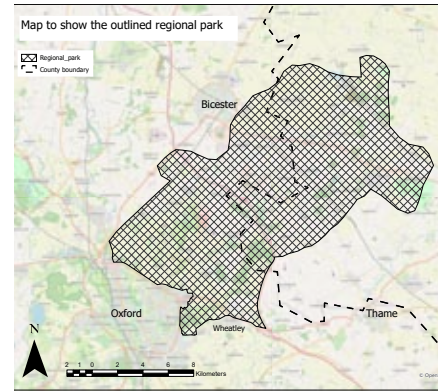
Telephone: 01491 612079 or email: [administrator@cprexon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@cprexon.org.uk)



## Opinion –

# Creating a Regional Nature Park for Oxfordshire

Bioabundance, a Community Interest Company in Oxfordshire, sees the creation of a regional Nature Park as a unique opportunity to secure big gains for nature and to pilot the countryside access and co-ordination of nature and landscape action that is needed to get the best out of our countryside.



*From Otmoor, looking west*

The Park covers 113 km<sup>2</sup> in Oxfordshire, 167 km<sup>2</sup> in Buckinghamshire. It includes Otmoor and Upper Ray wetlands and the Bernwood-Stowood-Shotover ancient forests, meadows and heaths. The Park would protect the area from major development, and also promote landscape-scale nature, landscape restoration and, access for human mental and physical health.

Uniquely for land next to Oxford, the RNP has a very low population and few roads while having a historic hedge-rich and wooded landscape and Otmoor. The area contains key nature reserves and 25% of the County's habitat restoration potential, all in a compact area linking up to nature rich areas in adjacent Buckinghamshire.

Proximity to major population centres and growth points of the County leaves the area particularly vulnerable to development. But that proximity also gives the opportunity for sustainable access through new and improved cycle and pedestrian paths and bus subsidies while

protecting sensitive nature reserves from increased visitor numbers.

The Regional Park proposal was developed by local people and parish councils for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 in 2019. We at Bioabundance are promoting the Park as strategic Green Infrastructure in Local Plans, asking for a Local Area Transport Strategy to deliver sustainable access, and seeking co-ordination of initiatives. There is a danger that, for example, the push for tree planting will conflict with landscape restoration or links between nature rich habitats.

BBOWT, the local wildlife trust, is undertaking a detailed feasibility study and stakeholder consultation in a very similar area to the Regional Nature Park. They aim to see how we can ensure the area receives as much as possible from the bewildering funding initiatives now becoming available for nature, landscape and enjoyment of nature.

**Oliver de Soissons**  
Bioabundance



*From Beckley Park, across Bernwood to the Chilterns*



*River Cherwell, possible site of nature waterpark*

Find out more at  
[bioabundance.org.uk](https://bioabundance.org.uk)

# District updates

## Cherwell District

Cherwell CPRE is still wrestling with Cherwell District Council about the housing figures for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and regrets that its recent scrutiny committee failed to take heed of arguments for lower numbers.

We are also at loggerheads with the District Council for consenting to several planning applications at Bicester Airfield which ignore the impacts these will have on the Local Wildlife Site and its grassland and on the historic airfield. Believing that the planning process was deeply flawed, and that the planning officer misrepresented the opposing views of Historic England at the planning committee, we are taking legal advice about whether to challenge CDC and go for a judicial review.

Two vast new threats to our district are the possibility of a new football stadium for Oxford United in the Green Belt at Stratford Brake next to Kidlington, and the proposal for a massive distribution and manufacturing park of some 3 million square feet – with a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (added to gain planning acceptance) – next to Junction 10 of the M40. We shall be monitoring these projects closely.

**David Gilmour**

## South Oxfordshire District

On first January 2022 I assumed the chair of the district committee. I, and the Committee, would like to thank Mrs Judith Crockett for acting as chair of the Committee following the elevation of Professor Richard Harding to Branch chairman.

Most recently the Committee have discussed light pollution and agreed to join the Dark Skies Matter movement and seek their advice on of District & County lighting policies aimed at protecting dark skies for circulation to town and parish councils in the District.



The Committee continues to respond to significant planning applications noting the increase in applications for solar farms and holiday pods.

The Committee will use its next meeting to establish, within the priorities and Branch strategy, its District priorities. A major element of this will be to consider the timing, content and nature of early involvement, alongside the Vale CPRE, in the formulation of the Joint South and Vale Local Plan.

**Geoff Botting**

## Vale District

We ended 2021 as busy as before and the New Year promises to be equally so. Both the Chairman and the Secretary continued as active participants in the Britchcombe Farm Working Group (BFWG), set up to prepare as best it can to counter the threat of a static caravan park being installed at the base of the Uffington White Horse Hill. Read more on p2.

Other projects where we are supporting local groups contesting proposed projects are the HIF Didcot project including new roads and road and river bridges, the proposed warehouse development at Milton Hill on the old Esso site and the proposed Chinese business school development at Boar's Hill, as well as seeking to influence the nature and quality of development coming forward at Dalton Barracks..

We were pleased to have a first meeting with the Chairman of CPRE South Oxfordshire to discuss how we can best join forces to review the joint Vale and South Local Plan as it develops.

The Oxfordshire 2050 plan is being reviewed by the District councils, and we spoke to the Vale Scrutiny committee to highlight some of CPRE's concerns.

**Heneage Legge-Bourke**

## West Oxfordshire

We are a small band of volunteers in West Oxfordshire and we are always looking for more volunteers in the area. Despite this we have commented on several controversial planning applications and public consultations such as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Salt Cross and the dualling of the A40. We noted the Park and Ride would have very limited impact: current daily car use and the proposed increase in housing in Eynsham, Carterton and Witney would lead to an increase in traffic, sewage, light and noise pollution. In the local vicinity we do not think a 10% net gain can be achieved. Any net gain in biodiversity is likely to be further away from the A40 and not benefit the local population who will live through the turbulence and disruption.

As with so many development projects we continue to be dismayed by the lack of pre-emptive infrastructure built before the first bricks are laid. The inability of the water companies to keep up with the pace of development, in particular the sewerage infrastructure is a case in point.

However, it's not all doom and gloom and there are some excellent initiatives worth being optimistic about. The work of Farm-Ed and the heritage wheat and soil improvement at Bruern are both doing great work to educate and promote sustainability and the farm shop is well worth a visit.

**Philippa Phelan**



# Planning update

## CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

### Has the OxCam Arc been sunk?

Probably not is the short answer, at least not entirely. But the amazing news is that campaigning by CPRE and other groups, such as STARC (Stop the Arc), has played a significant role in forcing the Government to step away from central co-ordination of this growth initiative.

The Levelling Up Bill has re-focused attention to the need for investment in other parts of the UK, as we have long argued should be the case. As a result, the Government has given strong indications that it will no longer provide central co-ordination of the Arc and it will be left to our local authorities to decide how this should be taken forward.

Whilst we quite accept that some degree of regional spatial planning is desirable, if not essential, it must be driven by locally accountable and democratically elected representatives, and by the needs and wishes of local people, not top down and hypothetical growth targets. We hope our local councils will now be able to focus on the issues that really matter – climate change, nature recovery and genuinely affordable housing.

Meanwhile, the Government is also indicating that it no longer intends to bring forward a dedicated Planning Bill but will seek to introduce the changes it wants to make to the planning system via the Levelling Up Act and a review of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### Oxfordshire 2050 – another chance to get a better Plan?

The last round of consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan took place in autumn 2021. The Officer's report that summarised the responses said that the highest 'transformational' growth option received the highest level



of support – but this endorsement came mostly from 'developers and landowners', with many of those developers based outside of Oxfordshire. Meanwhile, the lower growth options were backed by 'environmental and amenity groups'.

So, who will get the final say on the level of growth embedded into the Oxfordshire Plan 2050? That's the question CPRE has been asking for many months but as yet there has been no clear reply from any of our local authorities. Nor has there been any official response to our request for a peer review of the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment, the underlying evidence document which in our view is deeply flawed.

In fact, at time of writing, all has gone suspiciously quiet. We understand there may be some disagreement between the Councils on the level of growth to aim for – and some may even be keeping their position quiet until after the Local Elections in May. However, it also seems possible that they may seek to negotiate with Government a further extension of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timetable in order to run another consultation on preferred policies (known as Regulation 18), before moving to the consultation on the final draft plan (known as Regulation 19).

CPRE Oxfordshire would welcome

a further Regulation 18 consultation as a chance for the public to have their say as policies evolve, rather than the Plan being presented as, in effect, a fait accompli.

We have three key asks of the Plan:

- 1 Realistic housing numbers – numbers based on the latest Office for National Statistics housing projections, the Government's standard method requirements to produce the minimum housing trajectory.
- 2 A spatial strategy that is likely to be passed by an Inspector protects the countryside – recognising the relative value of various categories of land and defending them accordingly, for example making our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Oxford Green Belt off limits to development except in genuinely exceptional circumstances.
- 3 A robust approach to housing density – recognising the benefits this can offer in terms of affordability and sustainability.

If you do happen to be speaking to any of your local councillors, these would all be good points to raise. We will of course let members know as and when any further consultations are announced.

**Helen Marshall**  
Director, CPRE Oxfordshire

# The 20 Minute Neighbourhood: complete, compact, connected

The 20-minute neighbourhood is a relatively recent planning concept, pioneered in Melbourne, Paris and Portland (Oregon) and now being considered and adopted worldwide: the Milton Keynes 2050 plan includes a conceptual plan looking at how 15-minute neighbourhoods might mitigate proposed growth in the area.

**The idea: to create communities where most everyday needs can be met within a 20-minute walk or cycle and with other services accessible by public transport.**

The concept addresses building new developments and the regeneration of towns and villages. The objective is to create diverse communities of all ages; offer social housing; provide local services including shops, education and health facilities; support local jobs; and provide community green spaces with space to grow food.

The economic, environmental, health and social benefits are numerous: mental and physical health improves as people are more active and loneliness is reduced; reduction in traffic improves air quality; neighbourhoods are eco-friendly and homes are more efficient to run; shops, businesses and services can thrive.

## How could this work in rural areas?

Market towns could become 20-minute neighbourhoods for their own communities and also provide services required by nearby villages with public transport links. Facing proposed major growth, Hailsham in East Sussex developed an alternative model of growth which set out aspirations to be a 10-minute town: addressing the challenges of post-war development, pockets of deprivation, lack of safe cycling and walking routes and under provision of local services creating high car dependency.

In very rural areas, without easy access to a town, the idea of linking



groups of villages is being explored with road safety for pedestrians and cyclists and provision of public transport key concerns.

## The keys to success?

Good design and building density are fundamental factors determining the success of the 20-minute neighbourhood.

- It is more cost effective to provide local services in high density developments, including public transport.
- Higher density land use reduces individual unit prices making homes more affordable by reducing the land cost per unit to a minimum.
- More efficient land use means a lower overall land take for any given number of homes, three times less in the case of a target density of 100 dwellings per hectare compared to a current Oxfordshire average of 35.
- Higher density neighbourhoods are more climate friendly as closely built housing is more efficient to heat, insulate and benefits from the heat from adjacent properties.
- Good design is a pre-requisite to ensure high density developments offer high quality homes without sacrificing green space, such as parks, gardens, allotments, nature recovery networks.

- Housing needs to support all stages of life and offer a mixture of tenures to address housing need in the local area.

Supporters of the concept accept there are challenges to overcome, including:

- The need for an integrated approach to planning where infrastructure, homes and services are considered at a county wide or even regional level.
- securing investment and developer buy-in.
- community engagement ensuring voices are heard and regenerated neighbourhoods provide solutions.
- in rural areas the funding and provision of public transport is a clear potential barrier.

This article draws on a recent report: The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), 20-Minute Neighbourhoods Creating Healthier, Active, Prosperous Communities: An Introduction for Council Planners in England, March 2021. Researched and written by Tim Emery, Policy Officer, and Julia Thrift, Director of Healthier Place-making, TCPA.

The report can be downloaded from the TCPA website: [www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)

**Julia Benning**  
Communications Manager



# Flooding and Pollution report

Back in November 2021 CPRE Oxfordshire published a report identifying issues of flooding and water quality across the County.

Findings showed that at least 17% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems and at least 20% of towns & parishes experience issues with sewage/ sewerage infrastructure.

CPRE Oxfordshire sent a survey to the 235 Parish Councils, 15 Town Councils and 68 Parish Meetings in Oxfordshire. Of the Parish Councils and Meetings 105 are being served by Sewage Treatment Works with a record of spilling. In 2020, 87 of these spills were active for over 100 hours; 57 for over 500 hours; 36 for over 1,000 hours (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution).

A sewage treatment plant processes around 130,500 litres of sewage every day (Thames Water). **Just one hour could see over 5,000 litres of sewage spilled.**

Richard Harding, CPRE Oxfordshire Chairman:

“CPRE Oxfordshire has long been concerned about the water-related impacts of new development, as well as the all-too-common practice of discharging untreated sewage into our rivers. The findings of our survey show that urgent action is required from Thames Water and policy-makers to protect both residents, the environment and our rivers.”

CPRE Oxfordshire wants to see:

- Thames Water setting out clear measures to address the issues raised in this report, including targets and investment commitments.
- Local MPs to support tougher and faster targets for reducing storm overflows.

- Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to ensure all new developments demonstrate that their associated infrastructure will either maintain or improve water quality, not add to the risk of flooding, and be in place before the site is occupied.
- The river Thames to achieve Bathing Water designation.

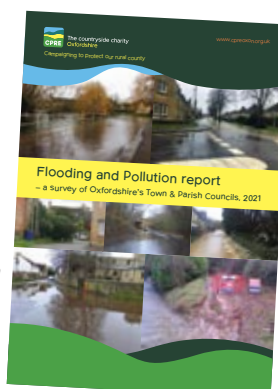


CPRE Oxfordshire has produced an interactive map highlighting where the issues are:

<https://tinyurl.com/3xtnj3nu>

Should your town or village appear on the map? We continue to update the map so let us know what flooding and/or sewage issues your neighbourhood is facing. Contact [campaign@cprexon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cprexon.org.uk)

Download a copy of CPRE Oxfordshire's *Flooding and Pollution report – a survey of Oxfordshire's Town & Parish Councils, 2021* from our website.



**NEED  
not  
GREED  
OXON**

Need Not Greed Oxfordshire has been very active, particularly in engaging with the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan and the long-term

growth options for the county.

Thanks to the work of NNGO's volunteers we have been able to scrutinise the complexities of the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment, a key evidence document underpinning the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan. NNGO has been instrumental in identifying the significant flaws in this document and the way it makes a concerted effort to push housing and population figures higher at every turn.

Most recently NNGO have prepared consultation responses to:

**Oxford's Economic Growth Strategy consultation (closed January 2022)** – NNGO felt the timing of this strategy works to inform the development of the 2040 Local Plan and an attempt to sway the outcome of the strategic FOP (Future Oxfordshire Partnership) Oxfordshire Plan 2050 in the direction of going for very high further economic growth levels in and around Oxford or into the so-called 'knowledge spine'.

**Local Transport and Connectivity Plan 5** – NNGO welcomed the coherent and ambitious plan, representing something of a sea-change with climate change considerations influencing future targets: reduction of car use; options for walking, cycling, public transport and shared car use to be improved; '20 minute neighbourhoods', the concept that most individuals needs could be met within a 20 minute walk or short cycle.

NNGO consultation responses are available at

[www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk](http://www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk)

Need Not Greed Oxfordshire (NNGO) is a coalition of 37 local groups and individuals that have come together to campaign for a future that respects the views of local people, plans for 'need not greed' and protects the environment. The secretariat for the group is provided by CPRE Oxfordshire. To find out more visit:

[www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk](http://www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk)

# Annual General Meeting

To be held at 2pm on  
Saturday 25 June 2022  
at Enstone Parish Hall,  
The Paddocks, Enstone,  
OX7 4AZ

The papers for the AGM, comprising the Chairman's Report, Accounts Summary, Agenda, Minutes from the previous AGM and a proxy voting form are included with this mailing to members.

All members welcome.

Apologies to our Branch Secretary, Dorian Grier via  
[administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk)

## DIRECTIONS

**From Oxford A44:** Turn left after Worths Texaco garage, take next right onto Cox's Lane - the Parish Hall (signposted) is on the right at the entrance to The Paddocks.

**From Chipping Norton A44:** Turn right after Adams Stores on left, Primary School on right and Enstone House care home in front, onto Cox's Lane - the Parish Hall (signposted) is the second turning on the left at the entrance to The Paddocks.

**From Great Tew / The Bartons B4022:** Head towards Charlbury, at A44 junction continue across junction, with Worths Texaco garage on left, take next right onto Cox's Lane - the Parish Hall (signposted) is on the right at the entrance to The Paddocks.

**From Charlbury B4022:** Approximately 400m before A44 junction, turn left onto Cox's Lane - the Parish Hall (signposted) is on the right at the entrance to The Paddocks.

# Oxfordshire's Hedgerow Heroes

with Roselle Chapman, Wild Oxfordshire

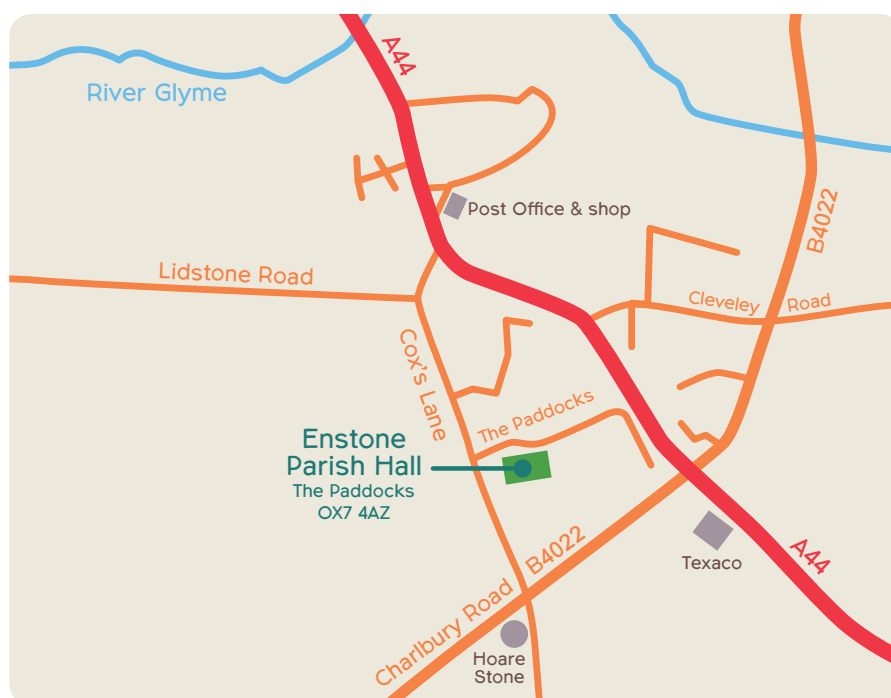


Nicola Schäfer

After the business of the meeting is concluded, we are delighted to welcome Roselle Chapman, Community Ecologist with Wild Oxfordshire who will talk to us about the wonders of Oxfordshire's hedgerows. Did you know that Oxfordshire currently has around 13,000km of hedgerow, approximately 50% less than in the 1940s?

Over the last year, CPRE and Wild Oxfordshire have run a joint project working with a number of communities to restore old hedgerows and plant new ones, and there's now lots of knowledge to pass on to other communities interested in getting involved.

Followed by refreshments, kindly provided by the CPRE West Oxfordshire District.



## Oxfordshire Voice

Published biannually by the Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Design: Rob Bowker T: 01491 825609

Recycled print: Severnprint Ltd



## Branch Office

CPRE Oxfordshire, First Floor,  
20 High Street, Watlington,  
Oxon OX49 5PY (Registered office)

T: 01491 612079

E: [administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk)

## CPRE Online

Oxfordshire: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

Twitter: @CPREOxfordshire

[www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire)

National: [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)