

Ox-Cam Arc

A High Court decision against Berks Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) means the government can press ahead with its plans for a new “Expressway”, a motorway in all but designation, between Oxford and Cambridge without strategic consideration of the potentially devastating impact their corridor selection may have on the environment and wildlife. BBOWT is taking advice on appealing the decision and making a reference on a key point of environmental law to the Court of Justice of the European Union. <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/wildlife/nature-matters/oxford-cambridge-expressway>

A petition to cancel the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway can be found here <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/264401>

The public fears for the countryside and environment across the Ox-Cam Arc. A survey carried out by research company Survation on behalf of CPRE Oxfordshire-Cambridgeshire region believe plans for substantial development there will lead to damage of the local countryside and environment.

<http://www.cprecams.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2321-poll-ox-cam-arc>.

Our branch is a key member of the CPRE Group scrutinising and responding to the proposals for the Ox-Cam Arc and we supported the BBOWT’s legal challenge.

Affordable Housing

Research carried out by national CPRE shows huge savings for rural communities if affordable rents are based on income. National CPRE is now calling for changes to the definition of ‘affordable’ housing, as it publishes an analysis demonstrating how low income families living in communities across the countryside could save more than £31 million a year, if affordable rent levels were set according to the net income of tenants, rather than market rates. <https://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/5157-new-affordable-housing-definition-slash-rural-rent-prices-up-to-half>

Transport Strategy - a Trojan Horse

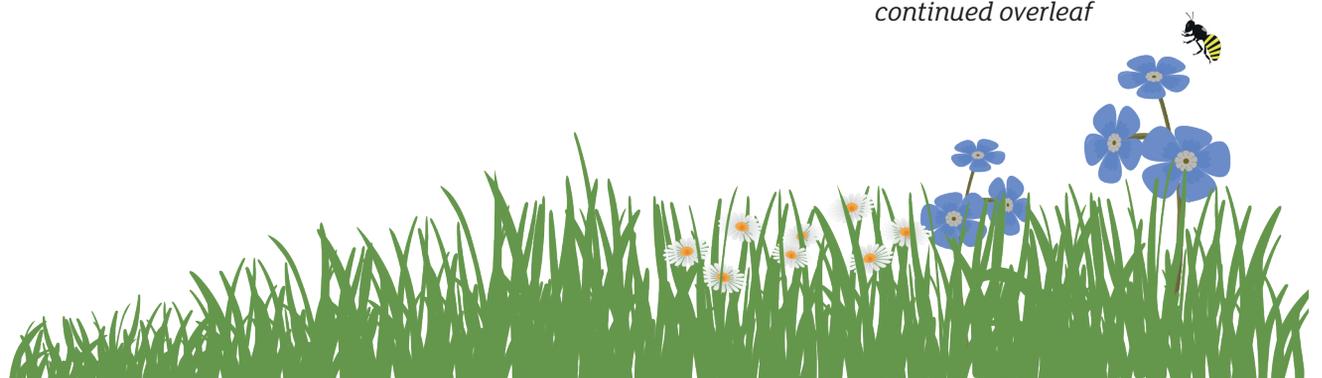
The Outline Transport Strategy for the region bounded by the Ox-Cam Arc was launched on 16th July by England’s Economic Heartland (EEH). Each affected CPRE branch responded by issuing a press release outlining our concerns that this is a “Trojan Horse” to promote huge levels of development right across the remaining countryside of the northern arc around London, including the Green Belts of London, Oxford and Cambridge.

<http://www.cprecams.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2324-regional-transport-strategy>

A14 Upgrade to Motorway

We raised concerns about Highways England’s application to reclassify the upgraded A14 to motorway and about the quality and accuracy of the information that has been made public. We wrote to the National Infrastructure Commission in response to their consultation about the Highways England proposals and we have also submitted further comments refuting the responses that we and other responders received from Highways England. As well as the

continued overleaf



A14 Upgrade to Motorway
continued

impact on the landscape, we raised concerns about air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, the impact on local roads and the impact on the farming community. We also raised our concern that local councils were asked to contribute £100m to the upgrade.

East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

We are very concerned about East Cambridgeshire District Council's decision to withdraw from the Local Plan process and revert to its 2015 Local Plan, which has been demonstrated in previous cases not to have a five year land supply. This may have an adverse effect on planning decisions and is already leading to speculative planning applications, which we will need to examine and which the council will find difficult to defend.

Water Resources

Cambridgeshire is part of the driest region in the country and yet it must also cope with rising sea levels in its tidal rivers. Water management is therefore a critical issue, whether looking at flood risk, supply shortage or building standards. We will be part of a seminar CPRE East of England is holding in spring 2020 and we are involved with Water Resources East whose remit is "to work in partnership to safeguard a sustainable supply of water for the East of England, resilient to future challenges and enabling the area's communities, environment and economy to reach their full potential". <http://www.waterresourceeast.com/>

Local Action Groups

We support local action groups when we can. Two groups we've recently helped are currently crowd-funding to help them continue their campaigns.

The Kennett Action Group are seeking to crowd fund for the legal costs of a Judicial Review of the 500 home "community land trust" at Kennett, which the Secretary of State has not called in.

Their crowd-funding site is at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sherine-awadallah-1>

The CBWIN (Cambridge Without Incineration) group are seeking to crowd fund the cost of the landscape consultant whose report was significant to the Cambridge County Council decision to refuse the application, to appear on their behalf at the Public Inquiry in November. Their crowdfunding site is at

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/villagers-crowdfunding-for-expert-help-to-defeat-incinerator-appeal-9076290/>

Climate Emergency

Representatives of the Cambridge Schools Eco Council met Environment Secretary Michael Gove to demand immediate action on the climate emergency. Student Ginny, 14, said: "Mr Gove claimed that the UK is a leader on climate change because of our net zero by 2050 target. But 2050 is too late. We only have 11 years until climate change becomes irreversible."

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/cambridge-schools-eco-council-say-gove-plans-not-enough-to-save-us-after-parliament-meeting-9076701/>

Online giving just got easier!

We're pleased to report that making an **online donation** to CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough could not be easier - just go to

<http://www.cprecams.org.uk/how-you-can-help/join-or-donate/make-a-donation/donate>. We're now using the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) online donation platform. CAF is a charity, bank and champion for better giving,

established over 90 years ago, so you can make your donation with confidence that it will be funding CPRE and not the website vehicle.

Finally...

We hope you have enjoyed reading about just some of the work and issues we've been involved with recently. There is always more to do - **and we'd really appreciate your support**, whether as a volunteer or a donor - there are always ways in which you can help. If you'd like to know more about getting involved please contact our Chairman, Alan James, (chairman@cprecams.org.uk) or our Branch Administrator, Tracey Hipson, (office@cprecams.org.uk).