



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
CHESHIRE

<p>Crewe and Nantwich District News Spring 2006</p>
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Dear.....

Not another newsletter??!

You're probably thinking, 'Why another newsletter from the CPRE?' Well, the reason is this is from your local District group - Crewe and Nantwich, where together we can make a difference to the environment around us. Other correspondence you will have received will either have been from the National Office in London, or the Cheshire Branch Office in Middlewich.

So, what is the Crewe and Nantwich District?

We have a committee of 10 people who meet regularly every month. We usually meet on the second Monday of every month, in the upstairs Function Room of the Red Cow Pub in Beam Street, Nantwich from 7.30pm until around 9.30pm. Everybody is welcome, not just the Committee – you can check the meeting arrangements either on the Internet at www.cprecheshire.org.uk or call me on the number at the end of the newsletter – we'd love to see you.

What do we do?

We comment on planning applications, campaign on environmental issues affecting the countryside, such as waste, local foods and renewable energy, whilst supporting rural communities and farming. We also spread our message to the general public at country shows.

We currently have 62 members in the Crewe and Nantwich area and we're hoping to increase that throughout 2006. We are a Charity that depends on membership subscriptions, so the more members we have, the more money we will have to be more active in protecting the countryside and ensuring it stays a place that everyone can enjoy.

Key Achievements in 2005 in and around Crewe and Nantwich

Combermere Abbey

Local member Greville Watts, supported by Macclesfield member Sir Ian Glidewell, appeared at a Public Enquiry and successfully supported the Borough Council and other objectors against the creation of a whole new village of 100 houses in open countryside at Combermere Abbey.

Changes to Council Planning Procedures

Greville Watts and Rodney Copping, two active members of our local group, are having some success in improving public consultation over planning issues. Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council is out of line with most Cheshire councils in not permitting public speaking at its Development Control meetings. Following questions put to the Council, its members and officers are now reviewing all procedures and protocols covering decision-making in planning applications. The Council has admitted that it does not have procedures to deal with

site visits prior to decision-making. Recent site visits by members have caused public concern about the way they are conducted. For more information ring **Rodney Copping on 01270 780125**.

Helping to save a Rural Primary School

You will by now have seen the local press announcing that St. Oswald's School in Worleston has been saved from closure. This is fantastic news, not just for the village and the school but for all rural communities who are having to face similar issues. The Worleston Action Group (WAG) was pleased to have a CPRE committee member, John Whitehead, supporting their case and being fully involved in the campaign to save the school. It just goes to show what people working together to put forward a coherent argument can do.

Main Activities planned for 2006

- Continue to press the Borough Council to improve public consultation over planning issues
- Continue to monitor planning applications and challenge where we have concerns
- Support the call for affordable housing on new housing developments – currently the target is 'a *maximum* of 35%' of the houses built on a new site should be 'affordable'. Typically the actual figure is far lower and we feel that the figure should be much closer to the recommended 35%
- Participation in the national campaign for 'Tranquillity'. See www.cpre.org.uk for more details
- Continue to support the efforts of the National Walled Garden Society
- Participation at the **Reaseheath Open Day on Sunday 14th May**, and the **Nantwich Show on Wednesday 26th July** – please come and visit the stand, we'd love to see you. In fact, go one better and volunteer to help man the stand at either (or both!) of these events. See the tear-off slip attached.
- Respond and support requests for help received from current members and the general public

If you would like to become more active in the district or have any issues with which you feel we can help then please contact either Jean Stainthorpe or myself.

Kind regards

Gill Jeffries
Secretary

AGM

Do come and join us at the AGM on Monday 15th May at 7pm in the Function Room at the Red Cow Pub, Beam Street, Nantwich.

Contacts:

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