



Victoria Buildings
Lewin Street
Middlewich
Cheshire CW10 9AT

Tel/fax: 01606 835046
Email: info@cprecheshire.org.uk
Website: www.cprecheshire.org.uk

Chairman
Peter Raynes

President
Lord Grey of Codnor

Patron
H.M. The Queen

Registered Charity no. 248304

CH/02/08

19th February 2008

PRESS RELEASE

[Embargo: For immediate publication](#)

CPRE says there are better sites for Eco-Town than Wardle

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)[1] in Crewe and Nantwich has condemned the bid to site an ‘Eco-Town’[2] between the villages of Wardle and Barbridge.

The environmental charity is in favour of creating sustainable, environmentally-friendly developments, but says there are more appropriate brownfield sites available in the North West.

CPRE’s Greville Watts said “The ‘Need Green’ bid is one of several in the North West, and CPRE believes brownfield sites put forward in Trafford and Mersey Heartlands meet the Government’s criteria for Eco-Towns [3]far better than the Wardle option.

“An Eco-Town here would mean sacrificing good farmland and valuable green space. It would also harm the regeneration of existing towns in the area. There will be some jobs on site but most people will be commuting by car, as even if a new station were built in the Crewe – Chester line, this would only cater for people traveling east to west.

“Many people will assume if it’s an Eco-Town then it must be a good thing, but developing a greenfield site in a location that cannot to sustain such a massive population increase makes no environmental sense.”

CPRE says it would like to support the Eco-Town proposed for Carrington, in Trafford, if the location and transport links are genuinely environmentally-friendly, but the commercial confidentiality surrounding Eco-Town bids from private companies means there are few details available at the moment.

Decisions on the bids are expected from the Government at the end of February.

For more information on CPRE’s campaign on Eco-Towns, phone Debbie Janney on 01606 835046 (9-12 Mon-Fri) or visit their website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk.

- ENDS -

Notes for editors:

[1] The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. For more information and archive of press releases see the CPRE Cheshire website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk and the national CPRE website at www.cpre.org.uk

[2] Last May, Gordon Brown pledged to build up to 100,000 houses in five eco-towns. Each eco-town would contain between 5,000 and 20,000 homes. Developments would be zero carbon, contain a range of facilities, including schools, shops and leisure facilities and be an exemplar in at least one environmental technology. At the Labour Party conference in September, Gordon Brown as Prime Minister announced a further five eco-towns would be built, at least one in each region, making a total of 10 altogether. **Over 50 bids are now being considered nationally.** Ministers have so far declined to disclose information about bids received or the location of proposed schemes, on the grounds of commercial confidentiality. However, CPRE research has enabled us to create a map of possible Eco-Towns, available at <http://www.cpre.org.uk/news/view/471>

[3] The Government's criteria for eco-towns are set out in Eco-Towns Prospectus (CLG, July 2007) available from <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/ecotownsprospec>

Further Information:

Greville Watts
CPRE Crewe and Nantwich
01270 812414

Clare Lewis
CPRE Cheshire Press & Membership Officer
Mobile: 07731 659 786
Home: 01625 537673

Debbie Janney
Cheshire Branch Secretary
01606 835046 (9 - 12 only)