



The
Yateley
Society

rhj 2113/74
NEWSLETTER

Issue 74 March 2005

PUBLIC MEETING

Jointly organised by Yateley Town Council & The Yateley Society



THE SOUTH EAST PLAN

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 8PM

ROSE RENT ROOM, THE TYTHINGS, READING ROAD, YATELEY

What is it? How does it affect me? Why are my comments important?

For more information contact the South East Regional Assembly on – 01483 555 208

www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan

Everyone Welcome!

Guest Speakers including County Councillors Jonathan Glen and Adrian Collett and Edward Dawson (CPRE South East)

South East Plan – sliced bread, but what next...

The South East Plan finally came out on 24 January. It was a slightly muted launch at a hotel in Southampton; why no fanfares or jubilation? After all, it was quite an achievement to have issued the document. The reason for the lack of effusion seems to be because of impending elections. The county council elections, and the general election, both likely on 5th May, have created their own microclimate. Instead of welcoming the Plan, some politicians in the Assembly have declined to do so. This is surprising given the political determination to reduce the housing levels being tested.

All was explained however, at the Regional Assembly plenary session in Hove on 2 March. At this, a motion was put to dissolve the Assembly, on the basis that it had not been validated by a referendum. The vote was lost, but it served a political purpose. It showed the sharp political divide between the main parties as we approach the county council elections. Of course, the Assembly is a 'voluntary chamber', and now has a

statutory purpose as the Regional Planning Body. This function can be traced as far back as SERPLAN in 1962, and long before that. There will be a Regional Spatial Strategy, and that is a given because the 2004 Planning Act abolished the old structure plans. There is a regional future which will have to be faced up to; it is unlikely to disappear.

Unfortunately, the district level housing consultation has had to be abandoned because of time constraints. This is arguably the most important aspect of the South East Plan, because it decides where development goes, right down to district level. The county councils will undertake some public consultation, but it will not be much. Once done, the Plan will be merged with the district allocations and submitted to ODPM. The housing distribution will follow a new methodology developed by consultants DTZ Peda. This is intended as a robust and objective technique. All opportunities and constraints are to be recognised. Market appetite and housing demand has to be weighed up against strategic gaps and rural designations. The proof will be in the pudding.

- Edward Dawson (CPRE South East)

Three Resolutions were put to the AGM last month:

1) Parking Meters in Yateley Town Centre

Resolution: This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society is astonished by and strongly opposes the proposal by Hart District Council to impose parking meters on Yateley and other smaller settlements in Hart; considers that parking meters would adversely impact Yateley's already struggling "town centre"; exacerbate the problem of street clutter; conflict with Yateley Village Design Framework policies; increase Hart District Council's parking management deficits; and strongly supports Yateley Town Council's lead in opposing the proposals.

Background: Hart District Council lost about £250,000 as a result of its parking policy in Fleet and is required to remedy the deficit. The Council has resolved to impose parking meters in the other main settlements in the District, starting with Yateley. The only places currently using parking meters in Hants are Southampton and Portsmouth.

Discussion: Peter Tipton presented the case. It was noted that Yateley Town Council strongly oppose the proposals.

Proposed by Peter Tipton, Seconded by Reg Powell – Carried unanimously.

2) Street furniture and clutter

Resolution: This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society welcomes the English Heritage initiative "Save our Streets", which seeks to remove clutter from the streets of Britain's towns, and calls upon Hampshire County Council, Hart District Council, Yateley Town Council, and local landowners to cooperate in removing ugly street clutter from Yateley's street scene.

Background: English Heritage launched a campaign in 2004 to remove street clutter in Conservation Areas, which has fired the imagination of many people across the country. Improving the appearance of Yateley Town Centre is one of the objectives of the Yateley Village Design Framework. Hampshire County Council has a record of cluttering the roads with unnecessary signage, whilst Hart District Council seems unwilling to tackle the problems of ugly and sometimes unlawful advertising. As a result Yateley is badly cluttered. Removal of clutter is an essential first step if local people are to regard the middle of Yateley as a desirable area.

Discussion: Peter Tipton pointed out that this resolution is in support of an English Heritage campaign. Colin Medley noted that street clutter is distracting to drivers, can obscure views and is potentially dangerous. Rosemary Bunch noted that individuals can get Hart District Council to take action on unlawful advertising, but Richard Johnston observed that they are not pro-active. Philip Todd noted that the resolution would not lead to action by itself. The "Save our Streets" campaign will need Society members to use the English Heritage forms as a means to get Local Authorities to take action. The more individual assessments the better, each form noting which street furniture is redundant, objectionable etc. Copies of these forms can then be sent to the relevant local authorities.

Proposed by Richard Johnston, Seconded by Philip Todd – Carried unanimously

3) High Density Housing Policy

Resolution (as amended): This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society, recognising that the Government intends to impose large numbers of new dwellings at high density on Hart District, and that some of these will be assigned to Yateley, seeks to preserve Yateley's semi-rural village character through Parish Plan policies which will ensure that new dwellings replace low quality or poorly laid out development, and are located away from Listed buildings, Conservation Areas, good pre-1939 housing and other areas of high quality development, thereby improving the overall quality of Yateley's built environment.

Background: Government housing policy now requires housing to be constructed at extremely high densities by historic standards, and is imposing huge numbers of new dwellings on councils in the South-East. Many of these new dwellings are said to be needed for housing people aged under 30.

Although Yateley's lack of facilities and poor transport accessibility makes it an unsuitable place for further development, especially for the under-30 age group, it seems inevitable that Hart District Council will impose additional high density development on Yateley.

Developers normally take the easy option, which usually means redeveloping the more interesting and better quality houses on bigger plots. Too many of these have already been lost through previous redevelopment. Without a specific policy this trend would continue.

The "Parish Plan", which will be developed over the next few months, provides the opportunity to develop local policies to decide where such developments might be allowed, and where they would be discouraged.

The Society therefore needs a policy for the "Parish Plan" to ensure that high density development is confined to areas where redevelopment would represent an improvement in environmental quality.

Discussion: Richard Johnston explained that developers are seeking to convert large sites like the Coach House and Woodhayes, rather than replace those post-war buildings that were built as cheap starter homes, and which are often now at the end of their design life and are on poorly laid out estates. Redevelopment needed to improve the general environmental quality, as had been achieved by redeveloping the American forces estate. It was important to maintain the right balance between starter homes and larger, higher quality housing, so that Yateley people could move upmarket without moving away. Yateley already had an imbalance in favour of lower quality housing. Philip Todd stated that information on the balance of different types of housing is available on the web. Parish plans are a new way for local residents to get their input into planning and other local policies. They are the place to identify housing areas that are suitable for re-development in order to affect where it will take place. There was discussion over the wording and the words **Parish Plan** were inserted and only was deleted from the previously circulated draft..

Proposed by Richard Johnston, Seconded by Maisy Hoare – Carried unanimously.

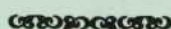
Ministerial visit to a "Commoner"

The Minister of State for Rural Affairs, Alun Michael recently asked to meet a Commoner. During a walk on the Common in pouring rain, Peter Tipton, one of our members, was asked to brief him about local issues including :

- encroachment
- access across commons
- lack of grazing
- 4 x 4 vehicles
- fly-tipping.

The visit was in preparation for the new Commons Bill to be presented to Parliament later this year.

The County Council fielded a strong team including Andy Davidson and officers from Winchester, with the Deputy Leader, Cllr Michael Woodhall in attendance. The DEFRA team from Smith Square included two from the bills team. A team also arrived unexpectedly from GOSE, including the former MOD officer who used to be responsible for the MOD part of Yateley Common.



Walks on Yateley Common – Summer 2005

Sunday 1st May - A Song and Dance to Welcome in May

Wyndham's Pool 5.30am for Yateley Morris 6.00am for Dawn Chorus

Join the Yateley Morris greeting the rising sun on this May Day with traditional song and dance, followed by a dawn chorus lead by Ranger staff. All are welcome to either or both events.

Thursday 16th June - Evening Chorus Blackbushe Airport car park 7.30pm

Are you not a morning person? Are you interested in birds but can't face getting up before breakfast to see them? Then join us for an evening chorus on Yateley Common. Many different species may be seen and heard including Nightingale.

Sunday 26th June - Footpaths Back to Ancient Times

Wyndham's Pool car park 2pm

Local archaeologists Carol White will guide you through time revealing how ancient peoples have used Yateley Common, looking at the landscape and her discoveries along the way.

Thursday 7th July - Evening Bat Walk Wyndham's Pool car park 9.15pm

Join local bat expert Paul Hope to learn about these fascinating nocturnal mammals.

Saturday 9th July - Moth Magic Wyndham's Pool car park 8.30pm

For National Moth Night we will look at moths caught the previous evening & run a moth trap. Children will get the chance to make their own moth wings.

Saturday 16th July Heathlands History

Wyndham's Pool car park 2pm

Gain an insight into how our lowland heaths were formed and preserved over thousands of years and why they are now so threatened.

Sunday 7th August Dragonflies and Butterflies

Wyndham's Pool car park 2pm

Learn about the habits and habitats of these colourful summer fliers.

Sunday 4th September Plants with a Purpose

Wyndham's Pool car park 2pm

Investigate the traditional uses, culinary, medicinal and household, of the plants of Yateley Common.



A montage of views of Yateley Common

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - 2005

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 8.00 pm Start unless otherwise stated.

Thursday 17 March 2005	Basingstoke Canal - the History, Wildlife and Conservation - at Rose Rent Room, The Tythings, Reading Road, Yateley
Thursday 21 April 2005	Valda Hudson - presents a guide for the amateur genealogist
Thursday 19 May 2005	Yateley Library Lecture - The Haven Local History Exhibition - The Haven - on display at the Library during the whole month of May.
Thursday 16 June 2005	Carol White - gives us another update on the archaeological exploits on Yateley Common
Thursday 21 July 2005	Visit to St Mary's, Hartley Wintney

Programme as 1 March 2005



**Our next meeting (17th March) will be held at:
Rose Rent Room, The Tythings,
Reading Road, Yateley**

The Conservation Working Party:

We normally meet at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill at 10.00 am on the last Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

The aim is to help the Yateley Rangers in all sorts of tasks in the upkeep of Yateley Common. To find out more, please call Mike Mann on 01252 877741.



If you are no longer receiving email notices from me, could it be that your email address has changed? If so, let me know – jo.hill.45@ntlworld.com.



The Executive Committee (as elected at the AGM each February) meets every 6 weeks and this newsletter is published as a result of the reports produced for those meetings. The items mentioned here are not exhaustive, just indicative of latest projects and developments. If you have any specific questions, input or desire to pursue any of these

issues, please contact me or any other member of the Executive Committee. This is also an appeal if you would like meeting reminders to be sent to you by email, please drop me an email with your address (updated if you've change it!) and I'll add you to my list.

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Yateley Society website: www.hants.org.uk/yateley/