



# SPRING UPDATE

April 2008

## Campaign to Protect Rural England LONDON

### Contact Us

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### New beginnings....

The last six months at CPRE London have been full of change. In November 2007, Nigel Kersey, our Director for six years, left CPRE to start his new career as part of the Thames Gateway Delivery Team at the Department for Communities and Local Government. Nigel will be greatly missed and we wish him every success in his new role.

Between November and February, the office was relatively quiet but our Trustees - especially Donald and Patricia - gave up their time to help with the day-to-day running of the office and organise the appointment of Nigel's successor, Steve Whitbread.

Steve joins us following time spent as the Conservation Manager with the London Wildlife Trust and in Ecology/Conservation roles with the London Boroughs of Bromley and Richmond. He is a Member of the Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management and has experience as a consultant and researcher as well as from work with a range of voluntary groups.

During the next few months CPRE London's work in the Thames Gateway will continue, in collaboration with our colleagues in Kent and Essex, and the financial support of the City Bridge Trust, who allowed us to postpone the completion of the works in relation the extra year of funding which they kindly awarded to us

We will also be looking to expand our horizons and considering how best to take forward the work of the branch the development in the Green Belt and urban centres, particularly how we encourage and support the greater involvement in the local planning process.

### The London elections

Next month's elections hold the possibility of a new Mayor, as well as changes to the make up of the Greater London Assembly.

We await responses to a series of policy questions recently posed to the four major candidates by CPRE London. All the major parties say they will protect the Green Belt and emphasise the importance of green space in the city. Nationally, however, despite similar assurances from Central Government there have been significant losses to the Green Belt - not least in London - so it is vital that we are able to continue to promote its protection.

Whoever is Mayor after May 1st will have new planning powers, giving greater influence over regionally important development proposals. This is set out within last year's Mayor of London Order which forms part of the Greater London Authority Act (About which more can be read in [http://www.gos.gov.uk/497417/docs/200511/GOL\\_Circular\\_1-2008.pdf](http://www.gos.gov.uk/497417/docs/200511/GOL_Circular_1-2008.pdf)).

### AGM 2008

After the impressive attendance at last year's AGM we are keen to ensure a good turnout this year. To encourage this our speaker will be John Hopkins the landscape architect, urban designer and environmental planner who is the project sponsor for the Olympic Parklands and Public Realm with the Olympic Delivery Authority.

This is bound to be of particular interest to many of our members, not least those who joined us on last September's trip via boat to the Holden Point Olympic viewing platform.

Please do come to the AGM if you are able and feel free to bring friends who may be interested in the Olympic development, the Thames Gateway, joining CPRE London or supporting our work across the City.

## Annual General Meeting 2008

This year's AGM will take place on **Thursday, July 24th at 6.15 pm.**

Location; *The Gallery, 70-75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6 EJ*

Drinks and light refreshments will be available from 6.00 pm

Guest Speaker - **John Hopkins, Olympic Development Authority.**

The Olympic site, falls within the Thames Gateway, and is one of Europe's biggest regeneration projects. As well as providing the venue for the 2012 Games and creating a range of permanent facilities, the development is intended to leave a lasting legacy that will be vital to the planned renaissance of the area.

John's talk will provide an excellent opportunity to learn about the stages and challenges involved in transforming one of the London's major areas of chronic dereliction into the heart of a sustainable community.

## CPRE E-NEWS

CPRE London presently has a membership in excess of 1500, a figure that has increased gradually over the last few years.

Alongside, the information provided via our website [www.cprelondon.org.uk](http://www.cprelondon.org.uk), we presently distribute an annual report. The next report will be sent out in June. Any member who would rather receive their copy in electronic format (reducing our carbon footprint and helping us to save on production and distribution costs) should send an e-mail to [office@cprelondon.org.uk](mailto:office@cprelondon.org.uk) with the subject or message header containing the word *report*.

From September, we plan to start producing a quarterly e-newsletter. This is intended to keep our members and supporters better informed about the work we're doing at a regional and local level, and how these efforts support each other and fit in with national campaigns.

As well as being available for download via our website our e-newsletters can be sent to anyone who subscribes to this service by sending an email to us at the office on [office@cprelondon.org.uk](mailto:office@cprelondon.org.uk) with *news* in the subject heading.

In time, we will be looking for sponsorship to cover the cost of distributing the newsletter in printed form for those who don't have internet access.

If you receive a printed version of this brief update it is because we don't have your e-mail address. The first issue of the e-bulletin will be produced in September so there is plenty of time to subscribe and to tell us what you think we ought to try to include in future.



Looking across the 2012 Games Site - ©Ken Bray, November 2007.  
More photos from last year's visit can be seen in the website gallery.

### What's on the website?

Over the coming months you'll find that more information is added gradually. A number of CPRE London publications are available on our own website.



Chief among these are the updated Sustainable Compact Communities report and our Planning Guide, which gives a London flavour to the advice and issues. If these are of particular interest to you we would suggest you also consult the following:

[www.planninghelp.org.uk/](http://www.planninghelp.org.uk/)  
[www.planning-applications.co.uk/](http://www.planning-applications.co.uk/)  
[www.planningportal.gov.uk/](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/)  
[www.planningaidforlondon.org.uk/](http://www.planningaidforlondon.org.uk/)



We'd also recommend the reports on the Thames Gateway, particularly the *Focus on the Gateway* documents which examine the performance of Gateway councils in Kent, Essex and London. They provide a useful example of how simple statistics success or failure may be publicized and used to encourage improvement.

### Do we have your correct contact details?

If not, please write to us or send an e-mail to [office@cprelondon.org.uk](mailto:office@cprelondon.org.uk)

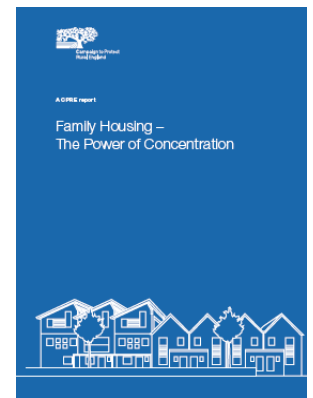
Sign up to receive CPRE London newsletters or to volunteer occasional help at the office.

## FAMILY HOUSING

*Family Housing – the power of concentration*, a new report which has been jointly produced by CPRE London and CPRE Kent, will be published on 8<sup>th</sup> May. The report demonstrates through the use of case studies how it is possible to build good quality, attractive housing for families in urban areas whilst making efficient use of land and promoting sustainable regeneration.

The purpose in publishing the report is to encourage planners and other policy-makers to help improve the urban housing available for working families in particular, which would help meet England's growing housing needs whilst avoiding unnecessary encroachment into the countryside or loss of urban green space.

The report will be widely circulated and may also be downloaded from our website [www.cprelondon.org.uk](http://www.cprelondon.org.uk) from the launch day - 8<sup>th</sup> May.



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LONDON