

## **Chairman's Report 2013**

**I must begin my report by saying that it is very satisfying to have such a dedicated committee. I especially wish to thank Jean Ray our treasurer for the way she has looked after our finances since 2002. Her common sense, dedication and friendliness have been appreciated by all.**

**I would also like to thank Pip Pyper who has looked after our distribution of newsletters so well but has decided to give up this task and am pleased to tell you that Jean Ray has volunteered to do this. I also wish to give a big thank you to our deliverers of the newsletter without whom we would spend a lot of money on postage.**

**In some ways this has been a quiet year with few applications to build. Our concern this year has been mainly with local development plans.**

**We were very encouraged by Norwich City that our views on preventing development on Bartram Mowers site are being listened to and appreciated. The Norwich Local Development Plan does not include the site as available for development. This goes to an inspector in May who determines whether the decisions made by Norwich are sound. Bartram Mowers have objected to the exclusion of the site for development and this objection will go to the Inspector. Norwich states that it has sufficient building plots elsewhere in the city.**

**Cringleford is also producing a local plan and the early indications are that it is an excellent publication. Our only concern was that there was insufficient emphasis on river walks in the Cringleford Parish and we responded accordingly. The Cringleford Plan will also go through the same process of inspection.**

**Once these plans are in place it is more difficult but not impossible for developers to go against the local plans.**

**There was an application to build several houses at Low road at Keswick near the zed bend. This was later modified and eventually passed by South Norfolk. This was one of the very few occasions when the committee was undecided and it was agreed not to comment on this application mainly on the grounds that it was outside our brief. We thought that we might get someone from the Keswick area as a committee member but it was not to be.**

**Keswick Parish are not producing a local development plan.**

**Another application which was outside our area is the Newfound Farm at Cringleford towards the hospital. We were concerned that that there could be implications for the river valley and wrote to that effect.**

**The Norwich Research Park is mainly quite away from the river except at Colney hall. We have kept an eye on the Park but only so far as it impinges on the river valley.**

**At Colney Hall the situation is quite different. The application to use the site for a residential home care is quite wrong. We were very concerned about the misuse of this site. This application has been turned down by South Norfolk and so far there has been no appeal.**

**The University continues to expand and we have been warned that there is still a possibility that the Yare Valley river crossing may still be sought. We need to keep vigilant over plans the university has for encroaching on the river valley.**

**At present there is a lull in building applications but this will not last. We have a committee ready and willing to respond to any proposals that could affect the landscape and recreational use of this lovely valley which is so important for this area.**

**We just wish that one or two extra committee members from Cringleford or Keswick would come forward. We are not an awesome bunch, meeting about four times a year, and you would be very welcome indeed.**

**Andrew Salisbury**