

Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 97 July 2016



The objects of the society are to protect the natural landscape and wildlife habitats of the Yare Valley south and west of Norwich, principally between Harford and Bowthorpe. We oppose any development that would detract from its natural qualities and support projects which would preserve the valley for the benefit of all.

The Threat to the Yare Valley **Application by the Norwich Rugby Club at Colney.**

Most members will be aware of the proposals of the Norwich Rugby Club for development on the UEA playing fields at Colney, which have given rise to many objections by local residents and parish councils. The Rugby Club and the UEA have revised their scheme and this is now open for comment.

The committee of the Yare Valley Society have considered the revised plans and feel strongly that the proposed changes do not overcome the fundamental objection that the new clubhouse, car parking, roadway and lighting would be a serious and damaging intrusion into the Yare valley. The developers claim that the scheme would offer significant "community benefits" (apparently to those who join the club), but the committee view is that the "benefits" either exist already or could be accommodated on other much less damaging sites. In any event they do not outweigh the disbenefits to the communities of people who appreciate and enjoy the valley and its wildlife for casual and peaceful recreation.

The Yare valley between Harford and Bawburgh is a precious environmental asset, under increasing pressure from developers on both sides and it will be increasingly important to resist piecemeal and incremental erosion of its essential character. Many believe that present government planning policy does not appear to give sufficient weight to environmental protection and it is important that any group or individual who seeks to maintain green spaces in vulnerable areas acts to secure their protection.

Action to take now

If you made objection to the original proposals, and like the committee, you wish to object to the new proposals, **you must write again**, stating your objections to the new proposals. If you missed the deadline for the last round of objections now is a new opportunity to lodge your objections.

Submit your objections by 29th July online at <https://info.south-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/> or send them with reference 2016/0233 to Planning Administration, South Norfolk Council, South Norfolk House, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2XE or by email to planning@s-norfolk.gov.uk

**If you have missed the deadline you may still be able to comment.
Ring 01508 533845 for guidance.**