

A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD



Planning training session for our volunteers - Sept 2017

Planning Casework

In the last year, our small band of volunteers, and now Liz, have looked at almost 70 planning applications and submitted detailed comments on many of them. We have examined and commented on Highways England's proposals for two major new roads - the A303 and the A358 east of Taunton. We spoke at the appeal hearing against large scale housing in the Shudrick Valley, Ilminster and also appeared at the public inquiry into designating a new village green for Norton St Philip. In September, we held a round table meeting to look at the many development pressures on Taunton and how this can possibly fit in with the model of being a Garden Town.

We recently ran a training session for our Planning Volunteers, running through the golden rules of how to respond to planning applications and understanding Local Plans and policies.



CPRE Planning booklets

Delivering Quality Planning Support

CPRE Somerset took a real step forward in April when Liz Payne, our new Planner, began working part time for the branch. It is already proving to be really valuable having a qualified person "in house" with an overview of all the different Local Plans, strategies and policies that steer future development but also aim to protect our countryside in Somerset. This is no simple task here in Somerset - with our five different district councils, one County Council, a National Park and four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, all with their own constraints and priorities.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This year, Trustees made the bold decision to appoint a part-time Planner. It was agreed that we could fund this arrangement in the short term, using our financial reserves. We must seek external funding sources to allow us to continue this arrangement and Trustees are now looking at fundraising options.

Our new Treasurer, John Roberts, has set up internet banking and we are encouraging our members to raise funds while they shop online using the Easyfundraising website and app.

For a full copy of the accounts, contact the Branch Manager.

Facts & Figures

- CPRE Somerset's annual income is less than £20, 000
- Our income is largely from our membership subscriptions and we receive occasional charitable donations and legacies.

- We currently have 747 members and around 15 active volunteers. We always need more, so please do help if you can.
- We have over 650 followers on twitter

