

# Campaign to Protect Rural England

## South East Region eBulletin September 2009

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### Highlights

*High speed rail is the news story of the month, with Network Rail publishing a preferred route and Lord Adonis talking up the plans for HS2 in the press (1,2). Campaigners including CPRE won a legal victory in the battle against Heathrow Terminal 3 (35). Affordable social housing in rural areas has been given a measure of protection (16). Researchers say that wind farm Nimbys do not exist, but no one told John Prescott (11). Teddy Goldsmith, author of A Blueprint For Survival, has died (45). Press reports that Boris Johnson is planning a new reservoir in Oxfordshire fortunately turn out to be false (40).*

### High Speed Rail

**1. Network Rail** stole a march on High Speed Two (HS2) by publishing its case for a line from central London through Birmingham to Scotland, with a potential branch to Heathrow. Over 750 miles of twin-track line and 30 miles of tunnels will be required. "High-speed rail can almost eradicate domestic air travel" the plan boasts and will more than pay for the £34 billion cost (NR: <http://tinyurl.com/hsnrcase>). The route is only presented in outline, a critical choice being the route into London. One option follows the Chiltern Line from Birmingham via High Wycombe through the Chiltern Hills. The Financial Times questioned the route's economics (<http://tinyurl.com/ln4vk8>).

**2. High Speed 2.** The exact route for the new high-speed rail line from London to Birmingham is being planned in secret by HS2 Ltd to within a few metres. HS2 Chairman Sir David Rowlands said "In urban areas and pinch points [the planned route] will be down to a few metres of where it will be and in open countryside 25 metres" (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/n35of7>). The plans take into account doubts on a third runway at Heathrow (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/neqnrq>). Rowlands acknowledged that the route would pass through the Chiltern AONB. "There will be people upset that a high-speed rail line passes through the bottom of their garden or passes through the Chilterns. You have got to take a railway through an area of outstanding natural beauty. You can design the railway to use natural forms. You can channel noise away from people and upwards and outwards. We believe we can do a really good job [in] the Chilterns" Rowlands also claimed HS2 between Birmingham and London would lead to "Two cities becoming one. That is when you start to change economics" (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/nabz49>). Lord Adonis said "Those who think that the airlines will continue to monopolise short-haul European destinations from London have got their heads in the sand" (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/n49x27>).

**3. High Speed Reaction.** The Chilterns Conservation Board said south Buckinghamshire could be trashed if HS2 is built through the Chilterns and promised to fight the plans. "We're independent. We can put a boot on and stick it in" (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/ntrczu>). The Board is also concerned that the Chilterns will see no benefits from High Speed 2, since none of its services will stop at local stations (Chilterns AONB: <http://tinyurl.com/mvlzfq>). CPRE also voiced concerns about High Speed 2 and the Network Rail plans. Senior planning campaigner Paul Miner said: "It seems strange that only one route is being studied for HS2 when High Speed One considered a number. We are in favour of HSR, but with the link potentially crossing areas such as the Chilterns the environmental impact must be minimal" (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/lcgxqw>). Ralph Smyth, CPRE's Senior Transport Campaigner, said: "Bulldozing a new line straight through the Lake District National Park and Chiltern Hills would be both unacceptable and unrealistic. Network Rail seems to have ignored the need to protect our most valued landscapes in order to come up with a lower price tag." But additional tunnelling could cost as much as £12 billion, which would use up almost the entire contingency budget for the new line. "Small rail schemes across the country must be given at least as much priority as a new high speed line" (CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/n28b7o>). Greenpeace described the announcement as "incredibly exciting" (<http://tinyurl.com/ny9ygp>).

**4. Carbon emissions.** A 2007 report to the government suggested a London to Manchester route would emit more carbon than the equivalent air route, but the report was rejected by both DfT and the Campaign for Better Transport (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/m67bja>; Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/l7ehzu>).

## Planning

**5. Killian Pretty.** The government unveiled a wide-ranging package of proposals designed to implement the reforms recommended by the Killian Pretty Review. They include changes to permitted development rights, and possible withdrawal of the requirement to advertise planning applications in newspapers. Planning Policy Statements are also being streamlined and will be cut from 26 to 21 (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/ma9epb>).

**6. South East Plan.** Residents have handed the Prime Minister a 1,000 signature petition against the Hedge End Strategic Development Area (Hampshire Chronicle: <http://tinyurl.com/mr3tgg>). Reigate is again consulting on its LDF after the South East Plan cut its housing targets and proposed a green belt review (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/ldqd2x>).

**7. Regional Planning.** DCLG issued for consultation its proposals for replacing regional spatial and economic strategies with regional strategies. The new strategies will aim to boost economic growth and tackle climate change. Once the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill becomes law, the RSS and the Regional Economic Strategy will become the regional strategy but only the RSS elements will have the status of a statutory development plan until a revision to the strategy has been prepared (DCLG: <http://tinyurl.com/m88w8d>; eGov: <http://tinyurl.com/n85z8t>). Kent and Essex County Councils propose to use the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to take back powers from the Homes & Communities Agency, the Highways Agency and the regional development agencies (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/lgspju>).

**8. Conservative Policy.** The Conservative party has clarified its position on nationally important infrastructure schemes. The planning team from the Infrastructure Planning Commission would be relocated as a "large projects team" inside the Planning Inspectorate and large projects would be determined by the relevant secretary of state (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/mbb68y>).

**9. Local Development Frameworks.** The Government has stressed that the proposed new requirement for local economic assessments (LEAs) should form a key part of the evidence base for the preparation of LDFs (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/mvld3h>). The Planning Inspectorate has published new guidance for examining the soundness of Local Development Framework documents (PI: <http://tinyurl.com/mws6ns>). LDFs were intended to speed the planning system up but they have actually slowed it down (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/l3hvx3>).

**10. Urban extensions.** CPRE Oxfordshire opposed an urban extension to Oxford at a hearing into the city's Core Strategy (CPRE Oxon: <http://tinyurl.com/6nmh8h>). Plans for a 140-hectare 2,000 home urban extension to Bognor Regis adjoining a proposed relief road to the north west of the town have been submitted to Arun District Council (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/l9tt5e>). Plans have been submitted for 3,000 new homes on the northwest side of Aylesbury; 90 hectares of the 176 hectare site will be publicly accessible Green Infrastructure, accommodating allotments, community orchards and extensive meadowland (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/lntv8r>). Outside the South East, an urban extension on green fields south east of Swindon has been rejected (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/mqowf4>).

**11. Nimbys** do not exist according to researchers at the University of Manchester who, studying wind farm projects, concluded that developers and government should be acting to address key issues, not labelling protesters as Nimbys. "They need to pay more attention to how the benefits or drawbacks of a proposal are perceived by local people" (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/ncnbc4>; BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/njcg3z>). But John Prescott attacked "the nimbys who say they want change, but not in their backyard," as he announced the inaugural Age Of Stupid awards were 'won' by planners in Bedford and the Isle of Wight. "Stupid planning committee in Bedford, stupid planning committee in the Isle of Wight - I hope they get upset about it" he grumbled (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/mzf3f2>).

**12. Eco-towns.** Arun District Council mounted a legal challenge to the South East Plan which said local authorities should "facilitate any proposals that are agreed for growth points and eco-towns". Arun took issue with the use of the word "facilitate" rather than "test". The DCLG admitted an administrative error and the wording will be changed (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/kn2f3c>). The campaign against the eco-town north west of Bicester is gathering pace (Oxford Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/ldnmza>). What would it be like to stroll down the street of an environmentally friendly town? Cartoonist Patrick Blower animates his humorous view (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/n3lun7>). DCLG is consulting on how £60 million should be allocated to eco-towns (<http://tinyurl.com/nozxqg>).

**13. Population.** The UK is now the second most densely populated country in the world. The population has now hit 61 million, and is growing twice as fast as in the 1990s and three times as fast as in the 1980s (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/ljjern>; Daily Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/knog2m>).

**14. Flooding.** DCLG launched a consultation relaxing the definition of functional floodplains—where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. It is also seeking views on whether the essential infrastructure to be protected from flooding should be expanded to include wind turbines, water and sewage treatment works, and other facilities (DCLG: <http://tinyurl.com/lbcnj5>).

**15. Design.** CABE condemned many new homes for not having enough space for daily needs, including for storing recycling bins (<http://tinyurl.com/l5k27k>). CABE wants new powers to inspect the design of any proposed development before plans are submitted (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/ndrnvm>). Prince Charles, under attack by architects for his dislike of modern architecture, has proposed England adopts “Enquiry by Design” which introduces a strong community involvement to masterplanning (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/lwt8nz>). A report by Living Streets highlights how streets have changed, with over a quarter of people knowing fewer than two of their neighbours and a huge reduction in the number of children playing out on the streets (<http://tinyurl.com/m5ss7h>).

## Housing

**16. Affordable housing.** The government declared 13,000 rural settlements protected areas where new shared ownership properties will always remain in shared ownership (DCLG: <http://tinyurl.com/mernbs>; list of parishes: <http://tinyurl.com/nnhqzz> - South East p51ff). The Countryside Alliance said the measures did not go far enough and more exception sites should be used (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/nvd3z3>). Councils that sell social housing will have to return the social housing grant to the Homes and Communities Agency (Inside Housing: <http://tinyurl.com/m34c6s>). Right to buy sales slumped by 74% last year (Inside Housing: <http://tinyurl.com/ludkj4>). The government is considered a lower rate of Community Infrastructure Levy for affordable housing (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/l9yqao>).

**17. Housing Numbers.** The National Housing and Planning Advisory Unit singled out the South East for the highest growth in new homes. It recommended building 53,800 new homes a year in the South East to 2031, up 8% from the figure it put forward last summer (NHPAU: <http://tinyurl.com/nhpaurep>). Andrew Povey, leader of Surrey county council, said: “It is unrealistic and unreasonable to expect even more homes to be built if it means concreting over large parts of our countryside or failing to put the infrastructure in place”, a view echoed by the regional assemblies and CPRE (RR Life: <http://tinyurl.com/lbvyzp>; Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/kvnmk7>; CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/mocxkd>). Housing starts are up but still 9% down on last year (DCLG: <http://tinyurl.com/lc49dg>). The National Housing Federation said government’s plans to cut funding for social housing by up to £260 million could lead to a reduction of 4000 new affordable homes every year (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/mt8j6n>). Over the last decade the proportion of dwellings built on previously developed land has increased by 23% (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/lc73zu>).

**18. HMOs.** The National Union of Students has condemned government plans to crack down on Homes of Multiple Ownership which dominate areas of towns such as Oxford and Brighton by requiring more of them to seek planning permission (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/lrwpr7>).

## Landscape

**19. South Downs National Park.** A Government inspector has been examining the proposed boundaries and is considering including several new areas, including Green Ridge north of Brighton (Argus: <http://tinyurl.com/mh6w2s>).

**20. High Weald.** A High Court judge approved plans for a fishing resort in the High Weald area of outstanding natural beauty in East Sussex. The judge upheld an inspector's view that the 15 wooden cabins would positively enhance the gentle landscape of the AONB (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/ldanqe>).

**21. Green belt.** Residents near Redhill are objecting to plans to build a village of 90 homes on a wildlife rich former quarry in the green belt (This is Surrey: <http://tinyurl.com/lbufp5>). The Weybridge Society has drawn up a petition against intrusion into the green belt proposed in Elmbridge Borough Council’s Core Strategy (Get Surrey: <http://tinyurl.com/mr9cyk>). A planning inspector found that a 15 metre high turbine would be acceptable with the Nidderdale AONB but nevertheless rejected it because it was in the green belt (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/mn22qg>).

**22. Litter.** Environmental charity Thames21 organising litter picking flash mobs to help clean up the river banks around London (<http://tinyurl.com/mmgjom>). **CPRE** Isle of Wight made its fifth award for litter clearance (County Press: <http://tinyurl.com/kulj5c>).

**23. Trees.** The Forestry Commission is to survey 15,000 woodland sites during the National Forest Inventory to gather information about numbers and species of trees, their age, height and condition (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/nzllz16>). The Conservation Foundation is to launch the "Great British Elm Experiment" later this year and plant more than 2,000 saplings propagated from specimens that have escaped Dutch elm disease (Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/nrcoj2>).

**24. Coastal Path.** 37% of the South East coastline is inaccessible to the public said Natural England. "There will be 10 years' work to be done before we can walk the whole way," said Paul Johnson, coastal access manager for Natural England (Maps: <http://tinyurl.com/l7w9cq>; Argus: <http://tinyurl.com/nzbz4y>; Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/kqxjkw>).

**25. European Landscape Convention.** The Landscape Character Network has published proceedings of its meeting on developments in characterisation techniques for landscapes in country, town and at sea (LCN: <http://tinyurl.com/nqvlt9>).

## Energy and Climate Change

**26. Climate change.** The costs of adapting to climate change has tripled to at least \$300 billion a year from 2030 (iied: <http://tinyurl.com/knnjqs>). The Institution of Mechanical Engineers called for artificial trees and algae covered buildings with white roofs to combat climate change (ImechE: <http://tinyurl.com/l23czj>). In deepest Sussex, a curious bunch of characters are making biochar in the hope of burying CO2 (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/n3egjx>).

**27. Efficiency.** The World Business Council for Sustainable Development published a report highlighting how energy use in buildings can be cut by 60% by 2050 (EE: <http://tinyurl.com/np9yd4>). The Green Building Council published a detailed study of Pay as You Save scheme to retrofit energy efficiency measures to existing housing (GBC: <http://tinyurl.com/mu43ma>). In 2008, UK energy production fell by 5% and consumption by 1% (DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/lf2auv>), while worldwide CO2 emissions rose by nearly 2% (Yale e360: <http://tinyurl.com/lj2m7k>).

**28. The grid.** A new £500 million Low-Carbon Networks Fund to support large-scale trials of advanced technology, including smart grids, is being proposed by Ofgem (Ofgem: <http://tinyurl.com/lmxgl3>). Ed Miliband is consulting on proposals to speed up connection of wind farms to the grid (DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/m7cfns>).

**29. Coal and gas.** Dozens of open cast coal mines have been authorised by ministers and local councils across the UK, reversing a decade-long decline in coal production in Britain. Since 2005, 54 mines have been approved across the UK and only four rejected. Coal production and imports are also up (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/rx6jmp>). Coal stations will be 'lightning rod' for global dissent, the new head of Sustainable Development Commission warned (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/newsusc>). Energy companies argue that Carbon Capture and Storage should also be fitted to new gas power stations (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/mjxo4m>).

**30. Surrey Oil.** The National Trust says that plans to drill for oil in Bury Hill Wood south of Dorking, Surrey, will have "unacceptable environmental impacts" on green belt land and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Leith Hill Action Group warned that: "Once gone, ancient woodland cannot be recreated" (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/n25a6t>).

**31. Renewables.** DECC has issued a call for evidence on security of energy supply during the switch to renewables (<http://tinyurl.com/l5avph>). The Environment Agency has stepped up its support for the development and growth of hydropower (EA: <http://tinyurl.com/ld3gw6>). Former energy minister Malcolm Wicks called for the UK to invest home-grown energy sources such as new nuclear and renewables without delay (EE: <http://tinyurl.com/nwr6le>). The billions of pounds invested in biofuels is 'disastrous' and increasing climate change, according to a Christian Aid report (Edie: <http://tinyurl.com/lxcv3g>).

**32. Wind.** **CPRE** Oxfordshire clashed with Oxford City Council over plans for a turbine south of the city, saying it will seriously damage the local environment and harm the amenities of local people. Oxford Friends of the Earth described the scheme as "fantastic news" (**CPRE** Oxon: <http://tinyurl.com/9lldxo>; City Council: <http://tinyurl.com/mleutn>; Oxford Times: <http://tinyurl.com/lebrek>; <http://tinyurl.com/m5zslt>). Friends of the Earth are opposing a wind farm in Devon on the grounds that the proposed site is too visible and too sensitive (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/foewow>). The Sunday Times

reported that ministers may establish “conservation banks” into which wind farm developers could pay money to offset the impact of their projects by financing local environmental programmes, such as improving wildlife habitats ([tinyurl.com/conbank](http://tinyurl.com/conbank)). Small scale American research suggests that the vibrations and low-level subsonic noise emitted by wind farms can cause a range of health problems, including sleep disorders (Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/kp5e2j>; Kent News: <http://tinyurl.com/nyfywj>). Vesta closed its Isle of Wight factory ending a sit in and blamed a cut in its profits on “nimby island” (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/m3gry6>). A power fault shut down nearly a quarter of the turbines on Romney Marsh (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/mbs9w5>).

**33. Incineration.** The Environment Agency dropped its objections to an application to build a major energy from waste plant at a landfill site in Oxfordshire (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/mpg9zh>).

## Transport

**34. Aviation.** Lord Adonis insisted “a hair-shirt approach” to climate change will not work and we can cut greenhouse gas emissions without travelling less (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/m8vejd>). A month after its first scheduled service for twenty years, the airport at Kidlington north of Oxford, has been rebranded London Oxford Airport, to widespread derision (Evening Standard: <http://tinyurl.com/rahq8b>). Kent International Airport wishes to extend its flying hours (Kent Online: <http://tinyurl.com/np4eqv>).

**35. Heathrow.** Green groups including **CPRE** secured a High Court ruling that the case for a third runway must be heard in an open court given the significant public interest element and the need for clarification over the Transport Secretary's statement in January which gave the green light to the third runway. The hearing is likely to take place in the autumn and campaigners will argue that ministers used flawed and erroneous evidence to support their decision to approve the third runway. Neil Sinden, Policy and Campaigns Director for **CPRE** said: “This is an important step in overturning the government's democratically dubious decision to bulldoze a third runway through a village and the surrounding countryside.” Steve Rodrick, Chief Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board said “This is a good thing, another pause for thought, and a chance for people to have their say. We will certainly maintain our opposition” (Greenpeace: <http://tinyurl.com/mpy7yj>; Bucks Free Press: <http://tinyurl.com/nk4ll2>; 24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/l58zdz>). BAA has revealed plans for a new £1bn Terminal 2, which will be renamed Heathrow East (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/l3ydzj>; NCE: <http://tinyurl.com/nme49j>). An advert claiming a third runway will not make Heathrow dirtier or noisier has been ruled misleading by the Advertising Standards Authority (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/mz6ejs>).

**36. Rail.** Buckinghamshire County Council said plans for an ultra light railway between Maidenhead and High Wycombe train line are not financially viable (Local London: <http://tinyurl.com/nq4v9m>). “White elephant” projects like high speed rail are creating a UK transport crisis, the think-tank Reform said (NCE: <http://tinyurl.com/nnty4>). The government has been condemned for omitting trams and light railways from its low carbon strategy (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/km6als>).

**37. Buses.** Badgers are being evicted to make way for a new high-speed bus route between Gosport and Fareham (The News: <http://tinyurl.com/kj3yck>). The local bus industry has been referred to the Competition Commission (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/mwgryh>; OFT: <http://tinyurl.com/mv2qm4>).

**38. Roads.** The government approved funding for the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road and improved access to Kent International Airport (NCE: <http://tinyurl.com/nv34eg>). The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales launched a campaign to reduce road clutter (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/mtpst6>).

## Water

**39. Public inquiries** will be held into draft Water Resources Management Plans proposed by Thames Water and South East Water, while Portsmouth Water's plans will be subject to a public hearing (Defra: <http://tinyurl.com/le3ntp>). **CPRE** Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse District Council and Thames Water welcomed the inquiry decision, which will embrace the proposal for an Upper Thames Reservoir. **CPRE** campaign manager Helena Whall said: “We consider [the reservoir] unnecessary and a blot on the landscape” (Oxford Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/n8hxwb>; **CPRE** Oxon: <http://tinyurl.com/oxwater>).

**40. London water strategy.** Boris Johnson has issued a draft water strategy for consultation. The main emphasis is on using less water more efficiently. It rejects Thames Water's complaints that water efficiency is not justified economically and says the companies long-term aim should be to achieve a standard of 80 litres consumption per property per day (<http://tinyurl.com/lowater>). [Planning is wrong to claim that “Boris Johnson has outlined proposals to begin detailed planning for a new reservoir in Oxfordshire as part of his draft water strategy”: Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/lx6xyf>].

## Food and Farming

**41. Food security.** Defra has produced a food security assessment, with the aim of securing food for a growing population and tackling climate change. Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said the UK needs to lead a revolution in food production, and left open the door for the introduction of genetically modified crops. Defra launched an online debate alongside the assessment (Defra:

<http://tinyurl.com/food2030>; Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/kjcr5a>; BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/m3m9ob>; FWI: <http://tinyurl.com/ndkcbc>). The RSPB said the report could be a boost for wildlife (RSPB:

<http://tinyurl.com/nu3c2l>). Friends of the Earth criticised the report for not tackling meat and dairy farming, "which creates more climate-changing emissions than all the world's transport" (Ecologist:

<http://tinyurl.com/mc7ft6>). Marketing Weekly accused Hilary Benn of launching "an attack on the values of the consumer society" and the Grocer described the policy as "maple syrup-coated waffle" (MW:

<http://tinyurl.com/n7r9kl>; Grocer: <http://tinyurl.com/ltuj35>). Almost a fifth of the UK's honeybees died last winter, the British Beekeepers' Association said (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/maqza>).

**42. Food.** Farming and animal welfare groups have expressed concerns over DEFRA plans to introduce a labelling system to show the environmental credentials of food (FWI: <http://tinyurl.com/lknny9>).

Consumers still want to buy local and regional food, despite it being perceived as more expensive than imported food (FWI: <http://tinyurl.com/nl646f>). The organic debate flared up with the publication of a Food Standards Agency report that suggested there were no nutritional benefits from organic food (FSA:

<http://tinyurl.com/foodcon>; <http://tinyurl.com/knfofc>). Peter Melchett retorted that the case against organic food does not stand up, there really are nutritional benefits, while Chris Goodhall condemned the FSA's use of statistics (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/m9qw6c>; <http://tinyurl.com/m9zzh9>).

## Rural Affairs

**43. Market towns.** Stuart Burgess, Chairman of the Commission for Rural Communities, criticised the government for ignoring the plight of market towns during the recession (Telegraph:

<http://tinyurl.com/n738x2>).

**44. Tranquillity.** CPRE Isle of Wight is among those objecting to an open air concert at Carisbrooke (IWCP: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/lx88ty>).

## Campaigning and People

**45. Teddy Goldsmith,** founder of the Ecologist and lead author of *A Blueprint For Survival* has died (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/maoex5>; Ecologist: <http://tinyurl.com/n2nnpb>; Telegraph:

<http://tinyurl.com/nnocaf>; Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/nrec5q>).

**46. Will Day,** the new Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission, was scathing of the way politicians use the term sustainability "like an ingredient on a cereal packet". He distrusts nuclear power, thinks clean coal does not exist, and has an open mind on GM technology (Ecologist:

<http://tinyurl.com/luoxt3>; Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/newsusc>).

**47. The Times** reviewed celebrity backing for campaigns, saying that Ben Fogle "galvanised" the campaign against Ford and that Weston Otmoor was blocked thanks in large part to Tim Henman's father leading the campaign (<http://tinyurl.com/lwasbt>).

**48. One and Other.** James B from Doncaster spent his hour on the Trafalgar Square plinth promoting CPRE "as I feel it plays a massively important role in promoting and preserving our countryside" (<http://tinyurl.com/lpqz7a>).

**49. Climate Camp 2009** is quietly underway with protestors camped on Blackheath, where Wat Tyler's peasant army assembled for its assault on The City of London in June 1381 (Independent:

<http://tinyurl.com/n9ddvz>; Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/ktuoy3>). The protestors are targeting city institutions (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/mpbte6>; Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/lpmeer>).

**CPRE South East eBulletin**

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