

SHERBORNE CPRE JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Acting Chairman: In these difficult times good communications are even more important, and this short newsletter seeks to bring members up to date with matters of interest to Sherborne CPRE. I hope you find it interesting. We have a small Strategy Working Group that deals with current issues between meetings of the main Committee, and some of the items below stem from their consideration. If members have particular concerns we ask that they do not hesitate to bring them to my attention. Best wishes.

Chris

Air Marshal Sir Christopher Coville

07753925434

Sherborne 1928:

Nostalgia can be a dangerous indulgence, but the 1928 aerial photograph below shows the extent to which Sherborne has lost green space in subsequent years. Sherborne CPRE is keen that any measures to re-vitalise the local economy, and build for the future, minimise the loss of green spaces, and where possible add to them within the boundaries of the town – even if such measures are on a small scale. Covid-19 has been a reminder how vital such spaces are to all of us, and conserving (and where possible enhancing) them is a core purpose of CPRE. We owe that to future generations.



www.britainfromabove.org/image/EPW023201 ©Historic England

Planning: Sherborne CPRE has been active in contributing to Dorset CPRE's response to the recent Council consultation on planning. Our objectives are twofold: firstly, to challenge the requirement, currently 1200 houses for the Town, and all to the west; and secondly, to ensure that whatever developments result are in harmony with the Town, are fit for purpose and benefit from appropriate infrastructure, including high speed broadband.

The plan is available for comment until 15th March by accessing www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/Dorset-council-local-plan

Trespass: The Sherborne Strategy Working Group have reservations about the National CPRE's opposition to government measures intended to make vehicular trespass a criminal offence. It seems quite clear that the proposed government legislation does not cover walkers / ramblers in the countryside as the critics of these measures have claimed. Importantly invasions of private land by travellers/gypsies and unauthorised raves can cause horrendous (sometimes long term) damage to farmland. Police have frequently seemed reluctant to intervene through lack of relevant powers, and we think legislation is needed to deal with that. Do others have a contrary view?

The "Critical Review": [Sherborne CPRE's recent publication](#) was distributed to all members and many local residents. It was very well received by most recipients, and subject to criticism by a few. It was intended as a wake-up call to aspects of our historic town that merit re-thinking . . . and in certain cases action by those responsible for the deteriorating condition of some of our built heritage. Further copies are available by emailing info@dorset-cpre.org.uk or phoning 0333 577 0360 (office hours).



Zero Food Miles: Valuing our green spaces is one thing, but equally important



is our contributing directly to the viability of the local farmed landscape. Residents of the Sherborne area now have the facility of buying their milk from one of the farms that border the town, and hence having "zero food miles milk". Castle Farm on the Osborne Road to the east side of the town has a milk vending machine

which is available from **Wednesdays to Sundays 8.00 am to 6.00 pm**. There are litre and half litre options. Either bring your own bottle or buy one of the farm's customised glass litre bottles. Cheese, butter, and eggs can also be bought there. Dawn and Georgie Dimond from the farm are seen here with a happy customer. The cows (see next page) look happy too!





Presentation to Sherborne Town Council: The Acting Chairman, Sir Christopher Coville, gave a presentation to the Town Council on our activities, at their December meeting. Despite Covid-19, Lockdown and the like, we are hoping to continue a closer dialogue with the STC, especially on Planning issues.

Membership: Like many other organisations in the absence of conventional meetings and social events Sherborne CPRE has to work hard at being relevant to the concerns of local residents if it is to maintain its membership and secure the funding it needs to support Dorset CPRE. If you have friends who are interested in the future of the Sherborne area and the rural landscape in this part of Dorset please draw their attention to CPRE, and ask them to consider joining via the Dorset CPRE website: <https://dorset-cpre.org.uk/>



A good sight to see:
How pleasing it has been to see sheep again grazing on the very edge of the town. The scarp shown here is on the west side of the lane that eventually leads to Sandford Orcas. The character of

Sherborne is in part defined by its rural setting, and in particular its retention of commercial crops and livestock on the borders of the town. Long may that remain so.

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The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.