

January 16th 2015

Dear Teachers

New Conference for Norfolk schools – Book Now

Further to our letter of November 27th, we are writing to confirm the details of a conference for students on **Friday, March 6th 2015**, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of land use and resource management issues, with particular emphasis on rural areas such as Norfolk. The conference, **Battle or Balance: Setting priorities for land use in rural Norfolk**, is targeted at Year 10 students and we expect it will be of particular interest to those studying GCSE Geography, although students of Economics and Environmental Sciences will also benefit.

The conference will take place at Fakenham Academy Conference Hall, which is located on the Fakenham College Site, Wells Road, Fakenham, NR21 9HP. Registration will start at 9am, with the conference itself starting at 9.30am and finishing at 2.30pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to all students and staff free of charge. There will be space for each school to bring up to 10 students.

The morning session will focus on workshop, group-based activities, facilitated by experts from a wide range of backgrounds and professions, who will encourage discussion and debate. The afternoon session will feature a Q&A session, with students able to use the knowledge and understanding of key issues which has been developed from the morning session. We hope that after the conference the participants involved can share their experiences and knowledge with their fellow students to support GCSE case studies.

Topics for discussion will include:

- Changes to Rural Communities: how many and what types of houses will we need in the future? (Curriculum Areas: population and demographics, employment and economic activity patterns, use of natural resources, infrastructure and transport)
- How can we, or should we, satisfy our energy needs? Are there other ways to solve this problem? (Curriculum Areas: Climate change, energy production and conservation)
- How can we feed a growing population? (Curriculum Areas: use of natural resources; population, agriculture and industry)
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of tourism in rural areas? (Curriculum Areas: economic activity and employment, effects on landscapes and natural resources, housing and population)

You may be familiar with CPRE Norfolk as a countryside campaign group, and whilst we undoubtedly are keen to protect the Norfolk countryside, we will ensure that this conference gives a balanced point of view about the issues raised. There will be a range of partner organisations involved in the conference including Natural England, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, developers Citygate Developments, local food producers Nortons Dairy and representatives from local planning authorities.

President
Professor Tim O'Riordan

Chairman
James Parry

Treasurer
John Davies

Registered charity number 210706

100% recycled paper

You can also have confidence that the conference will fit comfortably within the GCSE Geography Curriculum. Rob Lodge, previously part of the Norfolk Advisory Team, has recently joined the Executive Committee of CPRE Norfolk as a new Trustee and will be working as a volunteer with CPRE Norfolk to deliver this event. Rob has extensive experience in co-ordinating educational workshops and conferences and is still involved with educational practice throughout the county.

The format of the day will be as follows:

- 9am-9.30am Arrive and register.
- 9.30am Welcome by CPRE Norfolk Chairman James Parry
- 9.40am Housekeeping and explanation of conference format by CPRE Norfolk Trustee Rob Lodge, followed by Icebreaker activity.
- 10am Discussion sessions. Students will be seated amongst students from other schools, where they will discuss and debate one of the key issues (see page 1). They will be provided with a range of resources to help them do this. **Please note – each school will need to bring at least two labelled laptops, iPads or equivalents so the students can access on-line resources.** (the venue has WiFi.) Facilitators from relevant professions will also be present at each table to assist students' thinking and encourage discussion. There will be a break mid-morning where refreshments will be provided. The discussion session will then resume with students given a new topic to discuss and debate. During these sessions teachers will be encouraged to move amongst the tables to participate and shape the discussions in keeping with curriculum objectives.
- 12oc Review of morning session.
- 12.15pm Lunch. A sandwich buffet lunch will be provided to all students and staff.
- 12.55pm Resume. Preparation of questions for Q&A panel
- 1.25pm Q&A session with panel of speakers.
- 2.15pm Conclusion
- 2.30pm Depart

I am sure your students will find this an interesting and enjoyable day so do hope you are able to attend. If so, please complete the attached booking form and return to me by **Thursday February 5th 2015**. I will send a detailed agenda and other housekeeping information about three weeks before the event, but please do contact me if you have any other questions in the meantime.

To book please visit: <http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/news-and-events/diary/>

Yours sincerely

Katy Jones
Branch Manager