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Delivered free to 45,000 homes in Weston and the villages

The Gazette

This publication has been funded from the Incidental Expenses Provision of John Penrose. Promoted by and on behalf of John Penrose MP at 24/26 Alexandra Parade, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1QX and printed by Harmsworth printing, tel:01332 595607

Fighting For Peace And Quiet

Future housing developments, road schemes and airport expansions should be forced to pass a "tranquillity" test before winning planning permission, says Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose.

On 7th March, immediately after Prime Minister's Question Time, Mr Penrose used a Ten Minute Rule Bill to propose new legislation to protect our peace and quiet. If approved, his "Tranquillity Bill" will force planning authorities to protect local communities from the impact of noise, air, visual and light pollution.

The Bill will systematically measure and secure 'tranquillity' for the future. It has already received cross party support and was given an unopposed first reading.

John said:

"How many of us can still stand outside our front doors and enjoy a moment's peace and quiet? Will our children and grandchildren even remember the true meaning of tranquillity?"

"It's not just our countryside; it's our green belt, our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Even our parks and urban gardens.

"We are under attack on so many fronts. I

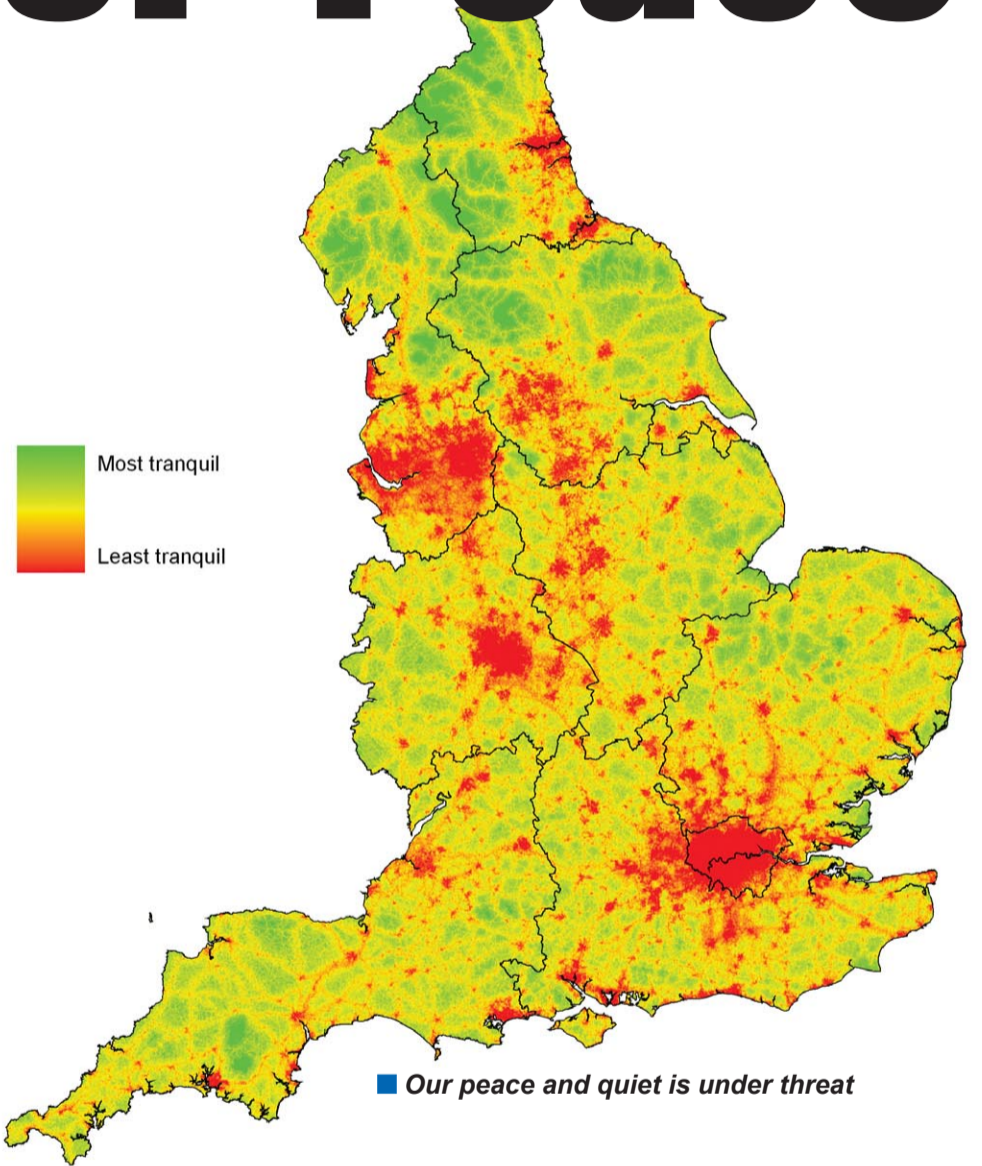
am regularly contacted by local residents worried by the massive house building programme on the outskirts of Weston, the expansion of Bristol International Airport and the daily chaos at junction 21 on the M5.

"Every year 27 square miles of Greenfield are lost to development. That's an area nearly the size of Leicester. In the skies, UK air passengers are predicted to rise from 229 million in 2005 to 401 million in 2020. Satellite pictures show that light pollution is spreading, with only 11% of England's land area giving people a view of a truly dark night sky."

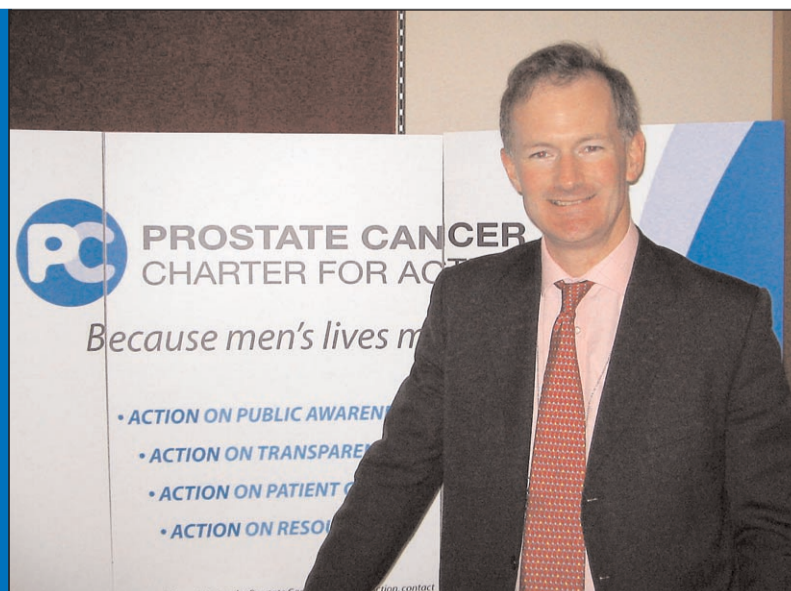
John's campaign has the backing of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), which has published a detailed map showing levels of tranquillity across England.

The map was created following three years of research by teams at Northumbria and Newcastle Universities.

John's Bill will receive its second reading in May.



Prostate Cancer – Get Checked



John Penrose is campaigning to raise awareness of prostate cancer – the number one form of cancer diagnosed in men, with over 10,000 men dying from the disease every year.

John said: "Prostate cancer has been a taboo subject for too long. Patients diagnosed earlier have a greater range of treatment options. In Weston-super-Mare, roughly 50 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. 15 will die from the disease. That's why I want to encourage all men to be aware of their prostate, what it does and what can go wrong. If they are concerned, they should be seeking immediate advice from their GP or the Weston Urology service."

John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round