

Annual Review 2016/17



North Yorkshire
Campaign to Protect Rural England



WELCOME TO CPRENY!



2017 Photography Competition launched!

What better way to show off what we have and why we do what we do! North Yorkshire has some of the most outstanding countryside and coastline in the country. First prize one hundred pounds, a certificate and your image shown to the world on our web pages.

Entry free for members
Non members ten pounds
see the web site for more info.

Another big year for CPRENY

CPRENY is one of 43 Branches in the federated Campaign to Protect Rural England. Our role is to protect and enhance the countryside, towns and villages of North Yorkshire.

We've moved CPRENY forwards from seven seemingly independent committees without structure to one body managing and complying with both our charitable objects and the charity commission. We still have a way to go. In the past, district groups have held AGM's of their own and held funds which when combined, were more than those of the Branch. Those districts however, were neither accountable nor liable. The fact that some districts held large funds and even investment accounts meant that they themselves felt that they were unaccountable to the Branch. We had just too many duplicated costs, too many chiefs and certainly not enough indians!

Our job is to work towards the charitable objects of this organisation and co-ordinate responses to and from the grass roots members. We need to listen to the majority and provide them with confidence and encouragement.

Making and accepting change is always difficult but these changes are positive and will build a strong structure to help CPRENY move into the 2020's.

We need to increase our membership and inspire new proactive volunteers. CPRE isn't an organisation that sits around talking about things and doing nothing, we talk the talk and walk it.

Charities across England are struggling to maintain and increase membership and comply with all the regulations as a result of some of the problems created by the collapse of a large charity in London. Managing a charity such as CPRE means we need to understand charity law, organisational procedures, people, campaign management, planning and brand management to name but a few!

The reserves policy, financial reports and information regarding our new CIO or Charitable Incorporated Organisation clearly illustrate the new fully compliant management of this charity. Julian Purvis, National Finance Director of CPRE said ours was one of the most professional reserves policy he had seen so far! We are delighted to announce that we now fully comply with the charity commission check list for CPRE Branches

Volunteers across the 3500 square miles of North Yorkshire continue to inspire and amaze trustees. There are volunteers whose dedication to this charity frequently goes above and beyond our hopes and expectations.

This annual review illustrates just some of the work carried out across this Branch over the last year. For full details go to our web site at www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk This core group keep CPRENY going and enable it to move forwards. To all of you - THANK YOU!



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT CPRE NY Chairman Jules Marley

We're not a soft, cuddly charity! We deal in planning which is a complex and confusing subject at the best of times with too much open to interpretation!

We have to balance planning law, policy and the views of our membership with the policies created by our national organisation.

As CPRENY moves more towards a transparent, accountable and professionally run organisation, we can focus on our core campaigns. Most CPRE information is available on the internet. I know some view 'the web' with scepticism but remember we're an environmental charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing our countryside so let's reduce the number of trees we need to chop down to create paper!

This year, as we move towards a skill based trustee board, we were lucky to attract the expertise of Carolyne Gregory and Gail Simmons. Carolyne comes from a senior management background with some of the world's major airlines and Gail is a journalist and writer. Both these trustees bring much needed key skills to the trustee board. If you believe you have skills to offer and would like to be more involved with the management of CPRENY please write to me as Chair. We need to keep the trustee board staffed with expertise and ideas to ensure that we can take the charity into the 2020's with strong finances and clear management. In short, everyone needs to know where we are going and how we are going to get there!

We're now on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and the world wide web. Our readership is increasing and we have forged strong links with the media who now come straight to us for comment allowing us to put the voice of the countryside out there! Our work is not yet done. Whilst there are those determined to develop for the wrong reasons at the wrong time and most certainly in the wrong place, we need to ensure that we function effectively.

I can't stress enough the importance of balance and the need to promote and support positive development across the Branch. There are good developers out there and we need to ensure that they are rewarded for their efforts not ignored!

I'm delighted that two new positive initiatives have been introduced to CPRENY. First the awards scheme for members who go above and beyond and secondly our photographic competition to show the best of North Yorkshire.

CAMPAIGN focus

Litter, a burden of nearly one billion pounds on our national economy.

Campaigning against litter was one of CPRE's early priorities.

Our work began in 1927 supporting a range of local and national campaigns. This work led us to be instrumental in the creation of the Keep Britain Tidy group in 1955. Our most recent national campaign Stop the Drop ran from 2008-2015. We launched our Litter Programme in January 2016 with activities including campaigning and lobbying, a pilot project looking at legislation and systems design as well as collaborative work with the Branch network across England and a wide range of charity and corporate partners. The National Litter Strategy & Consultation was published by the Government on 10th April this year. The consultation runs until Sunday 18th June 2017 - contact the Branch if you have comments you would like included. Visit www.cpre.org.uk for more information

CPRE wants to see:

A strong legal framework that is used consistently by local councils to stop littering being a consequence free crime

A National Litter Action Plan that co-ordinates the activities of every organisation that works to reduce litter in order to increase efficiency and save money.

Solutions that change people's behaviour by putting a value on resources such as returnable deposits paid on drinks containers.

Better design of products and packaging such as attaching lids to bottles and providing disposal papers with chewing gum to reduce the chances of this stick stuff being litter.

30 million tons of litter are collected from our roads and streets each year! Surveys suggest that beach littering has doubled in the last fifteen years.

CPRE was a founding member of Break the Bag Habit, a campaign that successfully called for a charging system for carrier bags in England resulting in an 85% drop in plastic bag usage in the first six months

CPRE commissioned the first comprehensive research into how a deposit return system would work in the UK showing how it would create jobs, save councils money and increase recycling of valuable glass, aluminum and plastic.

Litter - 'wot a load of rubbish!'

Volunteers in Redcar & Cleveland and Craven organised successful litter picks again this year

Stuart White in R&C organised a litter pick of the Cleveland Way which was well supported and ensured that walkers in the area were able to focus on the scenery not the rubbish! In Craven Bruce McCleod worked hard to ensure we had a well supported and well attended litter pick. Tea and Buns were provided by Jill Wilson for all those who worked hard on the 1st of April to clear away the land on the entrance to Skipton. Many people groan when you ask them to join in such an event but every time we hear the same comments, how much fun volunteers had, how satisfying it was and how they enjoyed 'doing their bit'.

Age is no excuse. Litter pickers in Craven ranged from 3 - 80 years! The image on the left shows our youngest volunteer, Miss Arabella Rose Marley with her father James, a member of CPRENY. Perhaps she could be a future Chair of this charity?

The same culprits appeared again this year. We found far too many fast food drinks containers, sports drink bottles and beer cans along with some new finds, the largest of which was a discarded bath! Craven members are working on a second pick at the end of summer 2017 to ready the land for the winter months.





Training

Volunteers and members repeatedly and consistently ask for the same thing - more planning help. CPRENY listened! In 2017, working closely with KVA Planning Consultants we created Planning 101. This is a training course taking the volunteer from 'What is Planning Application' to how to respond to a Local Plan consultation. The course is ready to role out across the North Yorkshire area. We start the programme in York & Selby area in early autumn, as this district expressed interest and want to provide services for their many Parish Council members. Planning 101 will enable volunteers to become planning wardens or eyes and ears, a system that has been trialled in the Craven District Council area for the last two years and has proved to be highly effective.

Parish Councils who are members of CPRENY will be able to send two representatives free of charge. The course will be constantly adapted to keep members informed in the ever changing world of planning! contact the Branch for more information.

*"We need planning support",
"We need more planning training"
"What is a section 106?" Help!*

CPRE Marks - a Royal Visit!

In 2012, CPRENY awarded a Sustainable Development Mark to the Courtyard at Settle. The development reused the redundant Clea Top Farm and brought a beautiful barn and buildings around a courtyard back into work. The sensitive development blends into the countryside perfectly and sits at the entrance to Settle in the Yorkshire Dales National Park with the Settle Carlisle railway line as a back drop. It promotes local produce and created employment for over 50 people.

Sir Peter Waine, then Chair of CPRE came up to Yorkshire to present the mark for us. In April 2017, we were honoured to be invited to attend the Courtyard, when HRH The Prince of Wales visited to see the work for himself. CPRENY Chair, Jules Marley spent the day before practicing her curtsy.

Visit the Courtyard, our mark is in pride of place in the entrance lobby.



HRH The Prince of Wales at the Courtyard April 2017

www.inthecourtyard.co.uk

York Poultry Farm Application 16/01813

Last year an application was lodged in the City of York LPA to create a new poultry farm in the York Green Belt at Rufforth

CPRE supports sustainable farming! Is a five hectare site with two hectares of sheds to house poultry sustainable? We suggest not. The NPPF allows exceptions to development in the Green belt, farming being one. When anyone talks about farming, they work on the image of green fields, hedgerows, walls and animals grazing.. It could be suggested that the application in the York Green belt represents industrial farming. What would Jamie (Oliver) and Hugh (Fearnley-Whittingstall) have to say about two hectares of sheds to house 288,000 bird moved every eight weeks?

The application was lodged in 2016 to be determined by 1 November 2016. There have since been several requests for extensions to the consultation period by CYC and the new date is 16th June 2017.

York MP Julian Sturdy in his comments to this large scale industrial type development in York's precious greenbelt, supported local people's concerns. Many Parish Councils, the first tier of local government, in the area have objected. We have focussed entirely on the impact of such large development on the green belt, in particular openness..

CPRENY does not believe that the revised landscaping plans submitted by the applicant will have any positive effect on the impact of such a large build and our strong objection to the proposal stands.

We've restated our objections in a further comment to the LPA. Para 79 of the NPPF clearly states that the purpose of the Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open:

The concept of openness means the state of being free from built development, the absence of buildings as distinct from the absence of visual impact. RvEpping Forest DC 2016

The essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence



Local Plan and planning

Focus on Scarborough Planning Authority area

The Scarborough Borough Planning Authority area is a mix of urban and rural environments covering an area of 115 square miles with 23 miles of coastline.

The SBC local plan area is divided into two distinct areas separated by the North York Moors National Park. The main southern area is centred around Filey and Scarborough. The northern area is much smaller and includes Whitby, Sleights and Sandsend.

Two thirds of the district's population live in and around Scarborough. Scarborough is best known as a seaside town which has the biggest influence on its character.

The second largest town is Whitby, surrounded by the North York Moors National Park (NYMNP) which makes it a self-contained settlement in a spectacular landscape setting.

Filey, the third town in the local authority area has an extensive beach and geological

outcrop known as the Brigg. Sadly, the majority of Filey's hotels have closed and it's now primarily used by day visitors and people using the many caravan camps nearby.

All three towns have historic cores. The plan area contains 21 conservation areas.

The SBC landscape area is diverse and includes the coastline with spectacular cliff scenery, parts of the North Yorkshire & Cleveland and Flamborough Headland Heritage Coasts, as well as the steep northern escarpment of the Yorkshire Wolds and the flat carr land that forms part of the Vale of Pickering.

Most of the countryside is agricultural with little forestry or unenclosed land. Fishing and agriculture are the two traditional industries which, whilst in decline, play a key role in shaping the character of the area.

There used to be a Scarborough District or CPRENY responding to applications within the local authority area however, years ago this was closed down and Coastal District formed. In 2017 the Branch resumed responsibility for responding to planning issues in this LPA area to ensure Scarborough members were represented.

There can be very few English towns which have been able to retain their 19th century character as completely as this one (Whitby)

Alec Clifton Taylor "Another Six Towns"

Tourism remains vital to the area's economy and has influenced the character of Scarborough and Whitby. However, tourism brings its own problems with large numbers of caravan sites which without doubt, impact negatively on the the character of the landscape.

This area is remote from the national motorway network relying on the A64 from York and the A165/171 coast road from Hull to Teeside. All three towns are served by regional rail services. Crossgate/Seamer, Hunmanby, Sleights and Ruswarp are the only other settlements with rail services.

The Planning Inspector recommended that SBC local plan cuts its housing target to take account of new government projections.

SBC Local Plan had outlined proposals to build 9,680 homes and create 5000 new jobs to 2032.

Inspector William Fieldhouse, recommended that this should be reduced to 9,450.

The Inspector also recommended that the plan identifies enough land to accommodate 10,633 new homes during the plan period representing a surplus of 12.5% over the 9,450 home housing target. The new plan distributes about three-quarters of new homes to Scarborough, 10% to Whitby and 5% to Filey. The new plan will supersede the Scarborough Borough Local Plan adopted in 1999.

Inspector recommends housing targets cut

What about HA28 (land to the west of Napier Crescent Seamer)?

It's one of those addresses in one parish which directly impacts on another! Irton Parish Council object strongly to the inclusion of this site in the local plan. Both the PC and local residents contacted CPRENY for help. We have provided that much needed assistance and KVA Planning along with the Chair of the Branch are working hard to support local people.

The main problem is that this site risks coalescence of Seamer, and Irton. The SBC local plan states that a distinct character is necessary to separate the rural Irton from the service village - Seamer. The Planning Inspector when examining the draft SBC plan felt that the extension of the proposed extension at HA28 would have an effect on the character and appearance of the area having regard to the setting of the village and the quality of the local landscape.

Concerns were also identified about the effect on the local infrastructure in particular Seamer and Irton Primary schools, the impact of traffic on existing busy roads and

whether an additional 115 dwellings would be likely to be delivered on the extended site by March 2021. Linden homes currently have a large application for the site out for consultation and again CPRENY have responded to the application based on the comments received from residents, national and CPRE planning policy and common sense!

"Delivering 9450 new homes over the period 2011 to 2030 would present a substantial increase compared to build rates over the last decade"

Redcar & Cleveland

What's been going on?

R&C is the most northerly district authority in the Branch area bordering Hambleton and Scarborough planning authorities.

The majority of its industrial component, along with a large swathe of urbanisation - the north-east corner of Middlesborough plus Redcar, is conveniently hidden away behind the Eston Hills. This gives the remainder and vast majority of the district, a distinctly rural feel.

Former ironstone villages are surrounded by scenic open countryside which includes part of the North York Moors National Park (NYMNP), the Heritage Coast from Saltburn to Swaithe and a good length of the Cleveland Way national trail.

The first four months of 2017 have been quieter than usual as volunteers wait for movement on existing applications and the results of Public Inquiries.

In the winter newsletter, reference was made to the local CPRE district involvement in achieving the rejection of an application for 400 houses in woodland below the Eston Hills. The developer appealed this refusal and this resulted in Public Inquiry which took place 25th to 28th of April. Such is the importance of this site being able to retain its woodland, rural character that CPRENY instructed KVA Planning to prepare the report for the Planning Inspector and represent CPRENY at the Inquiry. It will be some time before the outcome of that Inquiry is known, Also awaited in the decision of the Planning Inspectorate regarding an appeal against a refusal for a major housing and retail development south of Marske. The Public Inquiry took place in October 2016 with the delayed decision due on or about 25th May 2017, too late for inclusion in this newsletter however, the CPRENY website will be updated as soon as we know.

Stuart White leads the volunteers in Redcar & Cleveland District, they are a small but determined group. If you want to help or need to contact Stuart and his team email the Branch at cpcrecraven@me.com or telephone 01729 850567

"There must be a democratic public consultation on the proposed changes to strategic green wedges "

Stuart White

The R&C draft local plan has now passed through the publication stage. KVA Planning assisted local volunteers in preparation of their response, Since then, Officers of the Council have sought to make significant changes relating to the 'Green Infrastructure'. claiming that parts of the intended green wedge between local communities will have to be sacrificed to save other parts. This follows objections received by the local planning authority (LPA) to the Green Infrastructure policy on the grounds that it is 'unsound'. These changes will have a major impact on local communities particularly Marske and Saltburn. and the strategic gap between them.

The Homes and Communities Agency

submitted an outline application for up to 550 dwellings in Redcar in 2016.

This was always going to be a tough nut to crack for CPRE as it was already earmarked by the Council for development however it would result in the loss of green space and woodland open to the public for walking and cycling.

The Outline application was approved. CPRE will become involved again when the application returns to the Regulatory Committee as a Reserved Matters application ie proposed design and layout of the development.

Green wedge

Green wedges comprise the open areas around and between parts of settlements which maintain the distinction between the countryside and built up areas, prevent the coalescence (merging) of adjacent places and can also provide recreational opportunities

Planningportal.co.uk

Coalescence, according to the Government's planning portal, means the merging or coming together of separate towns or villages to form a single entity. Undeveloped gaps between settlements are critical to the character and appearance of the local area, they maintain and enhance the individuality and identity of settlements.

A green gap or wedge allows the sense of 'leaving one place before you arrive at another' to occur. Erosion of such gaps damage the connection between people and places. A Green wedge is usually put in place to prevent merging of settlements . Interesting parts of the NPPF to note: Para 61

Decisions should address the connection between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural and built environment.

Para 17 includes: the need to take into account of the different roles and character of different areas, recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment.

CPRE 2017 Awards



Jill Wilson at a Craven litter pick

We have several unsung heroes working for CPRE in North Yorkshire...

Without the dedication of these individuals, we would not have achieved our outstanding results to ensure that development is in the right place at the right time. In 2017, the Branch decided it was time to officially acknowledge these committed people. At the AGM in June, we shall present outstanding contribution awards to Frank Paterson and Jill Wilson along with Made a Difference awards to Roger Bennett and Stuart White.

These awards come from National CPRE and are to celebrate and recognise the range of work done by volunteers.

Do you have someone you know has worked above and beyond for our charity? Someone whose work should be recognised? Please send nominations to the Branch over the next year. Our unsung heroes have gone too long without recognition - we're changing that!

CPRENY is run entirely by volunteers who give freely of their time, commitment and expertise. We rely on volunteers to manage and maintain CPRENY

'Made a Difference' award 2017

Stuart White

Vice Chair of the Branch and leads the Redcar & Cleveland group of volunteers. Stuart joined the trustee board in 2012 and has become a valued member of the team. Stuart works hard to ensure that planning the R&C area is fair and logical. The Branch is supporting the refusal of a large application at Eston HILLS at appeal. Stuart refers to this proposal as a carbuncle on the countryside! KVA Planning has been commissioned to support Stuart's campaign. Stuart also lead the litter pick in this area and consistently works with his small team to deliver CPRE objectives. Nominated by Bill Longley-Cook

Roger Bennett

Vice Chair CPRE NY and leader of Hambleton District volunteers. Roger joined the trustee board in 2010 and we will miss his considered, wise and diplomatic counsel. Roger leads Hambleton District and works hard to ensure that the local plan reflects the real needs of the area. There is no doubt that Roger has made a great difference to CPRENY over the years and he is one trustee we shall sorely miss. Roger frequently tells us he is getting older but somehow manages to look younger at each meeting. How do you do it Roger? Chair's nomination

"OUTSTANDING contributions to CPRE The highest award we can give

Our 2017 award winners are Jill Wilson and Frank Paterson

Jill Wilson has, for over six years, worked to ensure that the much anticipated and frequently delayed local plan in Craven reflects the needs of the area. Jill has attended countless meetings at the local authority, produces clear, concise reports of every meeting to enable other volunteers to campaign effectively and balances all of this with the demands of a large family. The work is frustrating and time consuming but Jill never gives in. Jill also works on the Save OUR Craven Countryside campaign and in addition provides superb tea and buns after litter picks. Where would we be without you Jill? nominated by Stephen Butcher

Frank Paterson is a member in the York & Selby area and part of a highly effective, proactive team that manages to cover a large area (which includes the City of York, its key green belt and the City of Selby). Frank is also a great diplomat and has assisted the transition to more accountable governance of the Branch using his undoubted skills to ensure a smooth, trouble free change. He's no push over though and would not hesitate to comment objectively and forcefully if he thought something was not in the best interests of the charity. Frank is a leading volunteer regarding contentious planning yet quick to support the good application which is 'what CPRE is all about'. Thank you Frank, you deserve this award. Chair's nomination



*Frank Paterson,
Outstanding Contribution 2017*

We applaud the commitment and dedication of all our 2017 winners. Thank you does not say enough.

Incongruous development alien to the character and appearance of the surrounding landscape

Land in foreground = Long Preston Conservation Area, land in background YDNP.

1) Screening is temporary with use of deciduous trees which only offer cover for half the year.

2) Planning required specific colours for the static caravans to reduce the impact on the countryside yet in 2016, planners recommended and the committee approved siting of touring caravans 12 months of year with no colour restrictions! Consistency?



Gallaber caravan site in Hellifield, next to the YDNP and Long Preston Conservation area - developed on the basis of tourism for the local area - yet providing homes for some for all but six weeks of the year. Is this type of development adding to the demographic time bomb?

Craven District Authority area and planning

Craven covers an area of 450 square miles and is the most westerly district authority within the North Yorkshire county area.

Two thirds of the area sit within the Yorkshire Dales National Park . The Forest of Bowland AONB reaches into the north western area of the district.

Craven's historic market towns of Settle and Skipton continue to attract visitors and local people alike. The landscape is diverse with a mix of natural limestone and mill stone grit, moorland and meadow land.

Skipton, known as "Gateway to the Dales" and all villages along the route of the A65 face enormous pressure from developers who target this beautiful part of England and are gradually eroding the unique qualities of the area.

The District has a high functioning group of CPRE volunteers who campaign with dedication and commitment to CPRE objectives. Developers are constantly refused permission to build yet appeal, apply and appeal again which adds to the already high work load of our volunteers. Yet, our dedicated volunteers keep on campaigning! Our CPRE volunteers are also quick to endorse positive planning in Craven and recently supported the use of a redundant reservoir with a living roof - which was refused!

On all too many occasions we see the same pattern emerge in Craven: Planning permission is granted with a percentage of affordable homes which we know we need. But then developers come back and reduce the number of affordable homes for economic reasons (theirs) and more market homes which we don't need are built!

"Developers are out of control across Craven"

Craven councillor March 2017

Craven District Council is still without a current local plan. CPRENY will continue to campaign strongly on issues within the unusually large and vulnerable Hellifield Tourism Development Opportunity Site. We noted the comment reported in Planning Resource that council officers recommended , delaying CDC's local plan timetable to reflect on Brexit impact! see News CPRENY website on 13 October 2016 for more information.

Whilst CPRENY responded in full to all Local Plan Consultations, it would appear our extensive work fell on stony ground. It had been intended the plan would be published September 2016, submitted December 2016 with adoption 2017. We're now apparently looking at submission July 2017!

Craven CPRE volunteers operate on a planning warden basis to spread the workload.

The Harrogate District Authority covers 505 square miles. It is a mainly rural area and includes Harrogate, Ripon & Knaresborough.

The landscape ranges from the Vale of York in the east and north-east. In the west, former ironstone and lead mining villages are surrounded by scenic open countryside including the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). A substantial area is covered by Green Belt.

Work in the Harrogate District Authority has been dominated by planning applications and the CPRE submission to the Local Plan Consultation which was completed in December 2016. A further consultation process is

Harrogate and planning

scheduled to take place in July/August 2017, with final completion targeted for late 2018.

Applications for housing developments were examined and where the harm of a proposal outweighed the benefits, CPRE objected. Key objections were lodged to developments in Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough, Killinghall, Burton Leonard and Darley. Although HBC often turned down applications, determined developers appealed and the Planning Inspectorate upheld these appeals.

Roger Lynn, a trustee of CPRENY and our key volunteer in the Harrogate District is currently waiting for the Planning Committee to consider an application for 165 homes on a particularly sensitive site adjoining a nature reserves at Cornwall Road, Harrogate.

A major development proposed by Gladman Homes, initially turned down by the Authority is subject to a current appeal. The Branch commission KVA Planning to assist with an application for 73 homes at Nidd Hall Farm, Killinghall, however, developers were successful, again at appeal, largely to a drop in the LPA's Housing Land Supply. NYCC proposals for the Harrogate Relief Roads pose a threat to the local environment Roger awaits further details regarding the routes.

Our key objectives are to protect and enhance our countryside



Green Belt: a core CPRE campaigning issue

Green Belt protection and enhancement is a core CPRE campaigning issue.

England's 14 Green Belts cover more than a tenth of land in this country and according to CPRE's research, provide a breath of fresh air for thirty million people. The ever increasing pressure for more roads and housing means that it is vital to protect and invest in the Green Belts we have.

Development on Green Belt land is supposed to be tightly controlled so that it can fulfil its main purpose: to serve as a buffer between towns, and between town and countryside. This gives incentive to regenerate damaged and derelict land within the urban areas which

are surrounded by Green Belts, bring social, environmental and economic benefits, while giving people (that's us) the opportunity to tap into nature capital on their doorsteps. Green Belts are a cherished asset but the Green Belt has never before faced such serious threats as large sections of land disappear under new developments. CPRE believes this trend must be curtailed.

Don't confuse Green Belt status with greenfield land!



There are two Green Belts in North Yorkshire: Harrogate and York

Harrogate District incorporates parts of the West Yorkshire and York Green Belts which together cover 11% of the district. The Green Belt to the south of Harrogate and Knaresborough is the West Yorkshire Green Belt which surrounds the West Yorkshire metropolitan urban area, and extends across the southern fringe of the district and into the narrow gap between Harrogate and Knaresborough.

This Green Belt is extensive along the West and North Yorkshire border, in parts extending for around 12 miles from the northern edge of the City of Leeds authority boundary area. The established purposes of the West Yorkshire Green Belt, as it relates to Harrogate District, are to:

- 1 Check the growth of the West Yorkshire conurbation
- 2 Protect the character of the towns of Harrogate and Knaresborough
- 3 Prevent the merging of the towns of Harrogate and Knaresborough (coalescence)

The West Yorkshire Green Belt in relation to Harrogate District Planning authority area



'Green Belt protects the setting that makes a jewel, like York, shine.' Yorkshire Post July 2013

Green Belt is a policy designation with five primary purposes:

- 1 **Stopping urban sprawl**
- 2 **Preventing coalescence (or joining together of settlements)**
- 3 **Safeguarding the countryside from encroachment,**
- 4 **Protecting the setting of historic towns**
- 5 **Encouraging urban regeneration**

They have stricter controls over new development than the countryside as a whole. Since their initial designation in the 1950s, Green Belts have been shown to be effective in terms of their primary purposes and the land within them has also gained range of environmental benefits

York is without doubt, one the 'big jewels' in North Yorkshire's large crown. In 2016, Councillor Keith Aspden said, *"The city badly needs Local Plan to protect its character and to protect the Green Belt"*

However, York's Green Belt is constantly under threat. Local volunteers and the Branch are frequently contacted by both residents and Parish Councils in need of assistance when facing an application in their Green Belt.

We examine all applications on their own merit and then compare the risk to the Green Belt and other policies against perceived benefits.

Where the harm outweighs the benefits to the Green Belt, CPRENY objects

Green belt policies in local plans should not be passive, they should have a series of positive objectives as set down in national policies. These include creating opportunities to secure access to the countryside, to provide access for outdoor sport and recreation, to secure nature conservation interest and retain land in agriculture, forestry and related uses.

1,619,835 hectares of land in England is designated Green Belt

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

End of Year Accounts 2016

At the year end 2016, income for CPRENY exceeded the £25k threshold. We now require an independent examination of our accounts, an exercise which is currently underway and welcomed by the Trustee Board. Trustees will need to review and approve the financial statement once the independent examination is complete. The signed off Financial Statement will be published on our website in June, ahead of the planned AGM

- **In March 2017, the Trustee Board agreed a 3 year budget to underpin our strategic plan.**
- **In 2017, The Trustee Board also finalised a Reserves Policy for the Charity.**

Reserves Policy Summary:

CPRENY aims to hold between £80-£140k of unrestricted cash and investments to cover for planned and unforeseen variations in operational income and expenditure. Therefore, £15k of working capital reflects the amount required to ensure the peaks and troughs of cash flowing requirements during the course of the annual operating cycle and between £45k-£75k of cash and investments will cover risks in CPRENY's sources of income and expenditure.

A further £20-£50k will be set aside in a Strategic Investment Fund to respond to new opportunities and threats by financing specific programmes of activity over future periods.

Restricted Reserve Funds will be held to ensure that monies subject to a restricted legacy are for the purpose specified by the testator.

£106k

Total incoming resources compared to £16k in 2015

£154k

Cash at 31 December 2016 compared to £16k in 2015 (£111k of £154k is restricted)

Membership

Trend continues to be downwards however the speed has been decreased and in high performing areas with active volunteer groups, new members have joined.

The Branch took control of Richmondshire and Coastal and since then, we have seen new members joining.

Work is on going across the entire Branch area to increase membership, attract new Parish Councils and younger members to join.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CPRENY

Saturday, 17th June 2017 at 13.30

The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, HG1 2SR

Copies of the full Trustees Annual Report (TAR), CIO Status documents and Minutes 2016 will be available on line or in hard copy at the meeting. Members wishing to receive a hard copy of the above may order from from Branch at a cost of one pound 75 pence to cover postage, printing etc).

AGENDA

Welcome: The Lord Crathorne, KG, KCVO President CPRENY

Minutes: of AGM September 2016 for approval

Report from the Chair: Mrs JMW Marley

Report from Hon Sec & Acting Treasurer: Ms C A Gregory. To include financial report

Special resolution: to approve the trustee's proposal to: establish a charitable incorporated organisation to be called "Campaign to Protect Rural England - The North Yorkshire Branch of CPRE" (the "CIO") having a constitution, including objects in substance in the form of the draft signed by the Chair and laid before the meeting but subject to such amendments as may be required by the Charity Commission and/or agreed between the Trustees and the Trustee Board of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (registered charity number 1089685)

Special resolution: to authorise the trustees to make such arrangements as may appropriate for the transfer of assets and liabilities and the continuity of governance from the Association to the CIO to effect an orderly transition to CIO status.

Special resolution: Thereafter to retain the Association on the Register of Charities (with its constitution amended in the attached terms) solely for the purpose of ensuring that any legacies bequeathed to Association do not fail and instead can be transferred to CIO

Ordinary Resolution: to approve Trustee Board 2017/18

Close of AGM business followed by:

President's Address to include

Presentation: Outstanding Contributions and Made a Difference awards 2017

Welcome & introduction of speaker: Mr. T Fyans, Director of Policy & Campaigns CPRE National Charity

Trustees for election 2017/18

Jules Marley Chair

Carolyn Gregory Hon Sec & Acting Hon Treasurer

Stuart White Vice Chair

Ron Healey Vice Chair & Branch

Development

Gail Simmons Media

General Trustees:

Roger Lynn

Rachel Fletcher

Bold indicates Honorary Officers

Retirements 2017

Roger Bennett (6 years completed)

Paul Whitaker retired due to

commitments as a district councillor

Bill Longley-Cook retired for personal

reasons however, Bill remains an active

volunteer in R&C

The AGM

Doors will open at 12.00

Buffet lunch will be served and copies of 22 Ideas will be on sale. This is a chance to meet the trustees.

KVA Planning will be available to discuss on going planning issues.

Parking is available

Venue is one mile from Harrogate Railway and bus stations

To comply with the venue's regulations on numbers and to ensure we cater effectively, please advise the Branch should you wish to attend. Bookings may be made via email to cprecraven@me.com or via letter to CPRENY c/o Bendgate House, Long Preston, Near Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4QR

CPRE fights for a better future for England's unique, essential and precious countryside. From giving parish councils expert advice on planning issues to influencing national and European policies, we work to protect and enhance the countryside.

We believe a beautiful, thriving countryside is important for everyone, no matter where they live. We don't own land or represent any special interests. Our members are united in their love for England's landscapes and rural communities, and stand up for the countryside, so it can continue to sustain, enchant and inspire future generations.

Our objectives

We campaign for a sustainable future for the English countryside, a vital but undervalued environmental, economic and social asset to the nation. We highlight threats and promote positive solutions. Our in-depth research supports active campaigning, and we seek to influence public opinion and decision-makers at every level.

Our values

- We believe that a beautiful, tranquil, diverse and productive countryside is fundamental to people's quality of life, wherever they live
- We believe the countryside should be valued for its own sake
- We believe the planning system should protect and enhance the countryside in the public interest



**Campaign to Protect
Rural England**
Standing up for your countryside

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www.cpre.org.uk

**IN STANDING UP FOR
THE COUNTRYSIDE**