



Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough
Campaign to Protect Rural England

2017 Annual Report

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is our local branch of CPRE, a national charity. We speak up for the English countryside: to protect it from the threats it faces, and to shape its future for the better.

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“CPRE as guardian of our rural heritage must continue to argue that our countryside, valued for its own sake, is a unique and wonderful asset vital to our health and well-being”

CPRE Cambridgeshire & Peterborough: the year in review

Although the accounts cover the financial year from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, we report here on activities up to the time of writing.

Cambridgeshire continues to experience a high number of speculative housing applications based on the grounds of lack of five-year housing land supply, because the local plans are not up to date. This is particularly the case for the district of South Cambridgeshire, where the 2014 draft plan has only just passed the inquiry stage. It is hoped the new plan will be adopted in 2018.

It is important to understand how our branch relates to the national organisation. Without the efforts of the staff at national office in liaising with relevant government departments and informing and influencing politicians, we would not have the planning regulations for which Britain can be proud - even though close attention has to be paid to any proposed changes.

The national office has requested the branch's help in responding to the government's consultation on the housing white paper, and sought input into research documents. This has resulted in reports such as Green Belt Under

Siege and one investigating transport proposals for the east-west expressway, which also required consultation with neighbouring CPRE branches.

We regret to report that the post of chairman has remained vacant despite efforts at recruitment. This has meant a greater burden on the other trustees. Also, for which we give grateful thanks, it has meant extra responsibility for our excellent branch administrator, who coordinates activities.

Our thanks go to Sally Jackson who is retiring after ten years' service. She has done valiant and commendable work in the Peterborough area, ensuring input to many local consultation documents, and has promoted neighbourhood plans, notably at her village of Peakirk. Fortunately, she has indicated her intention to keep in close touch. We also thank Gareth Ridewood, a former trustee, for his continued help in assessing Huntingdonshire issues and his contribution to the A428-to-A1 road improvement consultation.

We are also grateful to Jane Williams who, alongside me, monitors planning applications in

the rest of the county - the districts of Cambridge City, South and East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. Other trustees also make their contribution, especially in attendance at county and regional meetings. And thanks are due to our Treasurer Nick Chenu, who ensures that the accounts maintain a healthy reserve and has acted as chairman at committee meetings. Ali Sargent, the press officer, ably arranges media publicity, ensuring our concerns continue to be heard. Finally we are very pleased to welcome volunteer Jean Prince, who will look after the website and raise our profile on social media.

Looking to the future, on 2 November, we are holding a planning workshop for parish councillors led by a planning consultant.

One thing we can be assured of in the future is there will be no shortage of threats to the countryside from ambitious proposals for housing and commerce. We absolutely recognise the need for more affordable housing in rural villages, but it should be in the most suitable locations, and truly available to local people.

Shirley Fieldhouse

Press and publicity report

Media exposure this year has been severely hampered by the absence of a chairman to represent CPRE and speak to the media on issues affecting our county. The broadcast media clearly require someone to speak to about conservation issues. Newspapers also like to quote someone.

Sadly our press release appealing for a new chairman didn't produce the result we hoped for. Happily, however, Michael Monk, our immediate past chairman (now regional chairman), has leapt into the breach to speak about issues which affect the region as well as Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We had a good take-up on our press

release on the consultation over improvements to the A428.

He helped out again with the press release on our concerns about proposals to create a "Silicon Valley" between Cambridge and Oxford. Again this was widely used by the Cambridgeshire media and resulted in Michael being invited to write a regular column for the relatively newly established Cambridge Independent newspaper.

Threats to the Cambridge green belt continue to be a live issue much loved by the local media. Last December we were able to piggyback on a CPRE national office report which demonstrated the

huge potential of green belt in terms of amenity and nature conservation.

If anyone would be prepared to step into the role of chairman but is apprehensive about fronting the media side of things, I would be very happy to offer training. It's actually a lot of fun!

*Ali Sargent
Press Officer*

The photographs on the front cover and facing page were taken by Nicholas Jackson. The cover shows fenland around Peakirk, while the picture opposite captures the River Welland.

Progress on local plan continues: an update from Peterborough

Peterborough City Council is putting together a new local plan for 2016 to 2036 that will replace the currently adopted development plan documents (DPD).

The first draft was consulted on in December 2016. The second consultation was held in February this year, with further consultation on the proposed submission version expected in November or December. If all goes well, the plan will be submitted to the secretary of state in February 2018, with a view to adoption in September 2018.

The plan will replace the core strategy DPD (2011), the site allocations DPD (2012), the planning policies DPD (2012) and the city centre DPD (2014). It will not, however, replace the minerals and waste DPD.

CPRE expressed support for policies requiring developers to

consider such things as conservation area appraisal and development plans, tree and woodland strategies, priority use of brownfield sites, the settlement hierarchy, a balanced mix of housing tenure, village design statements, landscape character assessments (especially those carried out to inform neighbourhood plans), green infrastructure corridors and robust traffic assessments.

However, we were concerned by the inclusion of a large new area of housing development adjacent to the villages of Castor and Ailsworth and what we considered excessive allocations in the villages of Thorney, Eye, Castor, Ailsworth and Helpston. We understood the importance of a robust five-year housing land supply, but challenged the plan's evidence of more housing being required in the rural areas.

The village of Barnack, just outside Stamford, was last year

subject to a planning application for up to 80 houses accessed off Uffington Road. This was turned down by the council as it did not conform to their current development plan, but earlier this year was allowed on appeal.

One of the reasons given was because Peterborough City Council did not have a robust five-year housing land supply, as required by the government. A similar situation occurred in Whittlesey in 2014, when 150 houses were approved against policies in Fenland District Council's DPD.

Local planning has taken a step forward with the Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan becoming part of the Peterborough Local Plan. This is the first neighbourhood plan in the Peterborough area to be adopted and follows four years of hard work by the community.

Sally-Ann Jackson



Report from Huntingdon

Over the last year we have continued to monitor planning applications across Huntingdonshire and respond to local enquiries. The Local Plan to 2036: Consultation Draft 2017 and Call for Sites consultation are open for comments now until 25 August. All the info you need is on the Huntingdonshire District Council website, under "Planning".

We responded to Highways England's consultation on proposals for improvements to the A428 between Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet. We raised numerous concerns including the impact on the tranquillity and landscape of Huntingdonshire.

As we move into late summer, now is a great time to sample the

wonderful local produce at the farmers' markets across Huntingdonshire - Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots. We also have some great farm shops, local home produce gate sales, and some great pubs throughout our towns and villages where you can enjoy the long summer evenings.

Gareth Ridewood

A summary of CPRE planning activities from across the county

Cambridge and South Cambs

The draft local plans for both districts have been being examined by the Planning Inspectorate at hearings which commenced back in March 2014, were suspended for several months and then resumed. They ended in mid-July 2017. It is hoped that the approved plans will be in place during 2018.

In the meantime, developers are submitting their plans for speculative housing based on the fact that the current plans are out of date and thus do not demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land as stipulated by National Planning Policy Framework. The applications can be refused on grounds of sustainability, transport, the disadvantages outweighing the benefits, etc. but the reasons have to be robust or the district council runs the risk of having to defend its decisions at appeals.

Some applications to which we objected follow:

Swavesey, south of Fen Drayton Road, 99 dwellings.
Linton, Bartlow Road, 78 dwellings.
Caldecote, east of Highfield Road, 140 dwellings.

Orwell, Hurdleditch Road, 49 houses.
Bassingbourn, outside the village envelope, 26 houses.
Cottenham, off Rampton Road, 200 houses.
Bassingbourn, Spring Lane, 30 dwellings.
Caldecote, 58 dwellings.
In Cambridge's green belt, near Trumpington Meadows, a sports village. Subsequently withdrawn.
Great Eversden, 10 affordable houses.
Cottenham, Rampton Road, up to 155 houses
Hardwick, outside village envelope, up to 155 dwellings.

East Cambs

We are aware of the housing pressures on villages near Ely. Objection was made to 30 houses at Marroway Lane, Witchford and 30 houses at Bury Lane, Haddenham. The Ely Southern Bypass is under construction. We regret the impact this new road will have on views towards Ely Cathedral but understand the concerns of many residents who seek relief from the current road congestion.

Fenland

Nothing came to our notice requiring attention.

Requests for advice

In addition to the applications on which we make comments, there are others we examine but decide that no comment is necessary. We also receive requests for help and advice on a variety of subjects.

For example, we have been contacted by residents in South Cambs (Fulbourn, Hauxton, Newton, Horseheath, Sawston, Guilden Morden, Linton, Gamlingay, Thriplow). There have been conversations with residents in East Cambs (Isleham, Littleport), Fenland (Christchurch) and Peterborough.

The following items picked up from minutes of planning decisions:

Huntingdon

Submitted comments but did not object to development at Wittering, 16/01361/FUL, in relation to traffic issues.

Peterborough

Objected to development, Helpston, 16/01308/HHFU, on grounds of visual impact.

Shirley Fieldhouse



Harvest time at Peakirk. Photo by Nicholas Jackson.

Financial update: report from the treasurer

The results for the year were satisfactory with respect to the overall income and expenditure for the year.

On 29 September last year we enjoyed a summer evening in the grounds of Longstowe Hall, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs William Bevan. This was a rare opportunity to enjoy the gardens and grounds of this Elizabethan house. The event was well attended by members and non-members alike and raised nearly £700.

In the year to March 2017 the total income of £10,351 was slightly reduced from that of the previous year, £10,884.

The income in previous years has included an apportionment to our branch of the proceeds of an annual national appeal. This appeal has now been discontinued and so it will be necessary for the branch to develop its own fundraising activities.

The expenditure to March 2017

totalled £10,885 compared to £11,927 in the previous year. This reduction resulted largely from a one-off expenditure of £617 in the previous year on office equipment and a reduction in trustees' expenditure this year.

The combined effect was a slight reduction in the cash resources from £34,254 at the beginning of the year to £33,720 at 31 March 2017.

Nicholas de Chenu, July 2017

Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

This report on the accounts of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 is in respect of an examination carried out under s145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act
- have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M C A PETTIFER FCA
STAFFORDS
CPC 1
Capital Park
Fulbourn
Cambridge
CB21 5XE

Receipts and payments accounts: Section A Receipts and payments

A1 Receipts	Unrestricted funds (to the nearest £)	Restricted funds (to the nearest £)	Endowment funds (to the nearest £)	Total funds (to the nearest £)	Last year (to the nearest £)
Subscriptions (from CPRE)	9,231	–	–	9,231	9,040
Fundraising	660	–	–	660	–
Appeals	–	–	–	–	551
Donations	206	–	–	206	404
Interest	78	–	–	78	99
Lottery	176	–	–	176	290
Legacies	–	–	–	–	–
Grants	–	–	–	–	500
Miscellaneous	–	–	–	–	–
Sales	–	–	–	–	–
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10,351	–	–	10,351	10,884

Receipts and payments accounts: Section A Receipts and payments cont.

A2 Asset and investment sales (see table)	Unrestricted funds (to the nearest £)	Restricted funds (to the nearest £)	Endowment funds (to the nearest £)	Total funds (to the nearest £)	Last year (to the nearest £)
	–	–	–	–	–
Sub total	–	–	–	–	–
Total receipts	10,351	–	–	10,351	10,884

A3 Payments	Unrestricted funds (to the nearest £)	Restricted funds (to the nearest £)	Endowment funds (to the nearest £)	Total funds (to the nearest £)	Last year (to the nearest £)
Administration					
Accommodation	174	–	–	174	153
Office equipment	–	–	–	–	617
Postage	129	–	–	129	66
Salaries	5,138	–	–	5,138	4,844
Staff expenses and Training	188	–	–	188	203
Stationery	125	–	–	125	196
Subscriptions	174	–	–	174	224
Telephone	420	–	–	420	471
Campaigns and projects					
Eyes and Ears	–	–	–	–	10
Fundraising costs	–	–	–	–	–
Membership development	–	–	–	–	–
Communications					
General PR	2,400	–	–	2,400	2,400
Newsletter	787	–	–	787	231
Website	–	–	–	–	340
Governance					
AGM	283	–	–	283	540
Annual Report	–	–	–	–	–
Independent examination	276	–	–	276	264
Insurance	260	–	–	260	252
Trustee expenses and training	385	–	–	385	823
Volunteer expenses and training	80	–	–	80	231
Miscellaneous	66	–	–	66	36
Research	–	–	–	–	26
Sub total	10,885	–	–	10,885	11,927

Receipts and payments accounts: Section A Receipts and payments cont.

A4 Asset and investment purchases (see table)	Unrestricted funds (to the nearest £)	Restricted funds (to the nearest £)	Endowment funds (to the nearest £)	Total funds (to the nearest £)	Last year (to the nearest £)
	–	–	–	–	–
Sub total	–	–	–	–	–
Total payments	10,885	–	–	10,885	11,927
Net of receipts/(payments)	534	–	–	534	1,043
A5 Transfers between funds	–	–	–	–	–
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,254	–	–	34,254	35,297
Cash funds this year end	33,720	–	–	33,720	34,254

Receipts and payments accounts:
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds (to the nearest £)	Restricted funds (to the nearest £)	Endowment funds (to the nearest £)
B1 Cash funds	Barclays current	99	–	–
	CAF cash	2,434	–	–
	CAF gold	18,686	–	–
	COIF deposit	12,500	–	–
	Petty cash	1	–	–
	Total cash funds		33,720	–
B2 Other monetary assets	None	–	–	–

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None	–	–	–
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Filing cabinet	–	143	–
	Printer	–	328	–
	Display boards	–	635	–
	Computer	–	428	–

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	None	–	–	–

Statutory information

We are registered as an unincorporated charity and governed in accordance with our constitution adopted on 6 July 2010.

Our charitable objectives are to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement, protection and preservation of the countryside of Cambridgeshire and its towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment.

Trustees are recruited from the general CPRE membership and appointed annually by election at our AGM. All trustees are provided with an induction pack on appointment.

Our reserves policy is that a minimum balance of six months of normal expenditure should be held in our bank accounts at all times.

In planning our actions and activities at our trustee/branch meetings, we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and our charitable objectives.

Everyclick

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is listed on www.everyclick.com, the search engine that helps charities.

Please go here to do all your searching:

<http://tinyurl.com/clickCPRE>

It does not cost us, or you, a penny - so it's a great way to support us every day.

Keeping in touch

As well as this report and our printed newsletter, there are lots of ways to keep in touch with us.

Our **website** has had a makeover and had been relaunched - please have a look and tell us what you think:

www.cprecams.org.uk.



Follow us on Twitter:
@CPRECambs



Like us on Facebook:
CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

If you have an e-mail address, sign up for our occasional e-bulletin by getting in touch with us at office@cprecams.org.uk

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: who we are

President
Christopher Vane Percy

Branch Officers

Chairman: Vacant

Vice-Chairman: Lawrence Wragg

Treasurer: Nick de Chenu

Committee Members:

Simon Blackley
Shirley Fieldhouse
Jane Williams
Jean Prince

Branch Administrator: Tracey Hipson
Tel: 01480 396698
Email: office@cprecams.org.uk

Press Officer: Alison Sargent
Tel: 07776 255193
Email: Ali.sargent01@outlook.com

District contacts and specialists

Cambridge, South Cambs, East Cambs and Fenland
Shirley Fieldhouse

Huntingdonshire

Gareth Ridewood

Peterborough

Sally-Ann Jackson

Volunteer Manager

Vacant

General planning issues

Branch office (contact details on right)

Website Manager

Jean Prince



We are happy to help you. To get in touch, please contact our office:

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office@cprecams.org.uk

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Write:
CPRE, The Town Hall, Market Hill, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AL