



The Covid Pandemic

Little did we know when we posted out our last newsletter that we were about to face a once in a lifetime (we hope) world-wide pandemic that was going to keep us locked up for long periods at a time. This has prevented us from holding any events, involving person to person contact. Our committee has only been able to contact one another by either e-mail or the use of Zoom or Microsoft Teams calls. We have had to cancel the 2020 and 2021 Best Kept Village Competitions and the Valerie Gillespie Award.

Despite these difficulties, our work has continued and this newsletter sets out some of our activities and how we hope to build back the Nottinghamshire CPRE over the coming months and years.

We do hope that our members and their families have kept well during the Covid pandemic. If the virus has struck you or yours, we offer our sympathies and, where appropriate, our best wishes a full and lasting recovery.

As we were unable to hold an Annual General Meeting during 2020, it is now vital that we do have a meeting of members, even if that has to be a virtual meeting. For full details, see page 3.

We have embarked on a new project to build up CPRE Notts, finding new volunteers and members, by making efforts to engage with local communities by the use of social media and personal contact and you can find more about this on page 4..

Already, we have found some new volunteers who will offer themselves for election as trustees at our next AGM, when we hope that you will be able to question us on our plans.

Our Strategy

We are CPRE Nottinghamshire, the countryside charity

We believe that the countryside is for everyone. We know that engaging with our natural environment, especially near to where we live, is vital for our mental and physical health and wellbeing. We want to promote the countryside and its communities to enable more people than ever before to benefit from it – including those who have not been able to benefit before.

Our strategic aims, in line with CPRE across the whole of England are to:

1. Connect people and countryside: we will work for a planning system that protects and enhances the Nottinghamshire countryside as well as achieving positive outcomes for people, the economy and the environment; and national policy which supports realistic housing targets and local plans.

2. Promote rural life: we will work for a planning system that protects and enhances the Nottinghamshire countryside as well as achieving positive outcomes for people, the economy and the environment; and for a national policy which supports realistic housing targets and local plans.

3. Empower communities: we will support local community initiatives; increase volunteer numbers and offer support and training for volunteers.

4. Grow our capacity: we will ensure that CPRE Nottinghamshire is a well-managed and resourced branch by increasing our membership and training and supporting staff and members; maintaining good governance and financial management; and communicating effectively with local audiences.

Tempus Fugit

Tempus fugit is a Latin phrase used as an admonition that one is wasting time, or as a lamentation about getting older. I hope that I have not wasted my time as chair of CPRE Notts but I am certainly getting older. I have tried to keep the show on the road and made progress towards getting the branch in better working order. Our constitution places a time limit on the period after which the chair may seek re-election at an AGM and I shall have exceeded that time when our next AGM takes place.

We have developed a new strategy to keep us in line with the aims of CPRE across England - taking a One CPRE approach which follows clear consistent aims, whilst maintaining the independence of each county branch..

We have identified a number of aims to pursue with varying levels of priority, dependent upon the time and resources at our disposal. Briefly, our highest priority aims are:

Raise our profile to attract a diverse range of new members, undertaking membership drives on the back of local campaigns, past successes and environmental issues, communicating via social media, press, e-newsletters, and our website. Give talks to local groups and develop a Powerpoint presentation..

Recruit volunteers to our identified vacancies.

Reduce our financial operating deficit and cover or reduce annual costs over the next few years. Maintain effective governance and a high performance operation.

Update the funding and organisation of our award schemes.

Research the access to rural transport in Nottinghamshire and write a “transport deserts” report, using it to campaign on the issue.

Full details of our strategy will be placed on our website.



A note from Fred Cook Chair CPRE Nottinghamshire

Accordingly, I shall stand down at the AGM and propose the election of a successor. We have reached a point where we ought to be able to build a better future for CPRE Nottinghamshire and the project outlined in this newsletter hold real promise. Although it has been a privilege to serve as your chair, there comes a time when fresh blood is needed and I wish my successor the best of fortune and hope that you will continue to offer your support in future endeavours. Thank you for the support that I have received. and I hope to see you at the AGM.

AGM: 21 September at 19.30

We were unable to hold an Annual General Meeting in 2020 because Covid restrictions on gatherings prevented it. At the time, it was not generally contemplated that the pandemic would still be biting hard more than a year later. We were advised at the time that a virtual AGM would not suffice, but that advice has changed. We have taken the view that it is still not safe to hold an indoors AGM with members physically present and that, therefore, we should hold a virtual AGM. As we consider that we should not delay holding an AGM any longer and that although we recognise that this format is far from ideal and will not suit everybody, we believe that we have little choice. We are notifying all our members by this newsletter sent to all our members, with accompanying documentation, and respectfully suggest that anyone who wishes to attend the AGM but is without access to an internet connection seeks assistance from a friend or relative who does have access to the internet via computer, tablet or smartphone. All that people wishing to attend the AGM need to do is to put the following Zoom link into their browser and enter some simple details. We shall be sending this link electronically to those members for whom we have an email address. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475396023?pwd=QXZGSEpXNIJiVzVySEN4dGpMYUJBZz09> Meeting ID: 824 7539 6023 Passcode: 819298

The Government's Planning Proposals

Last year, the Government produced white papers setting out proposals for a new planning system. These proposals set out a formulaic approach to determining how many new homes should be built in each area and would have categorised land into three zones: land suitable for growth; renewal areas and Protected Areas (such as Areas of Natural Beauty and Green Belt land). Only in the Protected Areas would planning applications have to be made for approval by the local authority. CPRE made representations, opposing these changes, to every Nottinghamshire MP and to the chairs of the various planning authority committees in our county. We received several positive replies and obtained a meeting with Tom Randall, the MP for Gedling, which was quite encouraging. As you will probably know the Government has been under pressure from many of its backbenchers to amend its policies and we all await to see the content of the forthcoming Planning Bill and to watch and seek to influence its progress through Parliament.

Other Planning matters

We have objected to an application for 23 houses on the green space at the centre of the village of Rempstone in Rushcliffe. The site is not allocated in the Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 2, and is unsuitable for development. The applicants have tried to get permission several times, gone to appeal and lost, and were now trying again with fewer dwellings.

We have objected to a proposal for a large solar farm near Southwell

East Midland Freeport

Freeports are a special kind of port where normal tax and customs rules do not apply. These can be airports as well as maritime ports. At a freeport, imports can enter with simplified customs documentation and without paying tariffs. There are currently about 80 freeports dotted around the EU. Now that the UK has left the EU, some Brexit supporters say the UK can adopt a more generous freeport policy. The Government propose to establish a freeport at the East Midlands Airport and this proposal is based there; and at the Gateway Industrial Cluster (EMAGIC) in North West Leicestershire; Unipers Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site in Rushcliffe in Nottinghamshire; and the East Midlands Intermodal Park (EMIP) in South Derbyshire. Following on concerns that there might be encroachments on to greenfield land in Nottinghamshire and increased aircraft noise over residential areas, we have sought further information and assurances from Ruth Edwards, the Rushcliffe MP and a proponent of the East Midlands scheme, but we have yet to receive any response, despite a reminder.

North Nottinghamshire Garden Villages

We have lent general support to the delivery of a new Garden Community in two new villages, located at Gamston Airport and the former Bevercotes Colliery. These sites together will provide a minimum of 1000 new homes within the period to 2035 with another 3000 homes being delivered beyond this. These sites will also deliver associated community facilities and services, a range of local employment opportunities and supporting infrastructure. We made submissions about the need for appropriate development principles, and stated that the proposed cycling and walking route between the 2 villages and across the A1 needs careful design to be attractive and (perceived to be) safe, and overall the A1 needs to be "tamed". Otherwise community severance would be built into the design. It is also our view that Bassetlaw should consider the creation of a Green Belt around the settlements to prevent future sprawl and encroachment into the countryside.



More and more of us are shopping online. If you use Amazon, please consider switching to Amazon Smile and select **The Campaign to Protect Rural England Nottinghamshire** as your chosen charity. Amazon Smile is identical to the main Amazon site with the same range of goods and the same prices. The only difference is that each time you make a purchase Amazon gives us 0.5% of the sale price and it costs you nothing. It can all add up.

As this newsletter goes to press, work on making our new website at www.cprenotts.org.uk go live is well under way. Please keep an eye out for it and make it one of your favourites. We are also making a renewed effort to make our Facebook page up to date, interesting and informative. See <https://www.facebook.com/Notts>. The same applies to our Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/CPREnotts>: Give us a "like"!

Three Counties Project

CPRE Nottinghamshire has long bemoaned the fact that our shortage of resources and volunteers has prevented us from being the effective campaigners that we want to be. We have always wanted to be able to engage with local communities to take up their concerns about the countryside and to enable more people to value the open spaces in our county. Neighbouring branches have similar problems and even worse is the situation in Lincolnshire where the county branch has ceased to operate. Thanks to funding that we have secured from the national charity and its East Midlands region, we have now been able to take our part in a project covering Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire that will employ two paid members of staff to build up engagement with our local communities. These two recruits have just taken up their posts and are both already working with enthusiasm and energy. Lewis and Lorraine introduce themselves on this page.



Hi everyone, I'm Lewis and I've recently joined CPRE as Communications & Digital Officer for the Three Counties Project. Previously I had worked for many years as Head of Marketing at Castle Rock Brewery in Nottingham. I live in the Lincolnshire Wolds and have a deep-rooted love for the countryside, wildlife and the natural world. I'm looking forward to supporting CPRE Nottinghamshire and hope to be able to help expand its reach and raise awareness of the group and its activity county-wide, using social media and the website as a platform.



Hi, I'm Lorraine and I have just started working for the CPRE as your Community Engagement & Volunteering Officer on the Three Counties Project. I will be working 3 days a week (usually Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. I'm from Derby and live close to the Nottinghamshire border, near Elvaston Castle. Traditionally I have held roles in Fundraising, Events and Volunteer Management, predominantly within the healthcare sector. I love walking, cycling and days out in the countryside, meeting family and friends. During lockdown I discovered many hidden paths and beautiful areas near where I live and I'm passionate about our maintaining our natural environment. I'm looking forward to working with you all over the next few months.

Late News

We are delighted that Nottinghamshire County Council has rejected an application by IGas to extend their occupation of their shale gas exploration site at Misson in the hope by IGas that the moratorium on fracking might be lifted. Restoration of the site, adjacent to a Special Site of Scientific interest, with nesting owls, must now proceed. CPRE Notts registered our firm opposition to any extension.

CPRE Nottinghamshire

Contact us at
admin@cprenotts.org.uk
www.cprenotts.org.uk

Call on the
government to
champion
hedgerows

Sign the Petition at
cpre.org.uk to help
tackle the climate
change crisis.