



The countryside charity
Hampshire

Hampshire Views

Issue 19 | Autumn/Winter 2020



Mitchell Orr/Unsplash



Nicola Revolta

In this issue:

Value of
Countryside
Report

Join the
Regeneration

Volunteers'
Week

Planning
Reforms

Welcome to this edition of Hampshire Views!



Well, 2020 has been the strangest year - not very good for charities because all the restrictions have meant no events. No events mean reduced income and it is frustrating when one of our main income streams has been removed. I was particularly disappointed to have to make the decision to cancel the Countryside Awards, one of the most exciting events in our calendar.

At the start of lockdown, we thought life would be a bit quieter on the countryside threat front, but this has not been the case. Planning applications and local plan work did continue and once everyone got the hang of the various virtual meeting platforms, it was possible to run the charity effectively and our work has not suffered thanks to modern technology.

We launched the Socioeconomic and Environmental Benefits of a Green Belt in South Hampshire report in June and you can find out more on pages 6-7. It has created a great wave of interest and gives us another way to talk about the value of the countryside all over Hampshire, especially the countryside on our doorsteps.

Our new Membership and Volunteer Coordinator, Natalie Hargreaves started in July and is getting stuck into her new job - building capacity by providing support for members and volunteers (hear from Natalie below). This means that we now have two part time members of staff- in February we welcomed back Nicola Revolta who has returned to be in charge of communications. In July we said goodbye to Denise Messenger, our administrator who had been with us for four and a half years.

The pandemic has had one positive outcome from our point of view; a massive surge of appreciation for the countryside. Particularly countryside and green space accessible from where people live. But how do we capitalise on this new support? CPRE's Regeneration Manifesto is part of the answer and you can see what we're doing in Hampshire on page 9.

Finally, the Planning White Papers have had a major impact on our work in the last few weeks. Caroline Dibden, our Vice Chair attended a CPRE meeting with Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. We have written to all Hampshire MPs to set out the issues we see arising from the new planning reforms (more details on page 10).

CPRE Hampshire and our local district groups continue to give the countryside a voice at all levels as you will see in this edition of Hampshire Views.


Dee Haas,
CPRE Hampshire Chair
chair@cprehampshire.org.uk

 @DeeHaas1


CPRE Hampshire, Winnall Community Centre,
Garbett Road, Winchester SO23 9NY
01962 841897, www.cprehampshire.org.uk

Natalie Hargreaves,
Membership and Volunteer Coordinator –
hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk

Nicola Revolta,
Communications Officer –
comms@cprehampshire.org.uk

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Charity number: 1164410

Meet Natalie, our new Membership and Volunteer Coordinator

We're delighted to welcome Natalie Hargreaves to the CPRE Hampshire team! Natalie joined us at the end of July as our new Membership and Volunteer Coordinator.

Natalie is responsible for supporting our members and developing volunteering in the organisation. We had an overwhelming response to our job advert for this new role, with over 200 applicants!

Natalie has been a fundraising and volunteer manager for RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) since 2013 and before that worked for Naomi House Children's Hospice as a fundraising coordinator for three years. She is a graduate of the University of Southampton and now lives in the Test Valley with her young family.

Natalie says: 'I am delighted to join the team at CPRE Hampshire. Having worked

with volunteers for over 10 years, I am very much looking forward to getting to know the members and volunteers at CPRE Hampshire and helping to engage more people in our vital work.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown us more than ever, how important green spaces are, and I hope that through this role, I am able to encourage more people within the local community to help protect Hampshire's beautiful countryside.

Myself and my young family are extremely fortunate to have close access to green space and make regular visits to the Hampshire countryside. I am a keen walker and very much enjoy gardening and can mostly be found pottering in my small but perfectly formed garden.'

You can contact Natalie on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the CPRE Hampshire office (contact details above).



Update on activities in your area



The lanes and fields south of Lymington and Pennington allocated by NFDC for at least 100 dwellings (Nicky Tindall)

New Forest

Whilst New Forest District Council (NFDC) has accepted planning applications of Local Plan sites - for fear of provoking a more onerous reaction from Westminster - objections still need resolving over the most controversial sites.

The most egregious example is that of Snails Lane, Ringwood. Residents have compiled fifty reasons to reject the developer's plan to build 143 homes. Apart from habitat and infrastructure objections, the report concludes with little-known facts: 'There are 1,739 second homes in the NFDC area; the Gladman application could be expected to add to that total. NFDC area has 1,289 empty properties and another 158 properties that are classified as uninhabitable and need or are undergoing structural repair.' It also says that NFDC should make uninhabitable properties available as affordable housing.

In Lymington, 100 dwellings have been allocated between two rural lanes. This scheme was hard fought by PALLS (Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society) who argued that development would lead to loss of strong Green Belt land, fail to protect nationally protected habitats, damage rural character and recreational use of area and harm quality and character of the New Forest National Park (NFNP).

On the outskirts of New Milton, the last remaining area of designated Green Belt land preventing urban sprawl is sited where Brockhills Lane narrows to a single track into an area that is unsuitable for the level of additional traffic. Sway Road is also unsuitable for additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Overall, the site is unsustainable with regard to amenities, public transport, affordable housing and flood and sewage risk.

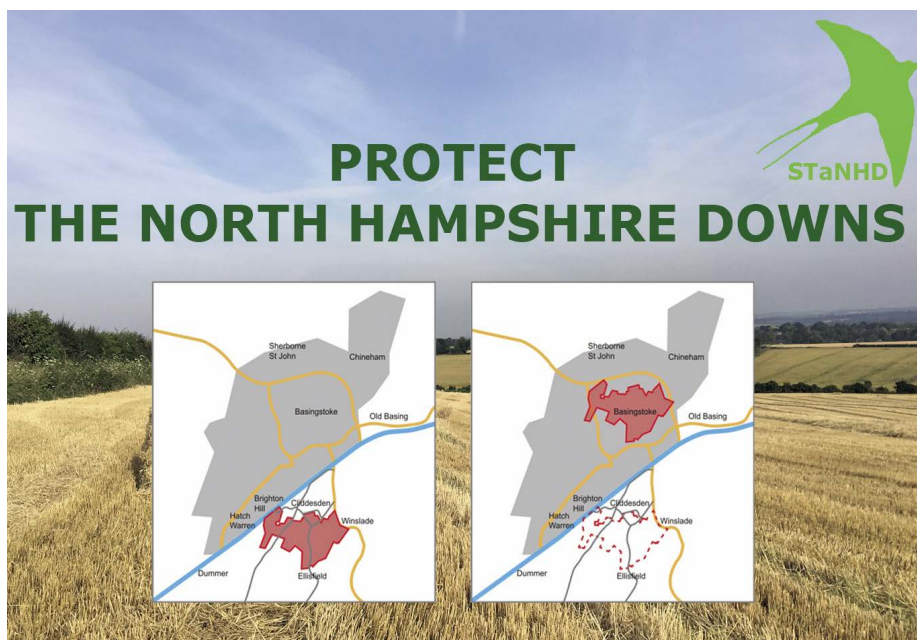
In addition to existing development sites in Fordingbridge, Metis Homes aim to build 74 new homes. There are a number of concerns, including safeguarding (the site overlooks a Day Nursery), flood risk, the area is subject to driving offences, environmental impact and adverse impact on Grade 2 listed cottages.

Dorset-Hampshire border: Dorset avoids damaging its own Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty by putting a development of about 2,000 homes at Alderholt, ensuring that adverse effects of traffic, pollution and provision of infrastructure are born by Fordingbridge and the New Forest. Why not fulfil its housing quota by fitting houses into each of its scores of villages?

Finally, continued growth will only be possible with the participation of more volunteers. Please respond to my 'Eyes and Ears' appeal letter asap!

Russell Webb,

New Forest District Group Coordinator –
russellwebb@uwclub.net



Proposal for 2,500 new houses on a greenfield site of 730 acres near Basingstoke (STaNHd)

North Hampshire

The North Hampshire District Group continues to monitor planning applications within the area and to respond to concerns raised by members and the local community. These currently include proposals for new housing developments and the ongoing case of constructing a Motorway Service Area close to Hackwood Park near Basingstoke.

We have also been working with the county CPRE in preparing a reaction to the recently proposed Planning White Paper and have been in contact with our local MPs about this too.

It has not been possible during the prevailing coronavirus constraints to pursue our normal programme of fundraising events involving primarily garden visits during the summer.

We recognise too that it is now not going to be possible to hold our popular Autumn Supper this year which was to have been on 31 October but we hope to substitute for this some other 'remote' event by which to keep in touch with members - and raise much needed funds!

Meanwhile, we are much engaged in a new proposal that could have a devastating effect on our area and notably on a beautiful part of the North Hampshire Downs. Portsmouth Estates, whose land lies along the south eastern side of the M3, have prepared a concept to build what is being described as a Garden Village near Swallick. It would comprise 2,500 new houses and cover 730 acres on a greenfield site that broaches the divide between the town of Basingstoke and open countryside. This area would be equivalent to that of the centre of Basingstoke, as highlighted in the illustration. It would also have a major impact on the adjacent villages of Cliddesden, Ellisfield and Winslade, who have now formed an action group known as STaNHd (Stand up for the North Hampshire Downs). This whole proposal is still at an early stage and there has not yet been any formal response from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, but we are of course following the situation closely.

Peter Prag,

North Hampshire District Group Chairman –
peterp@cprehampshire.org.uk



Winchfield/Murrell Green site visit (Nicola Revolta)

North East Hampshire

The good news is that the Hart District Local Plan, having been delayed for some years, was finally adopted at the end of April this year during a short “virtual” Council meeting.

As reported in our last newsletter, Hart District Council has been awarded a Government grant of £150,000 to investigate the possibility of creating a new Garden Village development of 5,000 or more dwellings in the Winchfield/Murrell Green area and a ‘Shapley Heath Garden Community Opportunity Board’ has been set up. Meetings with other stakeholders have not yet been established. We will be watching this project and will comment on it when appropriate.

The appeal against refusal of a planning application for the building of up to 700 dwellings in Pale Lane was dismissed. We are not aware of any further applications regarding this.

Work has commenced on the building of some 400 dwellings on the Grove Farm site in Hitches Lane, Crookham Village.

Hugh Sheppard continues to represent us and CPRE Hampshire on aviation matters including the Farnborough airspace issues.

Due to the Covid pandemic our planning team did not meet between April and July, but we kept in touch by email. We have now decided to meet again on a regular basis and will continue to monitor and respond to development proposals in the district.

We are still looking to increase our membership and hopefully find some additional committee members.

Alastair Clark,

North East Hampshire District Group Chairman -
alastairc@cprehampshire.org.uk



More than just ‘the view’ - valuing the East Hampshire landscape (Christopher Napier)

South Downs and Central

The focus of recent planning work in the South Downs and Central District Group has been on two very large projects in the countryside of East Hampshire, one to the north and one to the south of the District.

Veolia hope to replace their recycling plant near Alton with an incinerator to generate electricity from unrecyclable waste. This is

preferable to landfill but requires a building 40 metres high with twin 80 metre stacks, which would dominate the Wey Valley to the east of Alton. To the south of the site is the South Downs National Park and to the north a piece of fine countryside which we have assessed on the ground as a Valued Landscape and is crossed by the much-used St Swithun’s Way long-distance path.

So, unacceptable visual impact is the main ground of the objection made to Hampshire County Council, which is the planning authority for waste projects. We say that, if needed at all, this incinerator should be sited in an industrial area, as envisaged in the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.

The other large project is the proposed Aquind Interconnector to exchange electricity with France through Direct Current cables coming ashore at Eastney and then underground to a site near the National Grid substation at Lovedean. The current must then be converted to Alternating Current before transmission to the substation, and vice versa. This requires two converter halls, each 90 metres long, 50 metres wide and 26 metres in height.

Our main concern is that the site of these two very large buildings is almost surrounded by the South Downs National Park, from which they would be visible, notably from the Monarchs Way long-distance footpath.

This scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, so the final decision will be taken by the Secretary of State after an Examination by a panel of three Inspectors, which is now ongoing until March 2021. We will shortly submit to the Examination our Written Representation setting out our concerns. CPRE Hampshire registered as an Interested Party and made a preliminary Representation summarising our position on 29 January. We also issued a news release in March calling for a more industrial site to be found. (Both available from www.cprehampshire.org.uk).

Christopher Napier,

South Downs and Central District Group Chairman –
christopher.napier@btinternet.com



Fields north of Funtley where Welborne Garden Village will be built (Adrian Saunders)

South Hampshire

We are continuing to promote our Green Belt for South Hampshire and you can read about it on pages 6-7. There is steady progress in persuading local authorities how important it is to have countryside on your doorstep to provide space for health and wellbeing, fresh air, clean water and tranquillity. There are a million people in the cities and towns of South Hampshire, and we need them to speak out for the countryside around them.

Eastleigh: Since our last issue, we have had a major win when the Planning Inspector agreed with us that the plans for a Strategic Growth Option (SGO) of 5,300 homes and a new road were unsound (a technical planning term) and that they should be deleted from the Local Plan.

The Inspector said the option ‘could represent the least sustainable option in transport terms’ and ‘of all the alternative options considered... has the greatest impact on high sensitivity landscapes’. Furthermore ‘the SGO has the potential to cause significant harm’... to the South Downs National Park, and ‘a detrimental effect on the communities concerned’, ‘I am unable to conclude that the selected SGO represents the most suitable option’. This is a complete vindication of our work, alongside local group ADD (Action Against Destructive Development Eastleigh), to object at every step of the process. We are grateful to all the support over four years since we first heard of the proposals by Eastleigh Borough Council.

Fareham: We are working with several groups to see better regeneration and development centred around existing public

transport centres. Fareham Borough Council are considering development in parts of the Strategic Gap between Fareham and Gosport, and various sites in Warsash and Portchester, and so we will be liaising with Save our Strategic Gaps, Save Warsash and Conserving Habitats in Portchester.

Fareham Borough Council have negotiated some nitrate mitigation offsets with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT), who have purchased a farm on the Isle of Wight for re-wilding. Following communication from some of our members and discussion with HIWWT, we plan to pull together a small group of individuals with an interest in the topic to draft a CPRE Hampshire position paper on Nitrates Credits which outlines our views. If you are interested in contributing to this group, please let Carole Oldham, Chair of our Planning and Policy Group know at caroleo@cprehampshire.org.uk.

Welborne Garden Village is moving forward, but extremely slowly.

Havant: We were expecting the submission Local Plan would be released soon, but it is delayed while Havant Borough Council work on their own proposals for mitigating nitrates for development. We are working alongside all the residents’ groups under the banner of Havant Borough Residents Alliance.

Southampton: The City Council are working on a vision document for the city centre, and we have contributed to the first stages of that consultation.

Caroline Dibden,
South Hampshire District Group Chairman – carolined@cprehampshire.org.uk



Harvest time in the Test Valley (Nicola Revolta)

Test Valley

The group now consists of: John Moon – acting Chair, Moya Grove, secretary, Bob Wren – Romsey, Luigi Gregori – Andover, Steve Lees - Planning advisor, Nick Walton - environment and water, and Robert Childs.

We are delighted to welcome Luigi Gregori, new to the committee. We are hoping to welcome another committee member shortly and are delighted to give our support to Natalie Hargreaves, CPRE Hampshire’s new

Membership and Volunteer Coordinator whom we are meeting with in September.

Four of the committee met al fresco in August to discuss the response to Test Valley Borough Council’s Issues and Options consultation. Our report on this is drafted and being circulated.

We continue to monitor local planning applications, notably the solar array at Woodington Farm. This issue continues to rumble on within sight of the church where Florence Nightingale is buried.

We continue to monitor the nitrate issue and its effect on planning applications. This includes the proposed fishing lake at Freelands Wherwell which has used the nitrate issue as a tactic to gain acceptance. We did not object, but our concerns were passed to Test Valley Borough Council.

We registered an objection to nine dwellings at Cupernham Lane Romsey as it is outside the settlement boundary and are keeping a watching brief on 64 Houses at Abbotswood House Romsey (20/00599/FULLS).

We will be checking on the temporary permission for extended storage with no ground protection at the Fortis (Raymond Brown) site in Barton Stacey as it expires on 30 September.

The new government planning proposals are causing concern and we wonder just how far the Issues and Options consultation is compatible with the proposed trajectory.

Moya Grove,
Test Valley District Group Secretary – moyagrove@gmail.com

New research puts huge value on the countryside

During the coronavirus pandemic, there's been a surge of appreciation for the countryside and an awareness of the role that green spaces and nature play in our wellbeing. We're realising the value of the countryside nearest to our homes. This value can be expressed in different ways.



In 2019, CPRE Hampshire commissioned independent research by NEF Consulting, part of UK think tank the New Economics Foundation, to explore the social, economic and environmental value of the countryside in South Hampshire.

As members will know, it's the area where we're campaigning for a new Green Belt and is part of our strategic vision for Hampshire. A Green Belt would restrict the further sprawl and merging of the built-up areas of Eastleigh, Fareham, Portsmouth, Romsey, Southampton and Winchester. It would also ensure that current and future generations living in these larger towns and cities have a countryside next door.

Introducing a South Hampshire Green Belt: exploring the socioeconomic and environmental value

In June this year, we announced the findings of this major piece of research- findings which are relevant to any area of countryside or green space and which are based on the large body of evidence from UK and international research.

The report, 'Introducing a South Hampshire Green Belt: exploring the socioeconomic and environmental value', focuses on the potential benefits to health and wellbeing, the economy, and the value of nature and ecosystems.

As well as highlighting the huge value that our countryside and green spaces bring, the findings show what is lost- personally, socially, economically and environmentally- if they're built on.

'We hope to use this ground-breaking piece of work all over Hampshire to demonstrate the economic, environmental and social benefits of our countryside and green spaces.'

Dee Haas, CPRE Hampshire Chair

£26 million a year or half a billion pounds over two generations - the value of the countryside in South Hampshire

- The value is as much as **£26 million a year** in terms of health, wellbeing, economic and ecosystem benefits
- Over two generations, the combined Net Present Value could produce well in excess of **£0.5 billion** in health, wellbeing, economic and ecosystem benefits
- Around **20,000 hectares** or **49,500 acres**

The research finds that the countryside north of the urban centres of South Hampshire could generate almost **£26 million a year** in health, wellbeing, economic and ecosystem benefits if protected by a Green Belt.

Looking ahead over two generations or the next 60 years, if Net Present Value (NPV) is applied to the annual figures, this could produce well in excess of **half a billion pounds (£0.5 billion)** in health, wellbeing, economic and ecosystem benefits:

- Up to **£452 million** in health and wellbeing benefits for people living in and around the proposed Green Belt.
- **£192 million** from ecosystem services provided by the proposed Green Belt area.
- **£35 million** in economic benefits from tourism and recreation activity in the proposed Green Belt area.

Health and wellbeing

South Hampshire Green Belt

- Up to **£17 million** a year in health and wellbeing benefits
- In two generations time, up to **£452 million** in health and wellbeing benefits
- Saves the NHS up to **£690,000** a year in fewer GP visits

cprehampshire.org.uk



Ecosystem services

South Hampshire Green Belt

- Services providing food, improving air quality, removing pollution, flood protection, biodiversity and helping tackle climate change
- The value of ecosystem services provided by the proposed Green Belt area is up to **£7.6 million** a year
- In two generations time, the value from ecosystem services is **£192 million**

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Economic benefits

South Hampshire Green Belt

- Up to **£1.3 million** a year from tourism and recreation
- In two generations time, **£35 million** from tourism and recreation
- Cycling, fishing, horse-riding, running, walking

cprehampshire.org.uk



- The health and wellbeing benefit for people living in and around this area of countryside could amount to up to **£17 million a year**. This value relates to the potential loss of wellbeing if the proposed Green Belt area was built on.
- The potential impact of building across the proposed Green Belt area may cost the NHS up to **£690,000** in increased GP visits a year.
- The value of ecosystem services provided by the proposed Green Belt area for food, removal of air and carbon pollution, flood protection and biodiversity are estimated at **£7.6 million a year**. These are important aspects in tackling the climate emergency.
- The potential economic benefit from tourism and recreation in the proposed Green Belt area is estimated as much as **£1.3 million a year**.

To find out more and to read NEF Consulting's report visit www.cprehampshire.org.uk.

How the research is having an impact

The CPRE Hampshire team have had a busy time since launching the findings of NEF Consulting's research study.

Our media activity gained good local press coverage. CPRE Hampshire Chair, Dee Haas was interviewed by That's TV Hampshire and Winchester Radio and on social media we've seen some great support and engagement, including from Chris Packham and Miranda Hart.

We've sent a copy of the report to around 240 key decision-makers and influencers. This includes our Hampshire MPs, Council leaders and planning contacts. Dee Haas, Chair of CPRE Hampshire, presented the findings of the report at meetings of the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee on 7 July and Winchester City Council Local Plan Advisory Group on 21 July.

We also prepared a statement to be read out at the Eastleigh Borough Council Full Council meeting on 23 July. It was in response to the motion put forward by an independent councillor to add the South Hampshire Green Belt project to Eastleigh's Climate Change and Environmental Emergency Action Plan. Caroline Dibden, CPRE Hampshire Vice Chair attended further meetings with Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council in August.

At all these meetings we're highlighting the relevance of the findings and asking how the Green Belt is being progressed. We want to see a new Green Belt included as part of Local Plan evidence gathering and used in public consultations. We also want our local MPs to lobby MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) to use the most up-to-date (2018-based) Office for National Statistics housing number projections.

We want our decision-makers to make sure that the **value** of our countryside, as set out in NEF Consulting's report, is retained by the protection of a Green Belt – the only effective legislation currently available to prevent urban sprawl.

'It's important that these values are considered by our planning authorities when deciding on the location of development - we want to see a genuine 'brownfield first' approach. Furthermore, there may be potential for reconsidering the uses in town and city centres, in the light of high street decline.'

Dee Haas, CPRE Hampshire Chair

Finally - to reiterate, we hope to use this ground-breaking piece of work all over Hampshire to demonstrate the economic, environmental and social benefits of our countryside and green spaces.



How you can help

Our **Protect South Hampshire's Countryside** petition on change.org has attracted 661 more signatures since we launched the report – if you haven't added your voice, please join 14,302 other individuals who want to protect our countryside.

We want to get to our target of 15,000 signatures so, even if you've signed already, please tell your friends, families, neighbours and colleagues about the petition and share it on your social media networks. Thank you!

Thanking our countryside volunteers

This Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) we wanted to thank all our committed volunteers at CPRE Hampshire for everything they do to promote, enhance and protect a thriving and beautiful countryside for everyone.

Volunteers' Week is an annual nationwide celebration to recognise the huge impact volunteers make. It was good to have something like this to celebrate during these challenging times.

In Hampshire we rely heavily on the fantastic support of our loyal volunteers. We have over 40 volunteers who help us in all areas of our organisation and we couldn't provide the services we do without them.

In this newsletter, we're putting the spotlight on two of our countryside heroes - Joy and Carole share their volunteering experiences with us below.



Joy enjoying the bluebell woods at Farley Mount, Hampshire

Saving landscapes for future generations

Joy Housham attended a CPRE Hampshire AGM a few years ago and felt inspired to help and decided to volunteer. Joy tells us more:

I moved to Sparsholt from Chicago many moons ago and immediately appreciated the serenity of the lush, green landscape and the particular beauty of gently flowing shallow chalk streams. Spring's magnificent show of bluebells in local woods never fails to take my breath away, but digitally capturing them in all their glory has evaded me for years!

At home, my small pond with its intricate web of wildlife has been my go-to place for solace and contemplation during the recent enforced lockdown. I hope that in the future, people recognise that nature is not just 'natural capital' to be plundered for gain and profit but a fundamental part of who we are, and should we lose it, we lose ourselves.

I help CPRE Hampshire mainly with events, including the AGM, fundraising events and the annual Countryside Awards. I meet and greet, serve refreshments and do light kitchen duties.

Every so often I join the small staff team and other volunteers at the CPRE Hampshire office in Winchester to assist with large mailshots requiring an army of envelope stuffers- actually more fun than it sounds!

In 2016, I was given the opportunity to 'upgrade' my volunteer status to lead the coordination of the Countryside Awards. This provided a fantastic chance to meet inspirational people from organisations, community and youth groups as well as businesses who actively work to support our thriving Hampshire countryside. I loved being part of the awards team and making a valuable contribution to the success of CPRE Hampshire's showcase event.

Volunteering for a charity that has the best interests of the Hampshire countryside at its heart means a lot to me. I feel very fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the county but not everyone has access to green spaces that are so vital for our health and wellbeing. With Green Belts under threat across the UK, CPRE Hampshire is boldly campaigning for a new one in South Hampshire so I feel anything I can do to support this will help to realise their vision and save precious landscapes for future generations.



Carole walking in the countryside near Ropley

Helping out in Hampshire

Carole Oldham has been a member of CPRE for a number of years. She started looking for a new volunteering opportunity when her involvement with project managing the development of Ropley's Neighbourhood Plan came to an end.

Carole joined the CPRE Hampshire team in March 2019. She became Chair of the Planning and Policy Group (PPG) in June 2019 and a Trustee this year. Carole tells us a bit about what she does and why she volunteers for CPRE Hampshire:

I feel passionate about protecting the countryside and making it, and the benefits that come from spending time in the natural environment, available to as many people as possible.

Living in a rural area on the edge of the South Downs National Park we are fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful countryside and wildlife. My husband and I love walking on the many local footpaths that we can access from our front gate. I always get a boost from the lovely views and wild plants and animals that we see and hear.

I chair the PPG, which is made up of around 25 enthusiastic volunteers and staff members who work to support CPRE's aims and objectives. The leadership and proactivity of the group helps define the direction in which CPRE influences positive policy change, allowing us to protect the countryside as much as possible so everyone can enjoy it.

In addition to planning, the group benefits from expert volunteers in a wide range of areas affecting the countryside, including affordable housing, transport and aviation, farming and local food, minerals and waste, the rural economy, and energy and water.

I'm also involved with two sub-groups, one that drives our campaigns and the other that works with our volunteer district group planning leads on responses to local plans across the county.

I have a number of roles at CPRE Hampshire, things have grown somewhat! I balance this work with my interests which include classic music, opera, travel, walking and gardening.

I'm really enjoying my time with CPRE Hampshire. It's great to be able to feel that you can bring some of the skills and experience you have built up during a 30+ year career in business to such a worthwhile organisation and make a difference. I've also met loads of interesting and talented people and am learning new things all the time.

Could you spare some time to volunteer for CPRE Hampshire and stand with the countryside you love? Give Natalie Hargreaves, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator a call on 01962 841897 or email Natalie at hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk.

CPRE national campaigns in Hampshire



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‘Once in a generation chance to unleash potential of the countryside’ -

CPRE’s regeneration manifesto

CPRE launched its regeneration manifesto in July and says that the government must invest in the ‘countryside next door’ in order to ensure we all have access to quality green space near to where we live as we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic.

Regenerate our countryside, regenerate ourselves: A manifesto for a resilient countryside after coronavirus urges the government to seize this once in a generation opportunity to protect and invest in the countryside, support rural communities and break down the barriers too many people face in accessing the health and wellbeing benefits of time in green spaces.

Critically, our Green Belts, the countryside next door to 30 million people, and other countryside around large towns and cities which don’t currently have Green Belts, should

see funding significantly increased to make sure they are enhanced and include greener farming techniques that could make our food supply more resilient to future shocks.

The manifesto outlines a vision for a resilient countryside with thriving rural communities that is open to everyone, whether visiting, living or working there.

Dee Haas, CPRE Hampshire Chair says:

‘In Hampshire, we want to see our countryside given the value it deserves. This is a once in a generation opportunity to put the countryside and access to green spaces at the heart of the recovery. Countryside next door to our urban communities needs to be better protected from urban sprawl so that generations to come can enjoy it. How do we do this? By the prioritisation of brownfield sites and regeneration within towns and cities, and new designations such as Green Belt- the only effective legislation currently available to stop the unrestricted growth of urban centres.

We are campaigning for a new Green Belt in South Hampshire so that local people have

vital access to green space and to restrict the further merging of these built-up areas. As revealed in a new research report by NEF Consulting (see pages 6-7), the countryside in this part of Hampshire could generate half a billion pounds over two generations in health, wellbeing, economic and ecosystem benefits if protected by a Green Belt.’

In August, CPRE Hampshire trustees, staff and representatives from our district groups attended a workshop to look at how we can engage with the manifesto and identify those elements that are particularly relevant to Hampshire. We looked at which of the recommendations we can move forward and feed into our strategic vision for the county within the resources we have available for the remainder of 2020 and first half of 2021. Our initial list of priorities, includes:

- **Regenerate our green spaces:** identifying Valued Landscapes in each district in order to determine which areas need to be protected; continuing with the South Hampshire Green Belt campaign; looking at extending the NEF Consulting report to other areas of Hampshire;
- **Regenerate ourselves:** helping young people and people from disadvantaged groups to discover and access the countryside; organising a Regeneration Walk with an emphasis on families and young people; piloting a young people’s membership; and
- **Regenerate our rural economies:** delivering the Countryside Awards in 2021 and attracting two more sponsors in the Rural Economy and Youth categories; re-engaging with rural affordable housing enablers in Hampshire.

We’ll be updating members on progress with these plans in the monthly newsletter and in the next edition of Hampshire Views. You can read the full manifesto at www.cprehampshire.org.uk. #JointheRegeneration



iStock

‘Greener, better, faster’- CPRE unveils how the countryside holds key to tackling the climate emergency

We invited our Hampshire media contacts to the online launch of CPRE’s new report, Greener, better, faster: countryside solutions to the climate emergency and for a green recovery in July.

As the government chooses how best to support the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, CPRE is calling for the countryside to be at the forefront of climate action so that rural communities do not bear the brunt of the climate emergency. Greener, better, faster: countryside solutions to the climate emergency and for a green recovery sets out how the countryside can be at the centre of the transformation to a net-zero society, to make sure we tackle the climate emergency in a way that benefits people living and working in rural communities.

CPRE believes that the countryside is key to tackling the climate emergency and provides many of the solutions to addressing climate breakdown. ‘Greener, better, faster’ outlines how the government can best achieve this and recommends a number of key actions on farming, hedgerows, planning and building, energy, and transport.

The full text of ‘Greener, better, faster’ is available from www.cpre.org.uk.

News from CPRE Hampshire's Planning and Policy Group



Planning reforms

This August, we formed two separate working groups to coordinate CPRE Hampshire's response to the following Government consultations:

- **Changes to the current planning system** – seeking views on changes to planning policy and regulations – closes 1 October 2020 www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system
- **Planning for the future** - consultation on proposals for reform of the planning system in England – closes 29 October 2020 www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future

We will be sending our responses direct to the Government and will feed into CPRE's national responses.

We have also written to all Hampshire MPs early in the consultations to highlight the difficulties that the new proposals would create and will be sharing this letter with Planning Authority leaders. We highlight that the national house building targets can be achieved without such radical reforms and that the focus of Government action should be to ensure that the one million homes with existing planning permission are built out immediately.

Dee Haas, CPRE Hampshire Chair says, 'There are many aspects of the Planning for the Future White Paper that we would support. The ambition to bridge the generational divide; the emphasis on strict design codes; the commitment to streamlining the Local Plan process and the determination to involve many more local people and their communities into the Planning process are all welcomed.

However, we also have substantial concerns about the proposals and many of them stem from the possibly unintended consequences of the algorithms used in the various calculations. These algorithms produce a number of distortions which fundamentally undermine the stated intentions of the Government's proposals.'

In our letter we outline that the proposals would:

1. Transfer development from urban to rural areas

The proposed new standard method would shift housing numbers from the cities to the rural districts. In Hampshire, there would be increases in **Winchester** by 58%, **East Hampshire** by 50%, **Test Valley** by 40%; and decreases in **Southampton** by 17%, **Portsmouth** by 14%.

This cannot be consistent with the stated aims of achieving sustainable development and maximising re-use of brownfield land. It also does not account for any constraints in terms of National Parks, other designations, nor water resources, or access to public transport hubs. In Hampshire, these are critical.

2. Make housing in Hampshire even less affordable

The algorithm used to calculate the adjustment/affordability factor creates a built-in incentive for developers to continue to build more houses at a price above the median price because this would ensure that the Local Planning Authority is then required to allocate even more land for even more homes. The effect will be to make

the average house even less affordable for the younger generation.

3. Deprive the most disadvantaged regions of investment

The algorithm used to calculate the Infrastructure Levy will distort the geographic distribution of the investment. The way it is currently structured, the vast majority of the investment will accrue to the richest areas of the country. The more deprived areas of the country will yet again be disadvantaged.

Dee Haas adds: 'But the overwhelming flaw that our members see in the proposals is that **the changes proposed are not necessary to meet the Government's stated target.**

According to the Planning White Paper, the Government is committed to meeting 'the national housebuilding target of 300,000 new homes annually, and one million homes by the end of the Parliament.' But this can be achieved without these reforms. **At present, there are one million homes that already have planning permission** that have not been built. In order to meet the target that Government has set and to address, with urgency, the major issue of the generational divide, we believe that the focus of Government action should be to ensure that these existing planning permissions are built out immediately. The low absorption rates identified in the Letwin report should no longer be tolerated.'

We are asking to meet local MPs to discuss these points further and have a number of meetings arranged at the time of publication.

We are also encouraging our membership and members of the public to submit individual responses to the consultations and/or to write to your local MP. Our letter to Hampshire MPs can be used as a template to help with responses and is available at www.cprehampshire.org.uk. The website www.writetothem.com makes it easy to write to politicians.

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects



We are monitoring three potential Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) affecting Hampshire:

1. Fawley Refinery to Heathrow Pipeline (Esso - www.slpproject.co.uk)
2. Aquind Interconnector at Lovedean, East Hampshire – see page 4
3. Junction 9 of the M3 (proposed changes from Highways England)

There are a number of other county-wide potential large developments on our 'watch list', including a reappearance of plans for a new

Hampshire hospital. There are no details yet on location. It had previously been indicated to be at Dummer on the intersection between the M3 at the A30 west of Basingstoke. The NHS have produced a listening document to collect initial consultation thoughts. More information can be found on the NHS website at www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk.

We are also looking at potential developments at Junction 10 on the M27 (Hampshire County Council's Strategic Transport major scheme) and a Motorway Service Area at Junction 6 on the M3 (the latter in conjunction with the North Hampshire District Group).

Influencing your Local Plan workshop

We have had to once again defer the Influencing your Local Plan workshop due to coronavirus restrictions. We will provide further updates in the monthly newsletter and on the website.

CPRE loses a doughty champion - Mrs Rosemary Horsey

It is with great sadness and a real sense of loss that CPRE records the death of Rosemary Horsey on the 17th April at the age of 87. She was a long term and tireless member of our charity contributing enormously to our organisation at every level through her energy, ideas, charm and determination- locally here in Test Valley, at County level and nationally.

Her approach stemmed from a deep love of the English countryside, its farming practices and her own practical and expert skills as a plantswoman. She and her late husband Peter lived deep in the Hampshire countryside where they developed a most lovely garden which she generously opened to raise funds for us on many occasions. Her contacts and suggestions enabled us to hold very successful open garden events across Test Valley over many years, raising large sums in the process as well as publicising our work.

She was a leading member of the Test Valley District Group from the early 1980s involving herself in the many local issues that concerned us; water quality and river side developments along the Test, the hectic expansion of our two

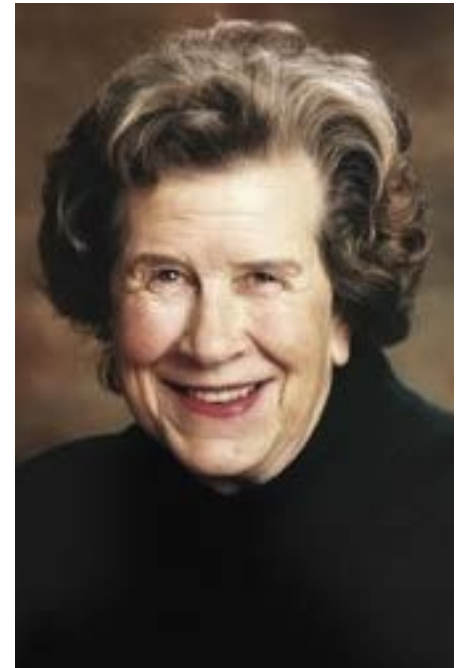
main towns, the viability of our villages and the dire need of affordable rural housing linked with the survival of local services.

But not content with policy issues she quickly recognised the need to widen our appeal and add numbers to give our campaigns the greater credibility that came with an expanding membership. She therefore committed herself to the task of getting new members; it became something of a personal crusade so much so that she launched initiatives at branch level and worked at national level to bolster recruitment and importantly retain the interest and commitment of such new members. Widely connected in the county and a passionate supporter of CPRE she would do what many of us are weak at - chasing those whose membership had lapsed or persuading someone that they should commit to becoming a supporter. She had the characteristics needed because her combination of charm and determination were hard to resist.

The County as a token of its regard and respect for her work and her commitment to our work awarded her the Countryside Medal in 2001

when she stepped down from the role of vice chairman of the Hampshire branch to become vice president.

John Cooper CBE and the Test Valley District Group



Admiral Sir Brian Brown

Admiral Sir Brian Brown KCB CBE, who died on 27 April, was President of CPRE Hampshire from 2008 to 2013. He excelled at whatever he turned his mind to professionally, as exemplified by his career in the Royal Navy.

He flew as a pilot of fast jets and helicopters at a time, in the late 50s and 60s, when flying off aircraft carriers took considerable nerve and

skill. His ability also as a first-class staff officer was quickly recognised and he rose to become Second Sea Lord, only the second Supply and Secretariat officer to become a four-star Admiral. This was despite being a challenger of ossified viewpoints in the service and is a testament to his exceptional skill in delicate inter-service negotiations at time when the service cuts were the order of the day. These

skills were especially needed during the rapid planning of the task force despatched to the South Atlantic to take back the Falkland Islands in 1982; and again, when he successfully made the case for women to be allowed to serve as part of the crew of frontline warships - something he considered his greatest achievement.

Yet, as well as a keen cricketer, Brian was a countryman at heart. In later life he took up beagling and fly fishing; and it was his interest and passion for the countryside, combined with his obvious professional skills, which made him an easy choice to become our President. In that capacity he took a close interest in our activities, giving strong support all the way. He regularly attended Executive Committee meetings where he spoke little but what he did say was always relevant and helpful. AGMs are an important element in the calendar year for CPRE Hampshire, and a well conducted meeting could always be guaranteed with Brian in the chair.

Some of our campaigns he took to heart in his local area of Froxfield. Notably our litter campaign where Brian assembled a team of no less than 70 volunteers, which he called the 'Froxfield Literati, to clear rubbish from the village and country lanes- which extend to a greater mileage than any other parish in the country, so it is said.

So, we remember the Presidency of Admiral Sir Brian Brown with grateful thanks for all his work on our behalf and the unstinting support given by both Brian and Ronnie, his wife.

Christopher Napier OBE, South Downs and Central District Group



The countryside charity Hampshire

Seeking new trustees

As many of you will be aware, strategic direction for CPRE Hampshire is provided by our Board of Trustees. Trustees are all volunteers and are appointed in the first place for three years. They are eligible for re-election, subject to a total of nine years.

Two of our trustees - Caroline Dibden and Robert Jamieson - are standing down, having served their full nine years. I am most grateful to Caroline and Robert for the huge contribution they have both made to the work of the charity. Theirs will be tough boots to fill. But change is good for any organisation and we now have the opportunity to recruit new trustees, who will bring different skills and experience to the Board.

The Board of Trustees have decided that we should aim to recruit three new trustees: one to serve as Secretary to the Board, one to take responsibility for PR/marketing and one to lead on fundraising. Advertisements have been placed on our website and on suitable recruitment platforms. But we are conscious that there is a great deal of talent within our own membership. So, if any of our existing members would like to put his/her name forward, we would very much welcome that. Equally, if you are aware of someone who is not currently a member, who might be suitable for one of the three roles, by all means draw their attention to the vacancies.

For further information on the opportunities, please refer to our website www.cprehampshire.org.uk or contact me at chair@cprehampshire.org.uk or Boyd McCleary at boydm@cprehampshire.org.uk. The closing date for applications is 15th October.

Dee Haas, CPRE Hampshire Chair



Wendy and Luna enjoying the Hampshire countryside

How Wendy has made a lasting difference

Wendy Marks has lived in Hampshire for over 50 years and has been a CPRE Hampshire member and volunteer for much of that time.

Wendy says:

'I love the countryside around us and, although I cannot walk very well these days (I'm 88), there is nothing so calming as the beautiful views and the fresh air of our lovely countryside.

I'm no longer able to volunteer, but I can help by leaving a legacy to CPRE Hampshire in my will. That way I can ensure that the local countryside I know and love is protected for future generations.'

By leaving a gift in your will to CPRE Hampshire, you'll help us to safeguard the future of the Hampshire countryside for generations to come. Please see the enclosed leaflet, 'A Hampshire countryside for us all, forever'.

This year's Christmas card selection

Fundraising has been a particular challenge for us this year so please consider buying some of our Christmas cards. All profits from the sale of our cards will support our work. This year's selection is enclosed along with an order form. Thank you for your support!

Also, our usual Christmas card outlet at Winchester Guildhall is not opening this year due to the pandemic. Perhaps you could take some of our cards to sell at your place of work, community group, child's school, reception desk or till point? Please contact Natalie Hargreaves at hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk if you can help. Thank you!

