**EMBARGOED: 00:00 THURSDAY JULY 16 2020**

**LAUNCH OF PUBLIC VOTE**

**Quest to Crown Superhero of Sussex Countryside.**

**The Countryside Charity, CPRE Sussex is today (Thursday July 16) launching a public vote to find the winner of its new ‘Empowering Communities Award’.**

The Charity wants to celebrate the work of some of the Sussex’s most inspiring and dedicated countryside heroes as part of its tri-annual Countryside Awards.

Members of the Public are being asked to choose one of three of the county’s most well respected rural champions.

Nominees for the award are:

**Ben Cross** – The Sussex flower grower on a mission to challenge the UK’s dependence on imported flowers.

**Phil Belden** – The man behind the South Downs Rangers Service and the Brighton Urban Wildlife Group.

**Isabella Tree** – Knepp Castle’s environmental pioneer, bestselling author and passionate advocate for rewilding the countryside.

‘This award is about celebrating the individuals who have dedicated their lives to the enrichment and enhancement of the Sussex countryside,’ says CPRE Sussex Director, Kia Trainor.

‘We are now asking the public to help us find a winner for our new ‘Empowering Communities Award’ by voting for their favourite countryside champion on our website.’

 <https://www.cpresussex.org.uk/news/empowering-communities-award/>

Voting will close on August 31 2020.

**For more information please contact:**

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