



Annual Report

2019



The countryside charity
Sussex

Our Year

Chairman's Report for the year ended 31st December 2019

I became the new Chair of CPRE Sussex during the AGM in the summer of 2019. I was new to CPRE and quickly discovered the wealth of talent that could be drawn on to address the many pressures Sussex is under. It was also clear that we could only continue to address our purposes if we reinvigorated our fund-raising so that we could continue to deliver our purposes for the people and diverse communities of Sussex.

This was some of the work we did in 2019 and we will put in place a new Strategic Plan to focus our work on key areas. We will also examine how we can work best as a team and engage new members and Trustees fully in our work.

I am most grateful to the staff of CPRE Sussex and the Trustees who have done a lot to make the past year a success and supported the efforts of this newcomer.

Climate Change

We joined the South East Climate Alliance (SECA) and joint-organised a Climate Emergency Summit in October 2019, a weekend event held in Shoreham-by-Sea which explored the issues relating to climate change and what is needed to protect the environment, health and well-being. The Summit was organised through a partnership of CPRE Sussex, the

EYE project which works to develop sustainability in schools, Shoreham Wordfest, the Ropetackle Arts Centre and featured talks from the National Climate Change Committee, CPRE Sussex, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Green Alliance and involved students from Shoreham Academy and YouthStrike4 Climate along with the wider public. It brought together MPs, councillors, officers, local people, universities and activists.

Planning

We evaluated the Chichester Local Plan and responded with concerns about the amount of development next to the AONB. With much of the District within the National Park, a large amount of development is planned for the South of the District and this will put huge pressure on the infrastructure and the natural environment.

We evaluated and commented on the draft Wealden Local Plan. Our main concern was whether the new plan would harm the Ashdown Forest and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In Arun we held an affordable housing conference to examine the challenge of building the affordable houses we need. Michael Warden, who leads CPRE's work in Arun District, welcomed attendees and acted as chair for the event, supported by Ron Hurstwaite also from CPRE Arun. With a fantastic line up of speakers, the event received excellent feedback and will inform

future campaigns.

In Horsham we continued to campaign against unsustainable development, including the Horsham Incinerator. We began work on the Local Plan review, which will consider several new major development sites. We evaluated and commented on the Crawley Local Plan.

In Brighton we submitted comments in relation to Toads Hole Valley and other sites on the 'urban fringe.'

We evaluated and commented on the Worthing Local Plan, our main concern being the loss of valuable 'green gaps' and potential harm to wildlife sites.

Our Lewes group considered the latest iteration of the Local Plan and also organised a well-attended event at Firle, raising money for the village school.

In Mid Sussex we made a submission to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) on its draft Sites Allocation DPD arguing that with 60% of Mid Sussex designated as National Park or AONB or SSSI, there is an environmental constraint on the District's capacity to absorb ever-more housing, especially in terms of absorbing overspill from neighbouring districts.

In Rother we commented on the Revised Development Site Allocation Plan and continued to campaign for locally-led neighbourhood plans and against harmful development, such as a proposal



for 169 houses on the outer edge of Bexhill at Spindlewood Drive, immediately adjacent to the Ramsar site of Pevensey Levels, whose environmental classification is of international calibre of wetlands.

We responded to the Government's consultation about making a 'net gain' in biodiversity through planning mandatory. We also produced our own guide for how to include biodiversity in new developments.

We submitted comments to the 'Glover Review' looking at the future role of our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are pleased that in its interim findings, Glover has taken on board the key points made in our submission that AONBs in particular need constitutional strengthening, a broader brief and additional funding if they are to play a similar role to national parks in keeping our most precious landscape assets environmentally fit and protected for future generations.

In terms of hydrocarbon extraction, we considered and responded to an application to extend flow testing at Balcombe, arguing that scientific and regulatory developments, especially with regard to climate change impacts, have significantly altered the planning balance judgement since the last approval. We also had concerns that the applicant needs sufficient financial resources to honour the obligation to restore and ensure adequate long-term aftercare to the site.



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Transport

As part of the South Coast Alliance for Transport and the Environment (SCATE) we met with Transport for the South East to share our report 'A New Direction' which explains why we need to move from the 'predict and provide' approach to continued roadbuilding and toward investment in sustainable transport. We evaluated and commented on plans for the Arundel Bypass.

As part of a network of CPRE branches, we co-ordinated a response to the government's Aviation Green Paper and produced a report which examines the environmental costs of aviation expansion. The report shows that people are becoming more sensitive to aircraft noise. It also shows that carbon emissions from aviation are making a significant contribution to climate change. We now want the government to ensure that aviation expansion does not allow us to exceed climate change targets and to monitor and manage noise at lower decibel levels than those currently used.

New Brand and Vision

We created a team to help us develop our new 'vision,' strategy and website, using guidelines developed by the National CPRE. We started work on the new website.



Projects

We supported the CPRE national 'Star Count' in February 2019 and encouraged local people to get involved helping to map the skies in Sussex.

We launched the Plant Your Postcode scheme in Brighton & Hove. The scheme was created in response to requests from local residents to help them replace some of their city trees lost to disease and old age and to increase the tree canopy generally on their streets. We currently have around 30 groups/streets involved in the project. We have joined the Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum and are campaigning for more city trees through the new city Tree Strategy.

We met Homes England and urged them to ensure better community engagement in relation to the Northern Arc at Burgess Hill and to ensure that biodiversity 'net gain' and affordable housing are delivered throughout the

development of over 3,500 homes.

We organised a litter pick along the A27 near Lewes as part of CPRE's 'Clean Green' in September. In addition to collecting a huge amount of litter, we highlighted the problem of litter on trunk roads and that Highways England should be responsible for clearing this litter, in addition to general road maintenance.

As part of a network of organisations we continue to lobby for the best use of the Downland surrounding Eastbourne and Brighton. We supported the request for 'rewilding' of golf courses on the outskirts of Brighton.

Staffing

We said a sad farewell to Sas Drury, our long-standing Finance Administrator and we welcomed Duncan Lyne to the team, who is proving to be a fantastic asset to CPRE.

Our invaluable Office administrator, Lesley Wilson, had a nasty fall from her horse in February resulting in serious injury and a lengthy hospital stay. Happily, Lesley has now recovered fully.

Tours Talks and Walks

Our wonderful volunteer, Lorna, organised a series of excellent tours and talks during the summer. Sadly, the visit to Malthouse Farm

was cancelled due to bad weather. The Tours and Talks are a great way for us to raise funds and for members to meet each other. Our Director, Kia Trainor, gave talks and presentations about our work to local communities including the 'Greening Steyning' group, The Goldstone Residents Association, the Wiggonholt Association, the Eastbourne Probus club and the conservative party policy conference. We arranged a visit to a low carbon 'Passivhaus' near Lewes for our planning volunteers. We attended the EYE Project (Eco, Young & Engaged) Eco Summit in Crawley with over 170 school children from across Sussex, focussing on environmental and sustainability issues. We organised a training event for anyone involved in planning which looked at 'good design.'

Fundraising.

We made a number of funding bids and successfully raised over £35,000 from grant-making bodies.



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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2019

The Trustees present the financial statements which have been drawn up in accordance with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective from January 2015 and the Branch's governing document.

Working Names

CPRE Sussex and CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust

Constitution, objectives and activities

CPRE Sussex is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and its governing document is "The Constitution of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Sussex Branch CIO" registered with the Charity Commission on 8th April 2014, charity number 1156568. The Branch is restricted by its Constitution from undertaking any substantial permanent trading activities.

The objects of the CIO are to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement, protection and preservation of the countryside of Sussex and its towns and villages and the environmentally better development of the same.

Trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year and at the date of

the Report were:

Graham Ault
(resigned 6th July 2019)

Rodney Chambers

William Freeman

Stephen Hardy MBE

Julian Hill

Penny Hudd

David Johnson

John Kay

Professor Daniel Osborn
(appointed 6th July 2019)

Sally Pavey

Dr Roger Smith

Grainne Woodvine
(appointed 15th November 2019)

New trustees are appointed after a review of the skills required and are drawn from individuals who have relevant backgrounds. When appropriate the trustees consult other relevant organisations for nominations to the committee. New trustees are provided with an introduction to the Charity.

Registered address:

Brownings Farm, Blackboys,
Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5HG

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, PO Box 289, Kings
Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Independent Examiner:

Mr C R Tyler, FCA DChA,
Chariot House Ltd, 44 Grand Parade,
Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9QA

Investment adviser and nominee company:

Charles Stanley & Co Ltd, 25 Luke
Street, London EC2A 4AR

Public benefit reporting

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Financial review and reserves

The Chairman's report included in these accounts gives a full description of the activities and results for the year ended 31st December 2019. The Trustees consider that the level of reserves is adequate to support current activities for the next three to four years, and are actively reviewing future funding to ensure that CPRE Sussex will continue to be an effective voice for the future. The Trustees review financial and other risks on a regular basis.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).



The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution, requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- **select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;**
- **make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and**
- **prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate that the charity will continue business.**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Committee of Trustees on 12th June 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Professor Daniel Osborn
Chair

Abridged Financial Information

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2019

These figures are extracted from the full Trustees' Report and financial statements which have been independently examined by Mr C R Tyler of Chariot House Limited who gave an unqualified statement in June 2020. The Independent Examiner has confirmed to the Trustees that the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2019. The Trustees' Report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 12th June 2020. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission. These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of CPRE Sussex CIO. The full Trustees' Report, Independent Examiner's Report and Financial Statements may be obtained from...

CPRE Sussex CIO,
Brownings Farm,
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Uckfield,
East Sussex
TN22 5HG.

Julian Hill
Treasurer

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Incoming Resources	£	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	35,558	-	35,558
Investment Income	3,718	-	3,718
Legacies	931	-	931
Donations	5,845	-	5,845
Awards 2020	-	1,875	1,875
South East Aviation Grant	-	20,000	20,000
Plant Your Postcode	-	15,810	15,810
SCATE	-	1,703	1,703
Gift Aid on Donations	949	-	949
Other Income	1,828	-	1,828
Total Incoming Resources	48,829	39,388	88,217
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	10,168	-	10,168
Charitable Activities	76,458	26,692	103,150
Total Resources Expended	86,626	26,692	113,318
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources before Transfers	(37,797)	12,696	(25,101)
Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets	13,298	-	13,298
Net Movements in Funds	(24,499)	12,696	(11,803)
Fund Balance at 1st January 2019	178,585	7,110	185,695
Fund balances at 31st December 2019	154,086	19,806	173,892
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2019			
Fixed Assets			£
Tangible Assets			445
Investments			167,449
Total Fixed Assets			167,894
Current Assets			
Debtors, Prepayments & Deposits			9,925
Short term deposits			4,455
Cash at bank and in hand			1,393
Total Current Assets			15,773
Less Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year			(9,775)
Net Current Assets			5,998
Net Assets			173,892
Income Funds			
Restricted			19,806
Unrestricted			154,086
Total			173,892