



The countryside charity
Sussex

CPRE Sussex – When we get involved in planning applications

Position Statement, October 2020

This statement explains how we decide when to comment to local planning authorities on individual planning applications.

CPRE Sussex is a charity. Our purpose is to enhance, promote and protect the Sussex countryside, and the ability of local communities to enjoy and value the natural world. We also campaign to ensure that local plans and planning applications protect the countryside and enrich our lives.

Being a charity, CPRE is dependent for the funding of its work on the subscriptions of individuals and organisations that join CPRE as members, and on legacies, donations and grants.

We do not have the resources to monitor or comment on the hundreds of planning applications received by all local planning authorities within Sussex, many of which do not impact materially on the countryside.

Whilst we do not offer a general public planning advisory service, we are happy to discuss concerns of our CPRE members about individual planning applications and other issues within our charitable remit. Where we have planning volunteers in an area, they will endeavour to help members make effective representations of their own.

In deciding the extent to which CPRE Sussex will get involved in specific planning applications, we will be guided by the following principles:

- we will generally look to support well designed, locally-led planning proposals that can provide an overall community benefit in a sustainable location in a way that aims to achieve net biodiversity gains and climate change mitigation. Such proposals would create communities resilient to climate change and allow them to adapt to it and benefit from biodiversity gain.
- the issue must relate to our charitable purpose, and we must have the capacity to take it on.
- we will normally only get involved in challenging a planning application where we consider that there is an aspect of general significance to the issues we campaign on, or a really important issue of principle is involved.
- where we do decide to comment to a local planning authority on a planning application we will do so in our own name and based on our own view of the merits.

- CPRE Sussex is not a substitute for local action groups. We look to local residents to run their own campaign in their own name for or against a planning application. We aim to empower communities to shape their neighbourhoods wherever we have capacity.
- we will not assist one interest group against another, or express views that could be construed as party political.

We do try, wherever resources allow, to provide local planning authorities with our input on the countryside conservation implications of Local Plans, Minerals Plans and other Strategic Plans during the course of their development.

As nearly all the work of the charity is done by volunteers, including 'self-taught' planners, CPRE Sussex can only help those who acknowledge that we are not tendering legal or planning advice and accept no legal liability for our input. Any input that you seek from us will therefore be on the basis you, and any organisation that you represent, have accepted that requirement.

If you are a CPRE member, we recommend looking at CPRE's national website which offers resources and advice, particularly on [how to respond to planning applications](#) and about the [planning system](#)

Planning Aid England also provides [planning advice](#) and support to help individuals and communities engage with the planning system and get involved in planning their local area.