



Summer News

Welcome to new CPRE Sussex Director,
Brian Kilkelly



I am delighted to join the CPRE Sussex team and to be able to contribute to the important work of the charity.

Brian Kilkelly

Since joining at the end of 2021, I have been learning about our wide-ranging work from challenging inappropriate development plans to promoting the joy of our countryside and green spaces through walks, tree planting, and talks. The scale of challenges we face here in Sussex are certainly very concerning.

CPRE Sussex has an impressive team of staff, trustees, and volunteers who are working hard to shape a greener future for Sussex. My desire is that we build a closer relationship with you, our members. We can be even more effective when we speak with one voice to decision makers and coordinate action with our many partner organisations across Sussex and nationally. I look forward to meeting you at one of the many future events and activities that you can read about in this newsletter.

Planning and campaigns

Obscure new planning rules could silence local communities

The problem

CPRE Sussex is keeping careful watch on the Government's Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill which we believe 'radically centralises planning decision-making and substantially erodes public participation in the planning system'. There would be damaging consequences for Sussex if this Bill is passed.

Our concerns are highlighted in a letter to Michael Gove, dated 21 June 2022, from Clive Betts MP, Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee, who summarises legal opinion as follows (we are quoting from this letter to emphasise the seriousness of the Bill for Sussex):

Quote:

"a) The Bill represents a significant change to the existing planning system. It undermines an important planning principle, the primacy of the development plan, by elevating national development management policies to the top of the planning hierarchy.

b) Unlike development plans, which are produced locally via a statutory process that involves considerable public participation, the

Bill contains no obligation to allow the public to participate in the development of national development management policies.

c) The Bill also introduces two new development plan documents, spatial development strategies and supplementary plans. The Bill provides for very limited opportunities for public participation in the production of these documents.

d) The Bill introduces a new mechanism to allow the Secretary of State to grant planning permission for controversial developments, bypassing the planning system entirely. There is no right for the public to be consulted as part of this process.

e) Overall, in our view the Bill radically centralises planning decision-making and substantially erodes public participation in the planning system."

We also note with concern that the Bill will enable the Secretary of State to designate any area of England as an 'urban development area' and 'establish a development corporation for the area'. Will strategic site allocations in Sussex and the areas in which they occur be designated urban development areas?



A worrying lack of response from Sussex MPs

Clearly there is cause for considerable concern though surprisingly none has been expressed by Sussex's MPs. Hansard records show that only two of our MPs spoke at the Commons debate of the Bill on 8 June.

They were Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion, Green) and Caroline Ansell (Eastbourne, Conservative); neither addressed the issues raised by Clive Betts. Were our Sussex MPs not aware?

The debate is recorded in the House of Commons Official Report Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) Wednesday 8 June 2022: Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: Second Reading, pages 821 to 916).

What we will do

CPRE Sussex will work to alert local council leaders and MPs to the risks the new rules present to Sussex.

What you can do

We urge you our members to write to your MPs and council leaders. To add weight to your concerns, you can include the quotes and information above.

Find your MP at

www.members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP

and your Council Leader at

www.gov.uk/find-your-local-councillors

Pause for thought

Progress was never made by reducing standards, neither will lower standards of protection help levelling up in any way. And decisions made based on lower standards are unlikely to be sustainable. Why invest now in creating problems for the future with rules that lower standards and stretch our natural resources to breaking point?

Professor Dan Osborn, Chair CPRE Sussex and Dr Roger F Smith, Trustee CPRE Sussex



News from your district

To find out more about what is happening in your area, please visit our website www.cpresussex.org.uk/news-from-your-district/

These reports are updated throughout the year, so keep an eye out to stay up to date with the latest news.

Recent highlights include an art exhibition in Brighton raising funds for tree planting, a call for Horsham District Council to act now on housing targets and a plea for more wildflowers in Crowborough's roadside verges.

Gatwick is 'misleading residents' with its emergency runway rebuild propaganda

CAGNE, the umbrella aviation community group for Sussex, Surrey and Kent, says Gatwick Airport is 'misleading residents' by calling its emergency runway a northern runway in its latest public consultation. It says the airport's plans to spend £500m on rebuilding an emergency runway 'by the backdoor' use an 'out-of-date' government policy and the runway is currently only used for emergencies and to taxi planes to terminals.

CAGNE says Gatwick would have to undertake major construction works to rebuild the emergency runway as a second runway, causing congestion for local areas and environmental issues.

Residents are encouraged to keep up to date with the latest news at cagne.org and comment on the plans at gatwickairport.com/business-community/future-plans/northern-runway. The current public consultation closes on 27 July 2022.



News flash!

Brighton and Hove's new Mayor, Lizzie Deane, has selected CPRE Sussex as one of the six Mayor's Charities

'I am delighted that CPRE Sussex are one of my chosen charities for this year. When selecting which charities to support, I was particularly keen to choose an environmental organisation, and CPRE was the most natural choice.

With around 10,000 acres of chalk downland belonging to, and cared for, by Brighton and Hove City Council, CPRE's work in protecting rural areas speaks for itself, but what also attracted me was the work that you do in bringing the countryside into the city.

Many neighbourhoods in Brighton and Hove have benefited – and continue to benefit – from CPRE's Plant Your Postcode scheme, and not many appreciate just how much it costs to plant and maintain a tree! So I am looking forward to helping CPRE fundraise during the coming year so that this vital work can continue.'

Lizzie Deane

Why our members are so important

Members are vital to the continued success of CPRE Sussex and ensuring we can work together to shape a greener future for Sussex. If you are considering whether or not to renew your membership this year, remember your subscriptions not only provide vital funding but also give legitimacy to our ongoing advocacy work.

Our collective voice is helping us campaign on planning and housing targets at both local and national level. It has also seen us secure funding for projects like Plant Your Postcode which aims to increase the number of trees in urban areas.

Exciting projects!

Plant Your Postcode (PYP)

We continue to work closely with residents, businesses and the City Council in Brighton and Hove to green up the city and are looking for ways to extend Plant Your Postcode to other areas in Sussex. Find out more at www.cpresussex.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/plant-your-postcode

Hanover Workshop

In Brighton we held a very successful workshop with residents from Hanover, Elm Grove and Tarner in June, pulling together their ideas for greener, more liveable streets and spaces. A dense residential area in the city centre, there are real challenges to creating a kinder civic environment, but this is a challenge residents are meeting head on. A small group is now taking ideas forward to develop a working strategy for a greener future for the area.

www.cpresussex.org.uk/news/greening-up-hanover-elm-grove-tarner/



Planting trees in Elm Grove

Forgotten Places: greening coastal towns and cities

We've done it!! After working flat out with Brighton and Hove City Council's Arboriculture Team over the winter planting season all 102 of our trees, as part of this exciting project, have been planted and are doing well.

Community and sponsored planting events have taken place in Bevendean, Woodingdean, Portslade and on the Bristol Estate. We will be completing further activities as part of the project in Bristol Estate this autumn, working with local people to plant new herbaceous areas across the estate.

During the project, partner Field Studies Council will be running a series of tree ID training events and produce tree ID guides.

Queen's Green Canopy

On a blustery day at the Bristol Estate in Brighton Juliet Smith, The Queen's Deputy Lord Lieutenant, opened a special tree planting to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and wielded her spade in splendid style!

Trees for Cities and the Connick Tree Care staff then supported the planting of a beautiful hawthorn and a hornbeam – two of 12 trees being planted on the estate, part of both our Forgotten Places and Plant Your Postcode projects.

The Bristol Estate Leaseholders & Tenants Association (BELTA) organised the event. Ben D'Montigny from BELTA said: "It was a

really positive day for residents and various groups to get together to participate in our ceremonial tree planting event".

www.cpresussex.org.uk/news/community-comes-together-for-jubilee-tree-planting-in-brighton/

Glebe Villas

In West Hove, the Glebe Villas ambitious street planting scheme has reached fruition.

Lara Rix-Paradinas, local resident and tree champion, said: "It's been three years getting trees planted on Glebe Villas. Finally with the help of CPRE Sussex and Hove Civic Society we are proud to say we have given a gift to the future of Glebe Villas and the wider community. These trees will outlive us and be a towering achievement for a community coming together."

Trees were planted in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council tree planting team and will be looked after by their contractors in the early years. Residents have united over planting plans and worked long and hard to raise funds. It is a real achievement to get 14 lovely trees planted in an area of the city where historically there were none.

We need you, the city needs you

If you live in Brighton & Hove, be part of this amazing work and join the CPRE Sussex Brighton & Hove Group. Step up and support all the work we are doing to improve the environment across the city. Email Lesley at info@cpresussex.org.uk to find out more.

Planting trees at the Bristol Estate



Events

The Countryside Matters Online Book Club is launched!

In June, 20 members enjoyed a wonderful discussion of Stella Gibbons' classic 1932 comic novel set in the Sussex countryside 'Cold Comfort Farm'. We were joined by Sussex-based author Elly Griffiths, a fan of the book, and author of the number-one-bestselling Dr Ruth Galloway series.

The CPRE Sussex Book Club is a way for us to come together to share our love for books and the countryside. Share your ideas for future books by emailing

info@cpresussex.org.uk. Our next online gathering is planned for September, more news coming soon. Please check the website regularly for news:

www.cpresussex.org.uk

Festival of Spring Online Talks

Thank you to all who attended our Spring series. We are planning our programme for 2023 and welcome your ideas and suggestions for topics and speakers. Please send your ideas to:

info@cpresussex.org.uk.

We are in touch with Chelsea Gold Medal Winning Garden Designer Andy Sturgeon who has agreed to host a talk for us. Andy's 2022 Chelsea Mind Garden clearly resonates with our work in linking health and well-being to nature in gardens and towns and enabling people to connect with their wider countryside.

Hold the dates

The High Weald Walking Festival with Philip Hetherington, Friday 16th September at 10am

Save the date and join CPRE Sussex volunteer, Philip Hetherington, as he leads a walk as part of the popular High Weald Walking Festival. Philip's walk, starting at Furnace Pond, will take you through the Slaugham, Warninglid and edge of Leonardslee areas, taking in some stretches of the High Weald Landscape Trail and Ouse Valley Way. Walks will be available to book later this year via the High Weald website. We recommend signing up to the High Weald Newsletter E News www.highweald.org to find out more and be alerted once bookings are open for this series of free walks.

AGM 2022

Saturday 1st October at the Shoreham Centre

Please come along to our first in-person AGM since 2019! We very much look forward to meeting and catching up with you after such a long time coping with the challenges Covid has brought. Formal notice of the AGM will be sent later this summer with details of how to register, book lunch and join a guided walk with Dr Geoffrey Mead. Geoffrey, a landscape lecturer, has led a series of walks and talks for us and has featured as an expert recently in two episodes of 'Who Do You Think You are.'





Shoreham Wordfest Environment Day, Sunday 9th October at the Shoreham Centre

Partnering with Shoreham Wordfest, our third Environment Day aims to build on our work of previous years. While we all need to continue to understand our impact on the planet, to continue to learn how to 'end our war on nature' and adapt our lives, we need the encouragement of positive initiatives both communal and personal.

The morning looks at community responses with two walks looking at work in the **Wiston Estate** and on land at **Salts Farm** purchased by Adur Council for nature renewal. The afternoon is concerned with an **Environment Summit: Citizens not Consumers**. Jon Alexander discusses his book '**Citizens**', followed by various breakout sessions ranging from renewable energy and regenerative agriculture to urban greening and respecting water. Kate Hughes' experience of '**Going Zero**', living sustainability will be supported by a presentation of the work of **Sussex Green Living**.

Tony Whitbread will close the afternoon by helping us to **Develop a New World View**. The evening will bring us happiness and the ability to come together dancing at a **Ceilidh** with **Kate's Kitchen Band**.

To find out more about Shoreham Wordfest and book your tickets, visit www.shorehamwordfest.com/whats-on

50th Anniversary celebration

CPRE Sussex will be 50 years old in November! We will be celebrating throughout our 50th year beginning with an event in November. Keep watch on our website for more news www.cpresussex.org.uk

Interested in volunteering? We need you...

Become a Trustee

Our long-serving and much appreciated Trustee, Stephen Hardy, is stepping down from CPRE Sussex. Stephen leaves a large hole for us to fill and we are looking for a new Trustee with legal and/or human resources experience to provide expertise and support to the charity and support staff on governance and policy issues.

We are also looking for a trustee with experience of fundraising and developing partnerships, including managing relationships with Trusts and Foundations.

If you are interested in either role and would like to find out more, please email Lesley at info@cpresussex.org.uk

Tours volunteer needed

Our wonderful volunteer of many years, Lorna Train, has retired and we are hugely thankfully for the amazing visits she, often accompanied by her husband Geoff, has arranged and attended, stretching across East and West Sussex. This is a wonderful role and we are seeking a new volunteer, working with our office team, to create and lead a programme of four visits next year. If you love Sussex and getting out and about in the countryside, please get in touch with

Lesley.wilson@cpresussex.org.uk
to find out more.



The countryside charity
Sussex

Campaign to Protect Rural England,
Sussex Branch CIO
Charity number: 1156568