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PRESS RELEASE: CPRE Sussex welcomes Center Parcs decision not to proceed with Oldhouse Warren plan

Dropped holiday park bid would have been ‘inexcusable vandalism’

CPRE Sussex has welcomed today’s Center Parcs announcement that it will not be pursuing its plans for a holiday park in West Sussex.

Center Parcs initially announced plans for its latest, and largest, holiday spa at the Oldhouse Warren site in the summer of 2021.

CPRE Sussex has worked from the outset alongside a coalition of environmental charities, including Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust, the RSPB and the Sussex Ornithological Society, and local action group Protect Oldhouse Warren to oppose the plans.

“Center Parcs could not have chosen a more environmentally-sensitive location for its plans,” said **CPRE Sussex volunteer Michael Brown**.

“Oldhouse Warren is ancient woodland with a history going back many centuries and part of it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It sits within the historic and ecologically-important Worth Forest, which is itself part of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

“Development of Oldhouse Warren would have been inexcusable vandalism, involving irreparable permanent damage to the ecology of the area, disaster for its wildlife, and making a mockery of the Government’s commitments to address climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

“The only wonder is why it has taken Center Parcs more than 18 months to come to the realisation that Oldhouse Warren was an entirely unsustainable place to site their planned new resort. We applaud the fact that they have finally succumbed to the pressure to think again and look elsewhere.”

CPRE Sussex continues to put pressure on Mid Sussex District Council to incorporate a policy guaranteeing greater protection for Worth Forest as a whole into its District Plan Review

We would like to thank our members and supporters for helping to save a very special part of Sussex.

Find out more about how CPRE Sussex is helping to protect the countryside from inappropriate development at www.cpresussex.org.uk

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities contact sheena.journalism@gmail.com.

Notes for editors:

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.