

CPRE SUSSEX

NEWS

AND ANNUAL REPORT 2022



A NEW START

I am thrilled to have taken up the reins as the CPRE Sussex Director. It's such a privilege to be part of an organisation with such an extraordinary legacy: 50 years of protecting our beautiful Sussex countryside.

It's thanks to you, as a member, that we still have so much to enjoy. This spring I've been drinking in the sights, sounds and smells of the countryside. The bluebell woods, bees visiting blossoming orchards, peregrines soaring above cliffs, the cacophony of birdsong at dawn. I've admired an exhibition at Chichester's Pallant House, full of art inspired by the Sussex landscape.

I've cycled country lanes, walked meandering riverbanks, seen the moons of Jupiter, and even enjoyed one or two pub lunches on pristine village greens. That we still have all this beauty is a gift – one that you, by supporting CPRE, have given us.

A FUTURE IN THE BALANCE

But we should not let what remains blind us to what we have lost, or to the threats that place our countryside, landscapes and communities in grave danger. As we celebrate our 50th year, my job is to look ahead to the next 50 years and ensure we're fit to fight the coming battles.

Right now, the prospects are not good. As David Attenborough says, we live in one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. The way we farm has been catastrophic for nature – and the greed of developers has squeezed what little space for nature remains.

Our rivers are full of human waste and farming runoff. For many the night sky is just an orange glow. The countryside is full of barriers – physical, financial, cultural – that stop many people from enjoying it. The climate crisis is turbocharging flooding here and displacing people from their homes around the world. To cap it all, the cost of living in Sussex has, for many, simply become unmanageable.

A PLAN FOR ACTION

For me, fixing this is our priority. That's why I'm planning to launch a series of campaigns, alongside a reinvigorated network of local planning volunteers.

As well as putting a stop to bad developments, airport expansion and government dictated road building, there's a critical role for us in planting more trees and hedgerows. In supporting well-located renewable energy, in bringing forward brownfield sites in our towns and villages for beautiful, genuinely affordable housing, in opening enjoyment of the countryside to more people, in backing nature-friendly farming, and in cleaning up our rivers and coast.

There's so much to do, and many opportunities for you to make a difference too, whether through volunteering your time and skills or supporting our work financially. I'm looking forward to working with you, as together we fight for a greener future for Sussex.



Paul Steedman, Director

P.S. I'm keen to hear what you think we should focus on in the next 5, 10 and 50 years. Drop me a line at paul.steedman@cpresussex.org.uk or write to me at the office.



THAT WINNING FEELING!

We're only halfway through the year, and, as part of CPRE Sussex, you've already scored some big wins for the countryside.

Your support saw us, alongside a host of other brilliant campaigning partners, see off a huge proposal by leisure company Center Parcs, that would have devastated ancient woodland near Crawley. The Oldhouse Warren site, and its rare breeding birds, is now safe from the bulldozers. You can read more about this in the Chair's report on page 5.

The dedication of CPRE Sussex campaigners like you has also paid off when it comes to the Government's plans for road building. The proposed dual carriageway A27 Arundel bypass, which would wreck villages, damage wildlife and increase climate-harming emissions has been pushed back to the 2025-30 period. The Government has cited environmental and design concerns as the key reasons for the delay – a sign that pressure from residents, and a host of campaigning groups including us, is working. However, the threat has not gone away entirely, so we'll stay vigilant and continue to promote alternatives that will help tackle congestion in a much more local and people-friendly way.

Your collective letter-writing and emailing power ahead of this year's local elections also led to pledges from council candidates from different parties across Sussex backing our manifesto for a greener future. Published online ahead of the May polling day, the manifesto set out priorities and policies for Sussex councillors – and many of you used our toolkit to write to your candidates asking them to back our

ideas. The CPRE Sussex team are now working to meet with elected councillors to hold them to their promises! Turn to page 5 to find out more.

TREE PLANTING SUCCESS

Our Forgotten Places tree planting project finally ended in March after a herculean final period of work to design and plant herbaceous borders and a new orchard. On the Bristol Estate, a design by Helen Manson, of Hearts & Flowers, was chosen for more than 12,000 bulbs, shrubs and plug plants, planted over eight volunteer sessions. Meanwhile, Brighton Permaculture Trust lent us their expertise for a community orchard tree planting session.

Following a successful bid with Brighton & Hove Council's arboriculture team for Queen's Green Canopy and HM Commemorative funds, we have planted 110 trees on the Bristol Estate, as well as in Bevendean, Moulsecomb, Woodingdean and Portslade.

We have also carried out a series of winter tree planting as part of our Plant Your Postcode scheme. In addition to this, we are undertaking an ambitious tree planting project in the North Laine area and supporting the Greening Hanover Project.

Read more about our tree planting work in our upcoming Plant Your Postcode and Forgotten Places newsletter.

*Jenni Cresswell,
Plant Your Postcode Project Manager*

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT ON ELECTION PROMISES

This year CPRE Sussex published an election manifesto. In it we called on candidates from all parties and none to commit to tackling five big threats to Sussex's countryside and communities

- Local people priced out of Sussex
- Climate breakdown
- Excessive and damaging development and intensive farming
- A lack of access to nature
- Pollution of our water, air and land.

Tackling these threats is a key priority for CPRE Sussex and now the elections are over we will be pushing all councils to support our ambition to shape a greener future for Sussex.

Our manifesto, which you can view online at cpresussex.org.uk/news/cpre-sussex-manifesto-for-the-2023-local-elections/ sets out how this can be done.

In summary we are asking councils to:

- Provide local, affordable brownfield homes by bringing forward all possible brownfield sites for development. There are currently 700 brownfield sites across East and West Sussex which could be used to build more than 23,500 homes.

- Tackle the climate breakdown by leading a Rooftop Renewables Revolution, prioritising sustainable travel and embedding climate change considerations in all policy making.
- Fight excessive and damaging development and intensive farming by ensuring new developments take account of water use and encouraging nature-friendly development and farming practices.
- Make nature accessible to everyone by planting new urban trees and woodland, ensuring everyone is within a 15-minute walk of a nature-rich green space and expanding the 'right to roam' on council-owned land.
- Stop pollution of our water, air and land by campaigning against the discharge of raw sewage into our rivers and seas, addressing air and light pollution and supporting action to reduce the run-off of agricultural pollutants.

If you have a particular area of expertise or passion linked to any of the above areas and would like to support our work, email info@cpresussex.org.uk for more information on how to get involved.



SEPTIC SUSSEX BY THE SEA

SEWAGE AND POLLUTING OUTFLOWS

There's an urgent need for joined-up thinking that considers the cumulative impact of sewage discharge and factors this into development plans, including the calculation of housing targets and assessments of site suitability, and, as the following example demonstrates, the deciding of planning applications too.

Details of the inspirational Adur River Restoration Project, one of only 22 nationwide projects to receive funding (£500,000) from DEFRA, were made public by Horsham District Council on 10 October 2022.

Forming an important part of the Wilder Horsham District initiative, the project 'aims to restore nature, reduce flood risks, improve water quality and boost biodiversity in the River Adur area', stretching 'from the Knepp estate to Shoreham, where the river meets the Sussex Bay restoration of the seabed and kelp forests along the Sussex coast'.

horsham.gov.uk/news/2022/10/funding-secured-to-deliver-vital-landscape-recovery-for-river-adur

Meanwhile, a developer had submitted an application to build 1,500 dwellings on farmland at Southwater (DC/22/1916).

The applicant's Environmental Statement advised that the nearest point where 'capacity is currently available for reception of flows from the Proposed Development' is the Barns Green wastewater treatment works (Wwtw).

No mention was made that in 2021 storm overflows of untreated sewage and storm water from this Wwtw spilled 40 times, discharging into the adjoining Parson's Brook for a total of 252 hours (data published 2022).

Data published in 2023 reveals that, once again in 2022 storm overflows from the Wwtw spilled 43 times into the brook for a total of 410.85 hours, despite the prolonged period of drought: theriverstrust.org/key-issues

Parson's Brook is a tributary of the River Adur, and the Wwtw is located within the Adur West Water Body catchment, which has a 'poor ecological status', apparently due in large part to pollution from wastewater /sewage discharge.

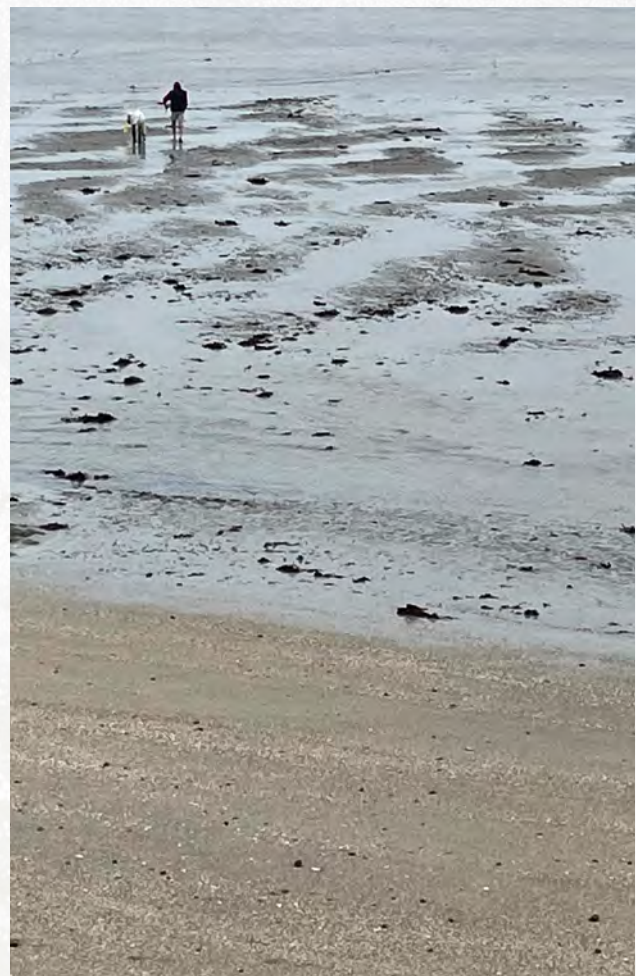
environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB107041012290

Any additional foul water, especially in huge quantities, would surely worsen the catchment's poor ecological status, to the detriment of the Adur River Restoration project and potentially, too, the seabed and kelp forests along the Sussex coast.

Although withdrawn in February 2023, a further application to develop the site is expected.

If you would like to help fight against the pollution of Sussex's waterways visit cpresussex.org.uk/get-involved to find out more about volunteering opportunities.

*Dr Roger F Smith,
Trustee*



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a very busy year for all involved with CPRE Sussex. Members, supporters, project partners and a band of dedicated volunteers have once again helped shape a greener future for Sussex and protect our precious countryside and urban green spaces.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

In 2022 we continued to fight to protect Sussex from inappropriate and unsustainable development. We have challenged District Plans and the Government's method of calculating housing numbers that does nothing other than suck development into the overheated south-east of the UK.

As always, this has been a collaborative effort. We worked with partners including the Sussex Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Sussex Ornithological Society and Buglife, as well as passionate local campaign groups and our dedicated members, supporters and volunteers.

A co-ordinated response to the Center Parcs proposal attracted national attention. We challenged the company to find an alternative location and plant a new woodland rather than building in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on Ancient Woodland, right next to a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We now know Center Parcs has withdrawn its interest in the site.

We have also represented members' views in responses to a wide range of government and private-sector consultations on environmental matters.

We continue to closely monitor water quantity and quality issues, as well as campaigning with Sussex MPs, county-level authorities and district councils on several pieces of legislation threatening to remove or weaken environmental protections.

A GREENER FUTURE FOR SUSSEX

Guided by Interim Director Brian Kilkelly, we completed a review of our operational strategic direction. This led us to the view that, to protect and promote the countryside and urban green spaces, we must shape a greener future for Sussex.

This thinking will allow us to seek opportunities for Sussex's diverse communities to be more sustainable, as well as acting to protect the countryside and our valued heritage.

Thanks to those who make our work possible. I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, members, supporters and Trustees for your invaluable contribution to our work. Without your efforts and expertise, the charity could not exist and our victories would not be possible.

I would also like to thank the Trustees and volunteers who are stepping back from their roles – Trustees Stephen Hardy and Bill Freeman, planning lead for Mid-Sussex Michael Brown and Vic Jent, who has been a main mover in our work with the South Downs National Park.

Finally, we have recruited a new permanent part-time Director, Paul Steedman. Paul has extensive experience of working with member-based environment organisations. Many thanks to Brian Kilkelly for his inputs over the past year.



Dan Osborn, Chair CPRE Sussex.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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

Trustees who have served during the year and at the date of the Report were:

William Freeman, Stephen Hardy, Julian Hill, Penny Hudd, David Johnson, John Kay, Prof Daniel Osborn, Sally Pavay, Dr Roger Smith, Jeannette Towey.

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 M Partridge, FCA, Chariot House Ltd, 44 Grand Parade, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9QA

Investment adviser and nominee company:

Charles Stanley & Co Ltd,
55 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3AS

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 2022. 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 (please refer to the reserves policy in the Notes in the full set of accounts). 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 21st April 2023 and signed on behalf by:



Professor Daniel Osborn, Chair

ABRIDGED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST DEC 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
Incoming Resources	£	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	36,045	–	36,045
Chalk Cliff Trust	4,750	–	4,750
Investment Income	1,533	–	1,533
Donations	13,682	–	13,682
Forgotten Places	–	124,272	124,272
Plant Your Postcode Brighton	–	999	999
Southern Water	–	6,000	6,000
Brighton Resilience Fund	–	6,000	6,000
Gift Aid on Donations	1,140	–	1,140
Other Income	2,796	–	2,796
Total Incoming Resources	59,946	137,271	197,217

Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	9,876	–	9,876
Charitable Activities	57,244	129,239	186,483
Total Resources Expended	67,120	129,239	196,359
Net (Outgoing)/ Incoming Resources	(7,174)	8,032	858
Losses on Investment Assets	11,700	–	11,700
Net Movements in Funds	(18,874)	8,032	(10,842)
Fund Balance at 01-01-2022	153,480	7,901	161,381
Fund balances at 31-12-2022	134,606	15,933	150,539

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Fixed Assets	£
Tangible Assets	1,231
Investments	112,508
Total Fixed Assets	113,739

Current Assets	
Stocks	233
Debtors	38,958
Short term deposits	6,995
Cash at bank and in hand	13,518
Total Current Assets	59,704

Less Creditors	
Amounts falling due within one year	(22,904)
Net Current Assets	36,800
Net Assets	150,539

Income Funds	
Restricted	15,933
Unrestricted	134,606
Total	150,539

These figures are extracted from the full Trustees' Report and financial statements which have been independently examined by Mr M Partridge of Chariot House Limited who gave an unqualified statement in June 2022. 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 2022. The Trustees' Report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 21st April 2023. 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, Blackboys, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5HG.

Julian Hill, Treasurer

DIARY DATES

INVITATION TO THE AGM

The Drill Hall, Horsham on Saturday, 15 July 2023.

Doors open at 10am for tea and coffee,
meeting starts at 10.30am

Please join us, meet Paul Steedman our new
Director, our Trustees and staff and hear about
our plans for a greener future for Sussex.

Exciting speaker news coming soon.

Relax over a delicious lunch and then join the private
talk and tour at the nearby Horsham Museum.
(There is a charge for lunch and the museum visit.)

Full information and how to register can be found in
the separate letter or on our website together with
voting papers if you are not able to join us in person.

[cpresussex.org.uk/about-us/cpre-sussex-
agm-2023/](https://cpresussex.org.uk/about-us/cpre-sussex-agm-2023/)

DISCOVER SUSSEX

JOIN OUR TOURS & WALKS

We are delighted to present a series of tours and
walks including a private visit to Sussex Prairie
Gardens in June, private tour of Glynde House &
Gardens in September and two walks with landscape
expert Dr Geoffrey Mead.

Please visit our website to find out more:
cpresussex.org.uk/get-involved/events/

THE CPRE SUSSEX COUNTRYSIDE DAY

Join us at the Knepp Estate, Dial Post, Horsham
for a celebration of the countryside on Saturday,
2nd September, 10am – 4pm

The Countryside Day is a celebration to mark our
50th anniversary, Knepp Estate's new Wilding Café &
Shop and those working to protect and promote the
Sussex countryside.

We look forward to seeing you with your friends
and family. Find out more

eventbrite.co.uk/e/525450826567



Farm walk

For more information on all these events and volunteer roles please email us info@cpresussex.org.uk

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The coronation marked the start of the Big
Help Out, inspiring people to volunteer in
their local communities. CPRE is proud to
play its part and we've got several volunteer
roles that just might be the right fit for you.

COUNTRY MATTERS

The CPRE Sussex book club organiser

If you're a book lover, you might enjoy getting
involved in planning and organising our bi-monthly
book club. Our chosen books can be anything from
natural history and science to fiction with a local or
environmental angle. We invite authors and special
guests to join the book group's events on-line, they
add a different dimension to the discussions!

FESTIVAL OF SPRING

Online Talks Co-ordinator

We need someone to research and co-ordinate our
2024 series of online evening talks. We have had
many great contributors and our talks have covered
a broad range of topics from bats and Sussex kelp to
landscape history and garden rewilding.

PROTECTING YOUR PATCH

Join our Protect Sussex group

If you're interested in what's going on across your
area and would like to play a serious, positive role in
shaping it's future. We plan to renew and reinvigorate
our network of planning volunteers right across
Sussex. This involves strengthening some groups and
re-establishing others in Arun, Adur & Worthing,
Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Rother & Hastings.

This is vital to keep abreast of events across Sussex
ensuring developers, planners and politicians hear
our voices. It will also help us support and advise
local residents' groups on issues affecting them.

You don't need to be an expert; we provide training,
help and support!

HELP OUT Countryside Day

at Knepp Estate, Dial Post, Horsham
on Saturday, 2nd September

Join us for an enjoyable day and help with setting up,
signage, directing traffic and visitors, running a stall,
manning the entrance or sorting recycling.