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PRESS RELEASE: King's Speech is 'disappointing ducking' of what Sussex needs

Charity says plans are a missed opportunity to tackle cost of living, climate and nature crises.

A Sussex charity says law-making plans outlined in today's Kings Speech fail to address major threats to the historic county.

CPRE Sussex says action is needed to tackle cost-of-living, climate and nature crises.

Instead, the Government plans to introduce climate-damaging oil and gas licensing that will do nothing to tackle sky-high energy bills.

CPRE Sussex director Paul Steedman said: "This King's Speech was an opportunity to address the big issues for Sussex and the countryside: affordability of housing, transport and energy bills, tackling the increasing effects of climate breakdown and support for nature-friendly farming. It is disappointing to see what looks more like electoral posturing."

While the speech ended with a brief mention of climate change and biodiversity, it failed to include any specific details. The core areas CPRE Sussex would like to see addressed in future policies include:

- Fresh support to help communities build affordable housing
- Action on rural transport including the return of rural buses and the roll-out of an electric vehicle charging network that works for the countryside
- Plans to restart stalled offshore wind and to get solar power on all new rooftops
- Ambitious nature-based solutions for managing flooding

To find out more about how you can help CPRE Sussex protect, promote and enhance the Sussex countryside visit cpresussex.org.uk/get-involved

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities contact sheena.campbell@cpresussex.org.uk.

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.