



The countryside charity
Sussex

Planning Campaigner

CPRE Sussex, the countryside charity, is seeking a part-time Planning Campaigner to work alongside its existing dedicated team of staff, trustees and other volunteers.

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex has campaigned for over 50 years to protect, celebrate and regenerate the Sussex countryside. Part of the England-wide CPRE network, with over 2000 members and supporters, the charity works to ensure that good development to create healthy, thriving communities meets the challenges of the housing, climate and nature crises – and that poor development does not take away from what makes Sussex's landscapes so special. You will join a small part-time team of dedicated staff, alongside a passionate group of volunteers and trustees.

About the role

The Planner will support CPRE Sussex's work across the full range of land use planning issues, by providing input to the consultation processes throughout East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove on the preparation of Local Plans, and will comment on significant development proposals as well as helping to support our members and volunteers. This will require close working with our lead planning volunteers, the 'Protect Sussex Group'. The post holder will also assist in developing and executing the campaigns CPRE Sussex undertakes in furtherance of its charitable objectives, and occasionally in consultations, in conjunction with the rest of the CPRE Network, on wider planning policy matters.

Closing Date for applications is 11:30pm on Thursday, November 7th 2024. Interviews will be held w/c November 18th 2024, at our offices near Uckfield.

Job Description

Hours:	Part-time, 0.5 FTE/18.75 hours per week, some flexibility over when they are worked, but will include occasional evening or weekend working
Salary:	£33-39k pro rata, plus expenses
Contract:	1-year initially, with possibility of extension. We have created the role as a staff position, but we are open to applicants with an interest in supplying the relevant services on a self-employed consultancy basis.
Location:	Will need to work from our office near Uckfield on at least 1 day per week; flexibility over location for other hours
Holiday:	25 days per year plus Bank Holidays pro rata
Responsible to:	Director



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Purpose of role: To help protect and regenerate the Sussex countryside via the planning system, through close working with CPRE Sussex planning volunteers and local stakeholders.

Key responsibilities:

Shaping our strategic approach to planning across Sussex, developing policy positions and guidance, helping the organisation prioritise where and how to get involved

- Support the Chair of our volunteer-led planning committee to shape our strategic approach to planning across Sussex
- Develop and maintain a knowledge bank of policy positions and useful cases
- Compile and update data on the 'state of development and planning' in Sussex

Influence Local Plans

- Maintain an overview of the timetable and progress for Local Plans and 'significant' planning applications
- Support volunteer district planning leads to influence their development, through consultation responses, lobbying and, where necessary, public campaigns
- Where necessary, directly lead CPRE Sussex's response to Local Plan consultations and examinations

Responding to significant Planning Applications

- Work with local planning volunteers to identify the most significant planning applications coming forward
- Support volunteer district planning leads to influence their development, through consultation responses, lobbying and, where necessary, public campaigns
- Where necessary, directly lead CPRE Sussex's response to planning applications
- With the Administrator, track the progress of significant applications, reporting on our progress to the Board, membership and the wider public, through appropriate comms
- Bring in specialist consultancy to provide expertise as and when we need it

Support, train and advise our network of planning volunteers

- With the Supporters and Partnerships Officer, recruit and organise training for new planning volunteers (especially where we have 'gaps' in our coverage), building up our networks further
- Provide planning advice and support to our volunteers
- Provide support to district planning in leads in building more networks with parish councillors and local residents' groups

Strengthen the knowledge of community groups, councillors and other interested parties

- Provide training and advice to community groups, councillors and others who share our values and aims, including through answering public enquiries

Contribute to the public debate on planning-related issues



- With the Chair of our planning committee, the Director and others as appropriate, develop, run and/or support 1 or more planning-related campaigns (such as the current sewage campaign), drawing in new volunteers to help
- Provide public commentary on critical planning issues, through our own comms channels and the media
- Support our planning volunteers in responding to government consultations

Contribute to partnerships and networks, liaising with groups across Sussex and with national CPRE

Contribute to project development and fundraising bids to support the delivery of this work.

Person Specification

Attribute	Essential or Desirable	Assessed by
Qualifications		
RTPI accredited Degree or Diploma in Town & Country Planning	E	Certificate
Corporate membership of the RTPI or equivalent or eligible for membership	D	Certificate
Experience & Knowledge		
Minimum of 2 years post qualification experience with a preferred focus on planning policy	E	Application, Interview & References
Experience in development management	D	Application, Interview & References
Sound knowledge of planning legislation and operation of the planning system generally	E	Application & Interview
Sound knowledge and understanding of policy formulation and plan making process	E	Application & Interview
Experience of giving evidence at EiPs and Inquiries	D	Application & Interview
Knowledge of role and purpose of environmental NGOs	D	Application & Interview



Knowledge of CPRE's purpose and objectives	E	Application & Interview
Knowledge of Sussex's particular challenges and links to the area's planning network	D	Application & Interview
Commitment to Continued Professional Development	E	CPD Record
Familiarity with tools, techniques and approaches used in public campaigning	D	Application & Interview
Skills & Abilities		
Computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office	E	Application & Interview
Good written and verbal communication and presentational skills	E	Application & Interview
Ability to work with minimum supervision	E	Application & Interview
Ability to understand complex and technical planning issues	E	Application & Interview
Ability to manage and meet demanding deadlines	E	Application & Interview
Ability to communicate clearly and simply with both lay people and fellow professionals	E	Application & Interview
Additional Requirements		
Possess current driving licence and have access to a car when needed	D	Application & Interview
Professional, friendly and confident manner in dealing with others	E	Interview
Preparedness to work flexibly as required by the organisation	E	Application & Interview

To apply for the role, please complete the application form (CVs will not be accepted) and email to info@cpresussex.org.uk. Please make sure you explain, using examples from your experience, how you meet each of the criteria listed in the person specification, as well as the wider job description; failure to do so means you are unlikely to be shortlisted.

Closing Date for applications is 11:30pm on Sunday October 27th 2024.

Interviews will be held w/b November 4th 2024, at our offices near Uckfield.