



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Planning amendments are ‘extraordinary capitulation’ to big developers

Charity criticises last-minute amendments to Planning and Infrastructure Bill which will strip Sussex communities of their voice.

CPRE Sussex has criticised last minute changes to the Government’s Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

The charity said the amendments represented a ‘dangerous erosion’ of democracy, removing vital safeguards and giving ministers the power to override local council decisions.

“These proposals remove power from local people and risk causing irreversible damage to wildlife, communities and the wider environment,” said Paul Steedman, director of CPRE Sussex. “They are an extraordinary capitulation to the same big developers who have consistently failed to provide the homes people in Sussex need.”

Last-minute amendments to the bill include stopping councils from refusing planning permission while ministers consider using ‘call-in’ powers.

Judges would also be blocked from halting approvals while legal challenges proceed.

CPRE research shows there is enough brownfield in Sussex to build more than 26k homes.

CPRE chief executive Roger Mortlock said: “It’s possible to build the affordable and sustainable homes people need while still protecting the countryside and nature. What’s required isn’t the



The countryside charity
Sussex

removal of democratic safeguards, but a shake-up of our broken housing market and proper investment in a planning system that works for communities, not just big developers.”

-ENDS-

For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Nancy Duckels on 07795 551852.



The countryside charity
Sussex

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.