



The countryside charity
Sussex



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Charity urges Sussex MPs to ‘stand up for nature’ ahead of critical votes

CPRE Sussex says amendments to the Planning Infrastructure Bill are critical to safeguard local democratic accountability and protect wildlife and wild places.

A Sussex charity has written to MPs asking them to accept amendments and mitigate the ‘most misguided elements’ of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

CPRE Sussex is backing four amendments to the Bill put forward in the House of Lords.

The proposed changes are critical to safeguard local democratic accountability, create sustainable places for people to live, stop developers destroying wild places and protect our globally-important chalk stream habitats.

CPRE Sussex director Paul Steedman said: “The Bill as originally proposed exemplifies the poisonous rhetoric which has falsely pitted nature against growth and ‘builders’ against ‘blockers’. It contemptuously treats much-treasured wildlife and local environment-lovers as enemies of those struggling economically.

“CPRE Sussex is a major advocate for truly affordable housing – especially for social rent – that meets local needs. But ‘build, baby, build’ is not a serious policy solution to the crisis in housing affordability. Making the planning system the scapegoat, and throwing local democracy and nature to the wolves, will not fix a broken housing market.”

The government’s original bill strips away critical protections for nature and local people’s ability to shape the places where they live.



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It tips the balance of the planning system decisively in favour of major developers without doing anything to tackle the crisis in housing affordability that has blighted Sussex and the country.

Calling on MPs to do the right thing, Mr Steedman added: “CPRE Sussex’s thousands of members and supporters are counting on you to stand up for nature, local communities and the countryside, by voting to retain the House of Lords’ amendments.”

-ENDS-

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



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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.