

**PRESS RELEASE: Changes to planning rules ‘double down’ on unrealistic housing targets
*Charity says proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are highly centralising and fail to sufficiently prioritise essential infrastructure.***

Countryside campaigners have officially responded to the Government’s plans to radically change existing planning rules.

CPRE Sussex said there were ‘some details to be welcomed’ in the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). However, it raised serious concerns about the plan overall. In summary the charity believes the plans:

- Are highly centralising, further reducing the scope of local communities and their elected representatives to shape the places where they live, work and play.
- Double down on unrealistic and undeliverable housing targets, opening the door to yet more speculative and unplanned development.
- Fail to sufficiently prioritise essential infrastructure, or sustainable travel.
- Undermine the idea that we should develop in ways that protect the ability of future generations to live well.
- Place the countryside under significant threat, potentially harming wildlife, habitats, food security and other critical land uses.

CPRE Sussex director Paul Steedman said: “The proposed changes to the NPPF appear to largely benefit landowners and developers while failing to protect the countryside or support local people who are struggling to afford to live in the areas they grew up in. These proposals are even more worrying when you consider that they come on top of the ‘pay to trash nature’ reforms of the Planning and Infrastructure Act.

“This government appears to be intent on positioning nature and local communities as ‘blockers’ to economic success rather than building blocks. I have written to all local councillors and MPs asking them to read our concerns in more details and respond to the consultation.”

The consultation on changes to the NPPF closes on March 10.

The charity is asking members of the public to write to their MP, calling for them to raise concerns around the new NPPF draft. [Sussex residents can contact their MP using this link.](#)

[View the proposals and consultation documents here.](#)

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Sheena Campbell on 07709 354924 or Nancy Duckels on 07795 551852.

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.