

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CPRE Sussex welcomes Government U-turn on local elections**

CPRE Sussex has today (February 17) welcomed news that local elections will be held across Sussex this year.

It said the decision was vital for local democracy and called for the countryside to be at the heart of local candidates' campaigns.

**Director Paul Steedman said:** "Climate, nature and affordable housing are all currently in disastrous positions. At the same time, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) currently out for public consultation threatens to centralise power and undermine local democracy. It is therefore vital that these elections go ahead – and that the countryside is at the heart of these elections."

Recent [research commissioned by the national CPRE charity](#) shows support for the countryside is strong.

Seven in 10 people believe the amount of land protected for nature and wellbeing should be increased. More than 8 in 10 people believe it is possible to build the homes the UK needs while safeguarding the countryside for future generations.

**Mr Steedman added:** "At a time when politics is so often divisive, protecting the countryside is cross-generational and cross-party. Our local political leaders should take note – protecting and enhancing the countryside is a priority for people from all walks of life."

For more information on CPRE Sussex's work to protect, enhance and celebrate the countryside visit [cpresussex.org.uk](http://cpresussex.org.uk).

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities call 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.