

Sussex Countryside Charter

A large, leafy tree stands in a green field. In the background, there is a yellow flower field and rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!
SIGN OUR CHARTER
CONTACT YOUR MP

BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE

OUR CHARTER ASKS FOR

- regeneration to unlock brownfield land
- the creation of thriving and distinctive places
- a fair voice for local communities in planning
- smarter development – the right development, in the right place.

We are saying loud and clear that whatever the government's original intentions, the reformed planning system is not working.

Local people are being disregarded, open countryside is being developed while suitable brownfield land is left unused, and too few affordable homes are being built. Sussex communities face damaging energy and transport schemes. Funding to support farmers to protect the countryside has been cut.

Our aim is to send a strong message to local and national politicians that the countryside is vital to the health and wellbeing of people in Sussex. Now we need to build up our support and demonstrate our strength in the fight for the countryside we all love so much. We want to strengthen partnerships with allied groups so we can work together to protect the countryside. We need to show politicians at local and national level that they must listen to public opinion.

There are six key commitments that we believe are essential to protect and enhance valued countryside. We want politicians to take them on board.

YOU CAN HELP US DO THIS IN THREE WAYS:

FIRST

please sign up to these key commitments by adding your name or organisation to our Sussex Charter by returning the attached 'citizen' postcard to us or you can sign up online at www.cpresussex.org.uk

SECOND

please help us get your MPs and Councillors to sign up by sending them the relevant postcard.

THIRD

make your voice count. Your MPs and local Councillors do respond to letters and emails, you could also talk to them in person at their surgeries.

Let them know how you feel about the state of the countryside and the regeneration of our towns and cities.

Are your MPs and Councillors doing the right thing?

Are they are standing up for the countryside as you think they should be?



OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

1 PROGRESS FOR SUSSEX

Forward-thinking development that ensures the environment is resilient and able to absorb the demands we place on it – ‘Smart-growth’ – is the way forward to make meaningful progress.

To do this we need to unlock brownfield land and link sustainable transport with the regeneration of towns and villages as healthy, distinctive, vibrant places to live and work.

We want to see places created that will be a joy to live in and visit now and in the future.

KEY COMMITMENT

We believe in a holistic vision for town and country, liberating brownfield sites for regeneration, promoting high quality design, excellent environmental standards and distinctive places.

2 HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

Genuinely affordable housing is a priority; backed by communities, provided by Community Land Trusts, local co-operatives and housing associations. Sprawling ‘clone’ market developments with a handful of mean spirited affordable homes are a serious failure to invest in our future.

Truly affordable housing integrated and in character with existing settlements is the way forward.

KEY COMMITMENT

We believe that in rural areas genuinely affordable housing developed by local providers, in tune with the character of villages and towns, should be the priority over sprawling market housing developments in the countryside.

3 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

As citizens we all have a responsibility to use our voices and votes actively to protect our countryside now and in the future.

The countryside is there for everyone – whether for its environmental, social or economic value.

Local people know and love their local areas and care about the long term future of these places, well beyond the short-termism characterised by the current national market driven approach. Visitors often become attached to special places so can add their voices to protect such areas.

KEY COMMITMENT

Local people must have a strong voice to ensure future-proofed decisions: innovatively designed development with excellent environmental standards, in the right place, to meet people's needs.

4 NEW SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP

The countryside needs protecting and cherishing to be fruitful – both for our own sake and for the wildlife and rich ecosystems it can support. We must embrace a 'new sense of Stewardship', helping farmers and landowners to work smarter so that they can deliver our food and development needs while respecting the land that is vital for our health and wellbeing.

KEY COMMITMENT

Funding schemes that support farmers to nurture biodiversity and protect the environment must be strengthened, enhanced and monitored to make sure they produce the results we all want.



A person is walking away from the camera through a vast, green field towards a line of trees in the distance. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly hazy light, possibly during the 'blue hour' of dusk or dawn. The person is wearing a dark jacket and carrying a red bag. The field is a mix of green and brown, suggesting it might be a field of wildflowers or a recently harvested crop field. The trees in the background are mostly bare, with some green foliage still visible, indicating a late autumn or early winter setting.

5 GETTING AROUND LIGHTLY

Getting around is vital, but it is in all our interests to protect the character and tranquillity of cherished Sussex countryside.

Proposals for a second runway at Gatwick represent a major threat without clear benefits for local regeneration.

Air and noise pollution, HGV and car traffic will hugely increase coupled with unprecedented concreting over of the countryside for new housing and business development.

We believe there is enough runway capacity already, there is no need for a new runway anywhere. A responsible approach is to invest in rail travel as a more sustainable option for viable journeys within UK and Europe.

Roads are a vital artery in Sussex life, but in recent times plans for major new roads have posed grave threats to areas of wonderful countryside which once under tarmac are gone forever.

We cannot provide for unlimited traffic demands without severely damaging the countryside. Air and noise pollution diminish quality of life and emissions contribute to a more chaotic climate.

We want to see better local rail links, along the coast and linking towns - and to London from coastal towns in need of regeneration. Faster and direct links are vital.

KEY COMMITMENT

Positive investment in sustainable transport is the responsible way to better connect Sussex, avoiding unnecessarily damaging airport and road expansion.

6 ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE

Energy developments are increasingly controversial and challenging. There is no silver bullet to meeting our long-term energy needs. A mix of sources is inevitable. Energy efficiency must be prioritised in all new and existing buildings to reduce use and dependency.

Renewable energy is a priority to avoid the worst effects of climate change. The right place for renewable energy is roof space for solar panels and wind farms where they are sensitively planned to protect our most precious landscapes.

Fracking, a fossil fuel supply, and the current rush for gas risks irreversible damage unless there are cast iron guarantees that it can be made safe. It risks harming the character and tranquillity of our villages, and without a strong community voice local impacts could be overlooked. As a result, the health and wellbeing of our rural communities is hanging in the balance.

Nationally designated landscapes are our most precious asset and it must be clear that fracking has no place in these areas.

KEY COMMITMENT

For a positive future, energy developments must be well planned and policed to avoid irreversibly damaged industrialised landscapes.

The health and wellbeing of people, wildlife, natural eco-systems and agricultural land for future food security must surely come first.

WE BELIEVE

a beautiful, thriving countryside is important for everyone, no matter where they live. We don't own land or represent any special interests. Our members are united in their love for England's landscapes and rural communities, and stand up for the countryside, so it can continue to sustain, enchant and inspire future generations.

CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust is the working title of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Sussex Branch CIO, a Registered Charity.

We exist to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust

Brownings Farm, Blackboys

East Sussex, TN22 5HG

phone 01825 890975

e-mail info@cpresussex.org.uk

www.cpresussex.org.uk

Registered charity number 1156568

THANK YOU

We are truly appreciative of the support we are given which makes our work possible. Legacy donations continue to be essential and we truly appreciate the generosity of those who have remembered us in their will.

We are also hugely grateful to those trusts, companies and individuals who have made donations, large and small to help us keep the countryside safe.

If you value the countryside and would like to make a donation or leave a legacy to the CPRE Countryside Trust please contact Lesley Wilson for more information on 01825 890975 or email info@cpresussex.org.uk.

JOIN CPRE SUSSEX COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

When you join **CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust**, you also automatically become a member of the national CPRE charity too. Your membership subscription is divided between the Sussex and the national charities.

If possible, please join by Direct Debit as it greatly reduces our administration costs and so helps our campaigning work.

You can join by visiting our website **www.cpresussex.org.uk** or by filling out this form and sending it back to us at the address below.

Yes, I would like to become a member ☐

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other

Initials

Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Mobile

e-mail

If you are happy to be contacted by email, please tick ☐

If you are happy to be contacted via SMS on your mobile, please tick ☐

Friends and Family

If you would like your partner or family to enjoy your CPRE membership, please add their details below. We recommend a minimum of £36 a year or £60 for multiple names. The more you give the more we can do.

Name/s

Date of Birth (if under 16)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

For Parish Council or organisation membership please call the branch office on 01825 890975

*Please note that any member paying under £3 per month will not receive our National magazine 'Countryside Voice'





Instructions to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your bank/building society

To: the manager
Bank address
Postcode

Name of account holder(s)

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Account no

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Branch sort code

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Service User Number

7	2	4	2	4	5
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Reference (for office use only)

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Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CPRE by Direct Debit from my account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by Direct Debit Guarantee.

Please specify (circle)

Per YEAR £36 £60 £120 £ 250 other £

Per MONTH £3 £5 £10 £25 £50 other £

I understand that this instruction may remain with CPRE, and if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank or Building Society

Signature/s
Date

Alternatively a cheque can be made payable to CPRE Sussex

Gift Aid declaration

I want CPRE and CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust to treat as gift aid all subscriptions and donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. *giftaid it*

Full name of taxpayer

Signature

Date

Please note: you must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax CPRE reclaims on your donation in the tax year. If your circumstances change, you can cancel your declaration on 0207 981 2870. CPRE holds and manages data in strict accordance to Data Protection Act 1998. We will not pass your details to any other organisation without your prior agreement. CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust is the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Sussex Branch CIO. It is now an incorporated charitable organisation registered with the Charity Commission, registered charity number 1156568. The national Campaign to Protect Rural England is a separate charity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1089685. It is a company limited by guarantee (No. 4302973).

Please complete this form and return it to:

**Membership Services, CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust,
Brownings Farm, Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5HG**

Thank you!