



Sussex
countryside
deserves better

Annual Report

2015

Chairman's Report

While we commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death this year, a quote from *Troilus and Cressida* sums up last year's activities well.

"Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the doing."

Our frustration in relation to a Government planning and housing strategy that favours developers rather than delivering genuinely 'affordable' homes, is seen as politicians' apparent 'will to ignorance'. Shakespeare recognised this familiar problem:

"Get thee glass eyes; and like a scurvy politician, seem to see the things thou dost not."

King Lear

Any connection to the Sussex countryside is personal; its beauty is in the eye of its users. CPRE Sussex seeks to promote and protect the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of our countryside while supporting its sensitive and sustainable use. Too often, we must work to protect rather than promote our green fields, fighting off poorly judged housing developments intended more to make developers money than respond to local needs, and infrastructure proposals designed to satisfy absent politicians rather than respond to local opinion.

This development pressure has meant that CPRE Sussex enjoyed another busy year. In January, we faced the resignation of our Director, Georgia, when she moved to CPRE London and our new Director, Kia Trainor, joined us in September. During the interim we must thank the Trustees, staff and volunteers who filled in the gap magnificently.

Our Executive Committee and two main sub-groups (the Countryside Action Team – leading on communications and membership, and the Protect Sussex Group – leading on Policy and Planning) met regularly to govern, steer and plan the work of the charity. Our District Groups spent considerable time reviewing key planning applications and draft local plans including those from the South Downs National Park Authority. Volunteers, Trustees and staff submitted representations and spoke at planning meetings, appeals and examinations including the Horsham District Examination in Public. We attended a variety of network meetings locally, regionally and nationally, including stakeholder meetings for infrastructure developments and road systems (A27). Trustees, staff and other volunteers addressed local groups and societies about CPRE's work and responded to local concerns.

In preparation for the General Election we developed a Countryside Charter to encourage all political parties to commit to better protection and sustainable use of Sussex countryside. March saw our first 'Countryside or Concrete' election hustings in Horsham; a second followed in Arundel. The hustings were an enormous success, generating much publicity and highlighting our key concerns in terms of protection of the countryside.

CPRE volunteer, Lorna Train, arranged six very well attended 'Tours and Talks' for current members. Trustees also ran a CPRE stall at the 'Floral Fringe Festival' held at Knepp Castle to attract new members.

Our AGM was held in July, which focused on the changing face of the Sussex landscape and the need to help steer its future. Issues raised helped shape our autumn strategic review and development day, to which members and trustees were invited. We began our 'Making Places' project in the autumn, to create locally-led principles for good design to challenge developer mediocrity.

Last year we produced two Sussex Reviews, a members' newsletter, numerous updates to our website and social and other media. We've worked hard to promote our concerns and successes more effectively, while continuing our peer-to-peer training activities on social media and planning issues.

Reflecting on another busy year, we sought to work closer with MPs and local politicians to hold them to account and find better ways of support our members to become ambassadors able to promote and protect the glorious Sussex countryside.

David Johnson, June 2016

Trustee's Report

Trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year and at the date of the Report were:

Mr M Brown
Mr R Chambers
Mr J French-Brooks
Mr S Hardy
Mr J Hill
Ms P Hudd
Mr D Johnson
Dr J Kay
Mrs S Pavey
Mr R Shirley
Dr R Smith
Mr D Willingham

Mr M Brown resigned on 15th February 2015. Mr J Hill, Mrs S Pavey and Mr D Willingham were appointed at the AGM on 15th July 2015. Mr J French-Brooks resigned on 16th July 2015.

New trustees are appointed after a review of the skills required and are drawn from individuals who have relevant backgrounds. When appropriate the trustees consult other relevant organisations for nominations to the committee. New trustees are provided with an introduction to the Charity.

Registered address:

Brownings Farm,
 Blackboys,
 Uckfield,
 East Sussex,
 TN22 5HG

Campaign to Protect Rural England,
 Sussex Branch CIO
 Charity number: 1156568

The Trustees present the financial statements which have been drawn up in accordance with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective from January 2015 and the Branch's governing document.

Working Names

CPRE Sussex and CPRE Sussex
 Countryside Trust

Constitution, objectives and activities

CPRE Sussex is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and its governing document is "The Constitution of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Sussex Branch CIO" registered with the Charity Commission on 8th April 2014, charity number 1156568. The Branch is restricted by its Constitution from undertaking any substantial permanent trading activities.

The objects of the CIO are to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement, protection and preservation of the countryside of Sussex and its towns and villages and the environmentally better development of the same.

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, PO Box 289, Kings Hill,
 West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA
 Santander, Bridle Road, Bootle, Liverpool,
 Merseyside, L30 4GB

Independent Examiner:

Mr C R Tyler, FCA DChA, Chariot House Ltd,
 44 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 9QA

Investment adviser and nominee company:

UBS AG, 1 Finsbury Avenue,
 London EC2M 2AN
 During April 2015 investments were transferred to Charles Stanley & Co Ltd,
 25 Luke Street, London EC2A 4AR

Public benefit reporting

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Financial review and reserves

The Chairman's report included in these accounts gives a full description of the activities and results for the year ended 31st December 2015. The Trustees consider

that the level of reserves is adequate to support current activities for the next three to four years, and are actively reviewing future funding to ensure that CPRE Sussex will continue to be an effective voice for the future. The Trustees review financial and other risks on a regular basis.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate that the charity will continue business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Abridged Financial Information

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2015

These figures are extracted from the full Trustees' Report and financial statements which have been independently examined by Mr C R Tyler of Chariot House Limited who gave an unqualified statement in May 2016. The Independent Examiner has confirmed to the Trustees that the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2015.

The Trustees' Report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 23rd April 2016. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission. These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of CPRE Sussex.

The full Trustees' Report, Independent Examiner's Report and Financial Statements may be obtained from

CPRE Sussex,
Brownings Farm,
Blackboys,
Uckfield,
East Sussex,
TN22 5HG.

Richard Shirley,
Treasurer

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2015
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Membership subscriptions	36,216	–	36,216
Investment Income	2,300	–	2,300
Legacies	1,000	–	1,000
Donations	10,650	–	10,650
Gift Aid	257	–	257
Other Income	5,608	–	5,608
Total Incoming Resources	56,031	–	56,031
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Raising funds	3,187	–	3,187
Charitable Activities	65,422	–	65,422
Total Resources Expended	68,609	–	68,609
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources before Transfers	(12,578)	–	(12,578)
Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets	145	–	145
Net Movements in Funds	(12,433)	–	(12,433)
Fund balance at 1st Jan 2015	292,350	5,727	298,077
Fund balances at 31st Dec 2015	279,917	5,727	285,644

Balance sheet at 31st December 2015

FIXED ASSETS		£
Tangible Assets		993
Stock and Bond Investment		183,579
Total Fixed Assets		184,572
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors, Prepayments & Deposits		12,539
Short term deposits		85,984
Cash at bank and in hand		3,485
Total Current Assets		102,008
Less Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year		936
Net Current Assets		101,072
Net Assets		285,644
CAPITAL FUNDS		
Income Funds		
Restricted		5,727
Unrestricted		279,917
Total		285,644