

SUSSEX REVIEW

In this issue

Update3
You're invited to our AGM4
Introducing our new Director .5

How much housing
do we really need?6

Offshore wind farms:
do they make sense?8

Our Annual Report.....9

Manhood Peninsula 12

Around the districts
Adur & Worthing, Arun,
Brighton & Hove, Chichester
North, Chichester South,
Horsham & Crawley..... 14
Lewes, Mid-Sussex,
Rother & Hastings, Wealden
North, Wealden South..... 15

A tribute to Dr Peter Brandon 16

A tribute to Nic Packwood ... 18

Governments and nature:
a glass half full?..... 19

A farmer's eye view 20

NPPF – now a better chance of protecting the countryside

Welcome to the summer edition of the Sussex Review, and thanks to all who pressed for change and to those who delivered the National Planning Policy Framework. But we must remain vigilant to make sure growth does not come at the countryside's expense.

In this issue we welcome our new Director, Georgia Wrighton, and let you know the details of our AGM, – which this year has a farming theme. We'll also be exploring the dilemmas imposed by the insatiable demand for housing and the demands made of the farming industry.

We report back on the impact of a large agribusiness application on the Manhood Peninsula, and feature a personal view of the wind turbine

debate that centres on the Rampion development off the Sussex coast.

There are also the usual reports from our representatives across the two counties, and we pay sad tribute on the passing of Dr Peter Brandon and Nic Packwood.

Have you looked at our new website?

You will find more information on the issues raised in this Review and much else to interest and inform you. Like most modern organisations we shall increasingly rely on the website to keep you informed and up-to-date. If you haven't looked recently please visit:

www.cpresussex.org.uk



Published by CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust, the Sussex branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. We exist to promote the beauty, tranquility and diversity of our countryside by encouraging sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. The opinions expressed in the Review are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Branch.

President
Lord Egremont
Vice Presidents
Margaret Moore
Gerald Summerfield

Trustees

Chairman
Rodney Chambers
Vice Chairman: West Sussex
Dr Roger Smith
Vice Chairman: East Sussex
Stuart Derwent
Hon Treasurer
Peter Lansberry
Hon Secretary
Prof Edmund Critchley
Executive Committee Members
Justin French-Brooks
Penelope Hudd
John Kay
Christopher Lewis

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

Roger Foxwell and Aaron Huykman resigned as Trustees, and Justin French – Brooks was elected at the AGM on July 12th 2011.

Membership: For information and application forms please call Liz Beeney at the office:

CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust
Brownings Farm, Blackboys, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5HG
Phone: 01825 890975
Email: info@cpresussex.org.uk
Visit us at: www.cpresussex.org.uk

The copy date for the next issue is Monday 17 September 2012
Email: info@cpresussex.org.uk

Staff

Branch Director
Georgia Wrighton
Senior Branch Administrator
Liz Beeney
Office Administrator/Accounts
Sas Drury

Bankers

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

Independent Examiner

Mr C.R.Tyler FCA DChA
Clark Brownscombe Limited, 8 The Drive, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3JT

Image credits:
© Colin Leeves
© Fran Rawlinson
© David Rees Davies
© Ann Winsor

Design and production
Edie Mullen
ediebullen@gmail.com

Printed by One Digital
01273 887575

UPDATE



In March the National Planning Policy Framework was published, a much more acceptable document than the “go for economic development and to hell with the countryside” flavour of earlier proposals. After a concerted campaign by the National Trust and CPRE, strongly supported by the actions of Sussex CPRE members, we got something we might be able to live with. Thanks to everyone who wrote to or confronted their MP – no Sussex MP was left in any doubt of our strength of feeling.

Neighbourhood plans are beginning to have an impact under the provision of the Localism Act. Not every neighbourhood will choose to have a formal plan but they are being drawn up in places as diverse as Littlehampton and Fernhurst. Jointly with the South Downs National Park Authority and CPRE Hampshire, we hosted a seminar to share information and good practice attended by over a hundred parish council representatives.

In March Stuart Meier left for pastures new. As our first Director he put his personal stamp on the post. Tireless in promoting good practice and a professional approach, he had a great impact on our standing and brought great public recognition to the Branch. He was also involved at national level in consultations which resulted in a substantial rise in our membership. We thank him for setting us on a new path.

In April we appointed a new Director, Georgia Wrighton, and we all look forward to working with her.

We pay tribute to Dr Peter Brandon, an unrivalled scholar of the South Downs, past chairman and vice president of the Branch and to Nic Packwood, for many years chairman of our Horsham and District committee and Branch Treasurer. We will miss them both greatly.

Finally, this is the last report I shall write as your chairman. Ironically for one who has taken such pleasure in the visual beauties of Sussex, I have been struck by macular degeneration and can no longer decently pretend to perform the chairman’s duties. I wish my successor, whoever he or she may be, the very best.

Rodney Chambers
Chairman

CPRE, in collaboration with the Association of Local Councils, has produced an excellent series of manuals to assist forming neighbourhood plans. CPRE handbooks dealing step by step with planning applications are also available. Please call the office to request your copy.

You're invited to our **AGM**

At Brinsbury College
Tuesday 10th July 2012
Meeting starts at 10.30am
(Coffee 10.00am)

Following the formal business the first of our speakers is **Jonny Morris MRICS**, rural surveyor and member of the South Downs National Park Land Managers Group, who will give us his thoughts on farming, particularly on the South Downs. This is a particularly apt topic in view of CPRE's recent publication "Vision for the future of Farming".

His roles with both public and private sector clients has given him a balanced view of, and a keen interest in, the issues facing the South Downs; from the sustainability of farming estates and rural communities to ensuring ongoing protection of the landscape. His role requires him to assist in the management of two Estates on the South Downs, which have a combined acreage of just over 16,000 acres. He also sits on the executive committee of the South Downs Land Management Group.

Our second speaker will be **Jane Cecil** from the National Trust, who will tell us about her work in Sussex and South East England in general. As General Manager for the National Trust in the South Downs, she is responsible for their spectacular countryside sites from Black Down on the Surrey Border to the cliffs at Birling Gap.

Prior to joining the National Trust in 2010, Jane led the wildlife and landscape team for Natural England in London. Before her two children arrived she led national landscape and recreation policy work at the Countryside Agency, responsible for a portfolio that included the designation of the South Downs and New Forest National Parks, AONBs, inheritance tax, community renewables, planning, transport and the coast.

Copies of the Agenda, the 2011 Minutes and copies of CRPE's Vision for the future of farming will be available on the day. To request them in advance, please contact the office (01825 890975).

A hot buffet lunch will be available, at a cost of £13.00 per head, to be followed by a guided farm tour of Brinsbury Campus (tractor and trailer) in the afternoon. If you would like to attend please complete and return the booking form –which came with your edition of Sussex Review – by Friday 22 June.

Chichester College
Brinsbury Campus
North Heath
Pulborough
West Sussex
RH20 1DL

Directions: The venue is on the A29 between Bilingshurst and Pulborough. Turn into the main entrance (not the equine centre), then turn right immediately, drive THROUGH the main car park and behind the buildings you will see on your left. There is a second car park nearer to the conference centre. If you would like a detailed map please contact the office.



Georgia joins us this summer

"I look forward to meeting so many of you working tirelessly as a voice for the rich natural and social heritage we enjoy here in Sussex"

GEORGIA WRIGHTON

Meet our new Director. With a strong planning background and political experience as City Councillor and MEP liaison officer, Georgia has just the skills we were looking for.

"It's a huge privilege and an honour to join CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust as Director this summer.

I look forward to meeting so many of you working tirelessly as a voice for the rich natural and social heritage we enjoy here in Sussex, and to ensure that rural life in the area can thrive for the future. I think it's so important to have in mind where we want to be in the future, what our development needs are and equally where we reach our limits.

As a renewed era of pro-growth national planning policy unfolds, we face the uncertain prospect of whether local authorities will be able to join with local people

in demanding real sustainable development, delivering economic benefits for the countryside, addressing the needs of all sections of rural communities and enabling us to live within environmental limits, or whether the national planning agenda will leave the door open for profit to always come before people.

The pro-growth mantra of recent years has marginalised voices warning of the limits to growth and must be tempered by local buy-in: local enthusiasm for good development in the right place combined with passionate local authority leadership could provide a powerful force for a positive future for the countryside and against a

'development at any costs' culture in planning.

I want local authorities to invite people to take part in a 'great sustainable development debate' which asks people to participate in a real discussion about beneficial development we can embrace, and what we can't accept- in effect our own limits: the importance of protecting the special characteristics of the countryside we value most, and which once lost can never be replaced.

At CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust we are well placed to move the debate forward."

HOW MUCH HOUSING DOES HORSHAM NEED?

By **Dr Roger Smith**, Vice Chairman: West Sussex

Horsham District Council (HDC) is producing a new local plan for the period to 2031 – the Horsham District Local Planning Framework, which is due to be adopted in 2014.

HDC has first to decide how many houses should be built. As part of this process a public consultation – ‘How much housing does Horsham District need?’ – in which four options for future housing numbers were presented, has been undertaken. The four options were:- Option A: 11,800 (590 pa); Option B: 12,700 (635 pa); Option C: 13,400 (670 pa) and Option D: 14,600 ‘plus’: (730 ‘plus’ pa). These figures include permissions not yet built and allocated sites. According to HDC these commitments amount to 6,300 houses in total.

HDC’s options for future housing development draw upon the misnamed ‘Locally Generated Housing Needs Study’ (LGNS) produced for HDC by a firm of property consultants, which now ‘informs’ HDC’s decision makers in place of the South East Plan.

Readers will have noticed that at least two of the house-building options, C (13,400) and D (14,600 ‘plus’), are higher than the 13,000 new houses allocated to the District by the South East Plan. Moreover, when one takes into account the 395 new houses built in the District since 2009 when the Plan was adopted, HDC’s Option B (12,700 + 395) also exceeds the Plan’s allocation.

These high-number options are particularly surprising when one considers that in 2009, HDC was concerned that the Plan’s allocation of 13,000 new houses to the District was at ‘the upper limit’ of what could ‘be sustained’ and was “very demanding for environmental and infrastructure reasons and that any higher level would likely to have unacceptable impacts”.

For those very cogent reasons HDC wanted a lower number of houses – 12,400, not 13,000. That HDC should now present ‘options’ higher than the 13,000 houses required by the South East Plan, which was prepared before the recession, is questionable – especially when neighbouring Mid Sussex District Council has set a significantly lower housing target of 10,600 houses compared to 17,100 in the Plan; a huge 37.4% reduction.



In his introduction to HDC’s Consultation document, Councillor Ian Howard, Cabinet Member for Living and Working Communities, specifically invited ‘interested parties with their own suggestions of numbers to put these forward, be they more or less than those in options A-D. The only requirement is that any figure must be backed up by data, evidence and reasoned argument so that it can be considered for inclusion in the Council’s agreed strategy, which will be examined by an independent inspector’.

CPRE Sussex – Horsham and Crawley therefore commissioned planning consultants Hives Planning Ltd to critically examine the LGNS and the Consultation document and to assess whether there are other options for levels of housing in Horsham District. The resulting report concluded that

Above, and left: the felling of ancient oaks in preparation for a Horsham development

HDC’s ‘options’ for future housing are excessive and advocates instead a target of 480 dwellings per annum – 9,600 in total, including 6,600 commitments. This is based on past completions over the last 11 years, which have averaged some 400 houses pa; adding a 20% housing-supply buffer to accord with the National Planning Policy Framework results in a future target of 9,600 new houses to 2031.

In coming to this conclusion the Hives’ Planning Report demonstrates that the level of population and employment growth and household formation and inward migration in Horsham District to 2031 is

either overstated or unsupported by the LGNS and the consultation document, or is likely to require far fewer houses than HDC’s four options. Significantly, HDC’s proposed options are all much higher than past completions and those projected in the District’s Annual Monitoring Report. Even the lowest option – Option A at 590 pa – is almost 50% higher than actual past completions. Apparently, HDC does not understand that the current economic situation is particularly severe and there is no certainty as to when and to what extent the economy will recover. Significantly, no evidence is offered by HDC to substantiate its explicit and questionable presumption that building a given number of houses will create a specific number of jobs. Moreover, HDC’s equally contentious

claim that ‘affordable homes could make up 40% of all homes built’ is belied by its current failure to achieve more than 30% for large new developments.

Our response to the Consultation, in which we recommend a target of 9,600 houses, is informed and underpinned by the authoritative Hives Planning Report, which meets fully Councillor Howard’s requirement that any proposal that differs from the ‘options’ presented by HDC ‘must be backed up by data, evidence and reasoned argument so that it can be considered for inclusion in the Council’s agreed strategy’.

Significantly, no evidence is offered by HDC to substantiate its questionable presumption that building a given number of houses will create a specific number of jobs



Does this offshore wind farm make sense?

A personal view from **Stuart Derwent**, Vice Chairman: East Sussex



The Rampion Offshore Wind Farm proposed by E.ON would sit just off our Sussex coast with a maximum output of 700 megawatts. It would be able to supply an estimated 450,000 average households with their electricity needs. It would extend some 17 miles from Worthing to Newhaven and would be some eight miles off the coast at its closest. It would extend a further six miles out to sea with 100 to 195 turbines being visible from our coast and from the South Downs. The turbines are very tall with a maximum blade height of 600 to 700 feet.

I strongly support the use of renewable energy, but I am not convinced that wind energy is a viable approach due to the intermittency of the wind. Standby power stations are required as the proportion of wind energy capacity and therefore our dependency on it increases. In those circumstances, I struggle to follow the logic of wind power and consider that much more national effort needs to be concentrated on proving the case. Why should we accept turbines on our seascape and impact on the South Downs National Park in the case of Rampion if there is not a sound case? The Parliamentary Launch in April of “National Opposition to Windfarms” (NOW) indicates that there is a growing national concern.

Why build wind turbines when you have to have standby stations as back up anyway? I suspect that most of you, like me, would rather not have nuclear stations, but in recent years that appeared to be the way that our

government was seeing the future as it seemed that alternatives had run out as our politicians had dithered for too long. Improved insulation of our existing homes would reduce our energy needs. If you need to have non-CO2 producing nuclear stations why not just have them anyway?

So what of the E.ON proposals? The excellent news is that the onshore cabling is proposed as being fully underground. It is a 17-mile route from Brooklands Park on the coast at the eastern boundary of Worthing to the existing sub-station inland at Bolney. It is just as well that it is underground as it clearly has to cross our new South Downs National Park. The undergrounding of cables has been a long term aim of CPRE for many years!

It has a circuitous route, but E.ON say that this is driven by avoiding built up areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of National Conservation Interest, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other designations where possible.

It is pleasing to understand that along the whole route there are no buildings, kiosks, posts or anything else above ground and that only ground level inspection covers and grilles will exist at about one kilometre intervals. I congratulate E.ON on that aspect of the design; on the quality of the recent public exhibitions; and the knowledge of their staff.

Have I misunderstood? I would be pleased to receive your views.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Chairman's report

The work of the Branch in scrutinising planning applications and defending the countryside, often with other organisations, is entirely dependent on the dedication and hard work of our staff, trustees and volunteers – so thank you one and all.

This year we have been involved in two appeals to the Planning Inspectorate. In March we fought, with others, an appeal by developers against the refusal of planning permission by Wealden District Council for a housing development just north of the A27 at Polegate on the edge of the South Downs National Park. The generosity of our members in response to an appeal covered the considerable defence costs. Happily the appeal was dismissed. In November we were granted Rule 6 status in preparation for fighting another appeal (to be heard in 2012) against the refusal by Chichester District Council of planning permission for a major horticultural development at Easton Farm on the Manhood Peninsula.

In September the Government published a draft National Planning Policy Framework for consultation. The terms of this document caused widespread alarm and a campaign for its modification led by CPRE's national organisation and the National Trust. Our branch lobbied local MPs and media. Our particular concerns were the loss of the brownfield first policy, the reduced emphasis on landscape quality and the presupposition in favour of “sustainable development”.

The Localism Bill has found its way through Parliament onto the statute book with its new emphasis on neighbourhood planning.

The evening of October 6th saw the presentations at our second Countryside Awards Scheme at Petworth House, by kind invitation of our President, Lord Egremont, Lady Egremont, and the National Trust. Our thanks go to the team of judges – Phyllida Stewart-Roberts CVO OBE, Lady Caroline Egremont and Margaret Moore – and to Awards Scheme Organiser Sarah Robinson, for their tireless work in creating what will now be a regular biennial event.

A drive to encourage regular donors to become members associated with a local branch led to a significant increase in our numbers, but coverage of volunteers in East and West Sussex remains uneven; in some districts we have only one person to respond to local issues. However, we warmly welcome an active and committed group in Mid Sussex.

Fortunately, our Branch finances enable us to face the many challenges we foresee when the new planning regime comes fully into operation.

Rodney Chambers
Chairman

February 2012

Trustees’ report

The financial statements presented by the Trustees are drawn up in accordance with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice ‘Accounting and Reporting by Charities’ issued in March 2005 and the Branch’s governing document.

Constitution, objectives and activities

CPRE Sussex is an unincorporated association and The Branch’s governing document is ‘The Constitution of the Sussex Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England’ approved by the AGM in 2003. The Branch is restricted by its Constitution from undertaking any substantial permanent trading activities.

Public benefit reporting

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity’s aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Sussex Countryside Trust

During the year the Trustees formed Sussex Countryside Trust, a company limited by guarantee, to protect the use of the name. That company has not yet carried out any activities and it is not currently expected to do so during 2012.

Financial review and reserves

The Chairman’s report included in these accounts gives a full description of the activities and results for the year. The Trustees consider that the level of reserves is adequate to support the current activities for the next two or three years, and are actively reviewing the future funding to ensure that CPRE Sussex can continue to be an effective voice for the future. The Trustees review the financial and other risks when appropriate.

Trustees’ Responsibilities

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 charity’s financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- **select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed; and**
- **prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.**

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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable precautions for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Committee of Trustees on 14 April 2012 and signed on its behalf by:

Rodney Chambers
Chairman

14 April 2012

Charity number: 265028
Company number: 7780611

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2011

These figures are extracted from the full Trustees’ Report and financial statements which have been independently examined by Mr C R Tyler of Clark Brownscombe Limited who gave an unqualified statement on 27 April 2012. The Independent Examiner has confirmed to the Trustees that the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011. The Trustees’ Report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 14 April 2012. 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.

Rodney Chambers
Chairman

14 April 2012

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2011

Abridged Financial Information

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2011	Total 2010
Incoming Resources	£	£	£	£
CPRE Members Branch Share	25,469	-	25,469	25,970
Investment Income	2,797	-	2,797	3,127
Legacies	39,843	-	39,843	2,810
Donations	25,493	-	25,493	36,052
Gift Aid	2,877	-	2,877	1,154
Other Income	1,951	-	1,951	1,940
Total Incoming Resources	98,430	-	98,430	71,053

Resources Expended	£	£	£	£
Costs of generating income	1,505	-	1,505	652
Costs in furtherance of the objects of the charity	79,622	750	80,372	64,657
Governance Costs	2,411	-	2,411	1,552
Total Resources Expended	83,538	750	84,288	66,861
Net Incoming / (Outgoing)				
Resources before Transfers	14,892	(750)	14,142	4,192

Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets Unrealised & Realised	(4,809)	-	(4,809)	7,234
---	---------	---	---------	-------

Net Movements in Funds	10,083	(750)	9,333	11,426
Fund balances at 1 January 2011	248,484	6,677	255,161	243,735

Fund balances at 31 December 2011	258,567	5,927	264,494	255,161
-----------------------------------	---------	-------	---------	---------

Fixed Assets	£	£
Tangible Assets	1,527	529
Stock and Bond Investment	60,997	66,591
Total Fixed Assets	62,524	67,120

Current Assets	£	£
Debtors, Prepayments & Deposits	9,989	9,464
Short term deposits	169,700	179,371
Cash at bank and in hand	24,323	2,517
Total Current Assets	204,012	191,352

Less Creditors	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year	2,042	3,311

Net Current Assets	201,970	188,041
Net Assets	264,494	255,161

Capital Funds/Income funds	£	£
Restricted	5,927	6,677
Unrestricted	258,567	248,484
Total	264,494	255,161

MANHOOD PENINSULA

The Madestein Appeal

By local resident **Carolyn Cobbold**

Stuart Meier, until recently our Director, listened to local resident Carolyn Cobbold’s passionate appeal at the Almodington inquiry.

I, with many others, through the Manhood Peninsula Partnership have been engaged in a decade long debate to develop a strategic approach to the future sustainability of this island of tranquility on the Sussex coastal plain.

The peninsula, near Selsey, is a place its residents feel passionately about. They are not against change and support growth and development, and I personally would include industrial landscapes in the appropriate setting.

Living in a sinking, rapidly eroding place on England’s crowded south coast surrounded by the sea, we have worked together to forge an integrated coastal zone management plan that will allow our communities to survive in an area that has always been subject to great change.

In developing our plans we are in the vanguard nationally and in line with the government’s Localism aims. Throughout the economy was a key consideration of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management’s deliberations.

We worked together with the Environment Agency and the District

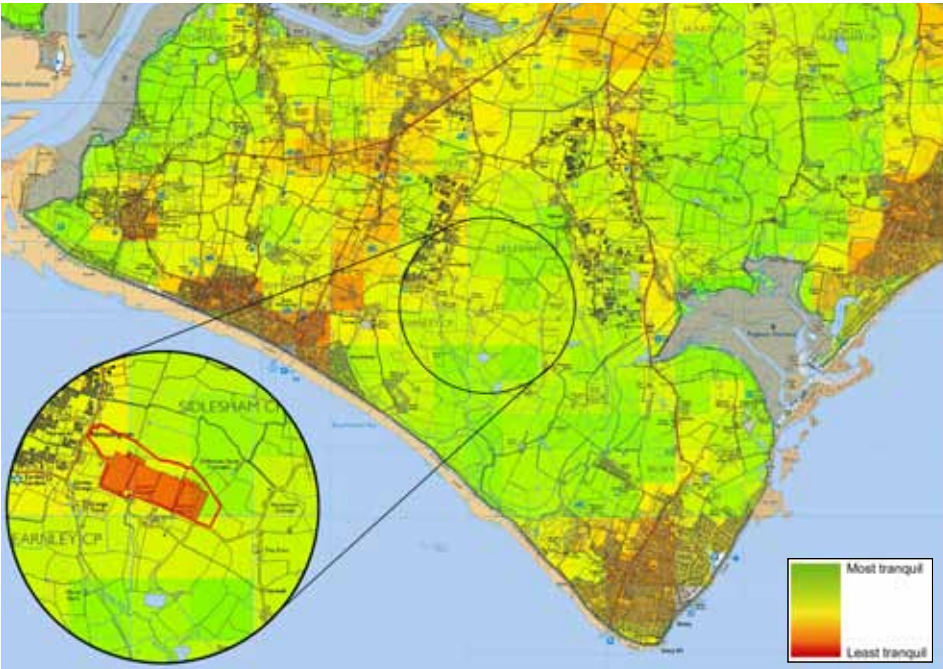
Council on development of the Medmerry Coastal Realignment Scheme. As this country’s largest it will be closely watched by communities and governments at national and European level.

Tourism is undisputedly the main employer and economic driver for the whole area supporting dozens of businesses. The Medmerry scheme is supported because work with the community and internationally renowned spatial planners showed us that the creation of new wetland habitat with public access will

enhance the area’s appeal.

As the only tranquil, rural part of the coastline left between Portsmouth and Brighton it provides a unique experience. For us, allowing the sea to spill over fields to create an environmental asset that would boost the economy was a trade-off worth making, regenerating the coastal town of Selsey and encouraging visitors to stay.

Just weeks after accepting the planning application for Medmerry, shocked residents were faced with the prospect of 52 acres of seven metre high glass housing being constructed here. That such a vast agro-industrial complex in such a precious landscape has not been



April’s inquiry has been adjourned until June.

Above – the wide, open spaces that could be lost. Bottom left – the CPRE Tranquility Map clearly shows the peninsula as the only remaining rural coastline between Portsmouth and Brighton.

subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment is baffling.

Imagine the disillusionment of a community that has worked together unselfishly to create such a vision. One we’d expect to be respected and treated with consideration. Surely Cameron’s Big Society means something?

Medmerry farmers were paid £7,000,000 of taxpayer’s money to secure land for realignment, land that should soon receive special habitat designation. If the designation was already in place, would planning permission be

contemplated for commercial green housing close by?

Surely it is imperative for large scale glass housing to be located appropriately, not in an area dependent upon environmentally - based tourism adjacent to important scarce habitat.

This land is productive – leading growers cultivate salad leaves successfully here on open fields, we contend that soil quality, climate and light make the site well suited to growing varied crops without glass.

The proposed scheme represents a ‘step change’ in the sheer size and scale of glasshouses on the peninsula. That it would alter the character and ambiance of the Manhood forever cannot be disputed. Inspector, we urge you to adopt a

long-term view, to preserve the tranquil and remote heart of our peninsula.

Is the gain of 65 jobs worth the degradation of 88 acres and the sacrifice of our successful and potentially growing tourism industry? What will other communities facing change think if our attempts to work together to build a sustainable future are dismissed so easily in a post Localism Act world?

Please factor in all the pieces of this jigsaw before making your decision.

Around the districts

Adur & Worthing

Worthing Pier has just celebrated 150 years against a background of considerable development in the town. As a result of the intervention of the Worthing Society a fitting tribute to the original Eardley Hotel on the seafront has been approved.

The intention to develop an Asda supermarket in Ferring has been put on hold with the planning authorities requesting assurances on landscaping, surface water drainage, noise levels and late opening hours

We still have reservations about the Treville Gate development, particularly the intended building height.

David Start 01903 232585
david.start255@btinternet.com

Lewes

Plans for both the Rampion Wind Turbines and the re-development of the Newhaven Eastside have been on public display recently.

We'll be asking what the implications will be if Newhaven is selected as the base for installation and maintenance of the turbines, and are now waiting to see if any new planning applications would be needed for places that would accommodate this work.

We found the Newhaven Eastside public display to be very useful in establishing exactly what the council was hoping to achieve. We now await release of the final plans.

Gerald Summerfield 01273 305416
bgsumfield98@talktalk.net

Arun

As part of the Local Plan preparation process, we've been consulting parish and town councils on the 'provisional spatial distribution' of new housing in the District, with final public consultation scheduled from July. It's looking like, under the new NPP Framework, ADC will be expected to find sites for 20% more new homes than necessary.

Notwithstanding ADC's recent conditional approval of 600 units at Courtwick Lane (Littlehampton) developers continue to use Arun's alleged land-supply shortfall to justify applications to develop greenfield sites beyond existing settlement boundaries.

Peter Carder*
redrac@btinternet.com

Mid-Sussex

Pressure continues here, with developers seemingly taking advantage of planning uncertainty. The ever-diminishing gap between Cuckfield and Haywards Heath will be affected by two proposals for Butlers Green Road, recently approved by the district council.

While councillors rejected two applications for housing on green fields in Ardingly, at least one site is already subject to a planning appeal. There are too many other new applications for housing estates to name here, but a recent one from Miller Strategic Land for 2,200 homes on countryside next to Copthorne has certainly caused concern.

Justin French-Brooks 07931 247234
justinfrenchbrooks@hotmail.com

Brighton & Hove

We await the start of consultation on the draft City Plan which appears to have been delayed, possibly awaiting the National Planning Policy Framework. Our earlier comments on the four topics put out for consultation late last year can be found on the Council's website.

Concern was expressed about the Brighton and Hove Albion football club leaving lights on overnight. Richard Allden pursued the issue with the Council and it was explained that they are used to encourage the grass on the pitch to grow. We have been assured that when in use the lights will be more effectively screened in future.

Stuart Derwent 01273 555151
stuart.derwent@cpresussex.org

Rother & Hastings

After ten years of campaigning we're shaken to have learned that the Secretary of State for Transport has given the go-ahead to the severing of the Coombe Haven SSSI and much more unique countryside by the Bexhill Hastings Link Road.

It has been claimed that this will open up areas for housing and commercial development, yet no developer contacted has indicated any willingness to contribute to the cost of the road. The one small blessing would be that it will relieve some of the pressure on rural villages in Rother who would otherwise have to accept large numbers of houses up to the end of the plan period in 2026.

Stephen Hardy* 01580 881309
stephen@stephenhardy.org.uk

*planning only

Chichester North

A major new development at the former St. Cuthmans school near Stedham is being planned, with a formal application expected in the next few months. It is understood that this will be submitted by the Durand Education Trust for a new boarding school in this location for about 600 pupils. Our committee will be studying this application closely as this proposal is likely to have some impact on the surrounding area.

The first phase of the former King Edward VII Hospital development will be starting soon. We also understand that a significant area of "GreenField" land between Chichester and Lavant is under threat for housing building.

Michael Dew 01428 741322
michaeldew97@yahoo.com

Wealden North

We were alerted by CPRE Protect Kent that there is a proposal to provide 24 holiday villas at Bewl Water, and that there have been recent presentations. A planning application to Wealden DC was anticipated in April; we understand that the case for the proposal is a shortage of such accommodation in the area. Our concerns centre on the impact on the tranquillity of the area, the additional traffic and the likely light pollution through people living in the villas.

This only demonstrates our need for more pairs of eyes in the Wealden North area. Please contact the office if you're interested in volunteering.

Lorna Train
lornatrain@hotmail.com

Chichester South

Chichester DC is working on a new Local Plan. There have been many changes since the last, dated 1999. The next phase of consultation begins in July and CPRE must make its voice heard. We shall be inviting you to a meeting as soon as the terms of the consultation are published so that we can join together to create a really powerful response.

In the meantime there are proposals for new housing at Shopwhyke Lakes on a site isolated on the eastern side of the A27. Another proposal for housing to the north of Summersdale would significantly decrease the 'green gap' between Chichester and Lavant.

Rodney Chambers 01243 779359
rodneychambers@hotmail.com

Wealden South

The Examination in Public of the WDC core strategy has been completed, and we were generally pleased with its approach. The Inspector has presented his interim findings which bring forward the end date from 2030 to 2027, thus increasing the annual build rate, but we are pleased to see that he has (almost) ruled out building on AONB sites at Heathfield, a position that we adopted.

The routine planning applications continue, with few sites where we feel any need to comment, if local members think that any proposal needs our comments please get in touch.

John Hurwood 01323 870020
john@hurwood.com

Horsham & Crawley

Horsham District Council is deciding how many houses to build by 2031. Public consultation offered four options, from 11,800 to 14,600+ houses. The Consultation was extended to 8 weeks upon request. Responding online as advised was difficult. Also of concern was the report that a senior member of HDC's Cabinet, when told by fellow Councillors that they did not understand how the options had been determined, saying there was no need to understand, the calculations were complex, the process "a finger in the wind." CPRE Sussex has determined that all options lacked a substantive evidence base and were excessive, and has responded accordingly.

Dr Roger Smith
roger@rogerfinch.fsnet.co.uk

Volunteers please!

We need you to watch out for development proposals and help protect your local area. Please also let us know of places where our membership leaflet would be welcome. Contact Liz Beeney in the Branch office.

A TRIBUTE TO DR PETER BRANDON

By **Margaret Moore**
Vice President, Sussex Branch

Dr Peter Brandon, who died on 2nd November 2011 aged 84, was known to so many for his great knowledge and deep love of the countryside, with Sussex and the South Downs holding pride of place.

Through his links with many conservation groups in Sussex and his work at the University, Peter offered inspired leadership in the long struggle to protect the countryside from over development and to work towards the creation of a South Downs National Park – something that he was finally able to witness, and rejoice in, before he died.

The Sussex Branch of CPRE was privileged to have him as Branch Chairman for 13 years from 1986 to 1999 and as a Vice President thereafter, when he continued to take an active interest in the work of the Branch and chaired the Panel of Judges for the newly created Countryside Awards Scheme.

Professor Brian Short, a colleague over many years and co-author of one of his books, fills us in with some details of his earlier life. Peter, as he was widely known, grew up in Twickenham, where he lived with his parents and sister, Gillian. He first trained as a teacher and taught at a Secondary Modern School in Hampton. After his father's death, he moved to Shoreham with his mother and sister.

In 1974 he produced his widely acclaimed book *The Sussex Landscape* in the series edited by W.G.Hoskins. This was soon to be followed by a steady stream of scholarly articles and, after his retirement from the Polytechnic in 1987, a formidable outpouring of books. These were masterful evocations of the countryside that he so loved and included the highly



Peter with Lord Egremont on retirement from Chairmanship

regarded *The South Downs* in 1998. Only very recently, Stuart Meier, Director of the Branch, asked him if he had any more books planned, to which he replied: 'Planned? Planned? I've already got two started!'

Gillian Hooker, Peter's sister, tells of his great love also of literature and how this became intertwined with his profound love of the countryside. Gillian quotes from *Duncton Hill* by Hilaire Belloc, a favourite poet of Peter's:

*'He does not die that can bequeath
some influence to the land he knows,
The passer-by shall hear me still, a
boy that sings on Duncton Hill.'*

We understand he was working on a book about Sussex writers in their landscapes in his last months from his hospital bed and it is hoped that this will be published this year.

It was in March 1986 that Peter first joined the CPRE Sussex Branch Executive Committee and by September of the same year had been made Chairman of the Branch, a position he was to hold for 13 years. Peter Beauchamp, Executive Member during those years, recalls: "Peter, through his energetic and inspirational leadership, set up the first Branch office at Southerham Farm near Lewes, put in place the rudiments of how to keep in contact with the Districts and placed the Branch in a strong negotiating position with environmental and countryside groups at all levels. Later the office was moved to Blackboys, where it continues today as a focal point for Branch activities."



Peter enjoying one of his countryside walks. Our thanks go to Ann Winsor, his close friend of many years, for this picture.

judges, despite his already failing health. Lady Egremont, one of the judges, writes: "Apart from his great knowledge of the Sussex landscape, about which he was so modest, Peter had great charm and a delightful sense of humour". And Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, also a judge, writes: "Peter was a man of great goodness and dedication, whose kindly personality and expert knowledge gave special value to his place in the team of judges."

It was a great sadness to everyone that Peter was too ill to take part in the recent 2011 Awards Scheme but his guiding presence was there throughout. Sarah Robinson, who so ably organised the Scheme, kept Peter in touch with all that was happening through messages and photographs.

Peter was indeed a gifted and vital person and meant so much to so many. As Brian Short writes: 'He was a man possessed of elan, vitality, enthusiasm, a love of countryside, ability to communicate with everyone, whether undergraduates or adult audience. He was quite incapable of being dull, but always a pleasure to be with. His enthusiasm and joy in life persisted to the very end, despite his increasingly poor health in those last few months.'

Perhaps William Cobbett, another favourite author of Peter's, should have the final word:

'It is the mind that lives; and the length of life ought to be measured by the number and importance of our ideas: and not by the number of our days.'

Lord Egremont, President of Sussex CPRE since 1981, and so President throughout Peter's Chairmanship, writes: "Peter Brandon was a man of great erudition and kindness. He was also a natural teacher, witty, charming and brilliant at communicating. I learnt a huge amount from him over the years – about the landscape of Sussex and much else for Peter had an enquiring mind and was interested in very many aspects of the world. It was very largely because of Peter that I began to see the need for CPRE and its work. I think of him often, miss him greatly and feel exceptionally lucky to have known him."

Both Gillian and Brian Short have mentioned Peter's great love of walking in his beloved countryside and of the delight he took in leading

groups of friends or students on field trips to all corners of the south east. With his enthusiasm for his subject and his delight in all he saw he frequently failed to notice that his 'group' was straggling further and further behind, unable to keep up with the furious pace at which he walked!

When the Countryside Awards Scheme was launched by the Branch in 2009 there was never any doubt in anyone's mind that Peter should be the one to lead the Panel of



Nic, pictured with daughter Holli.

His best memorial will be for us to emulate him in his defence of our beautiful countryside.

A TRIBUTE TO NIC PACKWOOD

It was with great sadness and shock that we heard of the untimely death of Nic Packwood at the age of 55.

Nic and his family joined CPRE in 2000 and he very rapidly became a Branch Trustee. He served with great distinction as Treasurer from 2002 to 2009, bringing all his business and financial acumen to this vital role.

As Chairman of our Horsham and Crawley District from 2001 he led a dedicated committee which vigorously opposed inappropriate and undesirable planning

applications with considerable success. He also built links with other organisations in the district that had similar concerns and objectives.

He will be missed throughout the Branch. His best memorial will be for us to emulate him in his defence of our beautiful countryside.

Our thoughts are with Andrea and Holli, Nic's wife and daughter, and with his parents and family.

**George Tribe
Roger Smith**

I shall remember Nic with great affection and respect. He was always good company, good-humoured and unflappable. I remember once ringing him on his mobile; when I asked him where he was he said Afghanistan – working on one of his many business interests. He exemplified "if you want a job done, give it to a busy man!" I shall miss joining him for a pint when he came over to Chichester to visit his father.

Rodney Chambers

Government and nature: glass half full?

by **Dr A Whitbread (Tony)**
Chief Executive, Sussex Wildlife Trust

We have seen good signs over past years as governments, of all political persuasions, seem to get a better understanding of the value of nature. Examples including a Nature Improvement Area for the South Downs to enhance nature at a landscape scale, and the promotion of Local Nature Partnerships to act as a strong voice for nature at a strategic level.

However, I am also concerned by an emphasis by some in the House of Commons to force a false dichotomy between the environment and the economy.

On the one hand the Natural Environment White Paper emphasises the desire 'to be the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than it inherited'. This point is reinforced by the National Ecosystem Assessment, which showed that failing to address declines in ecosystems, habitats and species will damage the well-being of society, as well as having environmental and economic costs. So Government has committed to putting 'natural capital at the heart of government accounting'.

On the other hand some were talking about the 'gold plating' of EU rules protecting our rarest habitats and species, burdening business with endless environmental goals. Years of carefully thought-through planning guidance were to be swept away as so much 'red tape'. Careful planning, regulation and environmental controls were presented as the enemy of society, making us all poorer and so should be cast aside.

Predictably, the truth is probably somewhere in the middle. The Natural Environment White Paper is a good step forward but it is proving difficult to get the value of nature taken

properly into account. However, the reviews of environmental regulations and planning policy have neither been as damaging as the early rhetoric from government threatened. So what are the messages to local organisations like the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the CPRE?

First I think is the importance of local action. We need to be clear about what we think is worth conserving and be prepared to fight for it. Nothing new there but we are going to have to push for this through new mechanisms – such as the new Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, or even by developing our own local ecosystem assessments.

Second has been the worrying lack of evidence behind some of the government rhetoric and their over-reliance on anecdote. Assertions that the environment is a block on progress really have to be challenged otherwise they become enshrined in myth and repeated as fact.

To finish, I like to stay positive and there are good signs, but pressures remain. The Hastings link road illustrates one example of an underlying problem. This will cause huge damage to Combe Haven valley and also shows that after 20 years of discussion we are still reluctant to address a basic issue – that of an ever increasing transport footprint.



A farmer's eye view on the CPRE Vision

By **Mike Tristram**, Trustee: Sompting Estate

I've been asked for a view from the South Downs Land Management Group of the CPRE Vision for the Future of Farming. Three quarters of the Vision talks about things that we would all like to have if we could: 'motherhood and apple pie'. But it also poses many, many questions.

The authors of the CPRE Vision have worked hard to describe their ideals for farming in the future and much of what is written is attractive to us all. But we question how far this kind of Vision statement can be practically useful when how we farm in 30 years' time will depend on so many unknowns - climate, population, politics and economics, science and systems, technology and breeding.

What is going to happen in the next three years, let alone 30, to food prices, to the Common Agricultural Policy or to how we value and reward farming's ecosystem services? Will these issues make this Vision unachievable?

A vision for a profitable UK farming sector and for feeding our population, has to include a positive vision for economically viable, competitive systems. Is it right that the CPRE's Vision leans towards practices which are uncompetitive at a national or international scale?

Here are just two examples of how the Vision's suggestions conflict with economic realities:

'Super dairies' still have an economic case, even in New Zealand where prices are good and dairy farming is profitable. Production in community-based horticultural enterprises, more strictly organic farming, or orchard production in 'wood pasture systems' with livestock grazing beneath (cue supermarket problems with perceived risk of e-coli contamination), may only be achievable on a minority lifestyle-value basis.

Blanket threshold limits for polytunnels and glasshouses could militate against economic concentrations of skills resources systems and mechanisation all of which are essential for having a healthy UK horticulture sector.

A vision of rural idyll: achievable reality or idealistic fantasy?

Unless the CPRE Vision for Farming is prepared to suppose that the government will break up and weaken the retail sector, shut down our borders to imports, and accept hugely increased prices for food, it will have to face up to an increasing market need for intensive, efficient food production business practices.

Somehow we have to produce more food more efficiently while sustaining the natural environment and wildlife.

What can we unite around, that will not change from one year to the next? It can only be the outcomes that we all want. Somehow we have got to produce more food more efficiently, whilst maintaining a healthy natural environment. The great variety of farmers' businesses and their supporting organisations will find ever changing ways to keep working towards these desirable outcomes. This struggle will occupy our best brains and efforts for decades indeed centuries to come.

In conclusion: a Vision must keep changing over the next 30 years. We will see progressive farm businesses land management continually adapting to change. And we will need a Vision for creative and pragmatic trade-offs, promoting desirable outcomes through changing circumstances in ways we can scarcely begin to guess at today.

