

DEVON BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

**The 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ABOVE BRANCH
WILL BE HELD ON**

TUESDAY 9th AUGUST 2016 at 3.00pm

at

The Sports Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Field, Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 0FS



One of the winning entries from our My Outdoors competition 2016!

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
 2. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st July 2015
 3. To receive and approve the Annual Report
 4. To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015
 5. To appoint the Independent Examiner
 6. Address
 7. Election of Officers (President and Vice Presidents) Trustees and Executive Committee
 8. Announcements
 9. Any Other Business
- Refreshments

www.cpredevon.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 245317



CONTACT US

CPRE Devon, PO Box 26, Beaworthy, EX21 5XN Tel: 01392 966737
www.cpredevon.org.uk

Chairman	Rosemary Jessel Email: chairman@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01392 966737
Director	Penny Mills Email: director@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01392 966737
Treasurer	Hedley Hunter email: treasurer@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01752 872237
North Devon & Torridge	Penny Mills email: torridge@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01392 966737
Exeter & East Devon	Margaret Hall email: eastdevon@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01404 813470
Mid Devon	Mike Scott email: middevon@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01398 331999
Plymouth & South Hams	Peter Coates email: southhams@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01548 562295
Teignbridge	Peter Finch email: teignbridge@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01626 863390
Torbay	Carole Box email: torbay@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 07770 623785
West Devon	Rebecca Bartleet email: westdevon@cpredevon.org.uk Tel: 01822 832275

CPRE DEVON – Standing Up For Your Devon Countryside
Registered Charity No: 245317

Minutes of the AGM held on 1st July 2015
At The Old Heathcoat School Community Centre, Tiverton

The President, Sir Simon Day, opened the AGM with a warm welcome to our CPRE Members who had joined us for the afternoon. He explained that this year was a special anniversary for CPRE Devon – our 50th – and he welcomed all those present to join us in marking the occasion at the end of the afternoon with the special cake which had been made and a drink of locally produced sparkling wine or local apple juice.

He intended to get through the formal agenda as quickly as possible so that our guest speaker, Martin Hesp, Editor at Large, Western Morning News, had as much time as he wanted.

AGENDA ITEMS.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Tim Hale (Vice President); Robin Hogg (Vice President). Bob Harvey, Denis Godfrey, Anita Jennings, Joan and Mike Long, David Morgans, Dinah Nichols, Sandy & Sarah Evans, Elizabeth Cummings, Prue Pinsent, Margaret Guyver, David Bailey, Chris Woodruff, John Wibberley, Rowena Cotton, Roger and Burda Gage, Roberto Franceschini
2. **To confirm and sign the minutes of last year.** Acceptance of these ‘for the record’ was Proposed by Margaret Hall and Seconded by Chris Metherill.
3. **To receive and approve the Annual Report.** This report had been posted separately on the website. There being no questions from the floor, approval was Proposed by Peter Cleasby and Seconded by Pete Finch.
4. **To receive the Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2014.** The Hon Treasurer, Hedley Hunter, gave a short presentation on the accounts and asked for any questions from the floor. There being none, acceptance was Proposed by Peter Cleasby and Seconded by Chris Metherill.
5. **To Appoint an Independent Examiner.** Graham White. Graham White’s acceptance for the 2015-2016 period was gratefully acknowledged. Support for this appointment was Proposed by Peter Cleasby and Seconded by Margaret Hall.
6. **Election of Officers.**

For the election of our PRESIDENT: SIR SIMON DAY. This was proposed by Chris Metherill and Seconded by Margaret Hall.

For the election of our two VICE PRESIDENTS: ROBIN HOGG AND TIM HALE.

This was proposed by Carol Hughes and seconded by Margaret Hall

For the election of the TRUSTEES, to be elected en bloc: BOB BARFOOT, HEDLEY HUNTER, MARGARET HALL, REBECCA BARTLEET, PETER FINCH, ROSEMARY JESSEL. This was Proposed by Carole Box and Seconded by Chris Metherill

The TRUSTEES would then convene a separate meeting after the AGM to elect the other officers.

The President then introduced our guest speaker Martin Hesp, Editor at Large, Western Morning News.

Martin thanked CPRE Devon for inviting him. He began his talk by explaining that he had written a series of articles over recent years entitled 'What is the Countryside For?' His role takes him all over the West Country, from Bristol, to Weymouth, to the Isles of Scilly, travelling thousands of miles a year from his home on Exmoor and he can see how under threat the countryside is from so much development. He has also had the role of Food and Drink editor and strongly supports local produce – he would like to see the West Country peninsular become a 'go to food zone'. Martin told us about his childhood, how he spent a lot of time outside in the fresh air and enjoying the countryside and would like to see more being done to encourage present day children to engage with the outdoors and the countryside. And he gave a short history of Exmoor and its forests.

Sir Simon Day thanked Martin very much for his most interesting talk.

The meeting closed and tea and drinks were served. Member Carol Hughes was invited to cut the special 50th anniversary cake, which had been baked by Mrs Littlejohns of Bradworthy.

In accordance with the Constitution there was a brief meeting of the Trustees at which Bob Barfoot was confirmed as the Chairman and Hedley Hunter as the Treasurer.



Reports for 2016 AGM – More information also in our Summer 2016 Newsletter

ANNUAL REPORT – Rosemary Jessel, Chairman

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 9th August 2016 at 3pm at the The Sports Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Field, Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 0FS, where we hope many members will be able to join us. We are delighted that one of our long standing members, Mrs Pippa Woods, will be our guest of honour, so that we can celebrate her award of the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year.

We are sad to say goodbye to our Chairman, Bob Barfoot, who has moved to County Durham. As well as taking on the role of Chairman of the County last year, Bob has run our North Devon branch for many years. He has been our expert on planning and we will all miss his knowledge and expertise. We wish him and his wife, Sheena, well in their new life in the North.

I am pleased to have been elected Chairman for this next year, with Pete Finch as our Vice Chairman. With our Branch Director, Penny Mills, I attended the National CPRE AGM held in Central London at the end of June. Penny and I are also attending the SW Regional meetings held in Taunton throughout the year - a useful opportunity to meet up with our neighbouring branches and learn from each others' experiences.

We arranged a large and varied number of events this year, which have been very well supported and we thank all our members for their continued support. Of special note was the Food, Farming & The Countryside seminar which we held in November at Kentisbeare with our special guest speakers - Neil Parish MP, John Sheaves (Chief Executive, Taste of the West) and Andrew Butler (NFU). Our renewables expert, Phillip Bratby, also put forward our view on Anaerobic Digesters, which led to some lively debate.

In March of this year we organised, in conjunction with ACRE, a highly successful seminar in Newton Abbot on Neighbourhood Plans, attended by 145 people representing many town and parish councils from all over Devon. We are most grateful to Teignbridge District Council's planning team for their presentations.

We were also pleased to take a stand at this year's Local Nature Partnership seminar held at Exeter Racecourse in April, an excellent opportunity to network with other environmental organisations.

This summer we are taking a stand at the Okehampton Show, on 11th August – we will have a supply of our new jute shopping bags with us and car stickers, so do come by and collect yours. We are very pleased to have introduced some CPRE Devon merchandise this year which we believe will prove to be useful marketing tools and help to spread our message. We are also planning to set up stalls at local markets throughout the county, to help raise awareness of CPRE and encourage more people to become members. We will be getting back to some grassroots campaigning with litter picking action days throughout the County: dates and locations of litter picks will be in our forthcoming newsletters - we will need as many members as possible to join in.

This year we launched two new competitions, My Outdoors and Our Outdoors. My Outdoors is an art competition for primary school children - it has been great fun judging the many inventive and colourful entries which came from schools all over Devon. Thank you to the primary schools for supporting our new competition. We have also launched our community competition under the name Our Outdoors, which replaces our Best Kept Village competition – judging for that will take place in August. Special thanks to Ivan Buxton for taking on the challenge of organising this new competition. We continue to support the Naturally Healthy Devon Schools Project, part of Natural Connections overseen by Plymouth University, to encourage outdoor learning for primary school age children.

We have been kept incredibly busy fighting the continuous onslaught of planning applications for development in the countryside throughout Devon. Large housing developments on greenfield sites are a constant threat and in many cases it seems that local planning officers have little choice but to approve them, to avoid the expense of an appeal. It is alarming to note an ambition of the Heart of the South West LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) (Devon & Somerset) for the building of 179,000 new homes!

None of our work to protect Devon's countryside could happen without the dedication and enthusiasm of our very small team of committed members in each district and co-ordinated by our Branch Director, Penny Mills. Thank you very much indeed to all our hard-working members and supporters. We do need more people to give us a hand – anything you may like to join in with at your local district group would be very much appreciated. If you would like to get more involved, or find out more about what we do, please contact any of us – all our details are included in this report, or of course on our invaluable website, where you will find a lot of news and information www.cpredevon.org.uk

RENEWABLE ENERGY – Phillip Bratby

Since the Ministerial Statement of June 2015 we have not seen any new applications for wind turbines in the County. Moreover, only one of the outstanding wind turbine appeals has been allowed, with all other proposals being dismissed at appeal.

That is the good news! The bad news is that as well as all the wind turbines already built here, the 9 x 100m turbine Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm has been constructed following an appeal. It sits adjacent to the North Devon Link Road, the major gateway to North Devon and Cornwall, and its impact on the landscape is worse than we anticipated. Construction has now started on the Den Brook Wind Farm, near North Tawton, and construction of the Dunsland Cross Wind Farm at Brandis Corner near Holsworthy has also started. All these large windfarms will truly be industrial eyesores, which should have no place in the countryside. In addition several individual wind turbines previously approved by the councils or following an appeal have also now been constructed.

Thank you to everybody who submitted an objection to North Devon and Torridge District Councils' consultation regarding their proposal to designate the whole of the area as suitable for wind energy development in the joint Local Plan. Nearly 800 responses were received of which more than 95% were objections, including 56 parish councils. The proposal was dropped and the following words were inserted in the joint Local Plan: "In accordance with Government Guidance, proposals for wind energy development will only be permitted where they are in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development which is allocated in a Neighbourhood Plan". On 10th June 2016 the joint Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination.

Numbers of new applications for large solar farms have reduced, presumably because of the reduction in subsidies, but already over 4,000 acres of our precious farmland is now solar - either already permitted or in the planning process. Apart from the visual impact these large schemes provide, turning green fields into 'greyfield sites', we need our farmland for food production not as industrial power stations. We were pleased that earlier in the year the massive solar farm proposal at North Tawton was refused by West Devon Borough Council.

Proposals are still being submitted for Anaerobic Digesters, particularly in North, Mid and East Devon, causing great concern to a lot of local people and there are on-going issues with those already built. Our tiny Devon lanes were simply not designed to accommodate the large number of massive lorries and tractors and trailers which transport feedstock to the plants and transport the digestate away. The Anaerobic Digesters also require that large areas of farmland are taken out of food production and into growing the feedstock for energy production in the Anaerobic Digesters.

SPECIAL REPORT ON INVASIVE SPECIES – Ivan Buxton

I attended a very interesting seminar at Roadford Lake in June on 'Invasive Species' hosted by South West Water.

Preventing the spread of invasive species would not necessarily feature as one of CPRE's priority targets. Indeed if mentioned at all it would probably be as a wry comment about housing in the green belt, wind turbines on panoramic ridges or fields encrusted with solar panels. Yet alien invaders are not from another galaxy, but our own planet and cause considerable consternation where encountered. We are of course talking about certain species of flora and fauna, which perhaps begs the question of how this equates with the aims and objectives of CPRE?

Firstly, not every plant or animal introduced from foreign shores is officially classified as invasive. Only those that have escaped or been introduced and are scheduled by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a danger to our own native species by a plethora of International obligations are considered to be harmful.

Secondly, the spread of non-native species that threaten the natural bio-diversity of our country, not just the rural vistas, but also our urban environment is a cause of concern to us all. Not only by adding pressure to protecting our diminishing countryside, but the spread of alien species through clearance of brown field development is also problematical.

The invaders take many forms and are adept at utilising our waterways, airways and motorways to procreate and rapidly colonise. Plants such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam are known to many. Likewise the spread of the Signal crayfish or American mink have been well documented. There are many species however, that are equally disturbing, yet lesser known for their destructive habits, such as the Killer shrimp or Chinese mitten crab.

According to the Non-Native Species Secretariat there are nearly 2,000 non-native species established in Great Britain and the economic cost is at least £1.7 billion per year. The brunt of this falls on the agriculture and horticulture sector, but others such as those governing transport and recreation also face expense. Japanese knotweed for example, costs the British economy an estimated £166 million per year.

Imagine how many of the 1 million homes identified by CPRE as being capable of construction on brown field plots could be built if just half the money spent on fighting encroaching aliens could be utilised to help solve our housing needs.

Responsibility for dealing with control and attempted eradication of undesirable and costly species rests not only with the landowner and government but it behoves us all to tackle the threat. There are organisations already well versed in issuing guidance and control leaflets, studying and reporting the discovery of new out breaks or infestation and quantifying the impact.¹

CPRE aims to 'Conserve our Landscape for Future Generations', there can be no better way than for members to play a part through publicising awareness and supporting a more collaborative approach to the topic of 'Invasive Species'.

¹ Non-Native Species Secretariat: www.nonnativespecies.org Student Invasive Non-native Group: www.sinng.org Environment Agency: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

WEST DEVON DISTRICT GROUP – Rebecca Bartleet

According to evidence given at a recent planning enquiry at Tavistock, Devon County Council are fully committed to the proposed railway link between Tavistock and Bere Ferrers, and thus onto Plymouth. Devon County Council are even hoping to bring forward delivery of the link to 2019. The rail link is closely tied in with the development of 750 houses on the Callington Road, where building has still not commenced.

The continuing delay in beginning work on this site means that developers are still submitting proposals to build new housing in Tavistock. Although one application for 120 houses at Anderton Lane was refused permission, an application for 110 houses at Butchers Park Hill is currently the subject of the planning enquiry mentioned above, and in addition a proposal for further housing development is in the preliminary stages, on nearby land on the New Launceston Road. This land was allocated for development by West Devon Borough Council, although local residents are concerned about the narrowness of the road from the site into the town.

A proposal has been put forward to install 307 solar panels in a field at Crapstone near Yelverton. The land was donated to the local community as an amenity, and is currently partly used as a children's play park. Local people are very upset and determined to fight the Parish Council. The proposed site would destroy a small, but rare area of bog land.

Also at Yelverton, there is a proposal for over 100 houses on a strip of land running from Leg O' Mutton Corner to the roundabout, although no formal application has yet been submitted by the Maristow Estate. Strong local opposition is expected. Both these developments are on green field sites and do not feature in the Local Plan, but these two proposals seem to reflect an attitude that land which has not been developed cannot be valued for itself, but is being wasted and should be made to do something useful.

MID DEVON DISTRICT GROUP – Mike Scott

A new committee has been formed and we welcomed Mike Sanderson to our group (Mike is the former Chairman of CPRE Cheshire and has recently moved to mid Devon). We are meeting bi-monthly with a good and enthusiastic committee and all members are welcome to come along to our meetings. Like the rest of Devon, we are facing proposals for huge numbers of new houses on green field sites, which are a cause of great concern. There is also the enormous proposal at Junction 27 of the M5 which is very controversial. And there are also growing concerns about the rapid expansion of the number of large chicken sheds.

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT GROUP – Pete Finch

Our local volunteers continue to campaign against the large number of inappropriate development applications throughout the District. We have a dedicated team of volunteers who meet regularly and do an enormous amount of work scrutinising planning applications, attending planning meetings etc.

We were pleased to support Abbotskerswell Parish Council and Wolborough Residents with a donation to assist with their efforts to protect the Greater Horseshoe Bats. Abbotskerswell Parish Council and the Wolborough Residents Association thanked CPRE Devon for their generous donation towards their costs. Considerable legal costs have been incurred in pursuing a legal challenge against Teignbridge District Council. The local residents and CPRE Devon are fighting for greater protection for these bats in the South Hams Special Area of Conservation. 31% of this endangered species live in South Devon and their roosts, foraging sites and flyways are under great threat from over-development.

Flood risks and drainage: We have raised several examples of problems with flooding and drainage and we are pressing Teignbridge District Council to require comprehensive flood alleviation plans to be included as part of a planning application, rather than being dealt with at a later date under reserved matters by Officers. At present there is inadequate opportunity to scrutinise the proposed measures.

Teignbridge District Group meet regularly and all members are welcome to attend.

EAST DEVON & EXETER DISTRICT GROUP – Margaret Hall

Local Plan

Since the adoption of the East Devon Local Plan, there has been a significant decrease in inappropriate applications for housing development. There were several appeals outstanding, and in all cases the Inspectors have confirmed that there is a robust 5 year supply of housing land. Countryside protection policies are being upheld.

There are still, however, some contentious planning applications. Firstly, for 5ha of employment land at Sidbury, where the highways access is quite inadequate and there are serious concerns about flooding. This is an allocated site in the Local Plan despite widespread local objections. Secondly, there is also a planning application to demolish the Council Offices in Sidmouth, and to build a retirement complex with 115 units. There are concerns about overdevelopment and landscape and visual impact, and encroachment onto the Knowle parkland.

East Devon District Council is now working on the future development of Cranbrook, which is due to grow to around 8,000 dwellings by 2031. CPRE is a consultee on this, and for all major planning applications around Cranbrook.

Minerals Plan

The Devon Minerals Plan had its Examination in Public in May. For East Devon there are concerns around the proposed sites for sand and gravel extraction at Straitgate, and for extraction at Blackhill Quarry on Woodbury Common, a site which is within the SAC & SPA. Consultation on Main Modifications should begin in August, and the Inspector's report is expected in October.

PLYMOUTH & SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT GROUP – Peter Coates

In the South Hams, the year 2015/16 has been a quiet year with no major issues. The change in approach of the government towards renewable energy has meant that potential applications for solar farms and wind turbines never materialised here and other potential concerns mentioned in last year's report are still current but have been dormant – 2016/17 is likely to be different.

Housing – South Hams has at last published on July 1st its housing policy. The housing market area is Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon and the proposal is for 30,300 houses. Meetings explaining this complex arrangement have started and we have to ensure that housing developments in the countryside are reasonable. This will be difficult given the shortage of land and the determination of the government to build houses.

Brexit – our view in the South Hams is that this will mean the removal of EU subsidies to the farming industry. We believe that change is not only a threat but is also an opportunity. Farmers have for years been the custodians of the countryside and we, CPRE, must encourage the government to provide the necessary support to produce a thriving farming industry which will then protect the countryside which is what we all believe in.

TORBAY – Carole Box

During the past year Torbay members have been involved in the immense task of preparing Neighbourhood Plans in the three areas Torquay, Paignton and Brixham.

The recently adopted Torbay Local Plan continues to cause great concern with potentially 8,900 additional dwellings built over the next 20 years. This includes substantial developments in green areas of the ancient Yalberton Valley, White Rock and stunning rural Collaton St. Mary. However, Neighbourhood Plan Forums are challenging these targets because of the lack of jobs, falling net inward migration, lack of infrastructure and loss of important countryside.

NORTH DEVON & TORRIDGE DISTRICT GROUP – Penny Mills

We have said goodbye to Bob Barfoot who has run our North Devon District Group for many years. Bob has moved up to County Durham and we wish him and his wife, Sheena, well in their new home and thank him for all that he has done for our North Devon District Group.

This has been a somewhat tricky year for planning matters in Torridge District: developers and their agents seem to have been coming up with new tricks; and the councillors on the Plans Committee appear to have suffered a succession of tricks to thwart their attempts to protect our countryside from unwanted development!

Firstly the developers: they have discovered they can often put pressure on a Local Planning Authority to permit their proposed schemes by a form of multiple application and appeal. The initial application is so complex and lacking in satisfactory detail that the statutory consultees demand more information after the application has been registered. Under current government instructions, the LPA has to 'engage constructively with the applicant' to facilitate development, so they can't just throw out the application for lack of information as they perhaps would have done years ago. It now becomes virtually impossible to determine an application within the statutory time limit, so the applicant submits an appeal on the grounds of non-determination. The appeal inspectors in Bristol are so overloaded that an appeal can be six months or more in preparation, and meanwhile the applicant can submit a new application, identical to the first, perhaps with the (presumably unspoken) suggestion that, if this application is approved quickly, they will withdraw the appeal and save everyone the cost of the procedure.

There has recently been a case where the Plans Committee refused both the original application and subsequently the repeat application, both on good planning grounds and in response to overwhelming public demand, but contrary to the officer's recommendation. However, the officers actually then decided to support the applicant's appeal and somehow managed to overcome the decisions of the Committee, leaving the local residents group to fight the appeal inquiry on their own – which they did very effectively. That particular case is now awaiting the Inspector's decision.

We have had two other major cases where similar tactics have been employed. In one case the officer stalwartly recommended refusal each time and the appeal was rejected, so that was a rare success for democracy. In another, most recent, case the initial application remains undecided, presumably shelved, the repeat application has been approved by the Committee, subject to a rather complicated S106 that is still under negotiation, and we have yet to hear whether the appeal is proceeding or not.

Yet another developer's tactic appears to be the Hybrid Application. Here they apply for outline consent for a brown-field development that the community tend to favour, but which is a site that will be expensive to prepare due to its previous use. They combine this with a full application for

open market housing on a green-field site nearby that will be highly profitable and will pay for the brown-field development. The LPA grants permission for this hybrid application, but wisely insists on a S106 legal tie to ensure that the developer doesn't complete just the profitable site and then disappear leaving the unsaleable brown-field site derelict. That's fine on the face of it, if the community doesn't mind losing another patch of countryside on the edge of town, but then there's the government's recent 'gift' to developers to consider. This legislation provides that if the developer can show that the conditions of a S106 render a project 'financially unviable' they can apply for it to be rescinded – and that decision won't be made by the local people! Don't forget also that the brown-field part of the hybrid was only for outline consent. It would still have to be submitted for full detailed planning permission, and who knows what sort of housing will be sought for then, if it materialises at all.

So, we are finding that trying to protect the countryside from huge developments in inappropriate locations is becoming increasingly tricky.

Your local CPRE Devon volunteers have been working hard at upholding our objectives in protecting rural northern Devon, both through public meetings and the planning system, but our Group Committee is very small – Chris Hassall, Phillip Bratby, Rosemary Jessel, Ivan Buxton and myself. We would welcome more help! It can be very interesting to attend meetings of local action groups on behalf of CPRE Devon, observe how they tackle their local problem developments and offer advice on dealing with the relevant authorities. If you would like to get more involved, do contact us.



One of the winning entries in our 'My Outdoors' competition for primary school children.

Some of our Events 2015/16



At national CPRE's AGM in Central London. June



At the Local Nature Partnership conference at Exeter. April



Our Food, Farming & The Countryside Seminar at Kentisbeare. November



Presenting donation to Abbotskerswell Parish Council and Wolborough Residents to support their efforts to protect bats. March



Our Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow at Newton Abbot. March.



Phillip Bratby, our energy spokesman, representing CPRE Devon at the Petroc College Energy debate, Barnstaple. November.



With local residents at Alverdiscott, celebrating the refusal of the Webbery Wind Farm. October



Our new jute shopping bags.
Available for a suggested donation of £3 each.

CPRE have been at the forefront of the 'Break the Bag Habit' –
the campaign to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags.
So our branch has produced an alternative.

Please help promote CPRE Devon and our fight to save the countryside.

**CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
DEVON BRANCH**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Administrative address

PO Box 26

Beaworthy

EX21 5XN

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 2015.

References and administrative information

The Trustees who served the Charity during the year were:

Robert Barfoot	Chairman
Rebecca Bartleet	
Margaret Hall	
Rosemary Jessel	
Peter Finch	
Hedley Hunter	Honorary treasurer

Robert Barfoot as Chairman undertook the day to day management of the Charity, as delegated by the Trustees.

The independent examiner of the accounts of the Charity is Mr Graham White FMCA of Bulworthy Cottage, Stony Cross, Bideford, Devon EX39 4PY.

The Charity's bankers are Barclays, Exeter Branch.

The Charity has a web site www.cpredevon.org.uk which contains considerable information about the its activities.

Structure, governance and management

Campaign to Protect Rural England – Devon Branch (CPRE Devon) – was set up as a charity in April 1996. The board of Trustees is drawn from interested individuals who are able to contribute their knowledge and expertise to carrying out the various activities of the Charity. New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees.

The Charity is managed by an Executive Committee which comprises the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Project Consultant. The Trustees sit on the Executive Committee as well as the officers.

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are “to promote and encourage for the benefit of the nation the improvement, protection and preservation of the countryside of Devon and its towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment”.

The Charity fulfils its obligation to enjoy charitable status by delivering the following benefits to the various communities in Devon:

- By considering applications presented to the local planning authorities to ensure that the benefits are enjoyed by the wider community.
- By holding meetings at both district and Branch levels that are open to members, local government councillors or similar, and representatives of other relevant interest groups throughout the County.
- By being available to members and non-members alike as a source of advice on how to respond to proposed developments that might affect them.
- By providing the Charity’s website – www.cpredevon.org.uk – which has become a key enabler for the membership, the media and other visitors to the site to understand some of the key problem areas in Devon.
- The CPRE Devon website has thus become a repository of the work undertaken by the Charity, and also provides each District with a “Home Page” of its own where any visitor to the site can discover what may interest them and the wider implications for Devon as whole.
- Funds bequeathed to the Charity in 2013 are being used for the further education of children of all ages on countryside matters of all types, in accordance with the terms of the bequest.

Financial review

The Charity's principal income is support from the National Office of CPRE of approximately 50% of the membership subscriptions it receives. The Charity also receives bequests, donations and gifts from supporters in Devon. In 2015 this income includes the following;

- National Office support	£ 23.983
- Donations from supporters in Devon	£ 51.644

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a level sufficient to provide services and equipment in compliance with its objects for a period of at least 12 months. Restricted funds are set aside of such amounts as are appropriate to provide specialised services and equipment in accordance with the restrictions attached to the funds as required for all future charitable requirements.

Approved by the Trustees on April 22, 2016 and signed on their behalf by

Rosemary Jessel, Chairman.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
DEVON BRANCH.

On accounts for the year ended

3 1 1 2 1 5

Charity no (if any)

2 4 5 3 1 7

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

Graham Dudley White

Date

2 APRIL 2016

Name

GRAHAM DUDLEY WHITE

Relevant professional qualification(s)
or body (if any)

FELLOW OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Address

BULWORTH COTTAGE
STONY CROSS
BIDEFORD
DEVON EX39 4PY

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DEVON BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 31, 2015

Registered Charity No. 245317

		£ 2015	£ 2014
Investments and bank balances			
Unrestricted funds	Note 2	129,998	68,699
Restricted funds	Note 2	89,789	103,458
TOTAL ASSETS		219,787	172,157

The funds of the Charity

Unrestricted funds	Page 6	129,998	68,699
Restricted funds	Note 7	89,789	103,458
TOTAL FUNDS		219,787	172,157

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these financial statements

Approved by the Trustees on April 22, 2016

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Rosemary Jessel

Hedley Hunter

Chairman

Honorary treasurer

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DEVON BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 245317

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	2014 £
Receipts					
Voluntary income	Note 3	77,781	1,331	79,112	31,587
Payments					
Costs of generating funds	Note 4	-	-	-	660
Charitable activities	Note 5	13,991	15,000	28,991	23,319
Governance costs	Note 6	2,491	-	2,491	10,097
Total payments		16,482	15,000	31,482	34,076
Excess / deficit for the year		61,299	- 13,669	47,630	- 2,489
Balances at January 1, 2015		68,699	103,458	172,157	174,646
Balances at December 31, 2015	Note 7	129,998	89,789	219,787	172,157

All receipts and payments derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these financial statements

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DEVON BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 245317

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

1 Accounting policies

Basis of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005).

The trustees have decided that a receipts and payments accounts is the most appropriate form in which to present the charity's operations.

2 Investments and bank balances

Unrestricted funds

M&G Investments - at cost

The published evaluation of this investment at 31/12/2015 is £21.970

Scottish Widows deposit account

Barclays current account

District bank accounts

Total unrestricted investments and bank balances

Restricted funds

Barclays Wendy Lawrenson current account

United Trust Bank deposit account

Virgin Money deposit account

Total unrestricted bank balances

3 Receipts

Receipts are made up of the following;

Unrestricted funds

Share of national subscriptions

Donations and bequests

Fund raising activities

Investment income

Total receipts of unrestricted funds

Restricted funds

Sponsorship for BKV competition

Interest on deposit accounts

Donations and bequests

Total receipts

4 Cost of generating funds

Cost of fund raising events

	£ 2015	£ 2014
M&G Investments - at cost	16,257	16,257
Scottish Widows deposit account	27,033	26,871
Barclays current account	85,156	24,088
District bank accounts	1,552	1,483
Total unrestricted investments and bank balances	129,998	68,699
Barclays Wendy Lawrenson current account	3,172	3,172
United Trust Bank deposit account	76,310	75,079
Virgin Money deposit account	10,307	25,207
Total unrestricted bank balances	89,789	103,458
Share of national subscriptions	23,983	17,942
Donations and bequests	52,525	7,198
Fund raising activities	-	3,161
Investment income	1,273	1,200
Total receipts of unrestricted funds	77,781	29,501
Sponsorship for BKV competition	-	1,800
Interest on deposit accounts	1,331	286
Donations and bequests	-	-
Total receipts of restricted funds	1,331	2,086
Total receipts	79,112	31,587
Cost of fund raising events	-	660

These notes form an integral part of the accounts set out on pages 5 and 6

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DEVON BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 245317

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	£ 2015	£ 2014
5 Charitable activities		
Unrestricted funds		
Consultant's fees	8,500	4,000
Project director's fees	-	2,500
Grants and campaigning costs	3,290	2,269
Production and distribution of annual report and newsletters	801	1,578
Mileage	583	1,147
Website maintenance	444	1,074
Seminars	210	788
Cost of organising competitions	-	640
Other small expenses	163	403
Total payments from unrestricted funds	13,991	14,399
Restricted funds		
Payments from Wendy Lawrenson bequest:		
Costs of Shebbear event	-	1,121
Donation to Farms for City Children	-	1,000
Donation to Den Brook judicial review Fund	-	5,000
Contribution to Naturally Healthy Schools project	15,000	-
Best Kept Village competition		1,800
Total payments from restricted funds	15,000	8,921
Total payments for Charitable activities	28,991	23,320
6 Governance		
Secretarial salary and related costs	76	6,741
Meetings	542	1,282
Office exenses	461	795
Communications	1,009	539
Insurance	403	392
Accounting software and IT maintenence	-	348
	2,491	10,097

These notes form an integral part of the accounts set out on pages 5 and 6

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DEVON BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 245317

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

7 Restricted funds

	Balance 01/01/2015 £	Utilised in the year £	Arising in the year £	Balance 31/12/2015 £
Wendy Lawrenson bequest including interest;				-
Children's education	99,527	15,000	1,280	85,807
Shebbear	3,931	-	51	3,982
	<u>103,458</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>1,331</u>	<u>89,789</u>

£15,000 was contributed to the Naturally Healthy Devon Schools project under the agreement signed with the University of Plymouth on March 3, 2015.

Interest of £1,331.20 was received during the year on bank deposit accounts holding unused funds from the bequest.

8 Trustees and employees

No trustee received any remuneration from the Charity although mileage and other out of pocket expenses incurred on the Charity business were refunded in certain cases.

The Charity has no employees.

These notes form an integral part of the accounts set out on pages 5 and 6