



The countryside charity  
Nottinghamshire

# Standing up for Nottinghamshire's Countryside

Newsletter | July 2023



## Hedgerow Heroes

CPRE's national hedgerow campaign, calling for 40% more hedgerows by 2050, is helping to restore hedgerows up and down the country. Here's an overview of the work we completed in Nottinghamshire during last autumn/winter.

CPRE Nottinghamshire hosted successful hedge planting sessions at three sites in the county, in conjunction with Green Hustle, the Nottingham City Council Parks and Open Spaces team and Nottingham Green Guardians.

The photo above shows our volunteer hedgerow heroes ready for action on a crisp and frosty day of planting at Bulwell Hall Park.

A fabulous group of volunteers (right) at Rushford Drive Park included hedgerow hero and local MP Lillian Greenwood.

*Photo courtesy of Tom Hetherington*



Time for a quick tea break (below) at [Snape Wood Nature Reserve](#), where the local community gathered to restore stretches of wildlife-friendly, mixed native hedgerow.



3 sites  
5 days  
59 volunteers  
1,385 trees planted  
410 metres of hedgerow planted



# A message from Acting Chair, John Ydlibi

It has been another busy year for CPRE, the countryside charity, and CPRE Nottinghamshire, mainly due to the government looking at changing some of the key principles and legislation in respect of the current planning system.

These changes include trying to remove some of the important protections and the voice of local communities in raising objections to large scale industrial development and housing projects in the countryside. Whether it is under the guise of National Infrastructure Projects or the new proposed legislation in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill of National Development Management Policies (NDMPs), the proposals give government the authority that NDMPs take precedence over local development plans. This is something which we are totally opposed to.

At CPRE Nottinghamshire, we have continued to monitor, review and submit objections to developments that we think are detrimental to the countryside, across all eight districts of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Council. This is done on our behalf by Bettina Lange, our Policy Advisor and part time employee. However, we are unable to cover everything with such limited resources and we need to find some Assistant Planning Volunteer resources within our membership or new volunteers to keep us abreast of what is happening across the county. We find people who live in their own communities are a lot closer to the local issues that influence these planning applications and are able to apply valuable insight into those which have significant damaging impact on the immediate countryside and landscape.

We intend to implement a Planning Sub Committee, similar to CPRE Derbyshire, to more effectively review planning applications across Nottinghamshire and decide which ones we will go and review and determine which we will raise objections against.

As I said earlier, we could do with a few more volunteers to help and if you could spare an hour or two each week/ fortnight then please contact us and come and help out. Training will be provided and you don't need to be a planning expert to do the role, just need to apply some practical common sense.

This year we have continued to see a number of proposals for very large-scale solar farms, notably in Rushcliffe, and Bassetlaw. We have been quite vigilant in our objections on these and some of our successes can be seen in the section on Planning Issues. We will continue to see developers looking to install voltaic solar farm across the Nottinghamshire/ Derbyshire coalfields landscapes as the areas are relatively flat and cheap to install.

CPRE National raised two very interesting reports in this space, one on food security which stated too much good agricultural land was being allocated to house building or to large scale solar farms, and that we need to protect our best agricultural land for growing food.

The second one was issued at the end of May 2023 on Rooftop Renewables, which stated that 60% of the solar power the country needs can be sited on rooftops. We need to help shift the mindset of the UK Solar Industry to a rooftop/carpark first approach.

Continued...





# Message from the Acting Chair continued

As you may be aware CPRE Nottinghamshire, CPRE Derbyshire and CPRE Lincolnshire set up the Three Counties (3C) Project in July 2021.

This project, for the first fourteen months, funded one day a week of social media/ website updates for our Group and one day of community engagement and volunteer co-ordination recruitment. We have continued to see increases in followers (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and better user engagement, with local articles that still draw the most interest.

The 3C Project and Hedgerow Hero's 2023 programme have now concluded for CPRE Nottinghamshire and I would like to thank Lorraine Ray, Lewis Townsend and Eleanor Cheetham for the support they have given CPRE Nottinghamshire over the last two years and wish them every success for the future.

On the positive side, both Lewis and Lorraine are now working for the National CPRE team, so we will continue to work with them going forwards.



The last ten months of the 3C Project has been focused on running the Hedgerow Heroes Project. This delivered 2.2km of hedgerows (planting and laying) across eleven sites in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, and introduced a large number of new volunteers to CPRE East Midlands Groups. Overall the Project was seen to be a great success and we applied for further grants to run similar projects in 2024.

Unfortunately the CPRE Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire bids were all unsuccessful, but other CPRE groups will receive circa £0.5m to fund their projects in 2024. We were very disappointed to have not been awarded any money for hedgerows in Nottinghamshire, and Fiona Kirkbride our Community Volunteer Co-ordinator, who was heavily involved in our Hedgerow Hero's work in 2023 and our bid has since sadly resigned.

Since Fred Cook retired as Chair in mid 2021, we have struggled to keep CPRE Nottinghamshire fully operating. Unfortunately Claire Weir, Fred's replacement as Chair, had to resign in December 2022, due to increasing responsibilities at work and significant business travel, which meant that the Nottinghamshire Group has been without a Chair for six months.

In addition a number of Trustees also resigned in the last twelve months, Susan Kearton ( June 2022), Vivian Lin (August 2022) and Lewis Bryan ( August 2022) and these have not been replaced.

We would like to send our thanks to Claire, Susan, Vivian, Lewis and Fiona for all their help and support to CPRE Nottinghamshire over the last few years and would like to wish them all every success in the future.

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# Message from the Acting Chair continued

It has been recently agreed by the Trustees of both CPRE Nottinghamshire and CPRE Derbyshire that CPRE Nottinghamshire would receive twelve months of support from CPRE Derbyshire.

As a result of reducing to only two Trustees Steve Kerr (Treasurer) and Dr Peter Holland (Best Kept Village), both of whom would like to retire soon, it was felt best that CPRE Nottinghamshire in the short term would fall into either central CPRE to help support distantly, or come under the wing of CPRE Derbyshire to provide local help to try and strengthen CPRE Nottinghamshire and rebuild the committee and Trustee numbers up.

This help takes the following format:-

- Appoint an Acting Chair (John Ydlibi) and Acting Secretary (Karen Bradley) to CPRE Nottinghamshire, manage administration and hold regular CPRE Nottinghamshire Trustee meetings
- To provide focus and agree priorities for CPRE Nottinghamshire short and medium term and focus the work of Bettina Lange, who supports CPRE Nottinghamshire one day a week.
- To advertise and recruit new Trustees and volunteers for CPRE Nottinghamshire.
- To respond to local plans and individual Planning applications through the newly established CPRE Nottinghamshire Planning Sub-Committee.
- To improve communication with CPRE Nottinghamshire members and regularly update the website.

- To promote relevant CPRE campaigns across Nottinghamshire dependent on resources available and represent CPRE Nottinghamshire at the CPRE National Assembly.

These changes have been communicated to central CPRE Directors and the new Chief Executive Roger Mortlock and they are supportive of the steps being taken.

We have decided not to hold an AGM this year with all the transitional activity, but will look to hold one in April/ May 2024, once the accounts for 2023 for the charity are finalised.

As mentioned above, we have decided to communicate with our members and our community partners more often, so we have decided to introduce a thrice yearly newsletter. Hopefully you have enjoyed this first edition. Please feel free to provide us with any feedback. The intent is to send this digitally via e-mail to avoid expensive postal costs but clearly those members without email or have asked to not be contacted by email will receive them by post.

If you need to contact myself or Karen, our contact details are on the final page.

Thank you for your continuing support and all the very best for the rest of 2023.



Acting Chair CPRE Nottinghamshire



John Ydlibi receiving his well-deserved CPRE Volunteer Award nomination at the end of last year.



# A study of public transport in Nottinghamshire

We've been working towards improving public transport in Nottinghamshire, following the publication of National CPRE's "Transport Deserts" report.

The report defines a 'transport desert' as "a settlement which is inappropriately served by public transport in a way that is likely to limit choices and opportunities for the people who live there. Living in a 'transport desert' means that you are reliant on travelling by car for your day to day life".

CPRE Nottinghamshire aims to produce a local version of this. We started by carrying out an online survey in the winter of 2021/22 on the availability of public transport in Nottinghamshire villages (and small towns). Of the 191 responses received, 174 reported a public transport service of some kind, 11 none.

Of those who reported a public transport service:

- 48 reported more than 1 per hour Monday – Saturday
- 59 reported 1 per hour Monday – Saturday
- 6 reported more than 1 per hour Monday – Saturday
- 6 reported more than 1 per hour evenings and Sundays
- 72 reported 1 per hour evenings and Sundays
- 72 reported less than 1 per hour evenings and Sundays.

For places without a public transport service:

- 4 stated that the nearest service is more than 1 mile away
- 15 stated that the nearest service is more than 2 miles away
- 7 stated that the nearest service is more than 5 miles away.

The survey has its limitations. It covered a small, self-selected sample and because it was conducted online only, it did not .

## Read all about it

You can learn more on our website about the key findings from the 2020 Transport Deserts report created by CPRE, the countryside charity, with the Campaign for Better Transport.

Go to [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk) and search for "Transport deserts".



include people who don't use social media. The responses are also likely to have their limitations. People who never use public transport may, for example, assume better provision than is the case because they see (other) people use it.

But even with these limitations we can conclude that in around one tenth of places covered by the survey the nearest public transport service was at least 1 mile away. The situation is unlikely to have improved since because there have been further cuts to services, especially to bus services, since the survey was carried out.

We are now carrying out more detailed research on transport deserts in Nottinghamshire. If you would like to provide local information or just be kept informed, please email Bettina Lange at [contact@cprenotts.org.uk](mailto:contact@cprenotts.org.uk).





# Planning News

At CPRE Nottinghamshire, we care what gets built where. We want to see the right development in the right places, balancing the needs of the community with those of the environment and the distinctive character of rural Nottinghamshire.

We monitor Local Plans and planning applications across Nottinghamshire, responding to consultations and objecting to developments which will harm the landscape and countryside character. Here are some recent highlights.

## Solar Successes

### CASE 1

A planning application was submitted to Rushcliffe Borough Council for a solar farm at Kingston on Soar (near Gotham). In our April 22 objection, we argued that the 'very special circumstances' which would allow this development in the Green Belt do not apply;

- there are alternatives (e.g. brownfield or rooftop solar)
- the proposal conflicted with the council's planning policies which prioritise small-scale, decentralised renewable energy projects
- the fencing (over 2m high) along the public footpath would mean "walking or riding along a prison corridor" instead of in open countryside.

In March 2023 Rushcliffe refused permission in a decision which echoed our own arguments.

### CASE 2

Between January and March 2022 we worked with local residents to investigate proposals for a solar park near Hawksworth and Thoroton (Rushcliffe). In January 2023 we objected to the application. The solar farm would have sacrificed an area of good quality agricultural land (38% of which is classed as grade 3a "Best and Most Versatile") just at the time when food security is an increasingly important issue in the UK. We were able to use the CPRE's research report <https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Building-on-our-food-security.pdf> to support our case for balancing food security with sustainable energy generation.

We also argued that the proposal was the kind of centralised, large-scale project which does not serve local communities and was more likely to turn people against renewable energy than be endorsed by the local community.

On 30th March 23 Rushcliffe Borough Council refused planning permission.





# Planning News continued

## CASE 3

Renewable energy developer Island Power had been pursuing a very large-scale solar farm project, the so-called 'West Burton' project, between Clayworth and Gringley in North Nottinghamshire. The proposals were developed in phases and we commented accordingly in 2021 and again in July 2022. We objected to the size and centralised nature of the proposed solar farm, and the loss of agricultural land.

Using data from reports commissioned by Island Power themselves we argued that the landscape impact would be significant – the openness of the countryside would be lost – without the possibility of mitigation. We also worked closely with local residents on this.

We were informed in October 2022 that Island Power had withdrawn the proposal.

## Media interest in affordable housing

Early in 2023 BBC East Midlands TV ran a series on the housing crisis. Bettina Lange from CPRE Nottinghamshire was interviewed about how developing brownfield sites for affordable housing can be part of the solution. A clip from the interview was shown on the evening news programme on 8th March 23 and many times subsequently in news bulletins.

## Development Area at Ratcliffe on Soar – welcome and not so welcome

This is the area at and around Ratcliffe on Soar power station, which is earmarked for development. The context is the central government approval of the East Midland Freeport, the approval of an energy from waste facility by Nottinghamshire County Council, and the planned (although now delayed) decommissioning of Ratcliffe on Soar power station.

Rushcliffe Borough Council published a Local Development Order for consultation setting out the conditions for the different phases of development. In our September 2022 response, we welcomed the proposed requirements for a site-wide travel plan and for a Transport and Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy for each application. But we expressed concerns about the lack of clarity regarding funding and responsibility for these requirements.

We argued that applications for Certificates of Compliance should be open to comments from the public and we questioned the basis for the distinctly unambitious road traffic reduction targets and the need for another major logistic hub so close to existing ones including at East Midlands Airport.

# Annual Accounts 2022



## The Campaign To Protect Rural England - Nottinghamshire Receipts & payments account for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021		Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
Total		Funds	Funds	Total
Funds	Note	£	£	Funds
£				£
	<b>Receipts</b>			
5561	Members' subscriptions	5472	-	5472
1280	Donations	25	-	25
15000	Grants	-	2400	2400
25	Bank interest	59	-	59
23	Give as you live	-	-	-
<u>21889</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>5556</u>	<u>2400</u>	<u>7956</u>
	<b>Payments</b>			
33	Subscriptions, affiliations & donations	33	-	33
6120	Salary & associated costs	6120	-	6120
1082	Suppliers & miscellaneous	757	-	757
8606	Project staffing costs & expenses	1107	7500	8607
<u>15841</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<u>8017</u>	<u>7500</u>	<u>15517</u>
6048	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	(2461)	(5100)	(7561)
22742	Cash funds at start of this period	17125	11665	28790
<u>28790</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<u>14664</u>	<u>6565</u>	<u>21229</u>



# Volunteer for us

If you read the message from the Acting Chair, you'll already know that we are looking for our members to become volunteers.

If you can spare a couple of hours a week to volunteer for CPRE Nottinghamshire, we currently have the following volunteering vacancies:

- Assistant Planning Volunteer (Mansfield)
- Trustee
- Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Website and Social Media Volunteer
- Community Engagement Volunteer

CPRE induction and ongoing support will be provided. You don't need professional qualifications to do these voluntary roles; just a little relevant experience, some common sense and an interest in protecting and enhancing the countryside.

Apply via our website:

<https://volunteer.cpre.org.uk/opportunities/>  
or drop us an email if you have any questions.



Even if you don't see a role right now with a good match, please get in touch and arrange a chat. We are always looking for good people with a range of skills and experience to help us stand up for the Nottinghamshire countryside.

You can find our contact details at the bottom of this page.



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Registered charity number: 213481