

Oakdean

7A Pelham Crescent

The Park

Nottingham NG7 1AR

Telephone 0115 841 5942

This is to give you notice of our 2016 Annual General Meeting.

The AGM will take place at the Parish Church of Linby cum Papplewick on Friday 3 June commencing at 18.00 with refreshments. The church is in Church Lane, off Main Street, Linby. Following the formal business of the Meeting there will be a short talk (about 30 minutes) by local councillor Mr Stephen Walker on the history of the local cotton mills.

We are also offering a guided walk around Moor Pond Wood commencing at 17.00 and finishing immediately before and at the AGM. This should be a very interesting walk as will be the talk following the AGM. If you wish to join the walk, please meet the lay by near Castle Mill on Linby Lane (B6011), NG15 8FB. There is more information about the Wood and the cotton mills at http://moorpond.papplewick.org/index.html and http://www.nottinghampost.com/Archaeologists-uncovering-industrial-revolution/story-26518747-detail/story.html

Of course, it is not necessary to join the walk in order to attend the AGM but we hope that as many members as possible will attend one or both. The AGM is an opportunity to review what CPRE Nottinghamshire has been doing and our hopes and plans for the future and for members to ask questions and make any suggestions you may wish to put forward.

Please do let me know if you have any questions about these arrangements.

If you wish to propose any motions for discussion at the AGM or to propose anyone to stand for election to the executive committee, whether as chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer or committee member, please forward details to me or to Bettina Lange at 50 Harris Road, Beeston NG9 4FB.

I am sorry that we have not been able to give you earlier notice of the AGM but it has taken a little time to confirm details.

Yours faithfully

Frederick Cook

Chair CPRE Nottinghamshire

**CPRE Nottinghamshire Annual General Meeting 2016**

**Linby Parish Church**

**3 June 2016 at 18.00 (commencing with refreshments)**

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of 2014 AGM (previously circulated)**

* **Matters arising**
* **Approval**

1. **Report of Chairman**
2. **Report of Secretary and Policy Adviser**
3. **Report of Treasurer**
4. **Acceptance of 2015 Accounts**
5. **Election of Chair, Hon Treasurer and any other Committee Members**
6. **Election of Independent Examiner of Accounts**
7. **Any Motions**
8. **Any Other Business**
9. **Guest Speaker**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

PRESIDENT

Mr Liell Francklin DL

HONORARY OFFICERS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CHAIRMAN | Mr Frederick Cook |
| TREASURER | Ms Elena Gilbert |

SECRETARY AND POLICY ADVISER

Ms Bettina Lange: 50 Harris Road, Nottingham NG9 4FB Tel: 0115 9228706

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Community Accounting Plus (Mr J O’Brien)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

* The Honorary Officers
* Dr Peter Holland

THE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

I start this report with mention of two events that gave me great personal satisfaction during the year. The first was the opportunity to present the Valerie Gillespie Award to the Forest Fields Primary School at an afternoon assembly of all the staff and pupils, who conducted themselves delightfully. This Award goes to the best community initiative that has enhanced the local environment. Here the city centre school building has been beautifully restored, both inside and out and a street that once ran through the grounds has been closed off and now has play and planted areas, tended by the children. CPRE is concerned to improve our towns and cities as places to live, because to do so helps protect our countryside from urban sprawl. The school was given an impressive brass plaque and framed certificates were presented to the architects, builders, surveyors and others concerned with the project. The second event took place on April Fool’s Day 2015 when an intrepid group of our members and supporters braved the rain to take a walk in the woods. The woods were those owned by Ed Compton, a member who very kindly gave us an educational and enjoyable tour of his woodland at Owthorpe Hill. I learnt a lot.

2015 was, indeed, a year when indeed I did have to learn a lot, whether I wanted to do so or not. I did want to learn about Southwell (including how to pronounce its name) and that I did during the walk around the town that preceded our 2015 AGM, when Mr Liell Francklin Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, was elected as our new President. The AGM was followed by an interesting talk by Ian Morgan, a historian and writer, on past events that have taken place along the Great North Road on its route through Nottinghamshire.

If I did not already know, I have learnt again that you cannot please all the people all of the time. There are those who support anaerobic digestion (a natural process where plant and animal materials are broken down by micro-organisms in the absence of air inside a sealed tank or digester to release a methane-rich gas that can be used to generate renewable heat and power) because this helps cut fossil fuel use and reduce greenhouse gas and produces a fertiliser, rich in nutrients. However, I still think we were right to oppose the digester that was proposed to be put on open countryside land near the White Post roundabout, Farnsfield. The planned digester offended the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy (that the development of facilities within the open countryside will be supported only where such locations are justified by a clear local need, particularly where this would provide enhanced employment opportunities and/or would enable the re-use of existing buildings) on every count. The proposal was withdrawn and our efforts were gratefully acknowledged by a wide range of local people and businesses.

Another issue that gave rise to a need to learn was the fraught subject of fracking. Licences have been issued for possible exploration in Nottinghamshire and the first application was made in respect at a site adjacent to Springs Road, Misson. There are those who are strongly against fracking and others who are quietly in favour. The official CPRE policy is not to oppose all fracking in principle and we in Nottinghamshire will consider each case on its merits. We sent a lengthy submission (<https://www.facebook.com/NottsCPRE/posts/1134445183247382> ) to the county council opposing the Misson proposals primarily because a SSSI is adjacent to the site and because we do not believe the traffic links are suitable.

The need to protect the Green Belt was the subject that took up a deal of time during the year. I was invited to discuss the issue on BBC Radio Nottingham and the Secretary’s Report below will say more about the first of a series of public meetings we are holding on the subject. The first was at Attenborough for people in Broxtowe at the end of May 2015. A follow-up meeting for people in Gedling has followed early in 2016 and another in planned for Rushcliffe later in the year. Bettina Lange sets out in her report details of other work that the branch as done this year on a range of planning issues.

I am pleased to report that the Best Kept Village Competition was again run successfully last year, thanks to generous sponsorship by Wilkinsons and to the tireless efforts of the county organiser, Dr Peter Holland and his band of judges. I have already mentioned the Valerie Gillespie Award to the Forest Fields Primary School in central Nottingham. I am very keen that CPRE should advocate the importance of urban renewal and revitalisation as a way of discouraging further encroachment onto the surrounding greenfield rural land. CPRE is not a collection of NIMBYs simply wanting to protect posh villages. We recognise and encourage the provision of affordable homes in the right places (including where needed in villages) and our Best Kept Village Competition is about encouraging communities in villages of all kinds (not just picture postcard ones) to make the best of what they have. None of this is to suggest we do not want the best for villages such as those that have been designated as conservation areas, which is why we successfully opposed the establishment of a travellers' site at Wellow (whilst recognising that local authorities have a duty to provide such sites in appropriate places).

We have once again managed to sustain our activities with very few resources in terms of active volunteers. We have been using social media and advertisements to try to recruit people to the cause and shall keep trying. In the meantime, I do want to express my thanks to all those who have helped keep this charity afloat during 2015. We are grateful to all our members for their continued support and I am very grateful to all my fellow committee members for what they do.

We need to recruit more trustees and volunteers. In the meantime, we need to ensure that the use of the limited resources at our disposal is well-focussed on the priority areas that have been agreed by the executive committee and that we work to our forward plan in a well organised and cost-effective manner.

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL GROUP

The revival of the East Midlands Regional Group mentioned in last year’s report has continued apace following the appointment of a new regional chair in 2014.

The Region commissioned work on the proposed SRFI Strategic Rail Freight Interchange. This will be determined at the national level by the Planning Inspectorate

The Regional Group, together with that for the West Midlands facilitated the CPRE autumn conference for 2015 as National Office did not have the capacity to organise the event. In addition, the Region will co-host an event with East of England Region in July 2016.

The Region has produced a profiling list of outside organisations with whom CPRE East Midlands ought to establish contact and maintain suitable relations.

The Region has assisted Nottinghamshire Branch set up a Twitter page and has made efforts to recruit retired or otherwise unemployed planners to volunteer for CPRE. One such has assisted the Region but now mainly assists in the Lincolnshire Branch.

The Region have explored the fracking issue by meeting CPRE Lancashire Branch who faced fracking applications in their county and organising informative presentations (as set out below).

Work has proceeded on a Skills Directory to enable people across the region to access expertise held in other county branches.

Presentations were made at regional meetings on:

* County branch development;
* the development of the rural economy (including the part played by neighbourhood plans, providing affordable homes and developing enterprise).
* Uppingham’s neighbourhood planning process and outcomes.
* Midland rural housing
* charity banking
* fracking by Nick Clack - CPRE- Senior Energy Campaigner; the Health & Safety Executive-and the Environment Agency

CPRE East Midlands Region intends to concentrate its efforts on the following potential issues in the Forward Plan period to 2018:

1. Localism and the Rural Voice.
2. Devolution, Strategic Planning and Deregulation
3. Neighbourhood Planning and creating Assets of Community Value.
4. The Rural Economy.
5. Rural Housing.
6. Connectivity- Rural transport/high speed broadband/mobile phone coverage.
7. Inspiring the Younger generation to Protect and Enhance the Countryside.
8. Renewable Energy and On-Shore Shale Gas/Oil Exploitation.
9. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects including major Warehousing & Distribution.
10. Brownfield First, Green Belt and the Protection of Undesignated Countryside.
11. River &Coastal Flood Defence.

REPORT OF SECRETARY AND POLICY ADVISER

2015 was another busy year for me and for Nottinghamshire CPRE. We responded to the Broxtowe Borough Council consultation on their Green Belt review, and 35 people attended the meeting on the future of the Green Belt in Broxtowe in May. The meeting created links to local councillors and residents’ groups, and as a result we made representations to Broxtowe Borough Council supporting the suggestion from local people to increase the density on part of the Field Farm site (which has planning permission). Doing so would have allowed the protection of the ecologically most valuable (and valued) part of the site. Sadly, Broxtowe decided not to adopt this proposal, principally because the developer argued that without the lower density on part of the site there would not be enough higher value houses to make the development economically viable for them.

I wrote our objection to the application for 5000 houses south of Clifton. We objected on transport, coalescence and heritage grounds (the last relating to historic field patterns).

In June I attended a training event on Neighbourhood Planning organised by Leicestershire CPRE, and I have kept myself up to date with developments in relation to Neighbourhood Plans.

I supported local residents, and made written and verbal representations, in relation to proposals (applications or appeals) for solar farms at Normanton on Soar and Sookholme (the latter application has now been withdrawn), a wind turbine application at Maplebeck, an incinerator/energy from waste plant near Bilsthorpe.

I also raised our profile by giving a presentation on CPRE to the Nottinghamshire Planning Policy Officers Group in December.

TREASURER’S REPORT

**Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31 December 2015**

**Receipts**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | 2014 |
|  | **£** | £ |
| Members’ subscriptions | | **7040** | 5188 |
| Donations | | **596** | 1155 |
| Best kept Village Competition | | **3485** | 3500 |
| Bank interest | | **10** | 167 |
| Give As You Live | | **35** | 37 |
| Reimbursements from Derbyshire CPRE | | **1616** | 2340 |
| Sundry Receipts | | **210** | 406 |
| **Total receipts** | | **12992** | **12793** |

**Payments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | 2014 |
|  | **£** | £ |
| Subscriptions, Affiliations and Donations | **33** | 78 |
| Best Kept Village Competition | **2768** | 2979 |
| ;Valerie Gillespie Award | **204** | 224 |
| Hall hire and Refreshments | **368** | 112 |
| Travel Expenses | **452** | 305 |
| Salary and Associated Costs | **8544** | 10622 |
| Suppliers and Miscellaneous | **3100** | 1444 |
| **Total Payments** | **15469** | **15764** |

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | 2014 |
|  | **£** | £ |
| Bank Accounts | **27492** | 29969 |
| Cash in hand | **10** | 10 |
|  |  |  |
| Debtors | **3256** | 3447 |
|  |  |  |
| Creditors | **2060** | 438 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **28698** | 32988 |

A full set of accounts will be available at the 2016 Annual General Meeting to any member who wishes to inspect them. Any member may request a copy of the full set of accounts to be sent to them either by e-mail or post.

**Independent examiner’s statement to the trustees and members of Campaign to Protect Rural England - Nottinghamshire**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 2011 Act; and
* to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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

Signed J O’Brien MSC, ACCA, ACIE, DChA -Community Accounting Plus

DATA PROTECTION

CPRE holds and manages data in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to keep our supporters informed of our activities.

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

CPRE is a national charity that fights for a better future for England’s unique and precious countryside. From giving parish councils expert advice on planning issues to influencing national and European policies, we work to protect and enhance the countryside.

We believe a beautiful, thriving countryside is important for everyone, no matter where they live. Our members are united in their love for England’s landscapes and rural communities and stand up for the countryside so that it can continue to sustain, enhance and inspire future generations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Our objectives:** |  | **Our values:** |
| We campaign for a sustainable future for the English countryside, a vital but undervalued economic and social asset to the nation. We highlight threats and promote positive solutions. Our in-depth research supports active campaigning and we seek to influence public opinion and decision making at every level. |  | * We believe that a beautiful, tranquil, diverse and productive countryside is fundamental to people’s quality of life, wherever they live. * We believe the countryside should be valued for its own sake. * We believe the planning system should protect and enhance the countryside in the public interest. |

Our Patron is HM The Queen, and our national President is Sir Andrew Motion.

CPRE has around 60,000 members and supporters, a branch in every county, nine regional groups, over 200 district groups and a national office in London. There are over 2,000 Parish Councils and 800 amenity societies who belong to CPRE, providing us with a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning.

**Membership is open to all.**

The Nottinghamshire Branch of CPRE has nearly 300 members.

**Nottinghamshire Branch Facebook Page:** www.facebook.com/NottsCPRE

This is accessible to any internet user, whether signed up to Facebook or not

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| **Chairman**  Frederick Cook  Oakdean  7A Pelham Crescent  The Park  Nottingham  NG7 1AR  0115 841 5942  nottscpre@btinternet.com | Nottinghamshire Branch President  Mr Liell Francklin DL | **Secretary**  Bettina Lange  50 Harris Road  Beeston  Nottingham  NG9 4FB  0115 922 8706  bettina.t2000@btinternet.com |

**Registered Charity No: 213481**