



The countryside charity  
**Derbyshire**

# Annual Report 2020-21

May 2021



Photo courtesy of Friends of Pioneer Meadows, Kirk Hallam. Greenbelt under potential threat as part of Erewash Borough Council's Local Plan review.

## A message from our incoming Chair on behalf of the Committee

**We sincerely hope, despite the numerous lockdowns and challenges presented by COVID, that you have had the opportunity to go out, explore and enjoy the local countryside nearby.**

Whilst activity within CPRE nationally and locally has been impacted and we have missed getting together in person, we have become more resilient and are making better use of technology for increased efficiency and connection.

Here in Derbyshire, we have continued to monitor, review and submit objections to developments we think are damaging to our countryside including, some large-scale solar farm proposals in the county, with more detail further on in this report.

Tim Silvester has stepped down as Chair of the Derbyshire Group and I would like on behalf of us all, to thank Tim for his leadership, long and dedicated service and his outstanding contribution to protecting the Derbyshire countryside from badly planned development.

Tim has kindly agreed to remain on the committee to help me transition into the role, which I greatly appreciate, and I know he will be a tough act to follow, but I will do my best to make the Group even stronger.

We plan be more visible as a Group as the restrictions ease, and over the next 12 months will be organising some not-too-challenging walks aimed to showcase the ten National Landscape Character Areas of Derbyshire which are defined by Natural England. Invitations will be sent to all local members in the near future. These events will be free of charge and we encourage you to bring friends and family along to enjoy the experience as well.

I very much hope you will be able to join us at our forthcoming AGM on the evening of July 6th and look forward to meeting you and sharing more of our plans then.



John Ydlibi

# Vision and priorities for CPRE Derbyshire

## The vision

Early this year our Committee engaged in a facilitated session to develop a new strategy for the local Group. The following vision statement emerged from this process:

**‘To value, and encourage others to value, the unique and varied Landscape Character of Derbyshire\*, focusing on those often-overlooked parts of our beautiful county outside the Peak District National Park. Working to promote people’s love of the countryside and their ability to access it.’**

### With the following priorities:

- 1) Encourage sympathetic and appropriate development, based on:
  - retaining or enhancing landscape character and amenity
  - preventing urban/village sprawl
  - conforming to Local and Neighbourhood Plans
  - protecting Greenbelt
  - valuing local heritage and history

- 2) Support plan-led development
- 3) Give priority to development on recycled brownfield Land
- 4) Make sure any changes to the planning system strengthen, rather than undermine, local democracy.
- 5) Make sure new developments help to mitigate climate change

### How we want to achieve this:

Broaden our profile and increase local awareness of us and our aims:

Continue to make good use of social media

Publicise success stories, including in the local press.

Hold public events and activities

Establish links with like-minded organisations – Ramblers, Civic Societies, etc.

Have better, more sustained links with local action groups that are opposing developments, which we would also oppose, possibly taking the lead.

Form links with MPs, Councillors and personnel from planning departments.

Promote national CPRE campaigns to the benefit of the branch as well as the CPRE brand.

**There is more detail on our vision, together with our newly-developed policy specific to solar farms, at our website: <https://www.cprederbyshire.org.uk/>**

## AGM – 6th July 2021

Due to ongoing concerns about COVID, the AGM will be held online via Zoom on Tuesday 6th July commencing at 6pm. We would be delighted if you can join us by using the link below.

The agenda is provided opposite.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9315374881>

1. Apologies
2. Previous AGM minutes (see last year's Annual report)
3. Matters arising
4. Executive report – see updates here and at our website
5. Statement of accounts (see back page)
6. Election of officers and Exec. Committee: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and trustees (as previously advised a number of current trustees are at end of service)
7. Election of independent examiner of accounts
8. Amendment to Constitution – replace Branch with Group
9. AOB

# Key updates

## Locked down, but still very active

Despite the challenges presented by COVID, we have had a busy and productive time since publishing our last Annual Report.

### Our brand new face online

We were delighted to re-launch our website late last year, followed by a brand new Facebook page. Both set up and designed and managed to date by Derbyshire CPRE volunteer Jo Goddard with support on content from the rest of the Committee

### The double-edged sword that is Solar in the countryside

Having developed a new policy on Solar developments affirming our in-principle support for well-designed and located installations, we found ourselves more than prepared when a number of new proposals came to light from Kronos Solar for green field locations between Alfreton and Shirland, spanning different planning authorities.

It became clear from our research and the large number of objections from the local communities in question, that the Alfreton North/Shirland mega-site spanning across two district council areas is an unacceptable visual and amenity assault on what is distinctively appealing and accessible Derbyshire countryside, currently being enjoyed by many locals and visitors.

As a result, we submitted a strong objection having made extensive visits to review the sites.

### Erewash Borough Council Local Plan Strategic Review

Facing the potential loss of brownfield (previously developed) sites approved in their local plan for housing, and facing growing demand, Erewash Borough Council has recently found itself in the challenging position of needing to consider and consult on a number of green field locations, including some in the Greenbelt.

We sent our volunteer planning expert to investigate the primary sites of concern with her experienced eye.

As the nation's leading advocate for the protection of Greenbelt and having had a number of messages of concern from our local members, we put up a strong argument to the consultation for finding other alternatives, whilst offering constructive support for the difficulties face by, Erewash which has so far managed to honour its commitment to preserve Greenbelt.

The submission in full may be found on our website.

### Three Counties national support initiative

In last year's Annual Report, we introduced the regional action plan involving the CPREs of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. We are happy to report significant progress with this, having appointed a Community Engagement and Volunteering Officer and a Communications and Digital Officer. Both are part time roles devoting one day a week to our Derbyshire Group. They commence in June 2021.

The aims of the project are still broadly the same, that is:

- Raise the profile locally about CPRE and what we care about
- Identify and implement opportunities for community engagement with CPRE and link with like-minded organisations that share our concerns and ambitions
- Attract and support members, donors and volunteers
- Create and edit fresh relevant content for social media channels, our website, supporter emails and ad hoc publications.

We will be represented on the Steering Group and will monitor the work and progress of this venture. Initially, it is for one year at an approximate cost to us of £15,000 for both posts. Towards the end of Year 1, we will assess progress and decide if it is worth continuing for a second year.

Find more news and stories about our activities at <https://www.cprederbyshire.org.uk/>



## Accounts year ended 31 December 2020

**C.P.R.E.  
DERBYSHIRE BRANCH**  
**Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31st December 2020**

£	2019	£	2020
	43495		46023
	Balance at 1st January 2020		
	<b>Receipts</b>		
4963	Subscriptions and Donations	4968	
190	Interest on Deposit A/C	74	
	<b>5153</b>		<b>5042</b>
	48648		51065
	<b>Payments</b>		
349	Printing and Stationery	222	
145	Postage	188	
341	Travelling and Subsistence	0	
394	Insurance	394	
312	AGM expenses	0	
64	Room Hire	14	
65	Refreshments	22	
100	Donations	0	
36	Internet Services	103	
724	Planning Expenses	0	
95	Promotional Materials	0	
0	Equipment	1200	
	<b>2625</b>		<b>2143</b>
	46023		48922
	Balance of funds at 31st December 2020		
	This is held as follows:-		
	30782 CCLA Deposit A/C	35871	
	14171 Lloyds Bank Treasurers A/C	11973	
	44953	47844	
	1070 Plus cash in transit	1078	
	0 Less unrepresented cheques	0	
	46023	48922	

The Branch owns office and other equipment with an original cost of £1,993

Adrian Watts  
Treasurer

I certify that I have examined the books and records of the Branch and that these accounts are in accordance therewith. I report that no matters have arisen during the course of my examination on which I have to give an adverse report.

Date

18/03/2021

Jeff Hanson  
Independent Examiner

J. Hanson

## Current Committee

John Ydlibi - A chartered accountant and recently retired Finance Executive from Rolls-Royce, John enjoys the countryside and is a member of the National Trust, RSPB and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Adrian Watts - A member of CPRE for many years and treasurer for Derbyshire since 1992, with a keen interest in protecting areas for wildlife and preserving Greenbelt.

Trevor Taylor - An ecology consultant and CPRE member for many years, with a particular interest in wildlife impacts of planning.

Isabella Stone - Previously in local government policy development and a past chair of CPRE South Yorkshire, Isabella loves rambling, gardening and being in the countryside.

Tim Silvester - Head of the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby until his retirement, Tim loves hill walking and all aspects of the countryside.

Ben Rodgers - CPRE member since 2012 with a background in farming and conservation work. Keen to maintain the character and beauty of our countryside.

Mandy Hicken - A longstanding member of National Trust, English Heritage and Woodland Trust, concerned about all aspects of conservation.

Janet Hall - Retired teacher, keeping an eye on planning in Derbyshire Dales. Active with Kirk Ireton Parish Council and their Village Plan Steering group.

Jo Goddard - Experienced leader in market and customer insights for business strategy, Jo loves to walk and paint in the countryside and wants to preserve its heritage.

## Chesterfield members

There has been a Chesterfield Group for some time within Derbyshire CPRE, established originally to respond to some specific issues in this area. More recently, this group has become more of an information exchange rather than an active group that meets regularly. It is felt that the time has come for Chesterfield to be integrated into the main county group of CPRE to monitor planning applications and respond to any we consider potentially damaging to the Derbyshire landscape and countryside.

Monitoring in Chesterfield is currently shared by a local CPRE member and another Committee member, but we would always welcome other Chesterfield members to assist as 'eyes and ears' in this area, so if you can help, please do contact us.

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