



Annual Review Gloucestershire 2018

Campaign to Protect Rural England

www.cpreglos.org.uk



Chairman's Statement

THE YEAR 2018 was an exciting time for CPRE with our National Office heavily engaged in reviewing how the organisation should present itself to ensure that it is perceived as relevant and engaging to a new generation of supporters who care about rural issues. CPRE Gloucestershire played an active part in this process and I have been recruited as a 'Strategy Champion' to help give the local perspective on the changes which will follow.

Meanwhile your Branch has kept up the campaigning momentum locally on many fronts. I often think CPRE reminds me of the amoeba that some of us learnt about in Biology lessons at school.

These tiny, single-cell organisms have a remarkable capacity to alter their shape by extending and retracting their tentacles. Translate this description to a social context and you might be describing CPRE Gloucestershire which exists to:

'protect, promote and enhance the distinctiveness, sustainability and vibrancy of rural Gloucestershire for future generations.'

Despite being a relatively small organisation, largely staffed by volunteers, our tentacles extend into many different areas of rural life through our campaigning, our awards and the evidence we generate.

In the various sections of this Annual Review, you can read

about the constantly changing range of activities in which we engage in response to new challenges and opportunities in pursuit of our vision and goals. Like the amoeba, we have to be flexible and constantly ready to maximise our impact. In this our seven Districts and their faithful and energetic volunteers with their local knowledge enable us to respond to emerging local plans and inappropriate planning applications.

There is a huge amount to do if we are to 'protect, promote and enhance' life in rural Gloucestershire. If you are a member, a donor or a volunteer, thank you for your support. Please spread the word about what can be achieved when we campaign



Lucy Blyth

together for the future of our County. Every new member that we recruit enhances our capacity to respond to the challenges that face our Gloucestershire countryside. This Annual review documents a successful 2018. But we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. 2019 needs to be even better. Please help us to make it so.

**Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE
Branch Chair**



The River Sever from Newnham

Rob Colley

INTRODUCTION

THIS ANNUAL Review highlights CPRE Gloucestershire's major areas of activity during the 2018 calendar year, notably:

- Raising the profile of the Branch and promoting our work and successes
- Engaging with the important process of local plan preparation and review across the County
- Scrutinising planning applications and making representations where development would be particularly harmful, and engaging in planning appeals where necessary
- Working with other organisations on a number of joint initiatives
- Contributing to CPRE's national-level work and to the work of CPRE South West
- Running our successful CPRE Gloucestershire Rural Excellence Awards

COMMUNICATIONS, RECRUITMENT AND OUR PUBLIC PROFILE

OUR WORK and campaigning for the future of our countryside is more important than ever – but CPRE nationally and in Gloucestershire is not as well-known as it should be. Membership remains enthusiastic but small, and like many CPRE Branches it is gradually declining. 2018 saw work put in hand at national level to address these two issues comprehensively.

Two major exercises have been running which will come to fruition in 2019 with a new Strategic Plan for the

organisation. They are the Purpose Project which has charted a refreshed and positive role for CPRE in the years ahead, and a new brand identity for CPRE including a new logo. Lucy Blyth, our Campaigns and Marketing Manager has been closely involved in both these exercises.

Here in Gloucestershire we:

- published two editions of our newsletter, Gloucestershire Views, which were circulated to all our members and a wider audience and are available on our website. The newsletter is a key element of our communications under the direction of David Bayne (editor) and Colette Brownrigg (designer);
- launched the first Love Rural Life e-Newsletter, which was sent to all our members who have 'opted in' to email communications with us, as well as to new supporters 'recruited' through our website
- maintained and refreshed our website which remains a first point of reference for information about CPRE Gloucestershire and its work
- through our district committees, promoted our work through a presence at a number of the county shows during the summer.

At the end of 2018 our total membership stood at 1223, a small decline over the year of 42. Membership includes individuals, families, Parish and Town Councils and other kindred organisations. During the year we welcomed 35 new members.



South Cotswolds District members on a private visit to Owlpen Manor

OUR CAMPAIGNS

IN THIS section we report on our main campaigning issues in 2018.

Review of Designated Landscapes

IN MAY 2018 the Government announced a review of England's National Parks and AONBs to be advised by an independent panel chaired by Julian Glover. We input to a comprehensive 'OneCPRE' response to a Call for Evidence and made a separate submission on both the case for AONB status for the Forest of Dean area and on whether the Cotswolds AONB should become a National Park, a matter which has been under active discussion over the past year.

Richard Lloyd

Flaxley Abbey in the Forest of Dean



Gloucestershire 2050

FEBRUARY 2018 saw the launch of a six months consultation on a Vision for Gloucestershire by the middle of the century. Generated largely by the County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership it presented an over-ambitious and unrealistic growth agenda. We responded by publishing an alternative Vision 'There is a Better Way'.

A417 Missing Link

WE RESPONDED to the Highways England consultation on route options for the proposed new dual carriageway section of the A417, and subsequently engaged with Highways England and the Cotswolds Conservation Board to explore how the scheme could be improved to reduce landscape impacts and deliver environmental benefits within the likely budget ceiling available.

Local Plans

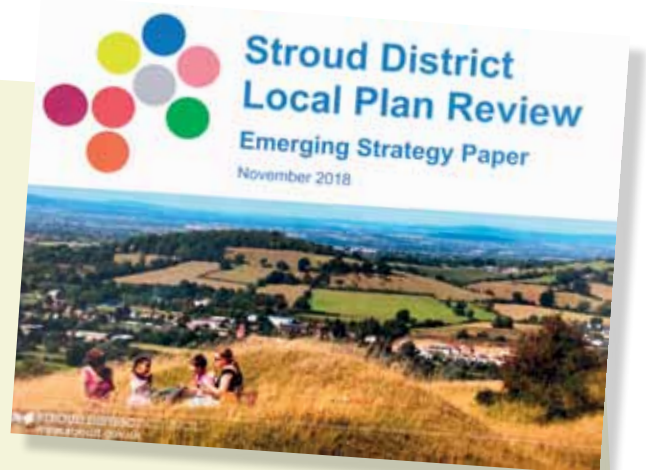
WE CONTINUED to devote considerable resources to ensure CPRE's views are heard in plan preparation and review.

In the last annual review we reported that the Joint Core Strategy for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury (the JCS) had at last been adopted and should give a period of greater certainty to the planning process and enable the more detailed Local Plans being prepared by the three local authorities to be progressed. We knew the JCS would be subject to partial early review to meet a perceived shortfall in housing supply in Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough. Publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework has prompted a full review starting with a consultation on Issues and Options to which we responded.

Engagement in the ongoing process of plan review will be a major task ahead:

and it directly links with delivering the aspirations under the Gloucestershire 2050 banner where most of the growth is likely to end up in this part of the county. Meanwhile, the three Local Plans have moved forward and we input to the final stages in preparing the Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough Plans.

At the end of the year, the review of the Stroud Local Plan had reached the stage of consultation on an 'Emerging Strategy Paper' to which we will be submitting a comprehensive response. For Stroud District, the Government's new national standard method for determining housing requirements has increased the target growth rate from 450 housing units a year to over 600.



In consequence, locations are now being sought for an additional 5700 homes over and above those already planned which will be extremely challenging to achieve.

We continued to make representations on the long delayed Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan where a key issue is a failure to properly apply the duty-to-cooperate requirement between minerals planning authorities.

PLANNING CASEWORK

SCRUTINISING PLANNING applications and making representations where development would be particularly harmful continues to be a main focus of activity by our District committees. Our main concerns are typically the sustainability of the location and impact of development on the landscape. These issues are important everywhere and particularly in our AONBs. In this work we were admirably supported by our planning consultants David Crofts and Martin Hillier.

2018 was a quieter year with far fewer speculative planning applications now that NPPF-compliant plans are in place in the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury local authority areas (in the form of the JCS), in Stroud District and in Cotswold District.

The following is a list of a number of the more significant cases considered where we submitted objections.

- Proposed development up to 60 units (over 65s scheme) at **Alderton** contrary to the JCS and affecting the setting of the Cotswolds AONB. The planning application was withdrawn.
- The longstanding proposal for 500 homes at 'North Cleavelands', **Bishops Cleeve** which we vigorously opposed as outside the provisions of the JCS. This planning application has still not been decided.
- Proposed further major development of 215 homes + commercial and retail space at **Bishops Cleeve** outside the provisions in the JCS. Decision awaited.
- Proposed development of 40 homes at **Coombe Hill** in an unsustainable location. Decision awaited.



David Bayne

Bishops Cleeve; existing urban sprawl

- Proposed redevelopment of the Hare and Hounds pub at **Fosse Cross** into a 40 bed hotel. We opposed the application primarily on design grounds and that it was too big for the site. The development was permitted.
- The Severn Vale remains a target for major solar arrays. We have raised objections to a development close to **Frampton-on-Severn** and to a second proposal at Longney. Decisions awaited.
- Proposed development of 24 homes near **Greet** in an unsustainable location in the setting of the Cotswolds AONB. The development was refused.
- A revised planning application is under consideration for a new football stadium for Forest Green Rovers close to **Junction 13 of the M5**. We have sustained our objections. Decision awaited.
- Proposed development of 60 homes at **Maisemore** outside the settlement boundary in an attractive rural area and contrary to the JCS. The development was refused.

- Proposed demolition of Forest Green Rovers existing football stadium at **Nailsworth** and replacement with high density housing. The site is outside the settlement boundary and there is a strong community preference for a continued recreational or community use for the land. Decision awaited.
- Redevelopment of the old **Standish Hospital** site to include refurbishment of the Listed Grade II house, the C20th wards and some other buildings to provide 48 dwellings. The construction of 98 new homes in the grounds is required to fund this. The site is on the AONB escarpment in a highly visible position. The amount of new housing is still under discussion and is contentious.
- A revised application for a major extension to **Stowe Hill Quarry** in the Forest of Dean. We have sustained our objections, not least because the application cannot properly be considered until the long drawn out process of preparing a new Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan has been concluded. Decision awaited.

Standish Hospital



Prue Vernon

- Proposed development of 20 homes including affordable housing in open countryside near **Sunhill**, far from any services and contrary to the Local Plan. The development was refused.
- Proposed development of 40 homes at **Willersey** beyond the settlement boundary and contrary to the Local Plan. Decision awaited.
- Proposed development at **Wotton-under-Edge** of a car park for 80 cars and two coaches, together with 12 homes with significant landscape implications. The development was permitted

WORKING WITH OTHERS

ALTHOUGH THE Branch is happy to 'go it alone' for much of its campaigning, an important part of our activity benefits greatly from partnership working. The kindred organisations represented on our Executive Committee provide a good base for joint working and other activity has included:

- Commissioning research from Place Studio to review the effectiveness of 'made' Neighbourhood Plans in Gloucestershire and other South West counties, in partnership with the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils and the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. Our three organisations ran a successful workshop in June to explore the main findings of the joint research.
- Determining the possible next stages of the 'Severn Vision' with other environmental organisations and researchers. The Severn Vision was published in 2016 to provide a long term vision for the future of Severn Estuary as a healthy functioning ecosystem, providing more benefits for people and retaining and enhancing the unique environment of this special area.
- Continuing our joint research programme with the University of Gloucestershire, designed to increase understanding of the lower Severn Vale. The outcome is a steadily expanding Geographic Information System (GIS) which provides better evidence to underpin our campaigning. In the latter part of the year we started to discuss practical applications for the data and how the joint research might progress.

Crickley Hill and the present A417

- Continuing our membership of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (LNP), which brings together voluntary sector and statutory bodies to inform strategic environmental priorities in the County. During the year we were invited to join the Board of the LNP. We contribute to the cost of an LNP Manager who made a thought-provoking presentation to our Executive Committee in September. We took part in a seminar organised by the LNP on delivering Green Infrastructure and have signed a 'pledge' to promote GI in the county.
- Maintaining close relations with the Cotswolds Conservation Board and with the Wye Valley AONB Partnership, notably over the issues of the A417 Missing Link; the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes including National Park status for the Cotswolds (see page 3); and by contributing to proposals to pursue International Dark Sky status for parts of the Cotswolds.

Richard Lloyd



The Neighbourhood Plans workshop under way



Richard Lloyd

The Severn Vale from Coaley Peak



Mark Connelly

WORKING WITH THE WIDER CPRE NETWORK

WE HAVE maintained good working links with both CPRE National Office and with the CPRE SW regional group. For example:

- Richard Lloyd has continued in his role as a member of the CPRE national Policy Committee.
- Patricia Broadfoot has joined the National Office group taking forward the Strategic Review, serving as a 'Strategy Champion'; and is a member of the Nominations Committee which shortlists and interviews Trustee Board candidates, and recommends candidates to the Board. Charlie Watson continued in his role as Vice Chair of the CPRE County

Branch Forum, but stood down at the end of the Year. Patricia Broadfoot is now our representative on this important group.

- We contributed to the development of three 'OneCPRE' responses to government consultations – on the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), on the Agriculture Bill, and on the Review of Protected Landscapes (see also Campaigning Issues on page 3).
- Patricia Broadfoot is our formal representative at meetings of the CPRE SW Regional Group. Richard Lloyd regularly attends their meetings and Bob Brown serves on a Topic Group on Minerals.

OUR AWARDS

SIX CPRE Gloucestershire Rural Excellence Awards were made in 2018, the eleventh year of the scheme. The Awards celebrate projects which have brought outstanding benefits to Gloucestershire's environment, people and local communities.



Richard Lloyd

1. Greystones Farm Discovery Centre, Bourton on the Water
Farm buildings imaginatively converted to provide a hands-on education centre about the Cotswolds countryside, its wildlife and its history



Richard Lloyd

2. Hayles Abbey Halt, near Toddington
A rebuilt halt on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway constructed by volunteers, faithfully following the design of the original station



Richard Lloyd

3. Kings Lodge, Cinderford
92 energy efficient homes of mixed types and tenures on a brownfield site, creating a development with a distinct character and sense of place



Richard Lloyd

4. The Raymond Fenton Centre, South Cerney
A community building which looks good, fits well with its surroundings, admirably meets its space requirements and is highly energy efficient



Tewkesbury Nature Reserve

5. Tewkesbury Nature Reserve
An extensive wetland reserve, the brainchild of local residents who saw the potential of the area to enhance wildlife and provide an asset for the community



Richard Lloyd

6. Whittington Close, St Briavels
Nine affordable homes on a rural exception site designed with input from the community to follow the vernacular style of the older parts of the village

BRANCH ORGANISATION

THE BRANCH Executive Committee is responsible for managing the affairs of the Branch and administering its funds and assets. The Committee met four times during the year, advised by a Management Sub-Committee and a Policy Sub-Committee. These sub-committees and a separate Group that administers the CPRE Gloucestershire Rural Excellence Awards scheme all met regularly.

Our Branch Officers have remained unchanged: Patricia Broadfoot as our Chair; Richard Lloyd and David Brooke, Vice Chairmen; David Bayne, Secretary; Julian Oxley, Treasurer; and Elizabeth Bourne, Membership Secretary. The Executive Committee also benefits from the membership of our District Chairs, elected members, and representatives of kindred organisations.

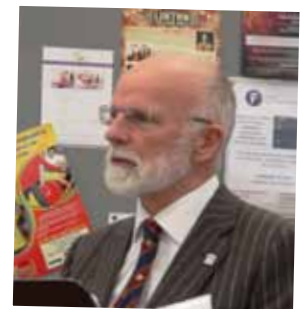
We have continued to maintain a small office in Gloucester with Lisa Belfield as our Office Manager and Planning Advisor, ably supported (for part of the year) by Jennifer Gallen as Branch Coordinator. Lucy Blyth continues as our energetic Campaigns and Marketing Manager.

Our CPRE Districts continue to bear the brunt of our local campaigning, particularly our planning casework. Our thanks go to our District Chairs and their committees – Prue Vernon, Berkeley Vale; Tom Hancock, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury; Clive Osborne, Forest of Dean; Alison Clifton Barnard (and later Michael Green), North Cotswolds; Nick Dummett, South Cotswolds; a rotating chair for Stroud District; and Jeremy Lodwick in Tetbury.

A successful 2018 AGM was held in the Innovation Centre of Renishaw plc, one of

the key employers in the county. This was Dame Janet Trotter's final AGM as our

Branch President and the many tributes reflected her close and continued support over many years. We welcomed as our new President Mr Charles Martell – farmer, rare breeds champion, cheesemaker and currently High Sheriff of Gloucestershire. Our speaker this year was Baroness Young of Old Scone, who gave a typically challenging and forthright address to a large number of members and guests.



Lucy Blyth

Charles Martell

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CPRE Gloucestershire Branch

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
Income		
Branch Share of National Subscriptions	22,540	22,831
Interest and Investment Income	4,718	5,089
Donations	480	400
	<u>27,738</u>	<u>28,320</u>
Expenditure		
Contractor's Fees	25,429	22,566
Postage & Telephone	893	566
Printing, Stationery & I.T	2,084	836
Office Rent and Service Charges	3,467	3,467
Insurance	642	629
Travel & Meetings	2,863	3,282
Subscriptions	1,467	1,125
Newsletters	3,554	3,710
Public Relations	300	2,834
Awards Scheme	770	965
Annual Report and AGM	2,206	1,664
Reporting Accountant	748	880
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	370
Planning Consultancy	1,870	5,954
Contribution to Head Office Housing Post	0	5,000
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust: for Severn Vision Project	4,000	0
Place Studios: for Neighbourhood Plans research	3,500	0
	<u>53,793</u>	<u>53,848</u>
Deficit for the Year	(26,055)	(25,528)
(Loss) Gain on Investments	(20,935)	15,883
General Fund, brought forward	247,979	257,624
General Fund, carried forward	<u>200,989</u>	<u>247,979</u>
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2018		
Assets		
Investments	272,702	293,637
Debtors	5,922	5,647
Bank Account	23,438	49,675
	<u>302,062</u>	<u>348,959</u>
less Current Liabilities	<u>1,073</u>	<u>980</u>
	<u>300,989</u>	<u>347,979</u>
Financed by		
General Fund	200,989	247,979
Fighting Fund	100,000	100,000
	<u>300,989</u>	<u>347,979</u>

Copies of the full independently examined accounts will be available at the AGM

Treasurer's Report

THE DEFICIT for the Year was almost identical to that for 2017. However, in line with market trends in the final months of 2018 the value of Investments fell by some 9%, which together with the Deficit accounts for the fall of almost £47,000 in the General Fund.

Julian Oxley
Hon Treasurer



Gloucestershire
Campaign to Protect Rural England

CPRE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH TRUSTEES

THE TRUSTEES of the Branch are the Branch Officers, Elected Members of the Executive Committee and CPRE District Chairs. CPRE Districts for the North Cotswolds and Stroud currently have a rota of short-term chairs and thus de facto are not represented by a Trustee. In furthering the work of the Branch, the Trustees of CPRE Gloucestershire have been guided by the published advice of the Charity Commission.

Professor Patricia Broadfoot
Chair

Mr David Bayne

Mrs Elizabeth Bourne

Mr David Brooke

Ms Alison Clifton Barnard

(to May 2018)

Mr Nick Dummett

Major Tom Hancock

Mr Nick Holliday
(to May 2018)

Mr Richard Lloyd

Mr Jeremy Lodwick

Mr Clive Osborne

Mr Julian Oxley

Mrs Prue Vernon

Mr Charlie Watson

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE Branch of CPRE promotes and encourages, for the benefit of the public, the improvement and protection of the Gloucestershire countryside and its towns and villages, and the better development of the rural environment. It acts upon any matters affecting the planning, improvement and protection of the countryside and landscape.

www.cpreglos.org.uk

**CPRE Gloucestershire
Community House
15 College Green
Gloucester
GL1 2LZ**

Charity number: 248577

THE BRANCH is pleased to have representatives of these kindred local organisations as non-voting members of its Executive Committee.

**Country Land and Business
Association**

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

**Gloucestershire Association of
Parish and Town Councils**

**Gloucestershire Federation of
Women's Institutes**
no current representative

Gloucestershire Geology Trust

**Gloucestershire Rural
Community Council**
no current representative

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

National Farmers' Union

Ramblers' Association

OUR DISTRICTS



Design Colette Brownrigg
colette@riggerjig.co.uk

Printing Color Co, Cheltenham
© 01242 226332
<http://www.thecolorco.co.uk>

