



# The countryside charity Rutland

**Chair: Ron Simpson BEM Administrative Officer Geoff Clyde Treasurer: Judy Geer**

**Press Release and Briefing Note – CPRE Rutland Awarded Major Grant: Published on Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020**

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## **CPRE Rutland Awarded Major Campaign Grant**

### **The Grant**

CPRE Rutland has been awarded national and regional grants totalling £30k to strengthen the capacity of the countryside charity to campaign to influence the final form of the Rutland Local Plan ensuring it is sound, sustainable and in keeping with the aspirations of the local community for Rutland in 2036.

### **The Campaign**

The campaign seeks to work with the county's villages and towns to protect and enhance the sustainability of Rutland for future generations. They seek the right amount of development in the right places with truly affordable community led housing and effective infrastructure at the core of the new Local Plan. In addition, the campaign will seek to support the county's two market towns and sustainable villages by developing and piloting in Uppingham an accurate local housing needs survey template. Following evaluation, this will be made available to all parish councils and affordable housing organisations in the region.

The campaign will also aim to increase CPRE Rutland membership and local campaigning capacity by present a very positive vision for Rutland in 2036 through a modified local plan achieved with community support and working in collaboration with impacted parishes. Protecting and sustaining Rutland's very special environment will be at the heart of the campaign. A film entitled Rutland 2036 is already under production.

Commenting upon the campaign, project leader Ron Simpson BEM said, "CPRE Rutland is delighted to have received this substantial support from CPRE national office and regional colleagues. The challenges facing the Rutland community presented by the draft Local Plan, and particularly the St Georges site, go to the heart of what this countryside charity believes in. Rutland is such a special place with a very sustainable future. The campaign hopes to influence key decision makers and arrive at a better set of outcomes for our beautiful county. CPRE Rutland is not against an appropriate amount of development in the right places. It supports the building of truly affordable homes, a healthy and safe environment, adequate infrastructure and long term transport planning. The charity looks forward to achieving these aims.

### **The Timetable**

The campaign will commence immediately with up to two part time staff being appointed for a minimum of 12 months. A public meeting on the evening of February 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 to be addressed by national and local figures will officially launch the campaign and the charity's vision for Rutland in 2036. Booking to attend the event is at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rutland-2036-tickets-90897441695>

### **Project Enquiries**

Please direct all general enquiries on the project to:- Ron Simpson BEM, CPRE Rutland  
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### **Note to Editors**

England's smallest county's way of life and infrastructure is under threat from the whims of a couple of landowners, one of them the Ministry of Defence. The county is currently building ahead of its targets for housing, in accordance with the existing local plan which comfortably meets the established OAN, but Rutland County Council (RCC) is setting about modifying these plans to satisfy the ambitions of these landowners in preference to the established needs of the community, and in the absence of any clear or coherent vision for the future of the county.

Given that nowhere in Rutland is more than a few miles from another county, it is important that the local plan also recognise developments planned in those counties. The MoD's demands are driven by the need for financial return rather than the public interest and there is strong public opposition to the apparent acquiescence of the county's politicians. CPRE Rutland believes politicians should be challenging the plans and ensuring that the community's needs take priority.

CPRE Rutland sees this evolving situation as providing a clear opportunity to engage more closely with the local community and build greater support for CPRE across the county. Most of the opposition centres on the proposal to create a new garden community at St George's Barracks, which the MoD is due to relinquish in 2022. There are currently some 16,000 houses in Rutland, and the established OAN is around 160 houses per year until 2036. This proposal would result in a completely new town of over 2200 dwellings, second in size only to Oakham, the county town. It is, furthermore, in a fairly remote site, unsuited to the scale of development proposed, and the inevitable increased demands on transport will run counter to efforts to address the climate emergency. Should the second possible site, at Woolfox, where over 5000 homes are proposed, also get the go ahead, this would result in an increase of over 50% in the housing stock, before any other developments are counted. Reducing growth in other settlements to compensate would lead to significant loss of flexibility in meeting overall housing targets and impact long-term sustainability in the county.

CPRE Rutland believes the community is looking to CPRE to provide a balanced, evidence-based view and so give weight to their objections. CPRE Rutland is, therefore, to implement a major project to promote coherence around a long-term solution which satisfies the community's real needs and builds support for the organisation for the future.

### **About CPRE The countryside charity**

CPRE is the countryside charity that campaigns to promote, enhance and protect the countryside for everyone's benefit, wherever they live. With a local CPRE in every county, we work with communities, businesses and government to find positive and lasting ways to help the countryside thrive - today and for generations to come. Founded in 1926, President: Emma Bridgewater, Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.  
[www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

### **CPRE Strategic Goals**

**Aim 1 Connect people and countryside** - We will promote the value and benefits of the countryside so that far more people engage with, understand and enjoy it, particularly those who have not benefited before. This will help us to create a stronger voice to enhance and protect the countryside, including locally-valued landscapes.

**Aim 2 Promote rural life** - With communities and partners, we will develop and promote a sustainable vision for living in the countryside in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will bring together solutions for the rural economy, housing, farming, transport and the natural environment to achieve positive progress for our countryside and those who live in it.

**Aim 3 Empower communities** – We will empower our network to engage with communities to involve more people in improving their local environment through volunteering and local action.

**Aim 4 Grow our capacity** – We will bring together a larger and more diverse group of people who share our belief in a countryside for all. This will increase our resilience, income and capacity.

### **About CPRE Rutland**

CPRE Rutland is the independent countryside charity for Rutland that campaigns to promote, enhance and protect the countryside in Rutland for everyone's benefit, wherever they live. Founded in 1970. President is Sir Laurence Howard KCVO OBE. Current Chair is Malcolm Touchin of Uppingham, Rutland.