



The countryside charity  
Hertfordshire

## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020

Standing up for Hertfordshire's Countryside

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas is drawing ever closer and it's time to start thinking about Christmas Cards, we have a collection of 10 beautiful Christmas themed Hertfordshire countryside scenes all taken by our volunteers (examples below). There is a choice of different greetings and we are selling them as Pick'n'Mix this year meaning you can choose how many of each image you wish to purchase. 70p each, plus £3 p&p in the UK. Minimum order is 5 cards. Ordering is simple: fill in and return the enclosed form, either by post or by email. Contact details can be found on page 2





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## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



As those who attended our virtual AGM know, our Honorary Director, Kevin FitzGerald stood down. I am enormously grateful to him for the massive amount of work that he put in over the years that he held this position. He was and remains the face of CPRE Hertfordshire.

Kevin, now an Honorary Vice-President, will continue to be our external voice for the media and as a speaker for formal and informal groups (at least when Covid19 allows such meetings to resume).

Two very long standing volunteers, Elizabeth Hamilton and David Irving, were appointed Honorary Life Vice-Presidents at the AGM. David was my predecessor as Chairman. He continues to volunteer with our planning team and continues to write his erudite and very cogent letters in response to planning applications but only until the end of the year at which time he is retiring.

Elizabeth was David's predecessor as Chairman. Since standing down, Liz has been writing a monthly article for Hertfordshire Life and occasional articles for our website promoting our local countryside, and co-leading the judging for our annual CPRE Hertfordshire Awards. She is also our lead on water issues on which we are co-operating with other local CPREs, with CPRE Oxfordshire chairing the group. Liz is also available as a speaker, or will be again when the lockdown is lifted, whenever that is. Minutes of our AGM can be found on our website

Tim Hagyard, our Planning Manager is standing down. Tim has been with us for just under two years and has added a lot to our knowledge and output. His interest and focus is on climate change, a central issue for the planning system, if only the obsession with housing numbers could be set aside for a moment. Tim's greatest piece of work has been his questionnaire that we sent to all of the county's MPs in the summer. I told Tim that if two came back and said that they would co-operate it would be an excellent result. Previous letters to all the MPs have been met largely with silence. However, so far seven have agreed to work with us.

Three of our four staff, all part-timers, continue to work from home. The office is closed although I come in from time to time to check all is well and to deal with any incoming post. I thank them all: work has continued without a break. Indeed, our planning team has been and continues to be acutely busy. There are more planning applications coming through than we can deal with. We have to focus on only the most contentious.

Gill Bryant leads on our Awards 2020 and a host of other matters. We cannot hold an Awards Ceremony this year, of course, which is a great shame as it is the highlight of the year for me.

We have received some outstanding nominations this year, again. I expect that by the time you see this, there will be short films featuring the recipients of the 2020 Awards available on our web site.

We are actively recruiting for a replacement for Kevin (the position is now styled Chief Executive), and for Tim, a paid role. The job descriptions of both positions are on our web site. If you know of anybody who you think

## WHO'S WHO AT CPRE Hertfordshire:

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO  
Chairman: Richard Bullen  
Hon Treasurer: John Newbury  
Office Manager: Gill Bryant  
Planning Manager: Tim Hagyard  
Planning Assistant: Linda Brookes  
Newsletter/Website: Paul Munns

CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registration no. 1162419

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[www.cpreherts.org.uk](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk)

### Office Hours:

Currently no regular opening hours due to covid-19, please contact us by email.

Top image on front page: Stagenhoe House by Chris Howe  
Bottom image on front page: Sledging in The Chilterns by Mark Adams

might be interested in either of these vacancies, please let us know by email, and we will follow up.

Through the splendid recruitment efforts of Eliza Hermann, we have four more volunteers working with our planning team, two doing more general work and three trustees, all of whom joined us this year.

If dealing with the pandemic wasn't enough, the Government is proposing radically to change the planning system. If what we know about so far is enacted, in every local authority area there will be three zones, one where development will be focused, the Growth zone, one where development may take place, the Renewal zone, and one where development is not expected, the Protected zone.

The Protected zone should in theory include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Parks. We want the Green Belt to be in this zone too but that is much more doubtful considering that the adopted, submission and draft Local Plans across the ten local planning authorities in Hertfordshire together propose over 70,000 new dwellings within the Green Belt. Conservative candidates at the General Election last year stood on a manifesto that had a clear and unequivocal commitment to protect the Green Belt. So much for political promises.

As a charity, we must not take a political stance. I criticise the Conservatives only because they are the Government party and will be until 2024 when the next General Election is due. I doubt that the other political parties will stand up for the countryside, other than by paying lip service to it.

For the time being, the planning system is unchanged. The local authorities except Stevenage, Broxbourne and East Hertfordshire, all of whom have completed the pro-

cess, are in the course of developing their Local Plans for the next 15 years. All of them are required to start the process by determining objectively assessed housing need, taking into account projections from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The ONS came out with forecasts for the growth of the population in 2014 and again in 2018. The later forecast was of a rather lower rate of growth than was in the earlier piece of work. We want and hope that the local authorities still in course of putting the plans through the system, will use these 2018 numbers. The Government however, is holding to 300,000 new homes each year and doesn't seem to care or notice that either there will not be buyers for these or that they are the wrong homes in the wrong places. There continues to be confusion about "demand" and "need". The House of Commons Library defines the former as what aspirational buyers want and the latter as what those who are unable to buy deserve as quality homes to rent.

Away from the planning system and back home, so to speak. At the time of writing we still haven't decided what to do about 31a Church Street.

I want to come back to our staff and active volunteers before closing. I pay tribute to them all. They have worked magnificently despite the lockdown and the difficulties for some of working from home. I pay tribute too to Tim Caspell, our IT contractor, who has done so much to facilitate our working from home.

Finally, do have a look at our Christmas cards and calendars. We are working very hard to celebrate and protect Hertfordshire and anything you can do to support us will be very welcome.

Richard Bullen

## ASK THE EXPERTS

As part of a wider evolution of online working, the CPRE Hertfordshire Planning Team held a *Questions and Answers* online session with a group of members on 7<sup>th</sup> October. A series of questions was forwarded in advance covering a range of concerns, which we addressed in an hour long discussion. The questions centred on permitted development rights, the revised ONS Household Projections, the Rail Freight site, the Forster Country allocations in the Stevenage Local Plan, the A414 Corridor Strategy, and the conversion of stables in the Green Belt.

Feedback afterwards was positive and it was agreed that the session was useful for sharing thoughts about local and national planning issues. We very much hope to hold more of these in the future.

CPRE Planning Team:

Tim Hagyard, David Irving, Steve Baker and Linda Brookes

## JOIN US

Membership is from £3 per month, but giving at a higher level will

help us do more to protect the countryside.

Details of how to join can be found on our website or you can email the office ([office@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:office@cpreherts.org.uk)) and we will send you a membership application form.

Thank you.



## VOLUNTEERING FOR CPRE HERTFORDSHIRE THE HONORARY DIRECTOR'S SWAN SONG

After serving as Honorary Director for 18 years and having chaired the Transport and Airports Committee for three or four years before that, I've now stood down. So how did it all begin?

My interest in and love of the countryside came from three main sources, both conventional and less so. Firstly the conventional. My early summer holidays, by which I mean from 1947 (I am getting on a bit, hence the need to stand down!) were taken in the seaside Norfolk village of Happisburgh. It was, and to a large extent, still is, unspoilt and totally rural. We rented a cliff-top bungalow (long since swept away by the encroaching sea) with endless golden sands and on the land side farmland given over to cereal crops, this being deepest East Anglia. It was idyllic. We went there most years until it was time for my National Service (older members will remember that) and on and off after that. I returned a couple of times after I was married so that my children, very young at the time, could have the same experience of both seaside and countryside.

Then came National Service in 1957. I was to go into the Army. Shortly before call-up I had sat a Civil Service entrance exam, although the result (successful) came after I had started in the Army. I was duly posted to The Suffolk Regiment (now absorbed into The Royal Anglian Regiment) at their Victorian HQ Gibraltar Barracks in Bury St. Edmunds, now a FE College. Field training took place in the Stanford Practical Training Area around Thetford, which is the setting for much of "Dad's Army". Like most Army Training Areas this is unspoilt countryside. You can see a pattern emerging here. Whilst engaged in basic training an officer and a warrant officer came to the depot looking for volunteers from what at the time was a little-known unit, the Special Air Service, then based in Malaya. I had no idea that the Regiment had introduced only the year before the now famous "Selection Course". As anybody who has read the myriad of books on the Regiment that have emerged in recent years will be aware, this takes place initially in the Brecon Beacons, now, of course, a National Park. More unspoilt countryside.

On demobilisation I took up my Civil Service post and after a spell in The Admiralty I was posted to an offshoot of the then Ministry of Housing and Local Government

called The National Parks Commission. It was based in a small office in Regents Park next to the home of John Profumo and his wife the actress Valerie Hobson. Lovely neighbours and it was tragic when the sky fell in with "the Profumo Affair", and the media camped outside our office.

The National Parks Commission was set up to administer the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1947. It designated the National Parks and AONBs and long distance footpaths. The Chief Executive was one Harold Abrahams, Olympic Gold Medalist 1924 ("Chariots of Fire" and all that). I was a bit of a runner, somewhat sub Olympic standard, so I got on well with him and received free tickets to athletic matches at White City. The Chairman was ex head of the Foreign Office, Lord Strang, and the members of the Commission consisted of people from around England and Wales with an interest in protecting the countryside, including



the then Chairman of CPRE, Sir Herbert Griffin. I spent five years at the Commission but as it was a very small body, (around 20 people altogether many of whom had come there on the way to retirement), it was decided that it was not a good place for a young person career-wise. In the meantime I had joined the Territorial SAS Regiments and due to the nature of the training much of it took place in the countryside, quite often, with the permission of landowners, on private land as well as military areas. I therefore

was able to "visit" such beauty spots as the South Downs, Forest of Dean, Snowdonia, North York Moors, and the Cotswolds. After Territorial service I became head of The Army Cadet Force in Hertfordshire and was able to influence where annual camps took place, so naturally chose the best countryside, e.g. Yorkshire Dales, Dartmoor.

In 1986 I was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire by the then Lord Lieutenant, Major General Sir George Burns GCMG, CB, DSO, OBE, MC, KStJ. In his briefing he made it clear that the appointment was in recognition of services in the county, in my case military, but that as a DL I was expected to do still more. So, when I received a letter from another DL, Brigadier Freddie De Butt, Honorary Director of The Hertfordshire Society, inviting me "as a Deputy Lieutenant" to join The Hertfordshire Society I assumed that it was part of the deal, even though Sir George had not mentioned it. Forward another ten years (or so) and the then Chairman, Nick Halsey, asked me to merge the two sub-



committees, Transport and Airports and chair the new committee. The Honorary Director by then was Jenny Purchon. She was very active and efficient and appeared occasionally on TV, notably about West of Stevenage. In 2002, Jenny decided to retire and move to Wales. Nick Halsey, backed up by the then Vice-Chairman and others, persuaded me to take on the role. I was more than a little reluctant because Jenny had put so much into the role that I felt I could not fill her shoes effectively. Indeed at the AGM when she handed over to me one speaker after another wondered how we were going to manage without her and by the end of the evening I also wondered how. In particular I was somewhat nervous at the prospect of appearing on television.

The first issue that presented itself was a big one, the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy, or in short, of blessed memory, the Regional Plan, which appeared in 2003. The Regional Assembly Planning Officer who was responsible for the plan, to his credit, spent a lot of time attending public meetings in Hertfordshire explaining the plan. He admitted that Hertfordshire was seen as the problem with the plan. The Regional Assembly had decided that Hertfordshire was the main “economic engine” driving the East of England Region, and would therefore have the lion’s share of development. He also acknowledged that we in Hertfordshire would put up a strong resistance. The public examination of the plan lasted from September to March, and in recognition of Hertfordshire’s importance, the hearings were moved from Ely to Letchworth for the last couple of months or so. We had volunteers, including myself, attending the sessions. In round figures, 100,000 houses were proposed for the County.

It was at this time that I had my first experiences of dealing with the media, which became over the years such a large part of my role. So much so that I was asked to run a workshop on media at the national CPRE Conference one year to try to cure the reluctance to deal with the media then prevalent in CPRE locally. I persuaded a young reporter from The Hertfordshire Mercury to accompany me so that I could show other branch reps. that he was a young lad doing a demanding job with an even more demanding editor (probably) and one should sympathise with, not fear him.

I pointed out that you cannot be a campaigning organi-

sation and shun the media. As well as dealing with local and national press I have spent many hours with radio and TV crews. They are often referred to us by our National Office, with whom we, as a branch, have a particularly good relationship, because there is almost certain to be an example in Hertfordshire of whatever threat to the countryside they are reporting, and I am quite happy to deal with them. It is interesting now to see what subjects the various BBC reporters who have interviewed me are now dealing with. For example, with the Covid 19 crisis we see Hugh Pym reporting on health. I have taken him to one of my favourite TV locations, East of Luton. I will probably carry on dealing with the media in my new role. As well as the normal management role of a chief executive, as some people refer to the role (“Honorary Director” sounds a bit quaint to some), I have given talks on our work to a wide variety of organisations across the County. This was particularly busy at the time of the Regional Plan, then eased up, but demand increased again with the emergence of the new Local Plans with their proposals for massive house building and loss of Green Belt and the wider countryside. I am quite shameless in telling audiences that I am on a recruiting drive and some of them are expected to join CPRE. Surprisingly it works. Probably the most important part of the “Chief Executive” role is the management of the staff and to a lesser extent the volunteers. I need say no more than that we are blessed with the dedication, hard work and professionalism of our part-time staff and the enthusiasm of our volunteers. As a result of this our work and particularly our views on development plans and planning applications, are well respected among the authorities.

And so the time has come for me to stand down and start a new “CPRE life”. It has been hard work and time-consuming, at times frustrating, but a pleasure and usually intensely interesting. I was told by one of our members (a retired Major General no less) that people generally volunteer in organisations because they like the people they are working with as well as the cause. I can certainly identify with that. As I have said, I have developed a feeling for the countryside through different experiences over the years, and it is no cliché to say that working with our wonderful staff and volunteers as Honorary Director has been both a privilege and a real pleasure. I wish my successor, yet to be found, every success and as much satisfaction as I have had over the years.

Kevin FitzGerald



## CPRE HERTS TALKS ‘PLANNING’ WITH YOUR MPS

The planning debate is very much alive at present with a new white paper that promises to ‘tear it down and start again’ in the Prime Minister’s own words.

Last June, with an eye to the anticipated Planning for the Future, CPRE Herts sent all local MPs key planning questions. We succeeded in interviewing most although written replies have been harder to come by. Undoubtedly the pandemic has been an extraordinarily demanding time for MPs, dealing with a huge volume of issues for constituents. Several meetings were cancelled and some rearranged.

We focused on the Green Belt, sustainability, housing, design and transport matters. In summary, we found strong support for Green Belt protection but when MPs were asked to say if this meant they supported the government’s 300,000 annual homes building target responses were more equivocal. Sir Mike Penning MP was prepared to say forthrightly that the need for homes justified building on the Green Belt. Julie Marson MP on the other hand said Green Belt protection should take priority over numbers. In general we perceive that a ‘numbers based approach’ to planning housing and the Green Belt was found wanting.

MPs gave support for a more rigorous definition of ‘sustainable development’: that it should not be car-dependent nor mono-use, and that it should ensure access to green space and be carbon neutral. The current definition of ‘sustainable development’ does not apply these tests.

On transport, most MPs also gave support for diverting funds from roads to sustainable travel and for targets on active travel. Some MPs promoted our river corridors as sustainable travel routes.

‘Brownfield first’ had MP support in principle as did the view that genuinely affordable housing should be the first priority of government and that there should be reform of ‘Right to Buy’ and the ‘New Homes Bonus’.

In respect of design the poor quality of outcomes is acknowledged and MPs support measures to improve design outcomes such as the increased use of Design Review and Design Coding as well as more resources where needed.

MPs thanked CPRE for its work. One MP, Oliver Heald (North East Hertfordshire), is a member of CPRE. We received a message from Stephen McPartland (Stevenage) reiterating his opposition to Green Belt land allocations and referring to the ‘ridiculous white paper’.

Particular thanks to Bim Afolami MP (North Hertfordshire), Daisy Cooper MP (St Albans), Julie Marson MP (Hertford and Stortford), Gagan Mohindra MP (South West Hertfordshire) and Mike Penning MP (Hemel Hempstead) for sparing their time to ‘zoom’ with us. We hope to continue the planning dialogue as we alert them of CPRE concerns about the proposed changes within the Planning White Paper and the proposed changes to the Standard Method.

## LOCAL PLANS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

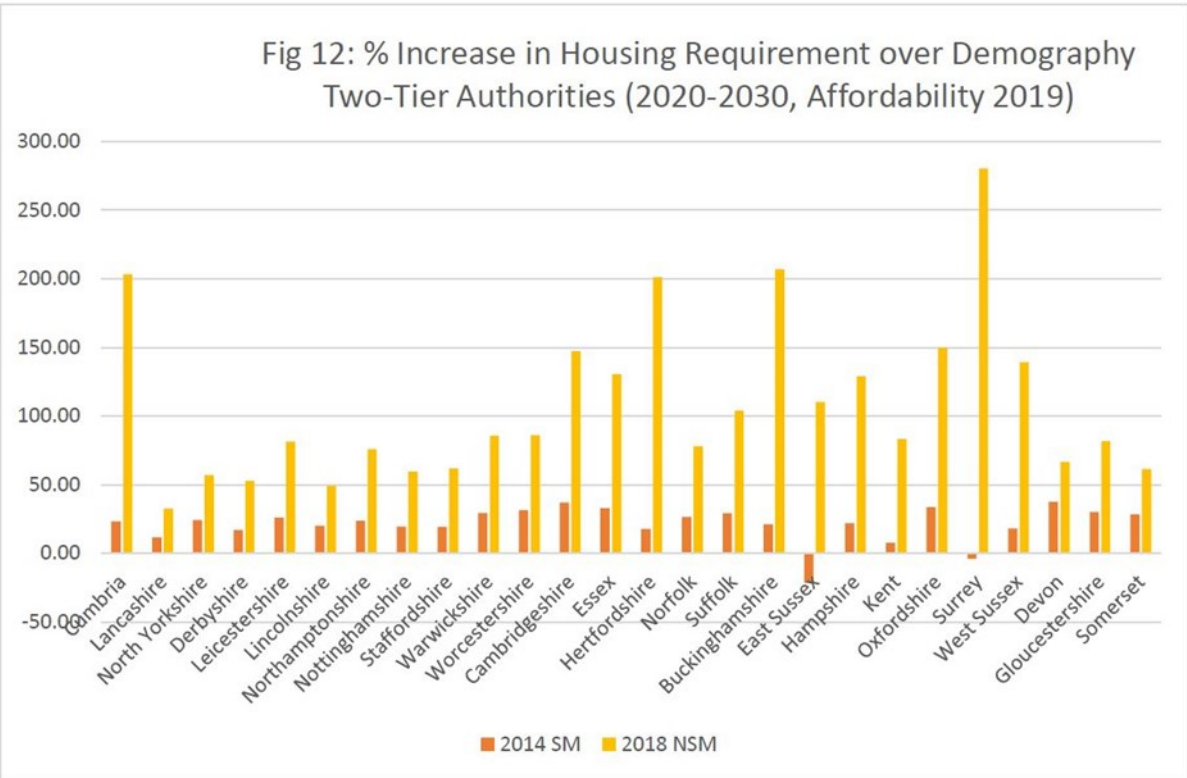
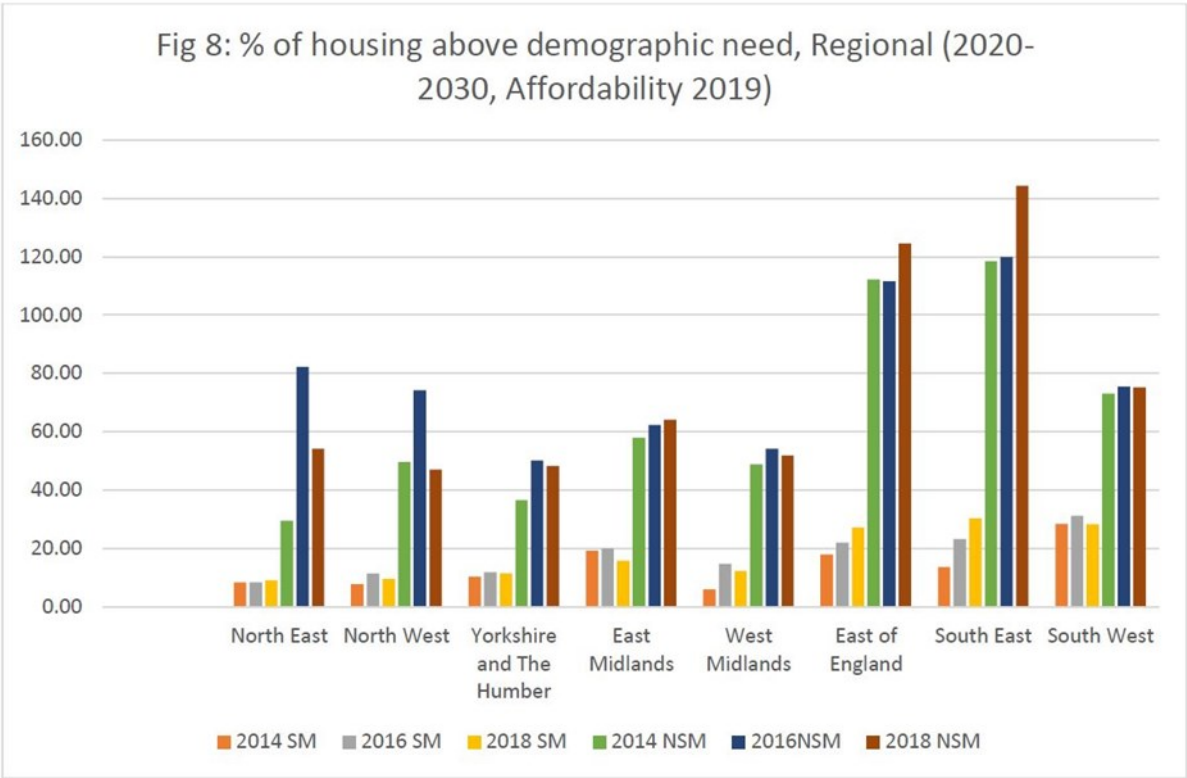
Hearings are nearing the end for Welwyn Hatfield and North Hertfordshire but Green Belt allocations remain highly contentious especially in the light of the latest much reduced 2018 based Office of National Statistics (ONS) Household Projections.

The St Albans Plan has been effectively found ‘unsound’ by Inspectors, failing to meet the duty to cooperate. Hertsmere, Dacorum, Watford and Three Rivers have been anticipated to submit new draft plans in the coming months, it’s possible the uncertainties of the Planning White Paper and the associated radical changes may affect timescales.

Work by Steve Baker of the CPRE Herts Planning Team has highlighted the effects of applying the latest 2018 based ONS Household Projections with districts seeing large reductions in annual housing need. Hertfordshire as a whole would see a huge 57% drop in annual need when compared to the government’s 2014 based figures. This has major implications immediately undermining the case for large scale releases of Green Belt in the North Hertfordshire and Welwyn Hatfield Submission Local Plans; CPRE with others is pressing the evidence with the Councils and Inspectors.

While logically the latest ‘up to date’ figures should be employed, the government’s response is to invent a new formula or ‘algorithm’ that dramatically turns the figures upwards again. The table below illustrates the effect across different UK regions. The latest proposed revised ‘Standard Method’ for calculating housing need (the brown column) can be contrasted with the current standard method (yellow column). The new method applies a fixed % of the ex-

isting settlement size and factors in affordability ratios. It appears to be a flagrant process of rejigging a formula to retrospectively meet a predetermined political target i.e. the government’s desired 300,000 target is policy but not based on evidence. It is in the manifesto but so is a commitment to protect the Green Belt.



The effect of the new standard method nationally is to hugely increase building in the most expensive areas including the shire districts of Hertfordshire notwithstanding AONB and Green Belt constraints.

When the proposed new method is applied in Hertfordshire it would require 6,907 dwellings annually, double the need calculated (3472) if using the current standard method. A few more examples

- St Albans annual housing need would more than double to 997 dwellings from 398.
- Welwyn Hatfield would increase to 666 a year instead of 432 . (54% increase)
- North Herts would increase to 625 dwellings against 414. (51% increase)

Hertfordshire has already seen unprecedented losses of Green Belt in recent years within Local Plans. Just when the latest forecasts clearly challenge such releases a new methodology is applied to ensure more Green Belt land and countryside is allocated. Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans are severely constrained by Green Belt. More details on the district by district calculations can be seen on our website.

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

CPRE Herts has worked with other branches nationally to formulate a thorough response to the controversial Planning White Paper and Changes to the Planning System published in August. The consultation on the White Paper ended on the 29th October. The low profile, 'technical consultation' including a new Standard Method, was on a much tighter timetable to 1st October.

While aspirations for beauty, design quality and place-making are given great prominence, on closer inspection, the White Paper's implications for the countryside, Green Belt and Hertfordshire are alarming. CPRE is not against reform but the paper takes an overly negative view of planning as an obstructive exercise in delivering housing and yet there are one million homes already with planning permission waiting to be built - see analysis of the Local Government Association. <https://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/research-morethan-a-million-approved-homes-not-built>

A 'simplified' zoning approach would create three zonal areas for 'growth' 'renewal' and 'protection'. The 'growth' areas would be in the countryside and could include land in the Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Councils would be set mandatory housing targets by central government, rather than having some scope to set a local vision and make judgements on need balanced against other planning constraints.

Local Plans would be shorter and produced on a much tighter timescale with many centrally set Development Policies. Design Codes would have to be part of the Local Plan process, this is promised as 'world class civic engagement'. However, detailed planning applications will then be 'streamlined' – a euphemism for side-lining local objection and engagement. Automatic permission would be granted for growth areas and 'Permission in Principle' is expanded and designed to fast track decisions for developers' benefit.

The new Local Plan regime could mean a lot of local work on Neighbourhood Plans becomes quickly out of date. Given the voluntary time and commitment of many residents working years to produce their plans this would be frustrating and extremely damaging to public trust.

The White Paper shifts priority away from the most urgently needed social housing towards starter homes for home ownership. The use of S106 is proposed to be amended to enable this even as the need for genuinely affordable housing has never been greater.

The move to an electronic online process has merit but many government IT and digital projects have failed to deliver. It seems better for systems to evolve rather than press for a 'big bang' moment and then find many who do not use digital and social media are excluded.

Another concern is the lack of reference to transport planning and its integration with land use planning, which is key to addressing travel patterns and meeting climate obligations. It is difficult to see how the White Paper will do this or enable more brownfield land to be developed.

The White Paper is asking for a response even though many key elements are still to be determined. For instance, a revised NPPF, a new Sustainability Test, a Model Design Code, National Development Management Policies, and a new Infrastructure Levy all remain to be clarified.



Some design provisions following on from the Living With Beauty report should be of benefit if the resources are there – a new national design unit, Directors of Place in each local authority, a revised Manual for Streets to improve street design. The move to engage people in early work and design codes is not in principle unacceptable, but this should not be a single narrow opportunity within a rushed Local Plan. It cannot be a substitute for local engagement at the detailed application stage. There is a clear sense of dumping down on the detailed information and quality of submissions and also of removing people and elected councillors from decision making. People want to be more involved and to have more control over development in their areas, to have more control over what happens not less.

We are aware of back bench discontent with plans so we must keep campaigning for sensible reforms of planning but not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Tim Hagyard

## **HOLIDAY GIFT DECISIONS: ANOTHER PAIR OF SLIPPERS, OR A CPRE HERTS GIFT MEMBERSHIP OR GIFT DONATION?**

How can you share your love of the countryside with your loved ones this holiday season?

It's easy. We'd be delighted to help you give a CPRE Hertfordshire Gift Membership (or Gift Donation if you'd prefer) to everyone on your list this year.

The benefits of CPRE membership include first and foremost the warm fuzzy feeling of knowing you have directly helped fund our work to protect the countryside for everyone, both now and for future generations.

Members also receive :

- Countryside Voice magazine with in-depth feature articles, opinions and campaigning updates, three times a year
- 15% discount at Cotswold Outdoor to help your loved one get kitted out to enjoy the countryside even more
- the option to receive "Fieldwork" which is CPRE's campaigning newsletter and discounted entry to around



The Chilterns Photo: E Hamilton

200 houses, gardens and other attractions around England although pandemic restrictions may have impacted some of these.

An individual annual membership starts at £36 and includes membership of both the national CPRE organisation and your recipient's local county CPRE.

To give a Gift Membership or Gift Donation please email Gill Bryant at [office@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:office@cpreherts.org.uk). Gill will then follow up with you directly.

## 2021 CALENDAR

Have you bought your 2021 calendar yet?



Cover picture: In The Chilterns AONB at Berkhamsted

Perhaps you could give the CPRE Hertfordshire, Protecting the Countryside for Everyone calendar a go this year.

12 beautiful images, taken by our volunteers, which capture the beautiful and diverse landscapes of our stunning countryside.

The text highlights both the positive attributes of our countryside and some of the ongoing threats posed by development proposals. Unfortunately, Hertfordshire's countryside continues to be under immense pressure for development, with well over 70,000 houses proposed for Green Belt sites across the ten districts.



May picture: Willows beside the River Colne near Aldenham

The calendar is A4 with plenty of space to write all your important information.

If the thought of losing Hertfordshire's lovely countryside and precious Green Belt concerns you please help us protect it, every purchase makes a difference.

The calendar also makes a lovely little gift and promotes the work we do, please consider buying one for yourself and one for a friend.

Price held – good value at only £8 each or £15.00 for two, plus £3 p&p in the UK to order see front cover.

## APPEAL

As you will see in this newsletter, there is a great deal going on in the planning world. We are at the time of writing recruiting a new Planning Manager to take over from Tim Hagyard. Online advertising costs money, about £1000.

There are two local authorities' plans that are currently subject to Examination in Public (EIP), North Herts and Welwyn Hatfield. These EIPs are at the last stage where we can influence these plans and it is essential that we are represented. This costs money too, £500 a day.

The Government is changing the planning system. Our planning team put in a great deal of work supporting the national charity in lobbying and campaigning to ensure sufficient public involvement in planning decisions, continued protection of the Green Belt and more attention to mitigating and preventing further climate change. This costs money as well, as much of the work cannot be done within standard hours.

We depend on the generosity of our members and supporters to fund our activities, including those of our planning team. Here is how you can help us:

**Bequests:** your legacy can help sustain the wonderful Hertfordshire countryside that we all know and love.

**Donations:** any amount is always welcome (BACS CPRE Hertfordshire / 20-92-54 / 60469335 quote reference appeal).

**Website donations:** we are now able to process donations via credit card, debit card, or PayPal through a "Donate" button on our website. If you click on this you are able to make a donation of any amount. As with other donations, you can choose to let us claim the Gift Aid. This adds 25% to your donation.



100 Club: you can join for a monthly payment of up to £5. Every month we draw two members' numbers at random and pay out 50% of the monthly income.

Shopping: many online retailers will give us a small percentage of your shopping expenditure through a programme called "Give As You Live". See the "How you can help" section on our website for information on how to set up this arrangement, which costs you nothing and is entirely funded by the retailers.

Also see page 9 of this newsletter for information on CPRE Herts Gift Membership, and the cover page and page 10 for our popular merchandise.

Thank you so much - we appreciate your support!

Richard Bullen

## CPRE HERTS AWARDS/CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

Early in the Covid lockdown decisions were made to continue with our Annual Awards and popular Children's Art Competition. The challenge was to find new ways to make them work.

### CPRE HERTS AWARDS

We promoted the Awards in the usual way but made more use of social media. Once the deadline was reached, our judges rose to the challenge and completed all the judging virtually. They said it was very strange being unable to visit in person and talk to people face to face. It was hard to make decisions as the projects, people and businesses who were nominated are all doing an amazing job making good things happen in the county. Visit our website to see the full Judges' Reports.

Our Chairman contacted each of the recipients and gave them the good news but asked for "radio silence" as we were not ready to go public with the results. Meanwhile, a new volunteer had been recruited who had film experience and arrangements were made for him to record interviews with the happy recipients. These were then put on YouTube and everyone was told when they would be available to view.

### 2020 Award Recipients

#### **Chairman's Award: Tewin Stores & Café**

A community-owned business run by the community for the community. It includes a post office, store and café and is open seven days a week, this was maintained throughout lockdown, although with reduced hours. A true village hub.



#### **Environment Award: The Friends of Halsey Field , Hemel Hempstead**

Working with other agencies The Friends have succeeded in making a beautiful space for all to enjoy. Once a month volunteers work on site. The scale of the work is daunting, but they have triumphed, this is an exceptional conservation project.

#### **Environment Commended: Friends of the Nicky Line**

#### **Community Award: Jackie's Drop In, Letchworth**

The Drop In, a registered charity, is a centre for adults with learning disabilities, it is a safe place to meet, learn skills and pursue activities. Run entirely by volunteers, our judge was impressed by its success and the dedication of Jackie and her family to the care of their clients.

#### **Community Commended: Goffs Oak Community Library**

#### **Peterkin Award: Mr Kevin Glogner, Buntingford**

Nominated for his work on the Hormeads Recreational Grounds known as The Meads. Regular grass cutting, wild flower seeds, bulb planting and a bench have transformed the space for the community.

#### **Peterkin Commended: Mrs Christine James, Ashwell.**

#### **Business in the Community Award: B.Green Store, Birch Green**

Opened in December 2019 it aimed to provide a shop and village hub, three months in Covid struck and it changed to pack fresh fruit, vegetables and other essentials, for free delivery throughout the village. The service to the village and the building of community were invaluable.

Gill Bryant



## CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

The Children's Art Competition is usually promoted through Hertfordshire's primary schools. Art Coordinators set it as a project and then collate all the pieces of artwork to send to us for judging. Once the primary schools closed in lockdown, we changed direction and promoted it via social media, inviting children to send their individual artwork to us attached to an email. As many schools were open for children of key workers we continued to promote it to them too. The images were collated and sent to the judge by electronic transfer and the results were returned in the same way. Excited children were informed they had won and we let the schools know their pupils had participated. There were two themes this year : My Favourite Walk in Hertfordshire and What I Can See Through My Window.

### 2020 Children's Art Competition Winners

<b>Years 0-2</b>	1. Ella	Heath Mount
	2. Toby	Millmead Primary School
	3. Iris	Sarratt Primary School
<b>Commended:</b>	Emma	Pirton School
	Lyra	Ickleford School
	Sophie	Applecroft School
<b>Years 3-4</b>	1. James	St Andrew's School
	2. Theo	Oaklands Primary
	3. Jonatan	Potten End
<b>Commended:</b>	Olivia	Heath Mount
	Rudy	Potten End
	Esme	Therfield First
<b>Years 5-6</b>	1. Honey	Bromet Primary
	2. George	Ickleford Primary
	3. Lucy	Divine Saviour RC Primary
<b>Commended:</b>	Edie	Ickleford Primary
	Louise	Little Hadham Primary
	Sophie	Potten End

### **Special Mention (all age groups):**

Archie, Ickleford Primary  
 Scarlett, Divine Saviour School  
 Charlotte, Oaklands Primary  
 Lily, Heath Mount  
 Dylan, Heath Mount  
 Freya, Ickleford Primary

**Overall Winning School:** Ickleford Primary School



Ella, Heath Mount



Jonatan, Potten End



Louise, Little Hadham



Lyra, Ickleford

*"Congratulations to all the children who entered whilst in lockdown and thank you to all the parents who made it possible. As always the artwork is amazing"*

*Val Cansick, artist/competition sponsor*

Prizes: Hobbycraft vouchers for each of the first, second and third placed entries in each age group and £100 for the Overall Winning School to spend on art supplies.

We are very grateful for all the support we received for both the Awards and the Children's Art, thank you.

Gill Bryant