



The countryside charity  
Hertfordshire

# Spring Newsletter

## 2022

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## A view from the chair



Everyone at CPRE Hertfordshire has been extremely busy over the last few months and I thank our staff, volunteers and trustees for all their efforts. We have a strong team and I'm proud of all they've accomplished. This includes activity on a whole range of subjects including:

- continuing our Green Belt campaign, and calling for a moratorium on major planning permissions in the Green Belt while the Government's new Planning Bill is pending;
- launching a new campaign on solar energy – we want to see solar panels on rooftops rather than losing productive agricultural land to solar 'farms';
- developing a CPRE Hertfordshire manifesto for the upcoming local elections;
- continuing our fight against Luton Airport potential expansion; and
- campaigning on several emerging Local Plans, including most recently in Hertsmere where the efforts of local groups, supported by us, have resulted in the Council Leader's announcement that the draft plan is being shelved.

## Join the 100 Club and protect the countryside!

Since our 100 Club was launched in 2014 it has raised thousands of pounds to fund our efforts protecting our beautiful Hertfordshire countryside.

We want to carry on doing this important job, which is where you can help by considering joining the Club.

The 100 Club is CPRE Hertfordshire's fully licensed prize draw. Here's how it works. Each month you pay a minimum of £1 and are entered in our monthly draw. One share in the 100 Club costs just £1 per month (£12 per year) and you can hold up to five shares. 50% of the monthly contribution goes in prizes and 50% helps us do what we do best – standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside!

In addition, the great thing about the 100 Club is that anyone can join – you don't have to be a member of CPRE Hertfordshire to take part.

Join today! Go online to the CPRE Hertfordshire website, find the Get Involved section and go to 100 Club for more information. (Or just click here if you're reading this online).

Even if you do not win a prize, you have the satisfaction of knowing that half of your contribution will be used to help protect our local countryside.

In addition, our Children's Art competition is up and running and we are launching our CPRE Hertfordshire Awards scheme with a view to holding a prize giving in the autumn.

Internally, we have been assessing our governance against Charity Commission best practice; while there are a few areas where we can always improve, we've been pleased to find that we are in full compliance.

I want to thank our members and donors for enabling CPRE Hertfordshire to be effective and influential. Without your support, we could not do what we do. I also want to wish everyone involved with CPRE Hertfordshire, our members, donors, trustees, staff and volunteers, all the best for the rest of 2022.

**Allan McNab**  
Chairman

## Join us

We are Hertfordshire's Countryside Charity, and our vision is a beautiful and thriving countryside that enriches all our lives. If you are already a member, thank you! But if not, then please do join us. Becoming a member of CPRE is the best way to help protect, promote and enhance the Hertfordshire countryside for everyone to value and enjoy.

Details of how to join are on our CPRE Hertfordshire website at <https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/> or email the office and we will send you details: [office@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:office@cpreherts.org.uk).

Thank you.



The Friends of Halsey Fields, Environment Award 2020. Photo: H Mitchell

## The CPRE Hertfordshire Awards are back!

We are delighted that the CPRE Hertfordshire Awards are back. In 2020 we judged the nominations remotely, but it was not easy. We were unable to hold our usual Awards evening, and we missed being able to connect in person with the people involved with nominated projects.

As 2020 drew to a close, and with pandemic restrictions continuing, we paused the Awards for a year. This gave us the chance to review the scheme from its inception in 2013, and refresh some aspects.

What hasn't changed is our ambition for the Awards, which is to recognise and celebrate inspirational people engaged in activities which enhance and protect the Hertfordshire countryside and its rural communities.

### Our themes for 2022 nominations

For 2022 we would love to receive nominations for projects which

- connect people with the countryside and their local green spaces
- promote rural life and ensure that communities can thrive
- improve or protect the environment

Nominees might be volunteer-based projects or events, community groups, individuals, or small businesses.

We have a new category too: our 'Made in Herts' Award will recognise excellence in sustainable farming and local foods, products using local materials, or traditional craftspeople and artists, in particular working in rural areas or with rural themes.

We also hope to make an Award for an outstanding project or activity run by or on behalf of young people (up to the age of 21) in the categories above.

Visit <https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/what-we-care-about/celebrating-hertfordshire/cpre-hertfordshire-awards/> to discover more about the Awards and some examples of the types of projects which might be nominated.

### How to make a nomination

You can nominate an organisation or person in your community deserving recognition; you can also nominate yourself or the project or business you help to run. Download the form on our website or email us at [office@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:office@cpreherts.org.uk) to obtain a form.

The closing date for nominations is 31st May 2022.

Every nominee will receive a visit from one or more of our judges, so that we can find out more and take photographs. We would love to see groups at work or celebrating the

places or products they have made. Representatives of all nominees will be invited to our Awards event in October.

### Examples of recent Award recipients

Hertfordshire's countryside and its rural communities are enhanced in many different ways by numerous volunteer-led projects, individuals and businesses. Here are two examples of previous recipients of our Awards:

One of our 2020 Awards went to The Friends of Halsey Field, described by our judges as 'an exceptional conservation project'. Soon after the Friends were established, the site was declared a Local Wildlife Site. Receiving the Award, the chair of the Friends said: *'I think it will help secure its future. It will show the council what a wonderful place it is and that it needs to be preserved'*.

*After receiving a CPRE Hertfordshire Award in 2019, a spokesperson for Wigginton Village Shop and Café said: 'We had a fantastic evening at County Hall with CPRE Hertfordshire celebrating some amazing people, organisations and businesses that are all adding so much to the communities they support and the countryside.'*

Elizabeth Hamilton

## The plight of the humble bee

**The familiar black and gold Honey Bee has been semi-domesticated for millennia. There is evidence of beekeeping in the Middle East dating back more than 3,000 years, supporting the Bible's description of Israel as a "land flowing with milk and honey."**

There are more than 250 species of bees in the UK and they play a crucial role in the life of our diverse countryside and our food production system. And yet their future is under threat.

and promote a beautiful and thriving countryside for us and the insects and flora that we live in partnership with.

Closer to home, consider planting bee-friendly flowers in your garden. Bees love traditional cottage garden flowers and native wildflowers; lavender is a favourite of bees, and they will also make a bee-line for blue borage, also known as starflower, and foxgloves. There's plenty more advice online for what to grow and when to grow it. Also, consider buying or making a 'bee hotel' for solitary bees to nest.

Or, if you think you may have the bee bug, why not try what one of our Trustees, Terry Over, did and become a beekeeper?

countryside and the natural world it encompasses.

"I am extremely grateful that I took the step to start beekeeping because now I notice so much more in my garden and on my walks in the countryside. I became closer to nature, and the issues of climate change and biodiversity made much more sense and founded in me an impetus to change my behaviours.

"The hour a week I spend with the bees is peaceful and uplifting, and the cyclical and seasonal experience of the beekeeper is one of awe and wonder."

**Julien Deamer**



Photo: Pixabay

Habitat loss and encroachment, climate change, farming intensification and the use of pesticides is putting many bee species in the UK at risk. Friends of the Earth suggests that we have already lost around 13 species and another 35 are in danger.

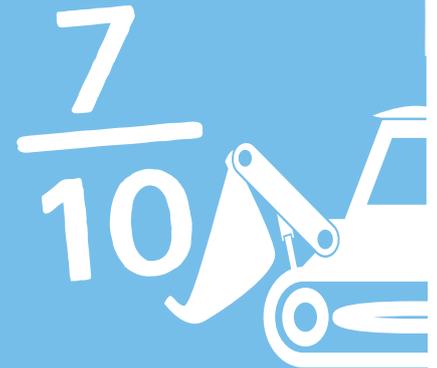
### **So what can we do to improve the life chances of our bee populations?**

Bees need flourishing green spaces to pollinate. By supporting the work of the CPRE, you are helping to protect

A couple of years ago, Terry attended a Beekeeping Beginners Course run by his local beekeeping association. He admits he signed up more out of curiosity than a profound wish to keep bees, but after attending "a brilliant course run by enthusiastic volunteer 'experts'," he was excited and confident that he wanted to keep bees.

Beekeeping, says Terry, has been a gateway to better appreciating the

### Green Belt in Hertfordshire



### Did you know?

The future of the Hertfordshire countryside is at a critical juncture as 7 out of the 10 boroughs in Hertfordshire are in the process of adopting new Local Plans.

Please see our Green Belt report for more information <https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/news/an-update-on-our-green-belt-campaign/>



## We welcome planning appeal decisions upholding protection of the Green Belt

**Good news for the countryside! Two recent planning appeal decisions have confirmed the protected status of the Green Belt.**

Here in Hertfordshire, on 25 January the Planning Inspectorate dismissed an appeal for a sand and gravel quarry in the Green Belt at Ellenbrook Fields, on the site of the former Hatfield Aerodrome. Further afield, on 31 January the Planning Inspectorate dismissed an appeal for 800 homes in the Green Belt at Broke Hill golf course, north of Sevenoaks in Kent.

Both decisions reiterate and reinforce the protection from inappropriate development given to the Green Belt in national planning policy.

### Ellenbrook Fields

Hatfield Aerodrome was a private airfield linked to the de Havilland aircraft factory in the 1930s. The site was redeveloped in the 1990s with offices, businesses and homes on part of the site, and around 400 acres set aside as grassland. This is known as Ellenbrook Fields and is a publicly-accessible recreational space popular with walkers, runners, cyclists, bird-watchers and photography groups.

Hertfordshire County Council had rejected a proposal to extract up

to eight million tonnes of sand and gravel at Ellenbrook Fields. The plans included a processing plant, a concrete batching plant and other facilities and would have been in place for 32 years.

In dismissing the developer's appeal, the Inspector noted the county's need for sand and gravel. But he made it clear that this did not outweigh the harm that would be caused to the Green Belt. The Inspector said *"I consider that the harm to the Green Belt, along with harm to the character, appearance and amenity of the area, and to pedestrian safety, is not clearly outweighed by the benefits of aggregate extraction"*. He concluded that there were no very special circumstances to justify the development and that it was, therefore contrary to national Green Belt policy.

### Broke Hill golf course

In the Broke Hill case, Sevenoaks Council had refused permission for 800 homes in the Green Belt and the developer appealed. The Inspector confirmed that, where planning policies protect areas of particular importance and provide a clear reason for refusing the development, the so-called "tilted balance" presumption in favour of granting planning permission does not apply.

The policies of particular importance related to protection of the Green Belt. This is especially important as Sevenoaks does not have the required five-year supply of housing land nor has it met the government's housing delivery test for 2021. The Inspector also noted a number of benefits of the proposed development including provision of affordable housing, and a variety of educational, recreational, social and environmental benefits. However, he concluded that notwithstanding the lack of five-year housing supply, the housing delivery test, and all of these benefits, they did not outweigh the harm that would be caused to the Green Belt, and were not sufficient to override national and local planning policies protecting the Green Belt.

The Inspector wrote *"The tilted balance is not invoked, however, because the Framework at Paragraph 11d(i) and footnote 7 protects both areas and assets of particular importance, which include the Green Belt, and provides a clear reason to dismiss the appeal."*

The full Planning Inspectorate decisions for both of these two cases are available on our website.

### Huge relevance for our local planning authorities in Hertfordshire

Both the Ellenbrook Fields case and the Broke Hill case are hugely relevant for everyone concerned about the Hertfordshire countryside. Both cases should give confidence to our Hertfordshire local authorities that they can, and should, invoke the protection of the Green Belt, as specified in paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework, as sufficient reason to refuse permission for planning applications seeking to build on Green Belt land.

**Eliza Hermann**



## Planning Report

In planning, as in so many areas, we continue to live in interesting times. In the autumn we had heard that the Planning Bill was on the rocks which was generally seen to be good news, and things have moved on that front, but not a lot.

We now have Michael Gove at the new DLUHC (I still can't bring myself to give it its full moniker) and the expectation was that there would be relatively swift progress on a new Levelling Up Bill which would include planning matters. A White Paper has been produced and it says very little about planning, except perhaps for town centres. So it looks as though there will, after all, be a separate bill for planning.

I would imagine that this is due to a joint bill being unwieldy and complex, given the issues it needs to address. This includes the knotty topic of housing need calculations which is causing mayhem to Hertfordshire Local Plans and the Green Belt. In the meantime, we crack on with our own local Green Belt campaign which is getting good coverage and a lot of support.

Notably, local MPs such as Daisy Cooper, Julie Marson, and Sir Oliver Heald have responded to our recent call for a moratorium on the granting of any planning permissions on the Green Belt until the Planning Bill is published. Daisy Cooper also organised a Westminster Hall debate in Parliament before Christmas, and Planning Minister Chris Pincher eventually

replied to Welwyn Hatfield Council who had written to Mr Gove asking for Government clarification on housing numbers before they progress to the next stage of their long-running Local Plan Examination.

### Local Plans

All these matters are inter-related of course, and to some extent came to a head with the public consultation on the Hertsmere Draft Local Plan. Hertsmere Borough Council is promoting an avowedly pro-development Local Plan and its public consultation, in which we played a major part, gathered a record-breaking 20,000 responses from local residents and groups (including ourselves of course). This resulted in the Council Leader announcing that the plan would be shelved.

This is of course not the end of the story by any means, welcome though the announcement is. Formally suspending the plan would require a resolution in Council, and it remains to be seen how serious the Council is about changing direction. We will of course continue to seek confirmation from Hertsmere Borough Council of the future programme for Local Plan preparation.

Elsewhere, Local Plan preparation continues in Dacorum, Three Rivers and St Albans (see our Local Plans overview table on page 7) and it will be interesting to see whether the Hertsmere statement has a knock-on effect. I think we can certainly say however that our campaigning is keeping the topic of designated protected countryside well up the local political agenda.

### Planning applications and appeals

Our work on planning applications continues too, and the numbers are returning to pre-Covid levels. We are hugely grateful to our planning volunteers for monitoring the council lists and alerting us to applications of note. Increasingly housing developers are citing the recent appeal allowed on Green Belt in Colney Heath as a reason for granting permission. But there are decisions on both sides – see our article on page 5 about two recent Green Belt development proposals that have been dismissed on appeal. This really just goes to show the inconsistency of planning inspectors, which is unhelpful, and emphasises how important it is to respond wherever appropriate.

A particular concern, as well as speculative housing, is ground mounted solar installations. These are mushrooming all over the County with hugely damaging impacts on productive agricultural land as well as highly valued landscape and rural character. It is also a particularly inefficient method of power generation and should be limited to rooftops, including the large warehouses along the motorways and new homes.. We are increasingly working with local groups to face these solar 'farm' proposals at the pre-application stage and have produced a policy statement (on our website) which provides guidance for objectors. We are also working with other County

continued on p8

The above image shows the site of proposed industrial-scale solar farm in the Green Belt at Little Heath Lane, Berkhamsted in Dacorum Borough. Photo: E Hamilton

## Local plan Overview

District Plan	Comments & Key Milestones	Potential Adoption
Broxbourne Local Plan 2018-2033		Adopted June 2020 (due for review 2025)
Dacorum* Local Plan 2020 -2038	Following feedback from the Emerging Strategy for Growth Reg 18 consultation in Feb 2021, a further Reg 18 consultation is expected June 2023 - TBC.	Oct 2025 - TBC
East Herts District Plan 2011-2033		Adopted Oct 2018 (due for review 2023)
Hertsmere* Local Plan 2020-2036	Following feedback from the Reg 18 Draft Local Plan consultation in Nov/Dec 2021, the Council has withdrawn the Draft Plan. Further information awaited.	TBC
North Herts Local Plan 2011-2031	Examination complete. Inspector's final report was due Nov 2021 but is still awaited.	2022
St Albans* Local Plan 2020-2038	Revised timetable awaited following Call for Sites. Reg 18 consultation could be Jan/Feb 2023 - TBC	Earliest 2025 - TBC
Stevenage Local Plan 2011-2031		Adopted May 2019 (due for review 2024)
Three Rivers* Local Plan to 2038	Further Reg 18 consultation due Nov/Dec 2022	2025
Watford* Local Plan 2018-2036	Examination in progress Sept 21 – April 22	2022
Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2013-2032	Examination still in progress. Main Modifications consultation due Feb/March 2022	2022
South West Herts* Joint Strategic Plan to 2050	Reg 18 consultation due Spring 2022	2024
Hertfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan to 2040	Reg 18 consultation due June/July 2022. Council withdrew the emerging Waste Local Plan and Minerals Local Plan in Dec21 and merged them to a new single Local Plan	Feb 2024

\* Five district councils working on **South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan** <https://www.swhertsplan.com/>

**Reg 18 Public Consultation** : Early stage consultation – may include Issues and Options, Preferred Options and first draft plan.

**Reg 19 Public Consultation** : Pre-submission draft plan - views sought as to whether the plan is legally compliant and meets the test of soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF.

**Examination** : Public hearing held by independent Planning Inspector to assess merits of Submitted Local Plan Policies and their soundness.

### Solar Farms

#### Did you know?

We are currently tracking 7 solar farm proposals across Hertfordshire. These would cover nearly 500 hectares of agricultural land with solar panels.

You can read more about these proposals and review our Solar Policy at <https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/news/more-solar-farm-proposals-across-the-county-and-what-can-be-done-about-it/>

CPREs to ensure that we get a strong and unified position from the national office.

### Public inquiry

We appeared recently at the DEFRA inquiry into the application by Taylor Wimpey to de-register the village green at Woodcock Hill in Borehamwood. This is an example of where we are developing strong links with like-minded local groups and it gives us insight and often early warning of local issues where we can intervene on behalf of protection of the countryside.

Please do not hesitate to ask for more information on the above or any other matters which interest you. We continue to respond on topics such as plotlands and neighbourhood plans, and we will shortly be responding to the latest consultation regarding proposed expansion at Luton Airport. If anything, the pace of development applications and proposals is increasing but new legislation like the recent Environment Act, and hopefully the new Planning Bill, should redress the balance for the environment. Certainly there need to be powerful voices promoting the countryside and the wider environment, and with your support we will continue to be heard!

**Chris Berry**

Planning Manager

## Brownfield – space for nearly 20,000 homes on recycled land in Hertfordshire

In our ongoing campaign to protect the Green Belt and the wider countryside from unwarranted development, we continue to urge all Hertfordshire Local Authorities to prioritise “brownfield first”. In other words, we want we want to ensure that previously developed land is redeveloped and regenerated, with the right homes for local people’s needs, before building on green fields and in the countryside.

Legislation came into force in 2017 requiring each Local Authority to publish a register of available brownfield sites. These registers must be reviewed each year and must be available for public inspection.

The Brownfield Land Register data from our ten Local Authorities shows there is space for nearly 20,000 homes on previously developed land. The latest data shows an increase in both the number of brownfield sites identified and the total hectares available. Currently 340 sites covering 400 hectares are listed. What’s more, 145 of these sites already have planning permission for nearly 7,000 dwellings.

Recently, on 8 November 2021, Housing Secretary Michael Gove told MPs

“I am very keen, working with Homes England and local government, to get a brownfield first policy that really works” and “Making the most of previously developed land is a government priority and it will help protect our cherished countryside and green spaces.”

We want to see these words turned into action, the already-identified brownfield sites redeveloped, and further brownfield sites identified throughout the county.

**Eliza Hermann**



**Brownfield site in Dacorum has had full planning permission since 2018 for a minimum of 32 dwellings.**

Photo: E Hermann

**Date for the diary**

**Our 2022 Annual General Meeting** is to be held on **Saturday 1 October.**

We’d love to see as many members as possible!

Full details in our Annual Review, due out in August.

Local authority	Date register last updated (as of Feb 2022)	Total No. Sites	Total No. Hectares	Total No. Units
Broxbourne	2019	31	41.91	2838
Dacorum	2021	40	72	2954
East Hertfordshire	2017	27	34.51	1334
Hertsmere	2017	37	19.81	1630
North Hertfordshire	2021	27	21.72	783
St Albans City & District	2021	25	29.66	1173
Stevenage	2020	26	75.74	3731
Three Rivers	2021	56	48.89	1228
Watford	2018	7	2.07	71
Welwyn Hatfield	2020	64	54.49	3987
<b>Total</b>		<b>340</b>	<b>400.8</b>	<b>19729</b>

## Why the countryside matters

The countryside matters to every single one of us. Not just to those people who live in it, or near it, but also to those who live in our towns and cities. It means different things to different people of course:- for the farmer it's their livelihood and their workplace; for the rambler, cyclist, walker, or horse rider, it's their recreation space, and for the town planner or urban designer it is a way of restricting the growth and sprawl of the urban environment, making us focus on better using brownfield land in our villages, towns and cities.

Its value can't be underestimated, especially in the current climate crisis, and we need to protect it. It cleans our air and cools us; it feeds us and educates us, and it provides us with a space in which we can find relaxation; inspiration; peace, and quiet.

Personally, I have found that I love living in the countryside – despite it being a big change from growing up in North London and then living in a Hertfordshire market town. I love the activity of the farming calendar and the rural traditions where I live, and the countryside provides me with a place to walk and to wind down after a busy day, or to prepare mentally for a busy day ahead. I love that it is a complete contrast to my busy working life and that it isn't neat and ordered and clean, but actually wild and scruffy and even sometimes a little smelly! It's dark at night and teeming with life and activity during the day. Everywhere you look there is movement – farming activity; birds in the hedgerows and



Little Munden, Nr Ware. Photo: A Young

trees; ducks, frogs and newts in the streams and ponds; rabbits, squirrels, sheep and cows and, at this time of year, the emerging snowdrops and daffodils are a delight, and a first sign of Spring. The habitats and flora that it maintains seem endless somehow, and fascinating, if we really stop to look.

It is this contrast to the built environment that is so important and why we need to make sure that it remains accessible for everyone to discover and connect with, wherever they live or work and whatever their age. We should encourage children, especially, to explore it, get wet and muddy and have fun in it, but also to really understand the value of it; the way it works in terms of food production; pollution and climate change mitigation, and the whole raft of mental health benefits that it provides.

We mustn't undervalue the countryside because, if we do, we lose part of our heritage and we undermine the sustainability of our future.

**Alison Young**  
Trustee

### Green Belt in Hertfordshire

# 71,500



### Did you know?

Our Green Belt study identifies that over 54,000 houses are proposed to be built on Hertfordshire Green Belt and this is in addition to the 17,500 already approved.

<https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/news/weve-written-to-all-hertfordshire-mps/>

## Leaving a legacy: please help us protect Hertfordshire's beautiful countryside for future generations to enjoy

**The generous legacies left by CPRE supporters in the past have enabled many successes for the countryside.**

### **Campaigning successes nationally and locally**

CPRE's first national campaigning success was legislation to stop uncontrolled housing alongside rural roads. In 1947 another CPRE success saw the introduction of universal planning control, which has done so much to protect the countryside. Later, thanks to the vision of early CPRE campaigners, the Green Belt became a reality with the statutory designation of open countryside around towns and cities to prevent urban sprawl.

Despite huge population growth in the 20th century, 80% of Hertfordshire is

classified as rural. It is still possible to walk in open countryside in the county within 15 miles of Westminster. Green Belt protects 60% of the county, while a further 10% lies within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a designation resulting from CPRE's long campaign to protect nationally important landscapes.

A CPRE Hertfordshire success saved a large area in the north-east of the county. In 1969 the area around Nuthampstead airfield was shortlisted by the Roskill Commission for a third London airport. Opposing the proposal we said the area was 'one of the loveliest stretches of completely unspoilt countryside within 50 miles of London'. Many historic buildings would have disappeared under tarmac and concrete. Another site was chosen,

and finally the project was abandoned. Our yearbook said: 'one can hardly believe that anyone... could coldly contemplate the demolition of a church as unique as that at Anstey'.

### **We applaud the legacy of those earlier CPRE campaigns, but the threats to Hertfordshire's countryside are growing.**

Threats to the countryside include 54,000 homes proposed for sites in the Green Belt. These, along with large solar farms proposed in the Green Belt or on high quality agricultural land (or both), are in contravention of national planning policy. Plans to expand Luton Airport would have a massive impact on Hertfordshire. These come at a time when access to peaceful countryside is more highly valued by local communities than it has ever been.

**In our campaign opposing the selection of the area for a third London airport, we said that Nuthampstead was 'in the heart of one of the loveliest stretches of completely unspoilt countryside within 50 miles of London'**

**Photo: E Hamilton**





It is still possible to walk in open countryside in Hertfordshire within 15 miles of Westminster (seen here near Letchmore Heath) Photo credit: E Hamilton

**We are increasingly mobilising local voices to stand up for threatened countryside, achieving unprecedented levels of opposition to damaging planning proposals.**

In 2021 we encouraged local people to object to a large solar farm in Hertsmere Borough. Two thousand comments were submitted, more than the Council had ever received for a single planning application, and permission was refused. By encouraging local people to have their say, we also helped achieve record-breaking numbers of comments in local plan consultations in Dacorum, Three Rivers, and Hertsmere.

Our capacity to step up our campaigning has been possible thanks to generous legacies received by CPRE Hertfordshire in the past. We are determined to continue this work: we owe this to the generations who come after us.

**Leaving a legacy to CPRE Hertfordshire**

By leaving us a legacy your generosity can contribute to protecting the county's countryside after you have gone. Please ensure that you specify CPRE Hertfordshire and our registered charity number 1162419 in your will. Thank you.

**Allan McNab**  
Chairman

**Green Belt in Hertfordshire**

**82%**

**Did you know?**

82% of St Albans City & District is Green Belt



Recently released Government data reveals that five of Herts' ten local authorities' land areas are effectively all designated protected land outside of their existing urban areas. Does this make for a special case for land use planning in Hertfordshire?

**Read our analysis <https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/news/hertfordshire-green-belt-statistics-by-district/>**

**CPRE Hertfordshire Officers and Staff**

**President:** Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO

**Honorary Life Vice Presidents:** Dorothy Abel Smith, MBE, Nicholas Halsey, TD, DL, Dr Mervyn Miller, Anthony Eastwood, Stephen Pollock-Hill, David Irving, Elizabeth Hamilton

**Honorary Vice Presidents:** Ralph Abel Smith, the Countess of Verulam, Peter Waine, Kevin FitzGerald TD, DL

**Officers:** Hon. Chairman: Allan McNab, Vice Chair: Alison Young, Hon. Treasurer: John Newbury

**Board of Trustees:** Allan McNab, John Newbury, Alison Young, Terry Over, Priya Grant, Elizabeth Hamilton, Claire Russell, Steve Wiltshire

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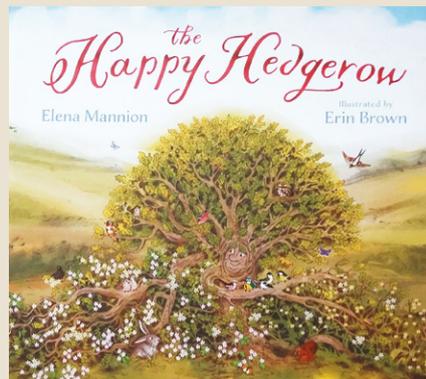
**Registered Charity No: 1162419**  
CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

## CPRE Hertfordshire Merchandise

Please support us by placing an order today. Profit from every item funds our work to protect, promote and enhance Hertfordshire's countryside. The easiest way to order is online at <https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/get-involved/merchandise/> where you can place your order and pay with your debit or credit card. If you are unable to order online, a paper order form is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience. £3 p&p per order.

### 'Four Seasons' Blank Greetings Cards

Packs of eight, with four each of two exclusive Hertfordshire scenes per pack, either Spring Bluebells and Winter Sunset or Summer Meadows and Autumn Mists. Cards measure approximately 15 cm square. All images by local award-winning photographer and long-time CPRE Hertfordshire supporter Chris Howe. £8 per pack of 8 cards



### The Happy Hedgerow by Elena Mannion

Elena, a locally based author, has donated copies of her widely acclaimed children's book to help support our fundraising. Suitable for young children aged from four, the book is a perfect read-aloud story with a strong conservation theme. Beautiful illustrations by Erin Brown depict many of the species found in and around hedges.

The book is a high quality hardcover, original edition, published in September 2021. This is the perfect gift for young children or grandchildren. £10.99 each

### Heavy Cotton Tote Bags

Eye catching and functional, show your support with our heavy cotton tote bags. They also make great little gifts. They have our logo on a plain background on one side, and with a colourful 'swoosh' on the other side. Bags are approximately 36 x 41 cm with long handles to fit comfortably over the shoulder. £4 each

