



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
CHESHIRE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Photo attached: CPRE 's Roger Parkin helps a Tatton visitor 'use her voice'.

Tatton Show visitors back CPRE Campaign

Visitors to the Tatton RHS Flower Show last week gave their support to Cheshire CPRE's[1] 'Use your voice or lose your choice' campaign, featured at the charity's stand during the show.

The campaign was mounted in response to what CPRE sees as a serious threat to local democracy proposed in the recent Planning White Paper, where local people would have very little say in the development of Major Infrastructure Projects such as roads, airports, power stations and incinerators.

Cheshire CPRE Joint Chairman Roger Parkin said: 'We asked visitors to our stand to complete a postcard responding to the Planning White Paper, urging the Government to retain the democratic rights of local people, and to ensure that the planning system is not driven by short term economic growth at the expense of environmental considerations.'

'We were delighted by the response we had. In fact, so many people completed postcards that we used up our entire stock and had to have more printed.'

The Government consultation on the Planning White Paper closes on 17th August. In addition to reducing the influence local residents will have on Major Infrastructure Projects, CPRE is also concerned about proposals to remove the existing 'needs test', which they believe could lead to a proliferation of large supermarket developments, and a 'presumption in favour of development', which the countryside campaigners say is at odds with commitments to manage climate change and protect the environment.

To find out more about CPRE's campaign to retain local democracy in environmental planning, call the Cheshire CPRE Branch Office on 01606 835046, or visit their website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk.

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Notes for editors:

[1] The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. For more information and archive of press releases see the CPRE Cheshire website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk and the national CPRE website at www.cpre.org.uk

[2] The White Paper, 'Planning for a Sustainable Future', was published on 21 May 2007 and produced jointly by Communities and Local Government, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Trade and Industry and the Department for Transport. The White Paper sets out a wide package of reforms and is divided into two

sections. The first half contains controversial proposals for reforming planning for Major Infrastructure Projects. The second half of the White Paper deals with streamlining other aspects of the planning system.

Further Information:

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