



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
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Registered Charity no. 248304

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## PRESS RELEASE

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Photo attached: Professor Beaumont with new Chairman Michael Blank

### **Environmental Campaigner hands over reins after 25 years of leadership**

One of Stockport's longest serving environmental champions has handed over the reins as Chairman of the Campaign to Protect Rural England's (CPRE's)[1] Stockport Group, after 25 years of leadership .

Professor George Beaumont served as Vice Chairman for ten years, before taking on the role of Chairman 15 years ago. He was drawn to CPRE as his medical background gave him a passionate belief in protecting the natural environment around urban areas to promote good health and quality of life.

During his career teaching medicine at the Universities of Manchester, Surrey and Cardiff, and working on the World Psychiatric General Training Programme, George developed a particular interest in the importance of adequate sleep in improving general health and protecting against conditions such as hypertension. He has therefore been very much involved in CPRE's campaign to reduce light pollution[2], and will continue to work on this, and to be a member of the Stockport CPRE Committee.

'Too few of us realise how vital a good night's sleep is for our general health and everyday performance, from coping at work to driving safely on the roads. One of the essential conditions for good sleep is darkness, and in urban areas, there is just too much light around for us to achieve this. There are opportunities to solve this problem, and they would only take a little thought in the direction and timing of lighting,' he said.

Under Professor Beaumont's leadership, CPRE in Stockport has championed environmental issues in the Unitary Development Plan, campaigned for Village Greens in the district, and worked with Stockport Nature Network promoting local nature reserves.

Michael Blank, 49, the new Chairman of Stockport CPRE, is a Chartered Surveyor who has lived in the Stockport area for most of his life. Michael is keen to develop the Stockport Group and increase its membership.

'I will be following George's lead in campaigning for more sensible lighting in urban areas, and aim to concentrate even more on the benefits of our urban open spaces, good design in new building and the value of the Green Belt countryside on our doorstep,' he said.

If you would like to know more about CPRE in Stockport, or would like to join the charity and support its work, call Michael Blank on 0161-491-0452, or email [mgbpropliners@gmail.com](mailto:mgbpropliners@gmail.com).

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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](http://www.cprecheshire.org.uk) and the national CPRE website at [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

[2] CPRE's national 'Night Blight' campaign was launched in ... and has so far succeeded in persuading the Government to make certain forms of light pollution a Statutory Nuisance. CPRE believes light pollution from unnecessary or badly directed and timed light is wasteful of energy, damaging to health as a cause of sleep disturbance, and detrimental to quality of life by blotting out the stars in the night sky. The North West (especially the band across Liverpool / Manchester / Stockport) is the country's most heavily light-polluted region. Maps of light pollution ion the North West can be seen at ....

**Further Information:**

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