

## **CPRE CHESHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

**Registered Charity Number 248304**

**The Principal address of the charity and address for correspondence is:**

The Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England  
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**The Charity's Governing Documents: The Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is a Registered Charity, no. 248304. The governing document is the Constitution dated 16 February 1996.**

**The objectives of the charity.**

The object of CPRE Cheshire Branch is to promote and encourage the improvement, protection and preservation of the countryside.

The Branch's activities cover the County of Cheshire within its current boundaries as well as Wirral, Warrington, Halton, Trafford and Stockport Unitary Authorities.

The Branch's activities are aimed at improving the rural environment in the interests of communities living in rural areas as well as those in Towns and neighbouring Cities who enjoy our beautiful Cheshire Countryside.

The Charity does not make grants to third parties. From time to time the Branch may give support to related charities and parties with similar objectives.

**Chairman's Summary of the year**

2008 was an active year for the branch. We were engaged in successful campaigns against wind power installations near Bickerton and Aston Grange and also in supporting development of the old Shell Carrington Site for housing. While at the moment pressure for new housing is much reduced there are plans being drawn up for large increases in housing numbers around Chester with a target of 14,000 new homes to be constructed.

We ran a series of show stands in the summer. The stand at the Tatton Show was run with the help of National Office and our colleagues from Cumbria and Lancashire. We were also present at the Reaseheath Open Day, Nantwich Show, the Cheshire Ploughing Match and Nantwich Food Festival.

Three prize competitions were run in 2008. Together with Cheshire Life we ran a writing competition with the winning entries being published in their magazine. Our hedgerow competition was well subscribed and prizes were awarded at the Ploughing Match in September. Finally, we have greatly expanded the local food competition with over 50 entries from local food outlets.

Together with Reaseheath College, we launched the Cheshire Hedgerow Network which has grown to include most of the significant environment charities in the County.

In October Clare Lewis left the CPRE to take on a full time position to support a programme for young people who wish to carry out community work in inner-city areas. We are delighted to welcome Becca Nelson as our new Press and Membership Secretary.

We could not have achieved our programme of activities in 2008 without Debbie Janney, our secretary, Clare Lewis, and Becca Nelson, all of whom have provide excellent support to the branch.

### **Membership.**

In 2008 we suffered a net loss of 45 members while recruiting 38 new members. We do need to ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to encourage new members and recruit next generation for our cause.

### ***Financial Statement.***

Names and address of relevant organisations and advisors to the charity.

**Bankers: National Westminster Bank PLC, Poynton, Cheshire.**

**The Hon Legal advisor: Mr David Mason (Messrs Birch Cullimore)**

**Investment adviser: Mr R Race (Messrs Brewin Dolphin Securities)**

**Accountant. Jordan Pickup, 34 Victoria Street, Altrincham, WA14 1ET.**

### **Trustees**

Lord Grey of Codnor. (President); Mrs J Astins (Vice President); Col G Sparrow (Vice President); Mrs J Stainthorpe (Vice president); Mr A Jurgens (Vice President).

Mr P Raynes, Chairman; \*Mr M Dearden, Treasurer; \*Mr R Parkin; \*Mr R Hibbert; Mrs Y Sanné; Cpt C Hampson; Mr M Blank; Prof M Rose; Mr J Whitehead; Mrs J Johnson .

(\* = Investment Trustees also)

### **Investments on behalf the charity are held by Brewin Dolphin nominees**

#### **The Following policies govern the level of reserves:**

There is no written policy on the level of reserves, although prudent accounting dictates we keep a minimum of three months running expenses and any necessary statutory payments and contractual commitments.

#### **The selection of investments for the charity.**

There is no written policy for the selection of investments. We are guided on these matters by our financial advisors, Brewin Dolphin.

In agreement with the trustees, they consider that the most appropriate investment is in a portfolio to maintain the capital against inflation whilst achieving a balance between capital growth and income.

The trustees have powers under the constitution to invest in such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit

**The charity's major assets: The Investments held by the Charity are detailed in the accounts.**

**Major Risks to which the charity is exposed; Expenditure exceeds income.**

### **Systems designed to mitigate the above risks**

The trustees make monthly checks on the cash flow and forward plan activities to identify areas where they may be able to apply for grants.

Trustees routinely apply for grants from suitable bodies to assist with overhead costs.

Trustees are putting plans in place to attract new members.

Provision is made to ensure that sufficient reserves are in place to cover costs incurred.

### **The organisational structure of the charity.**

CPRE Cheshire Branch is an Independent Charity within the CPRE National network.

The Cheshire Branch operates through District Committees mirroring local government administrative districts and Unitary Authorities.

### **Management**

The business of the Cheshire CPRE is managed by the Executive Committee comprising the Trustees nominated at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations are sought from CPRE Cheshire members for these posts. The Chairman is accountable for the day to day running of the branch and is assisted by the Treasurer and members of the Executive Committee. The two part time staff, the secretary and press officer report to the Chairman.

### **Districts organisation**

We have member representatives in the Boroughs and Unitary Authorities covered by Cheshire CPRE. District members monitor planning applications published by their local Unitary Authority or Borough Council. They comment on applications and campaign against threats to the countryside and where appropriate appear in Public Enquires. District committees offer advice and help to both parish councils and local community action groups on planning matters. They take part in local forums with other environmental groups, business and local authorities. They may respond to consultations on major initiatives such as transport schemes, major retail and employment developments, waste disposal, mineral extraction and renewable energy projects. The Branch provides assistance to the Districts when requested.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Peter Raynes

Chairman, CPRE Cheshire