



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
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NEWS RELEASE

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CPRE[1] celebrates success in Combermere housing appeal

Countryside campaigners in Crewe and Nantwich were delighted to hear last week[2] that they had succeeded in their efforts to prevent what amounted to a new village in open countryside on the Combermere Abbey estate[3].

The controversial plan, put forward by the Abbey's owner and the developer, Crosby Homes, proposed the building of 100 new houses on a 14 acre site in order to fund restoration work on the Abbey. Volunteers from the Campaign to Protect Rural England became involved immediately, lodging their objection and following it up by making their case at the appeal hearing[4], which upheld the borough council's initial decision to refuse planning permission.

Jean Stainthorpe, Chairman of CPRE's Crewe and Nantwich district group, said she was extremely pleased with the outcome. 'CPRE believes this proposal was an unjustified sacrifice of open countryside and was not in the public interest,' she said. 'It would have involved building 100 houses for which there was no demonstrable need, on good agricultural land away from existing towns and villages.'

'Whilst the stance of CPRE was that it was an unsustainable development offering little benefit to the public, we were pleased to support the borough council and other parties opposing the application,' Mrs Stainthorpe continued. 'The Inspector accepted our point, concluding that the disbenefits of allowing these breaches of planning policy outweighed the very limited benefits the proposal offered.'

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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 Inquiry result was received by CPRE on Wednesday 30th November

[3] Combermere Abbey lies between Nantwich and Whitchurch

[4] CPRE's case at the appeal hearing was presented by Sir Iain Glidewell, CPRE member and former Lord Justice of Appeal

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