



CPRE CHESHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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
Victoria Buildings
Lewin Street
Middlewich, CW10 9AT

Tel: 01606 835046

Email info@cprecheshire.org.uk

Website: www.cprecheshire.org.uk

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 which now comprises the Unitary Councils of Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Wirral, Warrington, Halton, Trafford and Stockport.

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

Our Branch continues to campaign for a thriving and beautiful countryside. The object of CPRE Cheshire is to promote and encourage the improvement, protection and preservation of the countryside.

We aim to improve 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. Our activities cover the Historic County of Cheshire which now comprises the Unitary Councils of Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Wirral, Warrington, Halton, Trafford and Stockport.

CPRE Cheshire's website sets out how Cheshire is squeezed between the two City Regions:

Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester. Jackie Copley, Planning Officer for CPRE Lancashire, is helping us with this and other planning issues.

Our Planning Committee has been active in monitoring major planning applications, building and development proposals throughout the county.

We were successful in engaging new volunteers in planning. However, we are in need of many more volunteers to support our campaigns to protect the Cheshire countryside and promote the involvement of local communities within the new Localism and subsequent Neighbourhood Plans.

Housing supply is a big issue across Cheshire, with ambitious targets for housing numbers threatening the Green Belt and rural areas. Part of the problem is the emphasis on the need for provision for five years housing supply.

To publicise and promote our work we had a stand at Cheshire County Show. Our Cheshire Viewpoint newsletter published in Spring was issued to farm shops, civic societies, parish councils and environmental groups.

CPRE Cheshire have participated in both the CWaC and CEC Local Plans, and we would like to thank both Lillian Burns and Andrew Wood for representing CPRE Cheshire at the most recent CEC hearings. The CWaC Local Plan Part II is still an ongoing process.

Chair of the Sandstone Ridge Trust, Andrew Hull, was invited to give the address at the Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) which was held at Willington Hall Hotel. Andrew Hull gave an illustrated presentation entitled: 'Towards a Sense of Place: Transforming the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge'. He went on to outline the role of the newly established Sandstone Ridge Partnership and its desire to 'conserve, connect and inspire', and to provide a better understanding in looking after 'this magical landscape'. 'CPRE Cheshire' is one of the founder members of the new Partnership and is keen to be associated with its ambitious aims. <https://www.sandstoneridge.org.uk/p/news/towards-a-sense-of-place.html>

Our thanks also to Rev Philip Robinson for allowing us to hold our Christmas Celebration at St Mary's Church in Rostherne near Knutsford in December.

Cheshire Branch are liaising with Lancashire Branch on their Urban Network project, which relates to the ambitions of the metro mayors for Liverpool and Greater Manchester. This will have a potential impact on Wirral, Halton and Warrington, Stockport and Trafford.

Derek Goldstraw, our Treasurer, comments that for 2019 our Accounts are presented on a Receipts and Payments basis for the second time. (This reflects better the cash basis on which we conduct our business and is permitted by Charity law for charities with a turnover of less than £250,000.) For 2019 we had a trading deficit of £1,209. This was largely down to a reduction in Donations – some of our benefactors prefer to make donations every 2 years and 2019 was not one of those years. However, we can call on Reserves to cover that deficit. Furthermore, we do expect a further deficit in 2020 which will also be covered by Reserves. We do try to minimize expenditure and will make sure that we can continue our campaigning activity for many years to come.

Finally I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors, executive committee and our dedicated staff at CPRE Cheshire, Debbie Janney, our Secretary and Becca Nelson, our Press and

Membership Officer for contributing to a successful 2019 in helping to protect the rural countryside and urban open spaces of Cheshire.

Branch Activities

Financial Statement.

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

Bankers: National Westminster Bank PLC.

The Hon Legal advisor: Mrs Lesley Stuart (Cullimore Dutton), Chester.

Investments: Hargreaves Lansdown, Bristol.

Accountant: Bennett Brooks, Chartered Accountants, Maple Court, Davenport Street, Macclesfield, SK10 1JE.

Trustees

Lord Grey of Codnor. (**President**); *Mr Peter Raynes (Vice President), *Mr Randal Hibbert (Vice President).

Chairman - Mr Andrew Needham; **Treasurer** – *Mr Derek Goldstraw; Mrs Jacqui Johnson; Mr Peter Moore-Dutton; Rev John Whitehead; Mr Rod Tann, Mr James Cameron.

(* = Investment Trustees also)

The Following policies govern the level of reserves:

The Trustees have determined that we should maintain reserves at a minimum level of £10,000 (and repeated in the section detailing steps to mitigate risks). This is consistent with a wish to ensure we have cover for at least three months running costs 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.

In agreement with the Investment 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 Investment 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 bi-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, and in any event should not drop below £10,000.

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 Unitary Authorities covered by Cheshire CPRE. District members monitor planning applications published by their local Unitary Authority. 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:



Andrew Needham
Outgoing Chairman

**THE CHESHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO
PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND**

**Receipts and payments account for the year ended
31 December 2019**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of The Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Charity number 248304

On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 as set out on pages 2 to 4

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- . examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- . to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- . to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- . accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- . the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Angela Moulton FCA
Bennett Brooks & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
2 Maple Court
Davenport Street
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK10 1JE

Date 2 June 2020

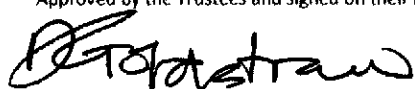
The Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Year ended 31 December 2019
Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Receipts					
Subscriptions		14,624	-	14,624	9,942
Donations, legacies and sundry income		1,015	2,000	3,015	5,576
Investment income		930	-	930	764
Interest received		24	-	24	11
Gross income		16,593	2,000	18,593	16,293
Payments					
Charitable activities	2	13,994	2,000	15,994	9,650
Governance costs	3	3,808	-	3,808	7,958
Total payments		17,802	2,000	19,802	17,608
Net receipts/(payments)		(1,209)	-	(1,209)	(1,315)
Prior year debtors and accruals (net cash received in year)					2,903
Cash funds at 1 January 2019		11,172	-	11,172	9,584
Cash funds at 31 December 2019		9,963	-	9,963	11,172

The Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Year ended 31 December 2019
Statement of assets and liabilities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Cash funds					
Bank current account		422	-	422	94
Bank deposit account		9,541	-	9,541	11,078
Cash on hand		-	-	-	-
Total cash funds		9,963	-	9,963	11,172
Other monetary assets					
Sundry debtors		3,281	-	3,281	4,047
Investment assets					
Investment portfolio	4	33,466	-	33,466	30,362
Assets retained for the charity's use					
Fixed assets	5	-	-	-	-
Liabilities					
Sundry creditors		(809)	-	(809)	(780)
Total assets less liabilities		45,900	-	45,900	44,801
Represented by:					
Total unrestricted funds	6	45,900	-	45,900	44,801
Total restricted funds		-	-	-	-
Total funds		45,900	-	45,900	44,801

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


D Goldstraw

Date

2 June 2020

The Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Year ended 31 December 2019
Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis following the guidance provided by The Charity Commission for England and Wales for the completion of a receipts and payments account. Additional information is provided with respect to the valuation of assets and liabilities at the year end to give a better understanding of the types of assets controlled by the trustees and any material liabilities that may need to be met from the funds.

2 Charitable activities

	2019		2018
	£	£	£
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
Wages	-	6,655	7,932
Travel	-	1,579	-
Campaign expenses	-	620	1,048
Consultancy fees commissioned work	1,000	710	-
Donation to MCAHS2	1,000	-	-
Contribution to Wirral Society	-	630	670
Miscellaneous expenses	-	321	-
Postage, printing and stationery	-	1,376	-
Rent and service charge	-	1,818	-
Telephone	-	285	-
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>13,994</u>	<u>9,650</u>

3 Governance costs

	2019	2018
	£	£
Wages - secretary	1,789	-
Trustee/planning meetings costs including travel	395	1,703
Rent, rates and service charges	96	3,087
Printing, stationery, publications and postage	29	1,827
Telephone	6	325
Sundry expenses	107	457
Accountancy and cost control	780	(24)
Insurance	606	565
Repairs	-	18
	<u>3,808</u>	<u>7,958</u>

4 Investment portfolio

	2019
	£
Balance at 1 January 2019	30,362
Increase in value for the year (unrealised gain)	3,104
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>33,466</u>

5 Fixed assets

	Telephone, fax and equipment	Exhibition stand and fittings	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost at 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019	209	1,476	3,657	5,342
Depreciation at 1 January 2019 and at 31 December 2019	209	1,476	3,657	5,342
Net book value and 1 January 2019 and at 31 December 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Unrestricted Funds

	2019
	£
Balance at 1 January 2019	44,801
Net cash deficit	(1,209)
Unrealised gain on investment portfolio	3,104
Debtors and accruals	(796)
	<u>45,900</u>