

CHESHIRE

VIEWPOINT AUTUMN 2018



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND CHESHIRE BRANCH

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President - Lord Grey of Codnor

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Cheshire Viewpoint is the newsletter
of the Cheshire Branch of the Cam-
paign to Protect Rural England, pro-
duced twice annually (spring and au-
tumn). CPRE Cheshire is a registered
charity.

Editor: Becca Nelson. Cover photo:
Sunrise over Croxton Hall Farm and
Croxton Flash on the Trent and Mer-
sey Canal, Middlewich - Becca Nelson

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VOLUNTEERS

CPRE Cheshire Branch always
welcomes new volunteers.
Whether you would like to get
involved in planning in your lo-
cal area, to help out our stand
at the Cheshire Show or behind
the scenes at an event like our
Christmas Celebration, or if you
have professional expertise to
bring to our Planning Commit-
tee or Trustee Board, please do
contact us. Phone the Branch
Office or get in touch by email -
we would be delighted to hear
from you.

Help us to protect Cheshire's
wonderful countryside.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Our Chairman, Andrew Needham, pictured at the CPRE Autumn Conference in Birmingham, October 2018

I attended the CPRE annual conference. This was mainly about the launch of the Strategy Review for 2020 - 2026.

Crispin Truman, CPRE's Chief Executive said:

It is an exciting time and we want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to provide their input in the process, so that our Strategic Plan 2020-2026 reflects what is most important to us all.

CPRE is consulting on four themes which will inform the the National Office team's campaigning and policy for the period up to 2026, which will mark the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the charity.

Although the activity of CPRE National Office is very different from that of the Branches who will continue to engage in their vital local work, such as responding to planning applications, influencing strategic plans where possible and so on, we feel that it is essential that Cheshire Branch's members are given the opportunity to feed their views into our Branch's response to the consultation. To that end, a paper questionnaire listing the four underlying themes, with space to respond with your thoughts, has been enclosed with each newsletter.

If you would like to have your say, please complete and return these forms to us at the Branch Office, either by post or scanned in and sent by email. And if you are not yet an active member but would like to get more involved, do get in touch with us at the Branch Office as we always welcome new volunteers.

Our Branch poster display for the conference focused on railways. The historic poster for Cheshire railways seen on the previous page generated some interest and led on to a discussion about HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR - formerly HS3). HS2 Phase 2b has been delayed for a year to work out how HS2 will link to NPR. Junctions 5 and 6 are in Cheshire (as can be seen on the image to the right). We hope to find out soon where these will be, and how this will affect the proposed route for Cheshire.

The map can be seen at full size online at the following web address:

<https://transportforthenorth.com/northern-powerhouse-rail/>

Unconventional Gas has also been on the agenda. Jim Cameron, lead volunteer for the Branch in this area, contacted MPs and local councillors to highlight CPRE's concern at proposals to treat exploratory drilling for shale gas as permitted development, removing it from the planning system and therefore denying local people the chance to have their say on the issue. Although views on Shale Gas and other unconventional fuel extraction are mixed, CPRE opposes the erosion of people's rights to have their views heard on local planning matters.

The proposal to include shale gas extraction under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime would also undermine local democracy.

Local Plans are proceeding in Cheshire and the Branch has questioned the proposed housing numbers in light of new evidence from the Office for National Statistics which has revised down its assessment of housing need for our area in its most recent study. This new finding, combined with the possibilities for housing in the town centre (sites such as the vacant retail units in Baron's Quay and the Northgate development, for example) plus the many brownfield sites available, call into question the need to release large amounts of Green Belt land for housing.

Lastly, we hope that as many of you as possible will join us for a celebration of Christmas on 13th December in High Legh. Reverend John Whitehead will lead the service, and as well as familiar carols and readings, interspersed with organ and flute music, there will be a short talk on neighbourhood plans and rural communities.





THE REGIONAL VIEW

CPRE'S NORTH-WEST RE-
GIONAL GROUP CHAIRMAN
PETER RAYNES

The New Agriculture Bill - a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the countryside

Preserving and enhancing our Countryside is closely linked to farming and the agricultural policies of Government. So it is no surprise that CPRE Nationally and locally takes great interest in the new Agriculture Bill being developed to replace the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

This presents a once in a generation opportunity to rethink how public money is used to support agriculture, and to transform the system to support wildlife, increase public access to the countryside and protect distinctive landscapes

The current system makes payments based on the total amount of land farmed. These payments are not linked to any specific public benefits. Smaller farms or those in upland areas particularly struggle within the current system, the smallest 20% of farms grants receiving just 2% of the total subsidy.

The New Bill is not short of ambition, it aims to support and achieve better air and water quality, improve soil health, provide higher animal welfare standards, improve public access to the countryside, and includes measures to reduce flooding. Much of this was called for in CPRE's 2016 report "New Model Farming".

While the Bill has been widely supported by Environmental Groups there are concerns from Farmers and Landowners that any sudden change or reduction in the overall level of support will damage the industry. One of these concerns is addressed by a transition period, which will continue to 2027, and gradually removes the current payments giving time for farmers to adjust their businesses.

Another interesting feature includes grant for farmers to initiate research. It provides for farmers to work together on projects that will

benefit the industry, for instance soil health or sustainable livestock farming.

Support will also be provided to diversify businesses or else retire from farming, giving the opportunity for young farmers to enter the sector.

The imbalance between the commercial power of farmers and their big supermarket customers has also been looked at and changes to the rules in the supply chain to help farmers get a better deal are included.

The Bill had its first reading on the 12th September and is scheduled to be completed by early next year.

Find out more about CPRE's policy on farming on the CPRE website: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/farming-and-food/farming>

BRANCH AGM



Many thanks to those members who were able to come along to Cheshire Branch's Annual General Meeting on May 31st.

There was a very good turnout, and the business meeting was completed quickly, with Geoffrey Budenberg taking the opportunity to record his thanks on behalf of the Branch for the sterling service given by Andrew Needham as Chariman in his six years in the position. Andrew has now served the maximum length of time in post allowed by the constitution of the charity, and a replacement is being sought.

Subsequently, Councillor Rachel Bailey (Leader of Cheshire East Council) and Andrew Ross (Strategic Highways and Transportation Officer at Cheshire East Council) gave an interesting presentation on how HS2 will affect Cheshire.

There were a number of questions and a lively debate took place following the presentation. The evening concluded with tea and biscuits.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



This year's Christmas Celebration will be taking place on Thursday 13th December, and we will be returning to St. Mary's Chapel, High Legh, by kind permission of our President, Lord Grey of Codnor. Reverend John Whitehead will lead the celebration, with carols on the organ accompanied by accomplished local flautist, Nicola Gerrard, who will also play some solos. The service will commence at 2pm.

Following the service, the usual fantastic spread of delicious cakes accompanied by hot drinks will be provided in the Village Hall at around 3pm.

Tickets are £5 per head. We hope to see as many of you at the event as possible.

Please return the enclosed slip to book your place, or contact Debbie Janney at the Branch Office (details inside front cover).



ROYAL CHESHIRE SHOW



CPRE Cheshire Branch again shared a stand with the local 'Stop HS2' group at this year's Royal Cheshire Show. The display, which featured a map showing the two options for high speed rail in Cheshire (via Crewe and/or via Macclesfield), generated a lot of attention and members of the public were interested to hear about the possibility that the line crossing the Mid-Cheshire Brine Field could be obviated by a proposed spur to Macclesfield via Stoke on Trent and Stafford, connecting at the Handsacre Junction.

Councillor Rachel Bailey, who also spoke about this issue at the Branch AGM in May, previously commented about the Handsacre Link, "The confirmation of the high-speed spur is hugely important, because it brings places like Macclesfield into play with shorter journeys and better connections through the HS2-compatible trains. For the employment offer in Macclesfield, particularly companies such as AstraZeneca, the benefits are obvious. Cheshire East Council is seeking support to see this service extended to Manchester Piccadilly and CPRE is backing this proposal."

The significant benefit of this proposal from CPRE's point of view is that it would not involve any loss of countryside. Many visitors to the stand had strong views on the proposals, particularly the loss of countryside around the Cheshire Showground itself.

The show is one of our main opportunities as a charity to engage with the wider public. Many thanks to our volunteers who manned the stand over the two days of the show, answering questions about both CPRE Cheshire and HS2.

JOIN CPRE

We're delighted you want to join CPRE and help us to stand up for the countryside. **CPRE membership starts at £3 per month.**

CPRE CHESHIRE BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Title: _____ First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

We would like to write to you to keep you updated on what we are doing to protect the countryside, including our campaigns and fundraising. If you would prefer not to receive certain communications from us, please call our Supporter Services Team on 0800 163680 or email supporterservices@cpre.org.uk.

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Please tick here if you are happy for us to contact you by phone

☐ Please tick here if you are happy for us to contact you by email

Please be assured that we will never sell or share your contact details with anyone outside CPRE.

If you would also like your partner and/or family to enjoy CPRE membership, please add their details below. We recommend a minimum of £5 per month membership if you are adding additional names.

Name: _____ (D.O.B. if under 16)

_____ / _____ / _____

_____ / _____ / _____

Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Simply tick the box and complete the declaration below. Thank you!

giftaid it

☐ Treat as Gift Aid all donations and subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

If your circumstances change, or you want to cancel your declaration, please contact us on 0800 163680.

Full name of taxpayer: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete payment information overleaf

Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay and helps us to plan our work, but we also accept payments by cheque or debit card. Please complete the relevant section below.

DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT

I wish to pay a Direct Debit of (please tick as appropriate):

£3 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>	£5 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
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I'd rather pay £_____ per month/year (delete as appropriate)

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit:

To: The Manager, _____ Bank/Building Society

Address: _____

Postcode _____

Name(s) of account holder(s): _____

Sort Code:

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 Account Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Service User Number:

7	2	4	2	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

Reference: (for office use only)

						/			
--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society: Please pay CPRE Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction will remain with CPRE and my details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

PAYMENT BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR CHEQUE

Please tick chosen annual membership rate below, and indicate how you will pay.

£36 (equivalent to £3 per month)	<input type="checkbox"/>
£60 (equivalent to £5 per month)	<input type="checkbox"/>
£120 (equivalent to £10 per month)	<input type="checkbox"/>
£_____ per year	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ I have enclosed a cheque made payable to CPRE
☐ OR I wish to pay by Credit/Debit Card

Card type (please circle): Visa / Mastercard / Amex

Card number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiry Date:

		/		
--	--	---	--	--

Start Date:

		/		
--	--	---	--	--

Security Code:

--	--	--

Name on card _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete this form and return to:

Freeport Plus RTCK-UBXX-BBCR, Supporter Services, CPRE,
5 Lavington Street, London, SE1 0NZ

WALKING CHESHIRE'S WONDERFUL WATERWAYS



For many urban dwellers, a local river or canal brings nature into the city or gives a route into the countryside. Now the Mid-Cheshire Waterways Strategy is looking for ways to make the most of this resource, highlighting opportunities to improve Middleswich, Northwich and Winsford by making the most of the network of waterways in this area.

This vision - which came into being following the neighbourhood plan process in the three towns - aims to provide strategic direction for developments adjacent to the waterways, encourage employment opportunities related to waterways recreation and leisure, explore possibilities for water-borne freight, and improve connectivity throughout the county to Chester, Ellesmere Port and Frodsham.

This vision ties in closely with CPRE's aims to increase awareness and enjoyment of the local green spaces on our doorsteps, to find more sustainable options for transport and to concentrate development in sustainable locations using previously developed land as much as possible, to ensure that new buildings are designed in such a way as to fit in with local styles and to maximise housing density while maintaining an open feel - for which a waterside site can be ideal. Towpaths and riverside paths can provide car-free access to town centres. The development on Navigation Road in Northwich, opposite Waitrose, is a good example of how high density housing in a town-centre location can be attractive and fit in with the local vernacular.

To find out more, visit the Mid-Cheshire Development Board website at <http://midcheshire.westcheshiregrowth.co.uk/>

LOCAL PLANS UPDATE

Cheshire East

CPRE Cheshire Branch has objected again to an over-provision of housing in the Local Plan figures for Cheshire East. The Branch previously objected to the proposed housing numbers; according to the Government's own calculations from March 2018, 1,142 dwellings would need to be built each year, contrasting in Cheshire East with the borough's ambition to build 1,800. Over the lifetime of the Plan this is a difference of 13,160.

New data from the Office for National Statistics released on September 20th adds weight to the Branch's position. In 2014 the (then) Department for Communities and Local Government concluded that the population projections were pointing to the formation of 210,000 new households nationally per year for a period of 25 years. However, based on 2016 population estimates, this figure has now been adjusted down by the ONS to 159,000 per year between 2016 and 2041. In addition, the ONS suggests there will be limited pressure for new housing in the north of England.

The ONS population change figure for Cheshire East for 2016-17 was just 0.41%, the net internal migration rate was 0.47%, the net international migration rate was 0.04% and the natural change rate was -0.02%. These are lower figures than those that Cheshire East Council based its growth aspirations on when drawing up Part 1 of the Local Plan.

CPRE has consistently made the point, verbally and in writing, that the authority's aspirations for new jobs and housing were unrealistically high and would lead to an unnecessary level of land take (990 hectares) for housing and employment land and to the loss of more Green Belt than was absolutely necessary. We believe our stance has been vindicated and we question why Cheshire East Council is persisting in its aim to build 658 dwellings per year more than it needs to, thereby creating environmental impacts which could otherwise be avoided.

Visit the Branch website or contact the Branch Office to read our full response.

Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan

CPRE Cheshire was invited to The Examination in Public (EIP) of Cheshire West And Chester Local Plan (part 2) which started on 18th September and lasted 2 weeks. We took the opportunity to put CPRE's views to the Inspector at 3 sessions, Matter 8: CHESTER, Matter 13: GREEN BELT AND COUNTRYSIDE, and Matter 14: TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY.



CHESTER

CPRE believes that the Local Plan (Part TWO) does not give sufficient weight to the unique nature of Chester as a WHOLE. As a historic city of NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE. The Plan does not recognise the limits of Chester to absorb high levels of development without damage to the special qualities and unique character that has made it the economic centre of the borough and surrounding area. This unique character is the basis for its protection and prosperity.

The Planning Inspector who examined the Local Plan (Part ONE) explicitly required the Council to acknowledge that the conservation of character was a vital consideration and that any development, on the periphery of the city centre or within the urban area, should be compatible with conservation and enhancement of the city centre and the SETTING of the city. Failure to recognise this would lead to deviation from the Part One Inspectors view.

In the last Cheshire Structure Plan (Cheshire 2001) the view of the Secretary of State was that “the Chester Green Belt has an additional function in safeguarding the historic city both its SETTING as a whole and its special character. Chester’s Green Belt also has an important role to play in maintaining the separation of settlements with that part between Chester and Ellesmere Port being of critical importance and of preventing the spread of urban development into the open countryside where many villages are under pressure”.

The last Chester District Local Plan adopted in 2006 also said “The Council considers it is VITALLY IMPORTANT NOT to release land for development on the NORTHERN side of the city, since this would lead to

an erosion of the open area between Chester and Ellesmere Port.”

CPRE believes that these important statements should not be lost but retained and written into the Local Plan (Part 2).

GREEN BELT AND COUNTRYSIDE

CPRE welcomes the Countryside policies to protect valued Cheshire Countryside and distinctive Cheshire Landscape. Green Belt policy is different. It is not the same. It could be confused by this Local Plan heading. As these Local Plan (Part 2) detailed policies will be subject to public scrutiny, CPRE believes the FIVE PURPOSES of the GREEN BELT should be clearly laid out in line with the NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK.

Also in the interest of clarity and for the avoidance of doubt, the POLICY MAP should clearly show where Green Belt policies apply as distinct from countryside policies.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

A 5th PARK AND RIDE IN CHESTER

CPRE considers that the proposal for a 5th Park & Ride site has not demonstrated a requirement for a Green Belt Location. The additional proposal for overnight coach parking layover facilities including coach washing facilities and restrooms are inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

A56 HOOLE ROAD CORRIDOR

The use of Hoole Road for a street running operation was assessed several years ago at the Guided Busway Public Inquiry. The Inquiry found that bus priority on Hoole Road would result in significant Community disruption and the need to replace Hoole Bridge.

Chester's Park & Ride at Upton has the advantage of shared use of the Chester Zoo visitor car parking area. This flexibility is of particular value during the important Christmas season, a time when the Zoo visitor demand is lower than usual.

RAILWAY STATIONS

CPRE fully supports safeguarding land at railway stations for car parking. A short journey by car to a longer journey by train is a more sustainable option. Chester Railway Station is recognised as an important Rail Hub & Gateway with lines radiating in many directions.

FORMER BEESTON STATION

CPRE recommends that the former Beeston Railway Station should be identified in Policy T3 in the Local Plan (Part 2). This would give support to the wishes of the Local Community in the “Made Neighbourhood Plan”.

Ann Jones, CPRE Chester District.

DISTRICT NEWS

Congleton District

Persimmon Homes's application to build 350 homes on the White Moss Quarry site on the edge of Alsager was unanimously rejected by Cheshire East Council in July. Reasons for refusal include an over-emphasis on parking outside homes, insufficient landscaping leading to a car-dominated layout, as well as home designs which were perceived to be poor, without a sufficient focus on home design to create an architecturally distinctive estate. The applicant plans to submit an amended application in the autumn.

Outline planning permission for fifty houses in open countryside on land north of Hind Heath Road in Sandbach was also refused, on the grounds that it is in open countryside, in an area of separation between Wheelock and Ettiley Heath, and would have led to the loss of a hedgerow classed as 'important' under the Hedgerow Regulations.

The Congleton Link Road has been approved and funded by a combination of cash from Cheshire East Council, DFT and private developers. There was local opposition to this scheme, which was seen by many as a land grab for development. Work is set to commence in 2020.

Macclesfield District

Controversial plans for 400 homes in the Green Belt near Henbury, Macclesfield, were approved in September. Both sites were allocated for housing under Cheshire East's Local Plan, but Henbury Parish Council had campaigned against the development arguing that the data used to support the application was flawed. They cited issues to do with air quality, flooding, site access, and a lack of school places. Additionally, the Parish Council pointed out that the traffic assessment was based on an outdated draft of the Local Plan which included 2450 properties,





rather than the 3500 properties in the area which are in the adopted Local Plan.

The two sites had been withdrawn from Planning Committee in Spring as the CEC Head of Planning said there was a ‘possible issue in terms of pedestrian facilities’; Henbury Parish Council also stated that this issue had not been addressed. The Parish Council is now considering whether to try to overturn the permission granted at Judicial Review, at a potential cost of £30,000.

CPRE Cheshire has written a letter of objection to Tatton Estate Management’s plan to build a new 300-home development on the edge of Knutsford, on the grounds that the housing could obscure the views of Derbyshire from Tatton Park. The proposed estate, named Bluebell Village, is currently being consulted on prior to the submission of an outline application with all matters reserved for future approval, comprising residential development, a local neighbourhood centre, mixed commercial, a car showroom, outdoor recreational space, car parking, landscaping and other associated works.

Vale Royal District

The application by Darnhall Estates to build 184 homes on open countryside outside Winsford, twice rejected by Cheshire West and Chester Planning Committee, will again be considered at a Public Enquiry on 27th November. The initial application was submitted in 2013 and the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, upheld the refusal, but his decision was overturned by a High Court Judge in August 2017.



Warrington District

Warrington Borough Council Draft Local Plan

This will be announced in December and the Consultation on it starts in the New Year. The housing figures have to comply with Government policies but there have been changes in the NPPF - the National Planning Policy Framework - and the latest population projections.

The NPPF changed in July and is on the Government website, but more recently

there has been new and updated guidance on assessing housing need and plan-making. This can be found on the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government website under Planning Practice Guidance. To get a view on the policies visit the CPRE website.

Consultations - it is useful to check the list of consultations, both internal and external, via the link on the top of the Borough Council webpage.

Although a major concern for Warrington is the potential loss of Green Belt and Green Fields, transport is another important issue, from the problems with the existing rail networks and HS2 to the congested motorways and local roads.

HS2: The consultation on the draft environmental statement on route 2b, expected in September, will now be October/November. Please look out for it even if you are not near it because the traffic and other impacts will be wider than the route.

Nothing exists in isolation and planning is no different: we are liaising with CPRE Lancashire re the proposals to the North for development which includes storage and distribution in the Green Belt. Apart from the need to protect gaps between settlements and protect farm land they would put more traffic on the M6 and strategic local roads. This is in addition to similar proposals in South Warrington.

Jacqui Johnson, Warrington District



The Wirral Society

The Wirral Society, that covers the peninsula of the Wirral on behalf of CPRE, is busy planning its 90th year celebrations and a commemorative booklet is being published to mark the occasion.

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC) area Draft Local Plan

WMBC have now launched into action to deliver a Local Plan on a very optimistic timetable. Perhaps spurred on by the threat that if they do not progress then the government (DHCLG) will hand the Plan over to the Liverpool City Region.

The immediate impact is WMBC's "consultation" on Development Options, with its proposal to release acres of Green Belt farmland to meet the "theoretical housing need".

This has united all the local Societies in their mass opposition to this release of Green Belt, much of it farmland.

We are most concerned that the Council seems to have done little to challenge the massive "housing need" of 803 new homes per annum for the next 15 years. In comparison the Regional Spatial Strategy for the Wirral required only 250 new houses per annum.

However, it would appear that the Office for National Statistics has just released its 2016 population forecasts that would imply a much lower "theoretical housing need".

The Wirral Society is commissioning Jackie Copley from CPRE Lancs Branch to provide us with the best technical advice. We are also working closely with other local Societies, to pool resources and hoping that the new “theoretical housing need” can be met from development in the old industrial heartlands now called Wirral Waters. The site owners (Peel) have claimed to be able to develop some 6,500 new homes on the site, that would probably meet the latest housing “theoretical need”.

Hoylake Golf Resort

The saga rumbles on. For some reason whilst proposing to remove some 8 sq miles of land from the Green Belt in its “Development Options”, WMBC has decided to leave the Hoylake Golf Resort and the proposed 160 band “H” houses, hotel, resort etc. in the Green Belt.

As stated before, this is all the more concerning since the Council claim to have no money for New Ferry’s redevelopment, in part destroyed by an explosion over a year ago.

New Fire Station at Saughall Massie

The much opposed and unnecessary “Community” fire station located in the Wirral Green Belt is now being constructed, at a cost of some £4m to the taxpayer.

Thornton Hough

In addition to issues of release of the Green Belt at Thornton Hough there is still the issue of the proposed “Care Village” in the village centre. Perhaps the issues with the Local Plan have distracted people from progressing this matter, for a while.

Cheshire West & Chester Council (CW&C)

CW&C has been relatively quiet, having a Local Plan and Green Belt land allocation confirmed.

We believe that the massive 2,000 house estate being built by Redrow off Ledsham Road has paused, or halted after the first phase.

A proposed care home in the centre of Willaston has been refused planning permission as being out of proportion to the surroundings, even after a revision to the proposal. The Wirral Society’s arguments against the development were used by a local Councillor in opposing the development.

Overall

If and when WMBC’s “issues” with its Local Plan and proposed Green Belt release have been quashed we will still have to decide how we work with the Liverpool City Region, that covers Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council area, the North part of the peninsula, as well as with Cheshire West and Chester Council, covering the South.

T Neil Parry, Green Belt Coordinator, The Wirral Society

NEW CHAIRMAN SOUGHT



Our current Chairman, Andrew Needham, has completed 6 years in office, the maximum allowed under our constitution. We are therefore seeking a new Chair to lead the branch, recruit more volunteers and raise the profile of the Charity so CPRE can continue to have a strong voice in the county.

The ideal candidate would be someone with an interest in the countryside who could lead and inspire CPRE Cheshire's volunteers, preferably with skills and experience in leadership, management and organisational development roles, who has good communication skills (both verbal and written), an interest in environmental issues and a commitment to CPRE's policies, and the ability to put forward those views with tact and diplomacy!

This is an excellent opportunity for an individual who enjoys the challenge of thinking strategically, networking and engaging with a variety of audiences. You would lead a team of friendly and committed campaigners working to make a real difference both locally and nationally.

This role is home based with access to the branch office in Middlewich. At present branch meetings are usually held in Middlewich so as to be accessible to volunteers. The estimated time commitment of this role is 8 hours a week, and ideally we are looking for someone who could commit to a 3-year term of office.

Please contact info@cprecheshire.org.uk if you have any queries. To apply, please email your CV and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to info@cprecheshire.org.uk.