



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Rutland

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Standing up for your countryside in Rutland

March 2019

To all members of CPRE Rutland

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Please find enclosed our Annual Report for 2017/18. My sincere apologies for the significant delay in issuing this document; this has been caused largely by the need to sort out discrepancies in our accounts which came to light just after the AGM last July. We believe that this has now been fully resolved, and, as you will see, we have obtained an independent assessment from a qualified accountant to confirm this. You may also note that, as a further consequence, the figures in our balance sheet now differ from those declared at the AGM.

I should also point out that, since the AGM, Mr Gerry Robinson has asked to stand down as a trustee.

In view of the significant amount of activity in the county at present, I thought it might be helpful to you to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on what your committee has been doing over the last few months.

The main action has, of course, focused on the proposals for St George's Barracks. Following feedback on the initial draft Master Plan, Rutland County Council (RCC) issued for consultation, at the end of July, a further update to the Rutland Local Plan, specifically to address the incorporation of the plans for St George's; this had been glossed over in the 2017 Local Plan update as insufficient details were available at that time. There were a number of serious deficiencies in this latest plan update, and, accordingly, CPRE Rutland submitted a substantial response to the consultation. We understand that RCC received some 1750 responses in all, most of them against the proposals, but we have yet to see RCC's formal assessment of these inputs. Since then, however, the total number of houses proposed has been reduced to 2215 (excluding the Officers' Mess site), and we are told that, in view of the amount of work needed to clear the site, this is the minimum number for the plans to be economically viable. At the time of writing, RCC is proceeding with a bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) for a grant to support the provision of the infrastructure for the proposed development.

Later last year, RCC issued for consultation a set of documents under the heading 'Moving Rutland Forward'. These comprised drafts of the Fourth Rutland Transport Plan, covering the Passenger Transport Strategy, Rights of Way improvements and associated environmental and habitats assessments. These documents were widely felt to be extremely light on detail, lacking in any sort of forward vision and largely divorced from the many significant developments both within and without the county. CPRE Rutland again responded accordingly.

In view of the importance of a clear vision as the essential basis for developing plans for the future of the county, and the serious shortcoming in this regard in any of the plans emerging from RCC, your committee is considering taking the initiative in order to fill this gap. Support from the wider membership of the branch, in the form of ideas or more material efforts, would be most welcome.

We are also conscious of the importance of communicating more effectively with you, the members. One way to help, as we have said many times in the past, would be to have email addresses for more of you, but we understand that this is not always a possibility. We are also looking at how we

President
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can improve our presence on social media, in particular making better use of web-sites. If any members feel that they can help in this way, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Finally, we look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it at our Annual General Meeting, likely to be later in July, when further updates to our progress will be announced.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Touchin
Chairman, CPRE Rutland

President
Sir Laurence Howard

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