

THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) LEICESTERSHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1164985

Details

Other names	CPRE LEICESTERSHIRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-12-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Nigel Ricks & Co Ltd 42 Glebe Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 1JR
Phone	01509 828980
Email	info@cpreleicestershire.org.uk
Website	http://www.cpreleicestershire.org.uk/

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE AND IN PARTICULAR THAT OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND ITS TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND THE BETTER DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Activities: CPRE Leicestershire works to sustain a thriving countryside for future generations to enjoy. Key concerns are to:Protect, value and nurture Leicestershire landscapes through campaigning on planning issues ?Encourage sustainable rural communities by addressing the affordable Rural housing crisis ?Engage with the local agricultural economy ?Strengthen the voice of CPRE Leicestershire

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Leicestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£286,384	£6,173	-	-
2024-03-31	£37,395	£10,428	-	-
2023-03-31	£17,921	£13,292	-	-
2022-03-31	£6,440	£11,100	-	-
2021-03-31	£16,173	£9,739	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adrian Jarvis		2024-07-01
Anne Thomas		2024-12-17
John Marriott		2019-10-09
Rita Bullivant		2021-04-14
Ryan Astill		2026-03-16
Tony Simpson		2025-01-28

THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) LEICESTERSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1164985

Accounts

CPRE Leicestershire
Annual Report 2024/25

1. Introduction

The purpose of CPRE Leicestershire is to promote, protect and enhance the Leicestershire countryside for the benefit of today's community and future generations.

This purpose has historically been achieved by monitoring, commenting and supporting (or objecting, as appropriate) to local plans, policies and planning applications. The branch also advises on Neighbourhood Plans and responds to local and national consultations. These matters are often brought to the branch's attention by CPRE members, councils, the media and local communities.

Moving forward, these foundations will be further developed in order to become more impactful, through active engagement and collaboration with the community, with policymakers and with businesses and other like-minded organisations.

2. Structure and Governance

CPRE Leicestershire is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is a financially independent charity related to the national CPRE charity

It is managed and run on a voluntary basis, by a committee of trustees, who serve on a continuous basis for a maximum of six years. They are selected by the committee, subject to confirmation of their positions annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

3. Trustees

During the year, Paul O'Donnell, Rowena Reid and Rahoul Naik stood down as trustees due to their need to focus on other life commitments. The branch thanks them for their input and wishes them well for their future success.

Rahoul played a significant role in developing the branch vision over the years and he has indicated an interest in staying involved in its implementation. His continued support will be greatly appreciated.

In order to focus on a new business opportunity, Rita Bullivant has taken a 12-month leave of absence and remains a trustee of the branch. The board looks forward to her return, in due course.

The board was delighted to welcome back Tony Simpson as Honorary Treasurer. Tony brings extensive experience in both the branch and financial matters and his return will help to secure strong financial foundations for the future work of the branch.

The board is also thrilled to welcome Anne Thomas Hughes to the branch as a new trustee. Anne brings a huge depth and breadth of skills and experience in business leadership. She has already made an impact with the design of the branch strategy and the board is looking forward to her continued contribution.

John Marriott continues to provide his extraordinary depth of understanding in development planning and the board would like to thank him for his continued extensive work and looks forward to helping him increase the capacity in the planning team.

Adrian Jarvis has continued his early work with the trustees to develop the branch's direction and looks forward to continuing to work with them when developing the branch in the coming years.

Sarah Cunningham continues as our Branch Administrator and she has established some strong foundations for keeping the branch organised. She will be further supporting the branch as it develops its capacity and capabilities in future.

Following these changes, the trustees at March 2025 were as follows:

- Adrian Jarvis, Chair (appointed July 2024)
- Tony Simpson, Honorary Treasurer (re-appointed December 2024)
- Rita Bullivant
- John Marriott
- Anne Thomas Hughes (appointed December 2024)

4. Branch Activities

The risks and issues facing the countryside today and in future are immense.

The volume, scale and pace of local developments is increasing, yet the capacity and capabilities of the branch to promote sustainable development are considered to fall well short of what is needed in future.

Due to this mismatch, it became a clear imperative to structure the branch's work around targeted campaigns, within a clear, concise and compelling organisational strategy, designed to increase the impact of the branch's work.

The review of the branch and the high-level design of its future are complete and we are now focusing on implementing the changes, starting in 2025/26.

The annual priorities are as follows:

- a. 2024/25 (DIRECTION)
 - i. Pause & reflect
 - ii. Directional pivot
 - iii. Stakeholder focus
- b. 2025/26 (FOUNDATIONS)
 - i. Integrated campaigns
 - ii. Build the team
 - iii. Centenary plans
- c. 2026/27 (TURNAROUND)
 - i. Widespread buy-in
 - ii. Joined-up thinking
 - iii. Early impacts
- d. 2027/28 (ACCELERATE)
 - i. High profile
 - ii. Welcomed by our presence
 - iii. Case studies
- e. 2028/29 (GROWTH)
 - i. Front-and-centre
 - ii. Role model
 - iii. Rinse & repeat
- f. 2029/30 (TRANSFORMED)
 - i. Mission accomplished
 - ii. 2050 trajectory
 - iii. New blood

5. 2024/25 – Our DIRECTION

- a. **Pause and reflect** – Take stock of the current situation (2024), the need to prepare for the future and the sense of urgency

A diagnostic exercise was undertaken by our new Chair following his appointment in July 2024.

The conclusion of this analysis identified a need to build on the foundations (e.g. the Vision Document), set a new direction and make changes to prepare the branch for an increasing future workload.

The long-term organisational strategy will be delivered in our 6-year transformation programme (2024/25 to 2029/30), guided by clear annual priorities.

b. **Strategic Pivot** – Refresh the branch and prepare for the future

The direction of the branch has been pivoted by the board of trustees and it is summarised in the following ‘strategic architecture’:

- i. **Our purpose:** Promote, protect and enhance the countryside for today’s community and future generations.
 - ii. **Our mission:** Responsible stewardship with increased prosperity.
 - iii. **Our vision:** The vision document was approved by the board of trustees and it will be used as a foundation to focus and prioritise the branch’s work. It will be published on the website following the final design work which is nearing completion.
 - iv. **Our strategy:** Following approval of the vision, a branch strategy has been developed which will be used to guide the annual workplan, starting with integrating the campaigns, building the team and preparing for the 2026 centenary.
 - v. **Our campaigns:** We have established three integrated campaigns around the following:
 - Community – Promoting the countryside with the people of Leicestershire.
 - Councils – Protecting the countryside by working with policymakers at all levels.
 - Commerce – Enhancing the countryside with local businesses and like-minded organisations.
- c. **Stakeholder focus:** There are nearly 1.1 million people living and working in the city and county. It is their interests (and those of future generations) and broader public opinion that will guide everything we do across all three campaigns.

Our future work will target the best outcomes from our stakeholders’ stated perspectives. This is with a view to increasing the profile and impact of the branch’s work in the coming years.

In broad terms, everyone should be able to identify themselves in one or more of the following groups:

- i. Visitors living their lives, enjoying the countryside.
- ii. People in education, developing skills for the countryside.
- iii. Policymakers leading society, including the countryside.
- iv. Environmental organisations safeguarding our environment in the countryside.
- v. Businesses earning a living, affecting the countryside.

6. 2025/26 – Our FOUNDATIONS

a. Integrated campaigns – Shape the debate and make a difference

In April 2025, we started to transition away from setting direction for the branch and we moved into implementation mode, via the three integrated campaigns.

These campaigns are intended to provide a home for each part of the branch’s purpose, i.e.

- i. The COMMUNITY campaign is focused on PROMOTING the countryside to everyone. Its goals are to encourage people:
 - To improve their physical and mental health.
 - To engage in responsible stewardship of their local environment.
 - To actively participate in countryside projects.
- ii. The COUNCILS campaign is focused on PROTECTING the countryside and encouraging sustainable development via the evolving planning system. Its goals are:
 - To influence national, regional and local policymakers.
 - To support local communities.
 - To positively advocate for good decisions.
- iii. The COMMERCE campaign is focused on ENHANCING the countryside alongside local businesses and like-minded organisations. Its goals are:
 - To support businesses with their environmental policies.
 - To encourage investor interest in environmental responsibility.
 - To collaborate with like-minded charities.

b. Build the team – more members, volunteers, trustees and executives

The profile of the branch in the public consciousness is too low. While some people are familiar with the rich history of CPRE and its great achievements, it is unfortunate that some people have never heard of it.

That needs to change and we have nearly 1.1 million local people who have a shared interest in what we do. That interest might be from benefiting from the branch’s work or becoming directly involved in what we aspire to achieve.

The demographic profile of membership (locally and nationally) is skewed massively towards the older generation. We need to do much more to attract the interest of younger people who will inherit the countryside in future decades. We need more of the following:

- Members.

- Volunteers to be active in all three campaigns and building the branch.
- Trustees to guide the work, i.e. advice, guidance, challenge and support.
- Executives to run the branch on a day-to-day basis.

In addition to membership subscriptions, the funding of the branch benefited from a generous legacy (donated in early 2025) and this will enable us to invest in our future.

The first appointment will be a Branch Development Manager during 2025. That person will be the lead executive in preparing the branch for the future.

Some early stakeholder engagement activities in 2025 have so far included the following organisations. We will continue to work these people with a view to creating mutually beneficial support, collaborations and partnerships.

- **COMMUNITY** (the local people): Parkrun, British Orienteering, Ramblers, Bradgate Park, The Camden Society.
- **COUNCILS** (the policymakers): MPs, Melton Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, Parish Councils (Sapcote, Long Watton & Diseworth, Freeby, Thurcaston & Cropston), National Energy System Operator.
- **COMMERCE** (the businesses, charities and delivery groups): Harborough Woodland, Sport in Desford, Lloyds Bank & Sainsbury's (via The Woodland Trust), Leicestershire County Cricket Club, Charnwood Forest Geopark, The National Forest, Everards, University of Leicester.

It is still early days, but the responses so far to our reinvigorated campaigns have been interest, curiosity and support.

c. Centenary plans – 100 years since 1926 and 100 years to 2126

CPRE was established in 1926 and the Leicestershire branch was established in 1936. There will be national centenary celebrations throughout 2026 and we will also prepare for our 90th branch birthday too.

The national office has developed a plan for a series of activities throughout 2026, including celebrating 100 years of history (with our patron, the King taking a high-profile role), setting our aspirations for the next 100 years and using this snapshot as a catalyst for growth.

The previous Chair, Tony Stott, will be contributing his substantial insight of CPRE's history into the Leicestershire plans to mark the 100th/90th birthdays.

During 2026, we will also take stock of progress, check the suitability and effectiveness of the new strategy and adjust it, as necessary, to prepare for 2027 and beyond.

Any members who would like to play an active role in any aspect of any of the campaigns are encouraged to contact the trustees or Branch Administrator at the following email address:

info@cpreleicestershire.org.uk

Your countryside needs you!

7. National CPRE

During 2024, national CPRE focused on the following campaigns:

- a. Rooftop solar power – prioritising rooftop solar on new buildings.
- b. Government – building relationships with the new government and advocating cross-party recognition of the value of the countryside.
- c. National Planning Policy Framework – shape the debate around rooftop solar, affordable and social rent homes, brownfield priority build, protecting our green spaces and countryside.
- d. Planning system – planning democracy and balancing economic growth with sustainable growth.
- e. Energy transition – clean energy infrastructure while protecting nature.
- f. Hedgerow Heroes – continue the national project to plant and restore hedgerows to make a local impact.
- g. Affordable homes – calling for government to diversify the housing industry with more emphasis on affordable homes in sustainable places.
- h. Our countryside next door – commitment to protecting the Green Belt.
- i. Making a local impact – introducing ‘Countryside Day’ to promote local countryside projects.

More information can be found on the national CPRE website, here:

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/2024-cpres-impact/>

Financial Review: year ending 31st March 2025

The Branch’s full Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025, including a detailed analysis of income, expenditure, debtors and creditors, are disclosed in a separate report, which (subject to the approval of the members) will be filed with the Charity Commission. The main points to note are as follows:

- The Charity’s total income for the year being greater than £250,000, the Accounts have been prepared using the accruals basis rather than the receipts and payments basis as in previous

years, as required by financial regulations. The most obvious difference is the inclusion of receivables and payables in the year-end balance sheet along with bank balances.

- The Charity recorded a surplus of £280,580 on its regular activities for the year, compared with a surplus of £21,491 in y/e 31/3/24. The increase was entirely due to legacies received - the single donation of £280,159 received in 24/25 (referred to in the 2025/26 section of the Annual Report above) compared to the two legacies received in 23/24 with total £25,530.
- In addition to its regular activities, the Charity also incurred costs of £369 in the year on the Leicestershire Vision. As all income relating to the Vision had been recognised in the year to 31/3/21, this gave additional expenditure for the Charity as a whole of that amount, resulting in an overall result for the year of net income of £280,211, as can be seen in the Accounts. The remaining £7,254 to be spent on the Vision is expected to take place in financial year 25/26.
- The net assets of the Charity at 31/3/25 amounted to £358,199, compared with £77,988 at the end of the previous year. These balances comprised the following:

		As at 31/3/25	As at 31/3/24
Bank accounts:	Business account	314,549	35,544
	Savings account	42,839	42,400
Receivables		1,756	900
Payables		(945)	(856)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		358,199	77,988
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Registered Charity Number 1164985

Financial Statements

Year Ending 31st March 2025

**Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ending 31st March 2025**

	Year ending 31/3/25			Year ending 31/3/24		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
INCOME						
Branch share of national income	5,547	-	5,547	5,192	-	5,192
Branch share of regional funds	-	-	-	996	-	996
Donations and legacies	280,394	-	280,394	25,734	-	25,734
Bank interest	443	-	443	314	-	314
	<u>286,384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>286,384</u>	<u>32,236</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,236</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Subscriptions	73	-	73	367	-	367
Audit and independent examination fees	200	-	200	200	-	200
Travel expenses	-	-	-	53	-	53
Recruitment	329	-	329	-	-	-
AGMs	382	-	382	238	-	238
Office expenses	2,252	69	2,321	1,946	456	2,402
Insurance	336	-	336	325	-	325
Consultancy	2,152	300	2,452	7,616	-	7,616
Gifts	80	-	80	-	-	-
	<u>5,804</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>6,173</u>	<u>10,745</u>	<u>456</u>	<u>11,201</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	280,580	(369)	280,211	21,491	(456)	21,035

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Balance Sheet
As at 31st March 2025

	As at 31/3/25			As at 31/3/24		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at bank and in hand	349,807	7,581	357,388	70,113	7,831	77,944
Accrued income	1,478	-	1,478	555	-	555
Prepaid expenditure	278	-	278	345	-	345
	351,563	7,581	359,144	71,013	7,831	78,844
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Accrued expenditure	(645)	(300)	(945)	(675)	(181)	(856)
	(645)	(300)	(945)	(675)	(181)	(856)
NET ASSETS	350,918	7,281	358,199	70,338	7,650	77,988
MOVEMENT IN NET ASSETS						
Balance b/f from previous year	70,338	7,650	77,988	48,847	8,106	56,953
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	280,580	(369)	280,211	21,491	(456)	21,035
Closing balance	350,918	7,281	358,199	70,338	7,650	77,988

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Notes to the Accounts
Year Ending 31 March 2025

1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014; and
the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, as required where gross income for the financial year exceeds £250,000. Since the previous year's accounts were prepared using the receipts and payments method, these comparatives have been restated using the accruals basis in the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet, and additional information has been provided showing effects of the restatement to each line of both reports.

2. Recognition of Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

In the case of legacies received by the charity, income is recognised when receipt is probable and can be estimated with reasonable certainty. In practice this means that there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met. Where the legacy is of a residuary nature, the amount receivable cannot be accurately estimated and is therefore only recognised on receipt.

3. Restricted Funds

In financial year 20/21 the Charity received a grant of £10,000 from the Strategic Collaboration Fund of the CPRE. This is being used to fulfill three key objectives for CPRE Leicestershire:

- (1) To strengthen relationships with other, like-minded organisations, creating and building collaboration by means of shared working;
- (2) To create a Vision for CPRE Leicestershire; and
- (3) To revise the Charity's Strategic Plan.

The attainment of these objectives - and therefore the utilisation of the grant received - is an ongoing process, and will continue in future years.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Balance Sheet - restatement using accruals basis
As at 31st March 2024

	AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED			ADJUSTMENTS			RESTATEd		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS									
Cash at bank and in hand	70,113	7,831	77,944	-	-	-	70,113	7,831	77,944
Accrued income	-	-	-	555	555	555	555	-	555
Prepayments	-	-	-	345	345	345	345	-	345
	70,113	7,831	77,944	900	-	900	71,013	7,831	78,844
CURRENT LIABILITIES									
Accruals	-	-	-	(675)	(181)	(856)	(675)	(181)	(856)
	-	-	-	(675)	(181)	(856)	(675)	(181)	(856)
NET ASSETS	70,113	7,831	77,944	225	(181)	44	70,338	7,650	77,988
MOVEMENT IN NET ASSETS									
Balance b/f from previous year	42,871	8,106	50,977	5,976	5,976	5,976	48,847	8,106	56,953
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	27,242	(275)	26,967	(5,751)	(181)	(5,932)	21,491	(456)	21,035
Closing balance	70,113	7,831	77,944	225	(181)	44	70,338	7,650	77,988



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1164985

Set out on pages

1-2

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 March 2025**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

ACH

Date:

24/10/25

Name:

Antony Humphreys

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICAEW
(Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)
8710624

Address:

Rose Villa, 42 Glebe Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1JR

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1164985

Set out on pages

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Date:

24/10/25

Name:

Antony Humphreys

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qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

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THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) LEICESTERSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1164985

Accounts

CPRE Leicestershire

Annual Report 2023/24

Introduction

The main activities of CPRE Leicestershire are to promote and encourage the improvement and protection of the Leicestershire countryside for the benefit of everyone.

These activities are achieved in part by monitoring, commenting and supporting or objecting, as appropriate, to Local Plans, transport policy and planning applications.

Some of the latter are brought to our attention by CPRE members, Parish Councils and the public. Over the last year representatives of the branch have also attended and joined in discussions at formal hearings concerning the Charnwood and Leicester Local Plans and the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI).

The branch also advises on Neighbourhood Plans and responds to local and national Consultations.

Structure and Governance

CPRE Leicestershire is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is a financially independent charity related to the national CPRE charity and is managed and run on a voluntary basis, by a committee of trustees. Serving on a continuous basis for a maximum of six years. They are selected by the committee subject to confirmation of their positions annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Trustees

The branch has gone through significant change in its board of trustees over the past year.

The Chair, Tony Stott and Treasurer, Tony Simpson, both stood down in November 2023, having reached the end of their six-year tenure of being trustees. Their substantial contributions are recognised and the branch expresses its deep appreciation for their hard work over the years.

Martin Cooper stepped up to become Interim Chair in December 2023 and he initiated the recruitment process for both a new Chair and a new Treasurer. This was in addition to his volunteer co-ordination work. Our gratitude is extended to Martin for his dedication in leading the organisation during this period. Due to other life commitments, Martin decided to step down from the branch in June 2024.

In December 2023, we welcomed a new Treasurer, Priyanka Jeswani, who brought her finance expertise into the branch. Unfortunately, other life priorities resulted in Priyanka stepping down in April 2024.

Two new trustees, Paul O'Donnell and Rowena Reid joined us in February 2024 and April 2024 respectively. Paul helped with developing branch governance policy priorities, building on his commercial experience and Rowena brought small business expertise into the branch. Due to other work commitments, Rowena and Paul chose to stand down as trustees in November and December respectively.

Our new Chair, Adrian Jarvis, joined the branch in July 2024. Adrian brings 40 years of business experience in the energy sector in the UK, EU and US, including ensuring responsible stewardship of the environment when hosting critical national infrastructure. He has spent the first six months of his tenure understanding the challenges and opportunities for the branch, identifying how the branch needs to develop and setting up an initial strategy for 2025 and 2026. He has spent time developing a network with other local branches, the national office and other like-minded organisations with whom we may work in future.

Our second Treasurer of the year, Danielle Bland, joined us in September 2024 and she produced a draft of the financial statements within this Annual Report. Due to work commitments, Danielle unfortunately had to step down as Treasurer in December 2024. Our thanks are extended to Danielle for her contribution in the short time she spent with us.

Our long-standing trustees, Rita Bullivant, Rahoul Naik and John Marriott continued their supportive contribution to the branch, notably in the areas of recruitment, vision document design and responses to local plans, major developments and development consultations. Their sustained commitment and dedication to the branch have been greatly appreciated.

During December 2024, two further changes occurred. Anne Thomas Hughes was appointed as a new Trustee and Rahoul Naik decided to stand down, due to work commitments. The branch trustees would like to thank Rahoul for his extensive effort in the marketing and technology work for the branch. He was also instrumental in the design of the final vision document. While Rahoul will no longer be a trustee, he will be remaining as a member of the branch and will continue to support the branch as it plans the launch of the vision during 2025.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Anne, whose business experience and passion for the countryside will be an invaluable asset as the branch moves forward in 2025 and beyond.

Also, for information, our Branch Administrator, Jill Prior, stood down from her role in October 2024. Jill has been a great asset to the branch and her knowledge and skills will be missed. Jill's successor, Sarah Cunningham, joined the branch in September 2024 and she is already making her mark with keeping the branch organised.

The vacancy for Treasurer will be unfilled leading up to the 2023/24 AGM, to be held in January 2025. As an interim solution, Tony Simpson, who remains a member of CPRE Leicestershire, is providing the branch trustees with his advice and support with regard to financial best practices. The branch is once again grateful for Tony's support. Tony will be invited to rejoin the branch as Treasurer at the AGM, in line with the branch Constitution.

Following these changes, the trustees at January 2025 are as follows:

- Adrian Jarvis (appointed July 2024)
- Rita Bullivant
- John Marriott
- Anne Thomas Hughes (appointed December 2024)

Branch Activities

The branch has participated in a number of consultations throughout the year, notably Hinckley Rail Freight, the new National Planning Policy Framework and the Charnwood Local Plan. Full details of this vital work are set out in Appendix A. Members are encouraged to read this and to contribute to future work. They should contact any of the trustees for further information regarding how to get involved.

National CPRE

Buckingham Palace confirmed that His Majesty King Charles III will continue as Patron of CPRE.

The President of CPRE, Mary-Ann Ochota, sends this [message of thanks](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/nOSatF14fO4) (<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/nOSatF14fO4>) to all our members, supporters and volunteers.

National CPRE have many campaigns underway, including:

- New government – building relationships with new MPs.
- Rooftop solar power – unlock cheap, clean energy and protect the countryside.
- National Planning Policy Framework – shape the debate around rooftop solar, affordable social housing, brownfield priority, protecting Green Belt (and local countryside) and raise the profile of local voices.
- Planning system and the energy transition – clean energy infrastructure while protecting nature.
- Affordable homes – Advocacy for a countryside in which everyone can afford to live.
- Our countryside next door – celebrating the Green Belt and improving access.
- Making a local impact – countryside projects, such as ‘Hedgerow Heroes’.

Our trustee, Rahul Naik, appeared on the national [CPRE website](#), representing Leicestershire in a series of stories about making a local impact. This was a helpful promotion of the branch, the local countryside and our community.

Trustees attended a range of national meetings, including the national Annual General Meeting, along with sessions of the Planning Campaign Group, the CPRE Assembly, Chairs Chat with colleagues from other branches and the national CPRE Chair.

One of the trustees joined a small group of like-minded members in other branches to review the national CPRE transport policy and flag up the importance for CPRE to press for the close integration of land-use and transport policy. There is now some indication that the new government recognises this is important.

What 2025 and beyond will bring

Our work has never been more important.

The changes in the leadership team and the policies being developed by the new Labour government will enable us to make a strategic pivot into implantation of the branch vision. It won't be easy, but the benefits to the countryside and the community will be worth the effort.

Due to the potential increase in developments aligned to new government policies, Planning will remain a core part of what the branch does. We will be looking to increase the capacity and capabilities of the branch, so we can become more impactful in our work with influencing policymakers, respond effectively to formal consultations and become more supportive of decisions that enable responsible stewardship of our countryside.

We will also look to launch a set of interesting and beneficial countryside projects which will enable volunteers to become more active in work that will directly benefit the countryside, the local community and the responsible implementation of national and local policies.

In order to develop the capabilities, capacity and availability needed for the above, we are undertaking an organisational review to ensure we set ourselves up for future success, in 2025, our 2026 centenary year and beyond.

The branch will be communicating directly with members during 2025 in order to establish the level of interest in becoming more engaged in countryside matters.

Watch this space for some interesting, exciting and beneficial projects!

FINANCIAL REVIEW: YEAR-ENDING 31st MARCH 2024

The Branch's full Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024, including a detailed analysis of income and expenditure, are disclosed in a separate report, which (subject to the approval of the members) will be filed with the Charity Commission. The main points to note are as follows:

The Charity recorded a surplus of £27,243 on its regular activities for the year, compared with a surplus of £5,811 in y/e 31/3/23. At the beginning of the financial year a surplus of £13,495 was forecast – hence the result was £13,748 better than anticipated. The main reasons for this variance are as follows:

Income (£15,636 higher than forecast):

- o Donations were forecast at £12,500, but a total of £25,734 were actually received, a difference of £13,234.
- o The Branch's share of national income was £6,118 compared to a forecast of £4,860 - £1,258 more income.
- o The Branch's share of the distribution of regional funds was £995 higher than forecast.

Expenditure (£1,888 higher than forecast):

- o Consultancy costs were £7,616 compared to an original budget of £5,000, an excess of £2,616.
- o Admin expenditure was only £1,471 versus a budget of £2,500 – an underspend of £1,029.

In addition to its regular activities, the Charity also incurred costs of £275 in the year on the Leicestershire Vision. As all income relating to the Vision had been recognised in previous financial year, this gave additional expenditure for the Charity as a whole of that amount, resulting in an overall result for the period of net income of £26,968, as can be seen in the Accounts. Some of the remaining £7,804 to be spent on the Vision, (notably for the design of the final document) is expected to take place in financial year 24/25. The remaining balance will be used to formally launch the vision toward the end of 24/45 and into 25/26.

The assets of the Charity at 31/3/24 amounted to £77,944, compared with £50,977 at the end of the previous year. This total comprised bank balances as follows:

	As at 31/3/24	As at 31/3/23
	£	£
Business account	35,544	18,875
Savings account	42,400	32,102
	—————	—————
	77,944	50,977
	—————	—————

The Charity had no amounts either receivable or payable at 31/3/24.

APPENDIX 1 – BRANCH ACTIVITIES

A major concern for the Branch continues to be the loss of excessive amounts of greenfield land for development. The branch has put significant effort into trying to influence the planning process driven by a desire to promote better use of underused land and reduce the amount of traffic generated by new developments to minimise congestion.

This has mainly been done through the Local Plan process which has included appearing in person at a number of formal public planning Examinations. Changes to the planning system mean that more decisions are being taken at a national level, which removes or reduces the ability of local input being able to influence of what goes where and why.

Proposed changes to Local Government

The Government has announced it will invite all two-tier local authority areas, including Leicestershire, to restructure into unitary authorities. It is also proposing to create larger strategic authorities with mayors. The outcome of this process is uncertain, but it will clearly have implications for land-use planning and transport. It may also see Leicestershire disappear as a local authority.

In the County of Leicestershire, the seven District Councils are currently the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). They deal with most aspects of land-use planning. The County Council is the Local Highway Authority (LHA) and the Local Transport Authority (LTA) for its administrative area. As LHA, it is also a Statutory Consultee on planning applications; specifically with regard to road safety and access to the road network.

The City of Leicester, in the middle of the county, is a Unitary Authority and is both a Planning and Highway/Transport Authority.

Current issues

The main demand for greenfield land comes from housing, logistics and solar farms.

The previous government had long-standing proposals to deliver 300,000 homes per year nationally, although actual rates have been far lower than that for many years. In December, the government announced a new methodology for calculating housing need which nationally increases the desired level above that included in current Local Plans.

CPRE is one of many organisations that has criticised the methodology and argued that it will not solve the lack of houses which people can afford to buy or rent. Much blame has been directed at the planning system for low housing delivery, but in many areas, including Leicestershire, the shortfall is caused by slow buildout rates, not a lack of planning permissions.

Over the last decade or so, there has been a significant increase in the development of large-scale logistics warehouses in Leicestershire. Its central position in the country's strategic road network makes it convenient to serve many other areas. A large area in three counties has been designated as a Freeport around East Midlands Airport. There is little clarity regarding

what this might entail. There has also been a rapid growth in solar farms, with ever-larger sites being proposed.

Green Belt land, which has benefited from greater protection under the planning system, is now frequently mentioned as it comes under greater pressure for development. While there is no Green Belt land in Leicestershire, the county abuts Green Belt land in Nottinghamshire along the River Soar near Kegworth and in Warwickshire, along the A5.

In the 1980s, the Leicestershire Structure Plan introduced Green Wedges around Leicester to maintain some separation, but these do not have the same protection as Green Belt and they are gradually being eroded by development proposals and lost.

Current development proposals mean that there will soon be continuous development along the A6 from Great Glen to Hathern with a reasonable possibility this could extend to the airport and the River Trent. There is now a distinct possibility of a near continuous swathe of development extending from Great Glen to Fenny Drayton and the A5, near Nuneaton.

Planning Policy

National planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). There have been frequent revisions and the latest was in December 2024. It is a rather ambiguous document with conflicting statements and priorities.

The County, City and District produced a Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) in 2018 for the whole area, for the period up to 2050. A notable omission was any consideration of Climate Change. A key feature of the SGP was a 40km dual carriageway Expressway around the south and east of Leicester, from the M69 Junction 2 north-east of Hinckley, to the A46 at Thrussington. It was envisaged that much development would take place around this road with some more concentrated around East Midlands Airport. In 2021, the sub-national transport body, Midlands Connect, said there was no strategic case for an Expressway, but the SGP remains unchanged. The area around the airport has since been designated as a Freeport and this includes land in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

National Planning Policy sets targets for the delivery of new houses based on an assessment of need and these need to be included in Local Plans. If a local planning authority (LPA) cannot demonstrate it has granted planning permission to deliver sufficient housing over a five-year period, it opens the door for speculative applications outside the normal Local Plan process. The LPA is likely to find it difficult to refuse such applications and faces the prospect that many are likely to be granted approval on Appeal.

The initial stage of the Local Plan process is a 'call for sites' where land is offered up for development by landowners, or others with an interest in the land. The Planning Authority then must choose which sites it should include in the Local Plan. In effect, the 'planning' is driven by land interests and not by pragmatic analysis.

Leicester City Council considers that it cannot meet its housing need within its boundary. Current government policy requires local authorities to co-operate to resolve such matters and

each of the seven county districts has agreed to take a proportion of the housing demand which the City states it cannot meet. The proposed changes to local government would present different challenges.

Many people and organisations, including CPRE, recognise that housing targets do not deliver houses. The rate at which houses are built is largely determined by developers/ builders with an interest in maximising profit. A common claim from the government is that building more houses will make them more affordable, but that suggests prices will fall. In an open market, this would require an excess, which seems improbable and unlikely to find favour with existing owners. It is evident that only a strong commitment to delivering more social housing on a significant scale can produce truly affordable houses.

Many people are increasingly concerned about the lack of facilities and infrastructure to cope with the growth of development and the loss of so much greenfield land. An increasingly common ploy by developers is to argue that various things that sites were supposed to contribute to or provide cannot be delivered because the site is no longer viable. This puts even more strain on existing public facilities, which are already struggling to cope, for example hospitals, medical services, schools and transport.

Our recent involvement

Charnwood Local Plan

The formal Examination of Charnwood Local Plan started in June 2022 and the last public session was in February 2024. Two factors have significantly delayed the Examination and these are ongoing:

- Housing need assessment.
- Infrastructure funding and delivery, particularly in relation to the impact of travel and its mitigation.

At the time of writing, the Examination Inspectors have yet to submit their report.

An issue regarding housing provision was raised the day after the Examination opened. This concerned the provision of a relatively trivial addition of 78 homes per year, over a previously assessed need for 1111. This arose because of a change in the assessment methodology which the City Council said it could not accommodate.

Recent Borough Council Monitoring Reports showed that it was unable to demonstrate a 5-year supply of deliverable sites, despite having given outline planning permission for three very large housing developments at Loughborough (3200 dwellings in 2020), Thurmaston (4500 in 2016) and Rothley (1950 in 2020). Work on all of these has now started, but fewer than 400 have been completed to date. More large-scale development is underway in Shepshed on several sites and there is more in other locations. The Monitoring Reports recognised that the supply

was being impeded by slow progress on the buildout of sites. The Council continues to use the forecast low rates of completions provided by developers.

In July 2024, the current government issued a new draft housing need methodology. Just twenty-six authorities nationwide, including many cities like Leicester, had a cut in their housing need. Charnwood was one of very few other areas to receive a cut. In December 2024, a revised methodology cut the need still further. It is now evident that the delay to the Plan of several months was unnecessary.

With regard to transport, CPRE Leicestershire has expressed various concerns about the approach taken by the County Council. It has sought some contributions from developers to increase the capacity of the road network, but has done very little to encourage development to be designed and located in places where it would reduce the need to travel by car. It also has a desire to increase the capacity of the A6 and Epinal Way through Loughborough, which has been identified as a priority. It is evident that the schemes proposed have been poorly designed and that any additional capacity would have a very short lifetime. Works to alter M1 Junction 23 were completed in 2021, but these are now deemed inadequate.

It may be that these concerns led to the withdrawal of most transport elements of the Infrastructure Schedule immediately after the Examination started. These were replaced by a vague concept of three 'Transport Strategy' areas. There is still no clarity regarding the funding or delivery of these.

In mid-2024, the County Council consulted on a proposed methodology that the Borough Council could use to obtain funding from new developments for some transport proposals. This approach was subsequently withdrawn because the Borough Council decided to seek a formal Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is used by many authorities outside Leicester and Leicestershire. The process for this is expected to take at least 18 months.

A key requirement for the Examination of a Local Plan is to show that it is effective, viable and deliverable. The Examination Inspectors now must decide whether the Charnwood Local Plan can be approved with the proposed modifications or whether more fundamental changes are required.

Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)

A developer submitted a proposal for several large warehouses and a rail freight terminal to the north-east of Hinckley. The site lies between the M69 and the Leicester – Hinckley railway line. The development is of a type and scale that it is regarded as nationally significant. This means it goes through a Development Consent Order (DCO) process conducted by the government's Planning Inspectorate and the ultimate decision is made by the Secretary of State, in this case for transport. The DCO process is also used for developments like large solar farms. The process is intended to be short with most information being in the form of written submissions. There is little scope for discussion and it is unclear whether the Inspectors have the necessary competences to properly understand and evaluate some technical details, particularly related to transport issues.

Perhaps surprisingly, a rail freight terminal does not have to be served by trains from the outset or at all. It must only have the capability of being served by rail. The site has been promoted assuming that trains would bring some containers to the site from seaports such as Felixstowe, Southampton or Tilbury and there are already several other rail terminals in the vicinity (Kegworth, Crick, and Tamworth). There is a strong likelihood that a considerable amount of the incoming freight and almost all the outgoing freight and all other traffic would use the road network. It is unclear from where staff would be drawn, but the location of the site means that most employees would be most likely to travel to the site by car.

The proposal includes a new road link between M69 Junction 2 and the A47. The M69 junction would need to be modified by the addition of two south facing slip roads which could radically change traffic flows in the surrounding area. These slip roads were not built when the M69 opened, because of concerns about traffic using unsatisfactory roads, particularly those through Sapcote and Stoney Stanton. This concern is even more valid now, given congestion around Junction 21, Leicester and Hinckley. CPRE Leicestershire and Sapcote Parish Council produced a co-ordinated response with assistance from a consultant.

M69 Junction 2 is the location of the southern end of the SGP's Expressway proposal for a route around the south and east of Leicester. The prospect of a link between M69 Junction 2 and a potential new Junction 20a on the M1, has already generated proposals for major housing development adjacent to both junctions. This demonstrates the need to consider transport and land-use together, which is not a feature of the current planning system. The impact of adding the slip roads for the HNRFI development on roads such as the M1, M69 and A5 could have very serious consequences for the local and strategic road network. The local and national highway authorities have attempted to use traffic modelling to forecast future traffic patterns, but CPRE has many concerns regarding the processes used, the outcomes and the lack of transparency.

The Inspectors recommended that the DCO should be rejected for several reasons, including the impact of traffic through M1 Junction 21 / M69. In September 2024, the previous Secretary of State (Louise Haigh) indicated that she was 'minded to refuse' consent for the development, but invited further comments from the developer. These have now been submitted and further comments are now invited regarding these.

Leicester Local Plan

CPRE submitted extensive comments on the Plan during its development process. Major concerns included proposals to allocate land which had been identified as Green Wedges for development and the seeming lack of desire to encourage a form of development which showed any commitment to seeking to reduce the need to travel by car. A recent development at Ashton Green, south of Thurgate, has no bus service and no facilities apart from an existing primary school. Despite its location within the city boundary, it shows how car use and storage dominates the design. The Plan also proposed developing another large site north of the A46 bypass and adjacent to the Thurgate Conservation Area. Delivery of houses in that part of

Leicester has been extremely slow for several decades and the allocation of both sites at this stage is premature. CPRE considers that insufficient regard is being paid to making much better use of disused and underused land and properties within the city with the prospect of more requiring new uses.

At the Examination, the City Council said it considered that all the necessary infrastructure was in place for the developments and therefore the Plan did not need to demonstrate how it would secure the funding and delivery of additional infrastructure. The Inspectors appeared concerned about that approach. The need for an effective traffic and travel solution for development at Beaumont Leys was recognised over forty years ago with concerns about traffic using minor roads in Birstall and Anstey. Such concerns are now widespread, with extensive developments either already built, in progress or proposed that would significantly increase traffic, without appropriate solutions.

The Inspectors' report is awaited.

Other Local Plans

CPRE has made comments recently on plans for Hinckley, Northwest Leicestershire and Harborough which have yet to be finalised. These comments were made regarding the experience with the Leicester and Charnwood Local Plans.

All three authorities have also chosen to allocate sites in locations where there is little prospect of being able access or use existing facilities without access to a car. The County Council, as Local Transport Authority, has seemingly not discouraged this approach. It continues to maintain a belief that some impacts can be mitigated by seeking contributions from developers to slightly increase the capacity of a few junctions.

An ongoing problem with the Hinckley Plan relates to protracted discussions relating to contributions for such works for two long-standing development proposals and the seeming impossibility of dealing with traffic issues on the A5. It is evident that the County and District authorities have given virtually no consideration to the delivery and funding of measures that could reduce the traffic and travel generated from new and existing developments.

Following the decision by Charnwood Borough to go through the process of introducing a CIL, it seems likely that other Districts might follow that lead.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Registered Charity Number 1164985

Financial Statements

Year Ending 31st March 2024

**Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Receipts and Payments
Year Ending 31st March 2024**

	Year ending 31/3/24			Year ending 31/3/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
RECEIPTS						
Branch share of national income	6,118	-	6,118	5,150	-	5,150
Branch share of regional funds	5,245	-	5,245	-	-	-
Bank interest received	298	-	298	71	-	71
Donations received	25,734	-	25,734	12,700	-	12,700
	<u>37,395</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,395</u>	<u>17,921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,921</u>
PAYMENTS						
Subscriptions	440	-	440	190	-	190
Newsletter	-	-	-	511	-	511
Travel expenses	53	-	53	-	-	-
Room hire	-	-	-	30	-	30
Marketing and communications	-	-	-	54	-	54
AGMs	238	-	238	131	-	131
Office expenses	1,471	275	1,746	2,616	100	2,716
Insurance	335	-	335	322	-	322
Consultancy	7,616	-	7,616	8,256	882	9,138
Research	-	-	-	-	200	200
	<u>10,153</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>10,428</u>	<u>12,110</u>	<u>1,182</u>	<u>13,292</u>
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	27,242	(275)	26,967	5,811	(1,182)	4,629
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of previous year	42,871	8,106	50,977	37,060	9,288	46,348
Net assets at end of current year	70,113	7,831	77,944	42,871	8,106	50,977

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31st March 2024

	As at 31/3/24			As at 31/3/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at bank and in hand	70,113	7,831	77,944	42,871	8,106	50,977
LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>70,113</u>	<u>7,831</u>	<u>77,944</u>	<u>42,871</u>	<u>8,106</u>	<u>50,977</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ending 31 March 2024

1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, rather than an accruals basis, permissible given that the gross income of the charity is less than £250,000 for the year.

2. Assets and Liabilities

At the beginning and end of the financial year the Charity's only assets were its bank account balances. No liabilities existed at either date.

3. Restricted Funds

In financial year 20/21 the Charity received a grant of £10,000 from the Strategic Collaboration Fund of the CPRE. This is being used to fulfill three key objectives for CPRE Leicestershire:

- (1) To strengthen relationships with other, like-minded organisations, creating and building collaboration by means of shared working;
- (2) To create a Vision for CPRE Leicestershire; and
- (3) To revise the Charity's Strategic Plan.

The attainment of these objectives - and therefore the utilisation of the grant received - is expected to make progress during 2024/25, with all work related to the grant to be completed during 2025.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/03/2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1164985

Set out on pages

4-5

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03/ 2024**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

14-01-25

Name:

ANTHONY HUMPHREYS

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICAEW
(Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)
8710624

Address:

Rose Villa, 42 Glebe Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1JR

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) LEICESTERSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1164985

Accounts

CPRE Leicestershire Annual Report and Financial Review December 2022 to November 2023

Introduction

The main activities of CPRE Leicestershire are to promote and encourage the improvement and protection of the Leicestershire countryside for the benefit of everyone. These activities are achieved in part by monitoring and commenting on planning applications, many of which are brought to our attention by CPRE members, Parish Councils and the public. The Branch also advises on Neighbourhood Plans and responds to local and national Consultations.

Structure and Governance

CPRE Leicestershire is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is a financially independent charity related to the National CPRE charity, and is managed and run, on a voluntary basis, by a Committee of Trustees. Serving on a continuous basis for a maximum of six years, they are selected by the Committee subject to confirmation of their positions annually at the AGM.

Trustees

It will be all change for the Branch this year. The Branch Chair, Tony Stott, and the Branch Treasurer, Tony Simpson, have reached the end of their 6-year tenure of being a Trustee.

Tony Stott became active in the Branch in 2003, having been a member of CPRE since 1978. He now completes a second term as Chair and as a Trustee and feels it is time to “hand over the reins” of the role of Chair. He wishes to take a back seat on his volunteering involvement with the Branch and spend more time with his family and enjoying more holidays bird watching. He has been a pivotal presence for the Branch as he has a wealth of knowledge and has kept the Branch going over the years. He will be greatly missed in his role as Chair but will remain as a volunteer for the Branch and will oversee the formal launch of the Branch Vision.

In accordance with the requirements of the Branch Constitution, Tony Simpson, having served the maximum allowable term of 6 years as Trustee and Honorary Treasurer, is standing down from both roles. Tony joined the Branch in October 2015, became Charnwood District Treasurer in December of that year, and joined the Branch Committee as Trustee and Branch Treasurer in February 2017. Tony has provided an invaluable service to the Branch.

In May 2023 Helena Edwards decided to step down from her role as Trustee, and apart from being a Trustee she was also heavily involved with Charnwood District Group. It was noted from the Charnwood District Group Minute Book that Helena had been involved with that group as far back as 1997, so her total involvement with CPRE Leicestershire extended to at least 26 years. Helena was a keen member of the Branch, and her input and knowledge are really missed.

In August 2023 Caroline Pick, who was a previous Trustee, stepped down from her role as the Vision Project Manager. Caroline has been instrumental in getting the Vision “off the ground” and the Branch wishes her well in the future as she will now have more time to enjoy her garden and the Leicestershire countryside.

Following these changes, the Trustees are:

- John Marriott
- Rita Bullivant
- Rahoul Naik
- Martin Cooper (appointed March 2023).



In March 2023, the Branch welcomed Martin Cooper as the new Volunteer Coordinator Trustee. He brings expertise to support the growth and development of CPRE Leicestershire through his knowledge of volunteering. Jill Prior continues in her role as Committee Administrator.

The Branch continues to use the services of Gerald Kells, a consultant, whose knowledge and expertise is a huge bonus to the Branch when responding to consultations.

Branch Activities 2023

The Branch is as busy as ever and continues with the use of virtual Zoom meetings for all Branch meetings and similar activities.

Below is a brief overview of the main Branch activities since the last AGM.

Branch 2022/23 AGM	In January a virtual Branch AGM was held with 16 members attending.
Hedgerow Project	In January, the Branch learnt about the art of hedge laying at Mill Field Forest Garden in Thurmaston. This is one of the projects supported by CPRE's Hedgerows Heroes scheme, which the Branch supported.
Charnwood Local Plan Examination	<p>In February, hearings for the Local Plan Examination were resumed and the Branch submitted further evidence and attended hearings on housing and transport. The main areas of concern were related to the distribution of Leicester's unmet housing needs, the plan's vision, objectives and development strategy, Climate Change and the Natural Environment, housing numbers, needs and land supply as well as transport and infrastructure.</p> <p>In June it was noted that the Local Plan had not been approved as the Inspectors had requested some changes due to not being satisfied with the viability or the transport deliverables with further hearings expected.</p>
Leicester Local Plan	<p>At the end of February, the Branch submitted its response to the Leicester Local Plan consultation. The Branch concentrated on a limited but key set of what it saw as central issues. These revolved around the housing numbers as well as the lack of a coherent and joined up strategic approach to Climate Change across the Plan and its failure to recognise Climate Change as a key strategic priority. The Branch called for a Strategic Climate Change Policy to provide a central focus to this issue. Related to this was a failure to demonstrate the need for an effective and extensive sustainable transport network and a failure to provide a deliverable transport strategy in which the need to travel by car is reduced. There was a lack of links around the location of developments, planning, transport and Climate Change, especially carbon emissions which were a major concern.</p> <p>Although it is vague, the Plan refers to the Council's commitment to Leicester being net zero by 2030. It was unclear whether this was a hope or strategic level target, but in either case it was there with no appreciation of the scale of what needs to be done. There was no indication within the Plan on how much Leicester needed to do to reduce its annual per capita emissions per annum to achieve this 'monumental challenge' which needs to be achieved in less than 8 years.</p> <p>In May and August the Branch attended a virtual meeting with the Planning Policy Team at Leicester City Council to discuss the significant objections that the Branch had raised.</p>



<p>Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)</p>	<p>On the 12 June 2023 CPRE Leicestershire formally registered its interest in (and opposition to) this proposal made by Tritax. This was followed in October, prior to hearings late in that month, with the Branch submitting detailed objections and evidence regarding our concerns about Transport and Access, Environmental and Amenity Impacts and Need in conjunction with those of Sapcote Parish Council.</p> <p>The Branch has concerns about the potential increase in traffic and raised objections to the proposal, including that the need had not been properly established; the extent to which the rail network will be underutilised; direct and indirect traffic implications on local village roads as well as the M69 and M1; inability to demonstrate that the site would have good sustainable transport access; impact on walking and cycling provision; impact on landscape and biodiversity not being adequately addressed; loss of countryside; landscape impacts; loss of footpaths; access to open countryside; and increase in light and noise pollution.</p>
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During the past year, the Branch has also been involved with other issues, including:-

- Logistics at Watermead Business Park.
- Mountsorrel quarry expansion.
- Charnwood Forest anaerobic digester.
- Thrusington’s habitat loss.
- Solar Farm applications in Muston, Shepshed and Belvoir Castle.
- Cossington concerns on the Winston Churchill oak tree.

In addition, we have been increasing our social media presence, led by Rahoul Naik, one of our Trustees.

National CPRE

National CPRE have many campaigns underway including:-

- Dark Skies and Star Count
- State of the Green Belt 2023: A vision for the 21st century
- Hedge life Help Out project (in collaboration with The Tree Council) (May 2023)

Information on these campaigns can be found on the national website www.cpre.org.uk.

Various Trustees have attended a range of national/regional meetings including sessions of the Planning Campaign Group, Branch Chairs drop in chats with National CPRE Chair, the new CPRE Assembly and various other webinars and training events.

What 2024 and beyond will bring.....

Our key focus for 2024 will be launching the Vision in Spring 2024 to all members, interested parties, MP’s, Councillors and many more. Further information will be provided in 2024.

The Branch is actively looking for more Trustees and volunteers. If you feel you could offer some of your time, more information can be found on our website www.cpreleicestershire.org.uk.

Besides recruiting a new Chair, Trustees are especially needed to focus on the following areas :

- Planning.
- Fund Raising.

Finally, the Trustees of CPRE Leicestershire would like to wish all members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2024.



Financial Review: year ending 31st March 2023

The Branch's full Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023, including a detailed analysis of income and expenditure, are disclosed in a separate report, which (subject to the approval of the members) will be filed with the Charity Commission. The main points to note are as follows:

- The Charity recorded a surplus of £5,811 on its regular activities for the year, compared with a deficit of £834 in y/e 31/3/22. At the beginning of the financial year a deficit of £3,967 was forecast – hence the result was £9,778 better than anticipated. The main reasons for this variance are as follows:
 - No donations were forecast but £12,700 were actually received, including a single legacy of £12,500.
 - On the other hand, the Branch's share of national income was only £5,150 compared to a forecast of £6,100 - £950 lower than expected.
 - Most categories of expenditure showed a lower actual total than had been forecast, including Marketing & Communications (£1,000 forecast, only £54 actually spent) and Subscriptions (£190 spent against a forecast of £790).
 - Conversely, two items of expenditure were much higher than forecast – Consultancy (£8,256 spent against a forecast of £5,000) and Administration (forecast to be £1,500 but actually £2,616).
- In addition to its regular activities, the Charity also incurred costs of £1,182 in the year on the Leicestershire Vision. As all income relating to the Vision had been recognised in the previous financial year, this gave additional expenditure for the Charity as a whole of that amount, resulting in an overall result for the period of net income of £4,629, as can be seen in the Accounts. The remaining £8,079 to be spent on the Vision is expected to take place in financial year 23/24.
- The assets of the Charity at 31/3/23 amounted to £50,977, compared with £46,348 at the end of the previous year. This total comprised bank balances as follows:

	As at 31/3/23	As at 31/3/22
Business account	18,875	4,093
Savings account	32,102	42,031
Charnwood District account	-	224
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	50,977	46,348
	<hr/>	<hr/>

- The Charity had no amounts either receivable or payable at 31/3/23.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Registered Charity Number 1164985

Financial Statements

Year Ending 31st March 2023

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Receipts and Payments
Year Ending 31st March 2023

	Year ending 31/3/23			Year ending 31/3/22		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
RECEIPTS						
Branch share of national income	5,150	-	5,150	6,056	-	6,056
Grant received	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest received	71	-	71	4	-	4
Donations received	12,700	-	12,700	380	-	380
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>17,921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,921</u>	<u>6,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,440</u>
PAYMENTS						
Subscriptions	190	-	190	745	-	745
Newsletter	511	-	511	56	-	56
Room hire	30	-	30	-	-	-
Marketing and communications	54	-	54	-	-	-
AGMs	131	-	131	97	-	97
Office expenses	2,616	100	2,716	1,304	-	1,304
Insurance	322	-	322	302	-	302
Consultancy	8,256	882	9,138	4,770	1,321	6,091
Research	-	200	200	-	2,505	2,505
	<u>12,110</u>	<u>1,182</u>	<u>13,292</u>	<u>7,274</u>	<u>3,826</u>	<u>11,100</u>
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	5,811	(1,182)	4,629	(834)	(3,826)	(4,660)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of previous year	37,060	9,288	46,348	37,894	13,114	51,008
Net assets at end of current year	42,871	8,106	50,977	37,060	9,288	46,348

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31st March 2023

	As at 31/3/23			As at 31/3/22		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at bank and in hand	42,871	8,106	50,977	37,060	9,288	46,348
LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>42,871</u>	<u>8,106</u>	<u>50,977</u>	<u>37,060</u>	<u>9,288</u>	<u>46,348</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ending 31 March 2023

1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, rather than an accruals basis, permissible given that the gross income of the charity is less than £250,000 for the year.

As the gross income for the year is less than £25,000, an audit or independent examination was not required and has not been carried out for this financial year.

2. Assets and Liabilities

At the beginning and end of the financial year the Charity's only assets were its bank account balances. No liabilities existed at either date.

3. Restricted Funds

In financial year 20/21 the Charity received a grant of £10,000 from the Strategic Collaboration Fund of the CPRE. This is being used to fulfill three key objectives for CPRE Leicestershire:

- (1) To strengthen relationships with other, like-minded organisations, creating and building collaboration by means of shared working;
- (2) To create a Vision for CPRE Leicestershire; and
- (3) To revise the Charity's Strategic Plan.

The attainment of these objectives - and therefore the utilisation of the grant received - is expected to be completed in financial year 23/24.

THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) LEICESTERSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1164985

Accounts



CPRE Leicestershire Annual Report and Financial Review December 2021 to November 2022

Introduction

The main activities of CPRE Leicestershire are to promote and encourage the improvement and protection of the Leicestershire countryside for the benefit of everyone. These activities are achieved in part by monitoring and commenting on planning applications, many of which are brought to our attention by CPRE members, Parish Councils and the public. The Branch also advises on Neighbourhood Plans and responds to local and national Consultations.

Structure and Governance

CPRE Leicestershire is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is a financially independent charity related to the National CPRE charity, and is managed and run, on a voluntary basis, by a Committee of Trustees. Serving on a continuous basis for a maximum of six years, they are selected by the Committee subject to confirmation of their positions annually at the AGM.

Trustees

The Branch was saddened to report on Monday 25th July 2022 that Rick Hoyland, one of CPRE Leicestershire's Trustees and Chair of our Charnwood District CPRE group, passed away suddenly. A retired architect with a master's degree in Building Conservation, Rick's career embraced work on public housing, shopping developments and hospitality projects as well as the restoration of period buildings. He joined CPRE in 2010, through an appeal for help from the CPRE Charnwood Chair for advice on a planning matter in Quorn and he soon became a key player on the Committee. Rick had a particular concern over the accelerating loss of countryside to accommodate new building whilst brownfield options remained undeveloped and also in promoting good design in developments.

His expert knowledge on planning and design issues, his ability to put together clear and precise responses to planning applications and consultations, as well as his commitment and wit at Committee meetings, will be long remembered. Rick will be greatly missed by all the Trustees and Charnwood District group members.

The Trustees are:

- Tony Stott, Trustee; Branch Chairman.
- Tony Simpson, Trustee; Treasurer.
- John Marriott, Trustee.
- Helena Edwards, Trustee.
- Rita Bullivant, Trustee.
- Rahoul Naik, Trustee (appointed July 2022).

In July 2022, the Branch welcomed Rahoul Naik as a new Trustee. He brings expertise to support the growth and development of CPRE Leicestershire through marketing medias. Jill Prior continues in her role as Branch Committee Administrator.

The Branch is also pleased to report that a volunteer Photographer was recruited in January 2022.

Branch Activities 2022

The Branch continues to be as busy as ever and continues with the use of virtual Zoom meetings for all Branch meetings and similar activities.



Below is a brief overview of the Branch activities:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| December 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual meeting held with Jane Hunt, MP to discuss concerns on the loss of agricultural land.• Attendance at the Environment Liaison Group to discuss the M1 Leicester Western Access Scheme organised by National Highways. |
| January 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Branch AGM held with 16 members attending.• Draft Vision shared with a small number of interested parties for their comments. |
| February 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual meeting with Councillor Phil King, Leader of Harborough District Council to discuss the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan. Also in attendance were Norman Proudfoot, Chief Executive, Liz Elliott, Deputy Chief Executive and David Atkinson, Director of Planning.• Virtual meeting with Councillor David Bill, Hinckley and Bosworth District Council to discuss the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan. |
| March 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response to the North West Leicestershire Local Plan (Reg 19) consultation.• Response to the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (Reg 19) consultation.• Draft Vision named “A Greener Alternative – Our Vision for the Future” was circulated. Work to finalise and evidence the Vision is still ongoing.• Attended a strategy workshop on “Working together to deliver nature recovery in Leicestershire and Rutland”. |
| April 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objection response sent on the consultation of the Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange.• Response to the Leicester Workplace Parking Levy consultation.• FOI sent and request granted for copies of minutes on the MAG (Members Advisory Group) for Leicestershire County Council in relation to Strategy Growth Plan discussions. |
| May 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work on submissions for the Charnwood Local Plan Examination. |
| June 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance at the hearing sessions for Charnwood Local Plan Examination. |
| July 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response to Net Zero Carbon Leicestershire 2045 Strategy and Action Plan.• Correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate objecting to the proposed development next to HMP Gartree Prison site and supporting Harborough District Council in its decision notice for refusing consent for the construction of a new category B prison. |
| September 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branch commissioned a report on the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Employment Needs Assessment (HENA). Received October 2022.• Work on further submissions to the Charnwood Local Plan Examination Inspectors re: HENA and Leicester Unmet Housing Needs.• Trustee / Volunteer Recruitment Plan finalised. |
| October 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance at the Charnwood Local Plan Matter 10 Housing Session. |
| November 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work continues on research into Leicester’s unmet Housing need and its impacts on Leicestershire districts, together with awaiting further information on the Strategic Growth Plan and on Reg 19 version of Leicester Local Plan. |

During the past year, the Branch has also been involved with other issues including:-

- Concerns about major developments in North West Leicestershire arising around the airport and in connection with the Freeport.
- Destruction of ancient hedgerows at Asfordby Hill and Odstone.
- Proposals for employment and housing development in Groby and Anstey.



The Branch continues to use the services of Gerald Kells, a consultant, whose knowledge and expertise is a huge bonus to the Branch when responding to consultations.

Charnwood District Group update

Charnwood District Group have been busy during the year raising concerns around Charnwood Borough Council being unable to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land as well as actively raising objections and concerns on planning applications as well as responding to public inquiries.

The Branch is saddened to report that a decision has recently been made to close the District Group. This decision was not taken lightly but with the sudden passing in July of this year of Rick Hoyland, and the decision of Joyce Noon, the Vice Chair, to ease back on her commitments it was agreed that it would not be feasible for the District Group to continue.

Joyce was elected District Group Secretary at an inaugural meeting in December 1992 at Beaumanor Hall and became Chair at the April 1995 AGM and remained as Chair until Rick took over the role in 2018. During many of those years the District Group would meet at Holly Hayes, the Leicestershire Environmental Centre at Birstall and Joyce undertook many roles including a branch trustee, membership secretary and planning campaigner until around 2016.

The Branch are indebted to all the work that Joyce Noon has undertaken tirelessly over the years around planning applications in the Charnwood area, and she has been a key figure in the Group. All the Trustees send her their heartfelt thanks for this work.

National CPRE

National CPRE have many campaigns underway including:-

- Fracking.
- Climate Emergency.
- Hedgerows.
- What Gets Built and Where.

Information on these campaigns can be found on the national website www.cpre.org.uk.

Various Trustees have attended a range of national/regional meetings including sessions of the Planning Campaign Group, Branch Chairs drop in chats with National CPRE Chair, the new CPRE Assembly and various other webinars and training events.

What 2023 and beyond will bring

Our key focus for 2023 will be finalising our Vision for the Leicester and Leicestershire countryside, with a proposed launch in Spring 2023. The Branch is actively looking for more Trustees and volunteers. If you feel you could offer some of your time more information can be found on our website www.cpreleicestershire.org.uk.

Trustees are especially needed to focus on the following areas :

- Planning;
- Volunteer recruitment;
- Fund Raising;
- Media.

Finally, the Trustees of CPRE Leicestershire would like to wish all members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2023.



Financial Review: year ending 31st March 2022

The Branch's full Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022, including a detailed analysis of income and expenditure, are disclosed in a separate report, which (subject to the approval of the members) will be filed with the Charity Commission. The main points to note are as follows:

- The Charity recorded a deficit of £834 on its regular activities for the year, compared with a deficit of £2,680 in y/e 31/3/21 and £3,504 in y/e 31/3/20. At the beginning of the financial year the deficit was forecast to be around £2,100, with the following contributing to the better-than-expected result:
 - £380 donations received that were not forecast;
 - Newsletter costs being only £56 compared with a forecast of £300;
 - Travel expenses of £250 forecast but not incurred;
 - AGM costs forecast at £200 but only £97 in the event;
 - Consultancy costs being £4,770 compared with a forecast of £5,000.
- In addition to its regular activities, the Charity also incurred costs of £3,826 in the year on the Leicestershire Vision. As all income relating to the Vision had been recognised in the previous financial year, this gave additional expenditure for the Charity as a whole of that amount, resulting in an overall result for the period of net expenditure of £4,660, as can be seen in the Accounts. The remaining £9,261 to be spent on the Vision is expected to take place in financial years 22/23 and 23/24.
- The assets of the Charity at 31/3/21 amounted to £46,348, compared with £51,008 at the end of the previous year. This total comprised bank balances as follows:

	As at 31/3/22	As at 31/3/21
Bank accounts:		
Business account	4,093	8,758
Savings account	42,031	42,026
Charnwood District account	224	224
	<hr/> 46,348 <hr/>	<hr/> 51,008 <hr/>

- The Charity had no amounts either receivable or payable at 31/3/22.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Registered Charity Number 1164985

Financial Statements

Year Ending 31st March 2022

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Receipts and Payments
Year Ending 31st March 2022

	Year ending 31/3/22			Year ending 31/3/21		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
RECEIPTS						
Branch share of national income	6,056	-	6,056	6,069	-	6,069
Grant received	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Bank interest received	4	-	4	54	-	54
Donations received	380	-	380	50	-	50
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>6,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,440</u>	<u>6,173</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>16,173</u>
PAYMENTS						
Subscriptions	745	-	745	649	-	649
Newsletter	56	-	56	302	-	302
Travel Expenses	-	-	-	19	-	19
Room hire	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing and communications	-	-	-	411	500	911
AGMs	97	-	97	223	-	223
Office expenses	1,304	-	1,304	2,259	-	2,259
Insurance	302	-	302	302	-	302
Consultancy	4,770	1,321	6,091	4,688	386	5,074
Research	-	2,505	2,505	-	-	-
	<u>7,274</u>	<u>3,826</u>	<u>11,100</u>	<u>8,853</u>	<u>886</u>	<u>9,739</u>
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(834)	(3,826)	(4,660)	(2,680)	9,114	6,434
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	(4,000)	4,000	-
Net assets at end of previous year	37,894	13,114	51,008	44,574	-	44,574
Net assets at end of current year	<u>37,060</u>	<u>9,288</u>	<u>46,348</u>	<u>37,894</u>	<u>13,114</u>	<u>51,008</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31st March 2022

	As at 31/3/22			As at 31/3/21		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at bank and in hand	37,060	9,288	46,348	37,894	13,114	51,008
LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>37,060</u>	<u>9,288</u>	<u>46,348</u>	<u>37,894</u>	<u>13,114</u>	<u>51,008</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ending 31 March 2022

1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, rather than an accruals basis, permissible given that the gross income of the charity is less than £250,000 for the year.

As the gross income for the year is less than £25,000, an audit or independent examination was not required and has not been carried out for this financial year.

2. Assets and Liabilities

At the beginning and end of the financial year the Charity's only assets were its bank account balances. No liabilities existed at either date.

3. Restricted Funds

In financial year 20/21 the Charity received a grant of £10,000 from the Strategic Collaboration Fund of the CPRE. This is being used to fulfill three key objectives for CPRE Leicestershire:

- (1) To strengthen relationships with other, like-minded organisations, creating and building collaboration by means of shared working;
- (2) To create a Vision for CPRE Leicestershire; and
- (3) To revise the Charity's Strategic Growth Plan.

The attainment of these objectives - and therefore the utilisation of the grant received - is expected to be completed in financial year 23/24.

THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) LEICESTERSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1164985

Accounts



CPRE Leicestershire Annual Report and Financial Review December 2020 to November 2021

Introduction

The main activities of CPRE Leicestershire are to promote and encourage the improvement and protection of the Leicestershire countryside for the benefit of everyone. These activities are achieved in part by monitoring and commenting on planning applications, many of which are brought to our attention by CPRE members, Parish Councils and the public. The Branch also advises on Neighbourhood Plans and responds to local and national Consultations. The Branch continues to be busy with work on its Vision for Leicester and Leicestershire and has also grown during the past year with the addition of 9 new volunteers.

Structure and Governance

CPRE Leicestershire is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is a financially independent charity related to the National CPRE charity, and is managed and run, on a voluntary basis, by a Committee of Trustees. Serving on a continuous basis for a maximum of six years, they are selected by the Committee subject to confirmation of their positions annually at the AGM. In Charnwood, there is a District Committee which focuses on local planning applications and consultations for the Borough.

Trustees

The Trustees are:

- Tony Stott, Trustee; Branch Chairman; East Midlands Regional Chair.
- Rick Hoyland, Trustee; Chair of Charnwood District Group.
- Tony Simpson, Trustee; Treasurer.
- John Marriott, Trustee.
- Helena Edwards, Trustee.
- Rita Bullivant, Trustee.

In April 2021 the Branch welcomed Rita Bullivant as a new Trustee and she is a timely and valuable addition to the team. Jill Prior continues in her role as Branch Committee Administrator.

Branch Activities 2020 to 2021

As the pandemic continued to impact the country, the Branch continues to be as busy as ever. Face to face Branch meetings are still suspended and all Branch activities have been carried out with the use of virtual Zoom meetings.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Late 2020 | • Award of a SCF bid to fund a Vision for Leicester and Leicestershire project. |
| Dec 2020 | • Creation of a Vision Management Group to oversee the Vision Project. |
| | • Creation of a Vision Research Group to undertake various areas of research for the Vision Project. |
| Dec 2020 | • Response submitted to Leicester Local Plan Consultation. |
| Jan 2021 | • Creation of a first draft Vision for Leicester and Leicestershire and shared with a small selection of like-minded Groups for their review and comments. |
| Feb 2021 | • Launch of Volunteer recruitment campaign attracting 16 responses. |
| Mar 2021 | • The CPRE Leicestershire new Branch website was launched:
https://www.cpre.org.uk/groups/leicestershire/ |
| | • Branch responds to Blaby Local Plan. |
| | • Branch responds to Melton Interim Transport Strategy Consultation. |



- May 2021 A virtual Induction / Debate meeting is held for all new Branch Volunteers:
- 1 new Trustee.
 - 1 PR Volunteer.
 - 1 Website / Social Media Volunteer.
 - 5 Researcher Volunteers.
 - 1 Branch Photographer Volunteer.
- Jun 2021 • Virtual meeting with Andrew Wood (National Office) who gave an informative talk on the West Yorkshire Vision.
- Aug 2021 • Response submitted to Charnwood Local Plan 2021/2037.
• Response submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.
- Sep 2021 • Response submitted to the Leicester Transport Plan.

The Branch has also been busy offering advice on some of the following planning applications:

- Belvoir Solar Farm Consultation.
- Discussions with a local member regarding the proposed development around Pennbury.
- 4 self-catering shepherds huts in Odstone.
- Glenfield development proposed at Western Golf Course.
- Proposed town by Belton, NW Leicestershire.
- Proposed development at Donington le Heath.

The Branch is also keeping a close view on the proposed Stoney Stanton housing development, Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange and East Midlands Freeport.

The Branch's other activities include regular contact with the following groups:

- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.
- Friends of the Earth (Leicester).
- Willoughby Waterleys Residents Association.
- Climate Action Leicester.
- Stoney Stanton Action Group.
- Leicester University.

Charnwood District Group update

Rick Hoyland and Joyce Noon remain as Chair and Vice Chair respectively with Tony Simpson as Treasurer. Our small team is stretched and we would welcome active helpers.

Since November 2020 Charnwood Borough Council has been unable to demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land and this reduced to 3.34 years in March 2021. The housing land supply shortfall is explained by a continuing failure to deliver projected completions on the Sustainable Urban Extension sites allocated within the Local Plan adjoining Leicester, Thurmaston and Birstall and at Garendon between Loughborough and Shepshed.

As a consequence, in accordance with the provisions of the NPPF, CBC are obliged to consider granting consent for speculative developments outside those allocated in the Local Plan where they can be shown to be 'sustainable.' However, a number of previously refused applications have been granted on appeal due to the land supply shortfall apparently taking precedence over sustainability objections.

Accordingly, whilst the District Committee continues to focus on challenging and questioning the detail of all significant Charnwood planning applications, it has paid particular regard to investigating the sustainability justification for developments outside the Local Plan.



On a sombre note the District Group were saddened to hear that Margaret Gamble had passed away in June 2021 at the age of 90. Margaret was the wife of the late Peter Gamble who was a past President of the Branch and had passed away in September 2020 at the age of 93. The District Group and Branch expressed their condolences to the Gamble family and thanked them for the generous donations to CPRE Leicestershire received from family and friends in remembrance of Mr and Mrs Gamble.

National CPRE

National CPRE have many campaigns underway including Climate Emergency; Hedgerows; What Gets Built and Where and Zero Waste. They also continue to work for positive changes to the planning system that are long overdue, with over 310,000 members signing a petition.

What 2022 and beyond will bring

Our key focus for 2022 will be on developing and delivery of our Vision for the Leicester and Leicestershire countryside, which hopefully will be launched in Spring 2022.

Finally, we look forward to ‘normality’ returning for 2022 and wish all members a safe and Happy Christmas.

Financial Review: year ending 31st March 2021

The Branch’s full Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021, including a detailed analysis of income and expenditure, are disclosed in a separate report, which (subject to the approval of the members) will be filed with the Charity Commission. The main points to note are as follows:

- The Charity recorded a deficit of £2,680 on its regular activities for the year, compared with a deficit of £3,504 in y/e 31/3/20 and £3,373 in y/e 31/3/19. This year’s deficit was expected – the budget for the year anticipated an overspend of £3,295 – with the better than forecast result mainly due to a £600 underspend on marketing and communication costs.
- In addition to its regular activities, the Charity also received £10,000 from the CPRE Strategic Collaboration Fund to create a Vision for the Branch. The Branch itself contributed £4,000 to the Fund, and all of the total is expected to be utilised by mid-2022, although only £886 had been spent by the end of the 20/21 financial year.
- The assets of the Charity at 31/3/21 amounted to £51,008, compared with £44,574 at the end of the previous year. This total comprised bank balances as follows:

	As at 31/3/21	As at 31/3/20
Bank accounts:		
Business Account	8,758	2,378
Savings Account	42,026	41,972
Charnwood District Account	224	224
	<hr/> 51,008 <hr/>	<hr/> 44,574 <hr/>

- The Charity had no amounts either receivable or payable at 31/3/21.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Registered Charity Number 1164985

Financial Statements

Year Ending 31st March 2021

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Receipts and Payments
Year Ending 31st March 2021

	Year ending 31/3/21			Year ending 31/3/20		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
RECEIPTS						
Branch share of national income	6,069	-	6,069	6,412	-	6,412
Grant received	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Bank interest received	54	-	54	147	-	147
Donations received	50	-	50	250	-	250
Other receipts	-	-	-	118	-	118
	<u>6,173</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>16,173</u>	<u>6,927</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,927</u>
PAYMENTS						
Subscriptions	649	-	649	799	-	799
Newsletter	302	-	302	302	-	302
Travel Expenses	19	-	19	278	-	278
Room hire	-	-	-	74	-	74
Marketing and communications	411	500	911	-	-	-
AGMs	223	-	223	75	-	75
Office expenses	2,259	-	2,259	2,979	-	2,979
Insurance	302	-	302	302	-	302
Consultancy	4,688	386	5,074	4,351	-	4,351
Other payments	-	-	-	1,271	-	1,271
	<u>8,853</u>	<u>886</u>	<u>9,739</u>	<u>10,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,431</u>
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(2,680)	9,114	6,434	(3,504)	-	(3,504)
Transfers between funds	(4,000)	4,000	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of previous year	44,574	-	44,574	48,078	-	48,078
Net assets at end of current year	<u>37,894</u>	<u>13,114</u>	<u>51,008</u>	<u>44,574</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,574</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31st March 2021

	As at 31/3/21			As at 31/3/20		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at bank and in hand	37,894	13,114	51,008	44,574	-	44,574
LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>37,894</u>	<u>13,114</u>	<u>51,008</u>	<u>44,574</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,574</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire Branch)

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ending 31 March 2021

1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, rather than an accruals basis, permissible given that the gross income of the charity is less than £250,000 for the year.

As the gross income for the year is less than £25,000, an audit or independent examination was not required and has not been carried out for this financial year.

2. Assets and Liabilities

At the beginning and end of the financial year the Charity's only assets were its bank account balances. No liabilities existed at either date.

3. Restricted Funds

The Charity received a grant of £10,000 in the financial year from the Strategic Collaboration Fund of the CPRE. This is being used to fulfill three key objectives for CPRE Leicestershire:

- (1) To strengthen relationships with other, like-minded organisations, creating and building collaboration by means of shared working;
- (2) To create a Vision for CPRE Leicestershire; and
- (3) To revise the Charity's Strategic Growth Plan.

The attainment of these objectives - and therefore the utilisation of the grant received - is expected to be completed in the next financial year.