

Charity registration number: 211974

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 13
Independent Examiner Report	14
Statement of Financial Activities	15
Balance Sheet	16
Notes to the Financial Statements	17 to 24

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees:	Mr R J Bowmer Mr P Bowyer Dr F Hogwood Mr J Hughes (appointed 18/11/23) Mr M D Madgwick Mr N Matthews Mr P Neil
Charity Registration Number	211974
Principal Office	Fairfield House 2 King's Road Sherborne Dorset DT9 4HU
Independent Examiner	Marcus Cridland B.A.(Hons) F.C.A. Scott Vevers Ltd. Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 65 East Street Bridport Dorset DT6 3LB
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc 10 South Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1BT

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Objectives

The objects of the Branch shall be to seek to improve, protect and preserve for the benefit of the public, the countryside and the market towns and rural villages of the County of Dorset. To meet this objective the charity seeks charitable donations and subscriptions from the public. The Charity is regulated by a constitution and is constituted as an un-incorporated association. It was founded in 1937.

Our Mission

As part of our Strategy 2023-26, Dorset CPRE is working tirelessly with all our members, the communities, councils and other stakeholders, to ensure effective stewardship of our precious natural assets, for work and for leisure, and will strive to make Dorset a better place for its people and its environment. Our website has become a repository of the work undertaken by the Charity where members and communities can discover what may interest them and the wider implications for Dorset as a whole.

Branch Trustees

The following officers of the charity held office at 31st August 2024:

Mr. Neil Matthews	Chair of Trustees
Mr. Jez Hughes	Vice-Chair of Trustees Appointed 18 th November 2023
Mr. Bob Bowmer	Hon. Treasurer
Mr. Peter Bowyer	
Dr Frances Hogwood	
Mr. Mike Madgwick	
Mr. Peter Neil	

The Trustees are drawn from interested members who can contribute their knowledge and expertise to carrying out the various activities of the Charity. Trustees are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting held in November. We have Trustees covering all our Group areas in Dorset. The Chair of Trustees is elected at the first Trustees Meeting, held in December, following the AGM. The Trustees are the decision-making body for Dorset CPRE.

Organisation

The Charity is an autonomous branch of the CPRE – Campaign to Protect Rural England. The organisational structure has up to seven Trustees dealing with the finances, administration, and our responsibilities to the Charity Commission and National CPRE. In the Countryside Forum, countryside specialists and invited experts focus on specific problems and priorities. We host monthly online Planning Group meetings focusing mainly on the Local Plans, consultations and related planning matters. The popularity of virtual meetings has enabled volunteers to join in National CPRE, CPRE South West, CPRE Assembly, external meetings and training courses without the need to travel. Our local District Groups also host in person and online committee meetings using Zoom where possible.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

Kate Adie was announced as our new President at our 18th November 2023 AGM. Since then, Kate has spoken at events and is a great ambassador for our charity. We thanked Edward Fox for being President of Dorset CPRE for the past 10 years and Guy Dickinson for his role as Trustee over the past seven years, having stayed on an extra year, and remaining active as Chair of the West Dorset Group.

The Secretary, Linda Williams, runs the office and is recruited by the Branch Trustees on a self-employed basis. The Planning Advisor, Heidi Poole, works on a self-employed basis, supporting our local District Groups by monitoring planning applications and coordinating our submissions on land-use planning issues including consultations on local plans and related strategies.

Grants were provided for the following main projects:

Dorset CPRE:

Fingerpost Grants	£3,350.00
Barbara Vance Countryside Prize – Wildlife related projects	£ 486.55
Sponsor Dorset Hedgelaying competition	£ 250.00
The Great Big Dorset Hedge (Dorset CAN project)	£6,000.00
Pimperne PC – 1/3 of SoS Call-in appeal costs	£1,040.25

North Dorset CPRE

Barbara Vance Countryside Prize – School Award's Scheme	£ 130.00
Part funding appeal against Wyatt Homes planning application at Blandford/Pimperne	£ 666.00

Sherborne and District Society CPRE

Sherborne Primary School Christmas Appeal	£ 300.00
Charlton Horethorne Planning Application consultancy fee	£ 780.00
Garden Vouchers presented to local resident for gardening work in The Wilderness	£ 100.00

Total	£13,102.80
--------------	-------------------

Dorset CPRE will consider giving money to causes as well as campaigns that meet our charitable objectives.

Finances

The branch finances remain healthy. The Charity receives from National CPRE a percentage of the subscription income paid by members who are registered as Dorset members. The investment income is performing relatively well in comparison to 2022/23. It is hoped there will continue to be better returns on our investments over the next two years. The current investment strategy is for a balanced outcome with an emphasis on income in future years. Currently any income generated by the Canaccord Genuity portfolio is reinvested within the portfolio.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

James Knowles, Investment Director and Head of Fixed Interest at Canaccord Genuity Wealth, met with Trustees on 5th June 2024. He continues as our adviser regarding this investment and there has been no change to the current underlying strategy namely to continue with a balanced portfolio managed for future income and growth. There is an environmental focus on the investments and growth will come as companies transition to green energy. Annual fixed income return is likely to be 5% over the next 3 years. Trustees will keep this under review as part of an action to explore ideas for increasing income taking into account the fees charged by the fund manager.

The Reserves and Investment policies were discussed at the 23rd February 2024 Trustees Meeting. The Investment Policy was updated in March 2024 to reduce the total for unvested funds and delete the reference to using investment professionals to advise on our investments. The Treasurer will recommend investments with investment managers or UK regulated financial institutions, with such recommendations agreed and recorded by the Trustees in committee. It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted reserves, sufficient to cover 2.5 years of the average 5-year budgeted deficit. Dorset CPRE's policy is that the Barclays current account will accommodate these reserves, and the remainder will be invested according to the branch investment policy.

Governance

The current Constitution, last updated in 2014, is being reviewed with the aim to increase the number of Trustees, include the role of Vice-Presidents which is missing from the current version, and update the list of Committees and Groups.

The Dorset CPRE Policies are recorded in a single file making it easy to share with new Trustees and anyone who would like to receive a copy. A table has been added to record the addition of new policies, amendments and updates. The policies are reviewed annually in February.

We encourage our volunteers to take up free online training organised and promoted by National CPRE to provide helpful skills and knowledge. This included governance webinars, inductions, best practice for website content, media training, creating video content for social media, and how to influence planning decisions. National CPRE also hosts online networking groups, campaign groups meetings and topic forums.

Review of Activities and Future Development

The statement of financial activities for the year and the balance sheet are set out on the attached pages.

Our Strategy 2023-26 for Dorset's Towns, Villages and Countryside

The Trustees and Countryside Forum members review the Strategy annually in September as part of a health check and desire for it to be a living document.

The Strategy guides the Branch as we address issues including planning, landscape, rural economy and farming, campaigns and projects, membership, organisation, influencing Opinion Leaders and Dorset Decision Makers, and climate change and nature emergency.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

Planning

We continue to host monthly online Planning Group Meetings to discuss the Local Plans and consultations. Members have joined in to contribute, ask questions, observe and receive regular planning news updates. This is enabling more volunteers to come forward and make a valuable contribution. This has been another busy year, we responding to local and national consultations including:

Draft revisions to the planning system

On 30th July, the new government launched a consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) aimed at delivering economic growth and 1.5 million new homes by the end of their tenure. The draft revisions to the NPPF include a mix of proposals that either accept or reverse changes made to the December 2023 version of the framework and then introduce new policies.

We submitted a response to the open consultation and also contributed to the National CPRE One CPRE response.

From renewables to housing, the new government is pushing for change, and the NPPF is at the heart of it. While we support more housing and clean energy to tackle the climate emergency, the detail is important.

Our response addresses key issues, including:

- We want an assessment of local housing need which is realistically based on demographic data and on communities' aspirations and needs, for example for affordable homes.
- We want draft Local Plans which are based on such realistic assessments. We do not want the hugely excessive housing targets for Dorset Council and BCP areas proposed by the government and based on a flawed, misguided affordability-based Standard Method.
- The need for a mix of genuinely affordable housing tenures, including social rent housing.
- Strong protections to be maintained for the Green Belt for people and nature and to rethink the proposed reclassification of areas of Green Belt as 'grey belt'.
- The brownfield first approach to development needs to be strengthened to ensure that previously developed land is not passed over in favour of more easily developed greenfield sites.

BCP Council consulted on the draft BCP Local Plan which closed on 3rd May

Our Planning Group worked hard on drafting the response to the Regulation 19 consultation. This consultation is on the version of the plan that BCP Council submitted to the Secretary of State, for examination, at the end of June.

We commented on BCP policies and strategies covering: Natural Environment, Climate Change, Broad locations of development, Town Centres, Sustainable Construction, Nutrients Poole Harbour, Housing Delivery, Affordable Housing, Brownfield Sites, Employment supply, Transport and Viability Assessment.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

Strengthening Planning Policy for Brownfield Development – 26th March 2024

We focused our response on the proposals contained within Section 2 – Giving significant weight to the benefits of delivering homes on Brownfield land. Ensuring that local housing need is met firstly through the re-development of previously developed sites before considering the development of Greenfields. This is a subject close to our heart. As a broad principle we support a Brownfield first, Greenfield last approach to development and strongly believe that wherever possible it is better to re-purpose already developed urban land and buildings to meet the country's housing needs than to build on green fields. Whilst it is important that development on those Brownfield sites that are suitable is optimised, this should not on any account be at the expense of creating 'beautiful, thoughtfully laid out, developments, that are carbon neutral and most importantly that people want to live in.

Our opportunity to make rooftop solar mandatory for new builds - 12th March 2024

In December 2023, the previous government launched a new consultation on building standards and is considering making rooftop solar panels a basic expectation for most new buildings including all new houses.

Dorset CPRE's primary remit is to protect and enhance the countryside, but we fully support net zero. We have been actively promoting rooftop solar for some years to fight climate change, particularly as there has been over-reliance on building solar farms to meet solar energy targets. Making rooftop solar mandatory for new builds would be **a huge win for our rooftop solar campaign** and would help cut carbon emissions and energy bills whilst protecting space for nature and farming. We also contributed to the National CPRE response.

Local Transport Plan 4 survey - 2nd March 2024

Dorset Council and BCP Council are working together on a new joint Local Transport Plan (LTP4). Since the last Local Transport Plan (LTP3) was produced in 2011 a lot has changed. This is an opportunity for the councils to update plans to ensure that Dorset's transport system meets the expectations of everyone, and to identify the most important issues to prioritise future investment.

The five key areas we would suggest for prioritisation in LTP4 are:

- The importance of maintaining access to public transport for all communities, reversing the declining provision of bus services particularly in rural areas
- That long term impact on transport should be integrated into all other aspects of Council responsibilities e.g. planning and education
- The opportunity to support the provision of new, innovative approaches to car transport, including taxis and better use of private cars
- The promotion of active travel, including the maintenance of highways, cycle paths, pavements and footpaths
- Initiatives that reduce carbon emissions and promotion of low-carbon modes of transport

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

Street Vote Development Orders - 2nd February 2024

Whilst we welcome the opportunity that Street Vote Development Orders provide for local communities to take a pro-active role in facilitating development in their neighbourhoods, we are concerned that the system is open to being gamed by property speculators. We strongly believe that Local Planning Authorities are best placed to make decisions on development proposals in their area and are strongly opposed to the further centralisation of town planning as proposed in Street Vote Development Orders.

We notified all those on our e-newsletter list about these consultations and included a summary of our views. Our responses to consultations are posted on the Dorset CPRE website. A big thank you to all our hard-working volunteers for contributing their input to the Dorset CPRE responses.

Landscape

Dorset has a distinctive rural character that we need to nurture for future generations to allow everyone to enjoy the countryside for its health and wellbeing benefits. We wish to see planning and development which deliver the right houses in the right places, through Local Plans which are appropriate to their areas and communities.

Dorset CPRE maintains that excessive local housing targets are wrong, since they lead to planners being compelled to allocate sites for market housing on precious Green Belt land. The Government is setting totally exaggerated and unrealistic Housing Targets for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) and Dorset Councils. A new formula announced on 30th July would require an additional 93,000 homes in BCP and Dorset over 15 years. The build rate in Dorset would need at least to double, as the Government seeks to shift house building from big cities. The proposed target won't achieve key goals. It would neither bring down house prices nor address the shortfall of truly affordable housing and lack of social or low-rent housing.

We continue to promote the Great Big Dorset Hedge (GBDH) survey - a Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) campaign to map, plant and rejuvenate sections of hedgerows across Dorset. CPRE volunteers also help with hedgerow surveys as part of the GBDH initiative and meet the landowner where possible. In December 2023 Dorset CPRE agreed a £6,000 funding request for the GBDH project to sustain the momentum as they manage further growth and in recognition of the ambition and potential of the project. There are 76 farmers participating in the project currently. Kate Adie and Neil Matthews met with John Calder, GBDH Project Manager, in January to undertake a short survey and learn about the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) scheme that can give farmers access to capital grants to improve their hedges.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

Climate Change and Nature Emergency

Dorset CPRE's primary remit is to protect and enhance the countryside, but we fully support net zero. We have been actively promoting solar rooftop energy for some years to fight climate change, particularly as there has been over-reliance on building solar farms to meet solar energy targets. Some solar farms cause harm to protected landscapes, such as National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), heritage assets such as historic churches, and are being built on the best agricultural land which is inappropriate at a time of rocketing food prices. However, we are well aware that more solar farms will be needed to combat net zero and we support particularly small community funded ones, such as the Dottery Solar Array near Bridport. As mentioned earlier in this report, it is hoped that future building standards will make rooftop solar panels a basic expectation for most new buildings including all new houses.

Nutrient Mitigation Credits

In Dorset, we are facing a serious issue. Poole Harbour is suffering from a major inflow of excess nutrients from farms bordering the various rivers in the catchment. The nutrient load is fuelling an algal bloom which is stifling life in the harbour. Although tidal, the harbour is very shallow so it is insufficiently cleansed by the action of the tides.

The sorry state of the harbour has drawn the attention of Natural England's Nutrient Mitigation Credit Scheme. Partnering with Dorset Wildlife Trust, NE are acquiring farmland which is then either rewilded, converted into a nature reserve or changed to a restorative farming model. The downside is, of course, that the money from Natural England is predicated on the sale of Nutrient Mitigation Credits to developers. They will use the credits to off-set the nutrients generated by new houses built within the Poole Harbour catchment.

Unfortunately, offsetting future housebuilding does nothing to improve the health of the rivers now. Poole Harbour remains clogged with a suffocating algal bloom. Neil Matthews wrote to Natural England and received a detailed if, unsatisfactory reply and we are considering how to respond to such schemes.

Campaigns and Projects

Please see separate updates on planning, Local Plans and hedgerows.

Examples of significant planning applications we have been campaigning against include:

Portland Waste Incinerator

A long running, campaign, the government recently approved the Portland Waste Incinerator. Dorset Council had refused the plan in March 2023, voicing concerns over its visual impact, pollution and lorries. Developers Powerfuel Portland appealed the council's decision. Dr Guy Dickinson, Chair of West Dorset CPRE, spoke against the application at the Public Inquiry on 14th December. The local action group, Stop Portland Waste Incinerator, have spoken with their legal team and decided there are enough grounds to challenge this decision and present a strong case in the High Court at a Judicial Review.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

490 homes in Blandford

The planning application was first approved in October 2023, however, this triggered a calling-in request to the Secretary of State (SoS) by the Cranborne Chase National Landscape (CCNL), previously known as the CCAONB, North Dorset CPRE and Pimperne Parish Council. This was made as the planning committee failed to deal with several matters of national importance, including the failure to uphold the recently remade Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan and support major development within an AONB without exceptional circumstances. The SoS called-in the application in April 2024 and work started on preparing for the public enquiry. Our North Dorset Group received notification on 24th July that the SoS had decided to cancel the call-in. As mentioned earlier, the issues we raised to the SoS were of national significance. There was nothing we could do about this latest decision and it was decided not to ask for a Judicial Review. Overall a sad day for local democracy.

BESS at Chickerell

The huge industrial development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of up to 400MW at Chickerell was approved by the Planning Committee on 29th July at County Hall, Dorchester. At that meeting, Rupert Hardy read out Dr Guy Dickinson's statement as he was recovering from recent spinal surgery and said "If safety cannot be absolutely assured (and it patently cannot), this BESS must NOT be built in this location. To do so would be utterly irresponsible."

The Sherborne and District Society are increasingly concerned at the state of several listed buildings in Sherborne and have taken measures to raise the profile of these. Dorset Council is putting together a Local Heritage List of buildings that are not listed but are of architectural significance. The Society nominated a number of buildings and were recently informed that the Rawson Hall and 27 Cheap Street will be included. The cluster of buildings at Sherborne railway station, including the footbridge, have been added to the heritage list.

Grants and Sponsorship

Dorset CPRE is now one of the sponsors of the annual Dorset Hedge Laying Competition held in September and organised by the Melplash Agricultural Society who are committed to keeping the traditional skill of hedge laying alive.

We continue to offer grants of up to £200 per request for Fingerpost repairs and this is advertised in the Dorset National Landscape Fingerpost Project webpage. As of August 2024, we have spent £21,187.50 on grants for 154 fingerposts, since the scheme was launched in 2017, with a further 4 that have been approved but not paid for.

In 2020 Dorset CPRE received a very generous legacy from Barbara Vance and explored specific projects that her legacy may in future be associated with. We attempted to launch a School Award's Scheme - the 'Barbara Vance Countryside Prize' for 6th Form students - in 19 secondary schools and colleges across the whole of Dorset, but without success.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

However, it was agreed in spring 2023 by North Dorset CPRE to follow up the initial interest shown by The Blandford School in the award scheme. Barbara Hurst and Jane Westbrook arranged a meeting with Mrs Heidi Muir, the Head of Geography, who also runs the school's "Climate Club". They told her about how the CPRE charity came into being and the ongoing campaign to protect our countryside for future generations. They further explained that we were looking to increase awareness of CPRE amongst a younger age group, and gain some insight into how they see the various issues that we highlight in our campaigns. The scheme was initiated some time into the autumn term and the winner, Izzy Antrobus, was chosen by the students themselves, and was a unanimous decision. Her fictional story relates to how climate change induced flooding affects nature. On 10th January 2024 Jane met with Heidi, to deliver the CPRE certificate and the prize money of £100. The winning entry is featured in our spring 2024 magazine. We are pleased that Heidi has agreed to run another award competition in autumn 2024.

In our 2022/23 Trustees' Report we mentioned that two of our Trustees, Frances Hogwood and Neil Matthews, visited schools to gauge their interest in working with Dorset CPRE. All schools were welcoming, most have an eco-school lead, with an opportunity to build relationships. Up to four secondary schools are interested in the new GCSE in Natural History – introduction date to be confirmed. Following the visit, Trustees agreed to set aside £2,500 for a 'Barbara Vance Countryside Prize', enough to fund a minimum of 10 schools, if they are all successful in receiving the maximum of £250, for wildlife related projects with evidence of outdoor learning and introducing children to the countryside/rural life. This year, we paid grants to Damers First School in Dorchester for a Nature Information Board in the meadow next to the school and Charmouth Primary School to purchase plants and bug houses for their reinstated school pond area. An article on these two projects is featured in our autumn 2024 magazine.

Ahead of the centenary in 2026, National CPRE is prioritising youth involvement in shaping our work. We believe it's essential that young people feel empowered to take action on countryside issues like the climate emergency and that their voices are at the heart of our campaigns.

We are delighted that Roger Morgan-Grenville, Curlew Action Chair of Trustees, is our guest speaker for our 87th AGM on 16th November. Mary Colwell, the founder of Curlew Action, has spearheaded the campaign for a GCSE in Natural History since 2011, which was confirmed by the department of education in April 2022. We plan to invite Dorset Secondary Schools, we have visited, to our AGM to hear from Roger about his work on the Natural History GCSE campaign and future plans.

In July, Sir Christopher Coville, on behalf of the Sherborne & District Society group, presented an award and garden vouchers, to Sylvia Avgherinos, who lives in The Wilderness off St Swithin's Road in Sherborne, in recognition of her outstanding contribution made to the beauty of Sherborne, by finding the right balance between preserving the natural habitat and beautiful floral displays.

Rural Economy and Farming

Our farmers have had a rough deal since Brexit, with uncertainty, complexity and unwelcome initiatives encouraging sub-optimal use of land. We continue to argue for a holistic approach to internal food production as an essential ingredient of national resilience, whilst encouraging environmental projects where it makes sense to do so.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

On 26th March at the North Dorset Group AGM, George Hosford, ex-Chairman of Dorset NFU, gave a talk about the “Future of Farming in North Dorset” with a focus on regenerative farming and bi-cropping (growing two crops at the same time). Like most farmers, George is critical of the government’s slowness in producing a long-term strategy for farming, as well as the desire to both maintain high food standards but yet opening the floodgates to cheap foreign food grown with lower welfare standards. Most would say this is an impossible combination.

On 18th May, twenty five members had a tour of The Orchard, located north of Cattistock village, learning about the variety of apples grown and cider making. Very unusually the whole site, including the farmer’s family eco-house, is off-grid. Solar panels and firewood are important sources of energy. It was an opportunity for members to learn about the reality of trying to run a small fruit farm producing a low value crop and where the viability of the holding has been dependent on various forms of diversification – shepherd’s huts for holiday let within the orchard and a small farm shop with limited opening times.

In July we held our summer garden party. Our hosts on this occasion were Tom and Rosamond Sweet-Escott at Chettle House near Blandford. Tom spoke about the changes that they had made to the house, gardens and fields in order to create new habitats and help stem the decline in our biodiversity. Attendees explored the grounds which are being managed within a restorative farming environment.

Influencing

Councillors and MPs

We wrote to the majority of candidates in the Dorset Council May elections to introduce our organisation and highlight the key actions that will positively contribute towards providing new and improved homes, key infrastructure whilst protecting the natural environment. These include protecting the Green Belt, brownfield first policy, solar on rooftops and thriving communities. We wrote again to elected councillors to urge both them and their Party to support the above actions. Dorset Council, as the primary planning authority for Dorset outside of the conurbation, has such an important strategic role in deciding where new building will be located. And, of course, they are charged with developing the much-delayed Local Plan.

Leading up to the general election in July, we wrote to all 57 Candidates, in the 8 parliamentary constituencies covering the county of Dorset, to introduce our charity. The new government is faced with era-defining decisions on housing, environmental protections and energy supply. These will have big impacts on rural communities and our finite supply of land.

Now the challenge is to establish working relationships with the Liberal Democrats run Dorset Council, the coalition-led BCP Council and our MPs drawn from three different political parties. We will seek to ensure the Government and Councils are mindful of the importance of the long-term protection of our rural communities and countryside whilst also being true to the manifestoes on which they were elected.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

Planning Conference

With housing a major campaign issue for all political parties, not least the new Government, the Dorset CPRE online conference on the 20th June titled, 'Dorset's Affordable Housing Crisis?' was timely. The conference was instigated by Dorset CPRE's strong belief that housing delivered in Dorset should be focussed on meeting the county's true needs. Lord Richard Best, Crossbench Peer and Social Housing Leader, chaired the conference following an introduction by Dorset CPRE President, Kate Adie. Speakers included: Mike Allen (Dorset CPRE Planning Group), Dr Quintin Bradley (Senior Lecturer in Planning and Housing at Leeds Beckett University), Alison Ward (Director at Middlemarch Community Led Housing), Paul Derrien (Housing Enabling Team Leader at Dorset Council), Elizabeth Bundred-Woodward (CPRE Planning Policy Lead) and Brad Taylor (CPRE Rural Policy and Campaigns Officer).

Dorset CPRE's message was clear: communities need homes that people can afford to live in, particularly social rented housing. About ninety people attended the online conference, including many Parish, Town and Dorset Councillors, as well as a housebuilder, Civic Societies, Community Land Trusts, and members of Dorset CPRE. The presentations from key speakers and other resources continue to be available on our website.

Local Plans

As mentioned earlier, BCP Council submitted the Draft Local Plan for examination together with consultation responses on 27th of June. Two Inspectors have been appointed. A date for the hearing is yet to be set. A Dorset CPRE working group will be set up to help prepare for the hearing. Currently planning applications are being assessed against adopted Local Plans for the Bournemouth area, Christchurch area and Poole area.

The Dorset Council Local Plan will set the pattern of housing and other development for the next 20-30 years. It will shape our communities and play a vital role in the future of Dorset.

We look forward to joining with local communities, and with the Dorset Deserves Better Campaign, in a positive and constructive discussion with the Dorset Council about a Local Plan that provides a long-term, sustainable approach to the challenges and opportunities facing Dorset. Following the local elections in May 2024, we sent a joint letter to Cllr Shane Bartlett the new portfolio for Planning. We listed five key actions which we believe will support the wellbeing and prosperity of Dorset residents and the conservation and enhancement of our unique countryside and environment. No formal reply so far but are hopeful we can meet him at a future date. The Dorset Council Local Plan is in the process of being drafted and is anticipated to be adopted by Q2 2027. Currently planning applications are being assessed against adopted Local Plans for West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, Purbeck, North Dorset, East Dorset and Christchurch, Swanage.

Dorset CPRE will continue to seek to influence the thinking of DC and BCP Council on their Local Plans, and will monitor and respond to consultations on Local Plans and on proposed developments.

We are disappointed Dorset Council decided to formally approve the Purbeck Local Plan (LP) at their meeting on 18th July. Our Purbeck and Poole CPRE Group raised concerns with local councillors asking them to consider withdrawing the proposed LP. The Purbeck LP will eventually be superseded by the Dorset Council LP.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

Other related activities

In her role as Dorset CPRE's President, Kate Adie was the guest speaker at the annual Dorset Tourism Awards that took place in February in Weymouth. It was an opportunity to speak about Dorset's Countryside, our greatest asset. Dr Guy Dickinson, Chair of West Dorset CPRE, also represented our charity at the event.

We continue to participate in the Litter Free Dorset Forum meetings, and contributed to discussions on topics including Single Use Vape Campaigns and the Sustainable Business Award Scheme.

In January 2024 we received an email from Andrew Stevenson-Hamilton, owner of Child Okeford Village Shop, thanking us for the generous article that Rupert Hardy wrote about the shop in his article on the 'Cost Of Living Crisis Squeezes Village Shops' for our autumn 2023 magazine. The shop went on to being awarded the Countryside Alliance 2024 Best Village Shop / Post Office in the South West.

In April 2024 we launched our new website, created using WordPress. It now has a much more modern feel, is mobile friendly, and more closely represents the work being done by our volunteers across Dorset.

Members continue to be kept informed of our work through the well-received bi-annual magazine 'The Dorset Review' (a 24/28-page publication with illustrated articles on our various campaigns and other pieces on Dorset history and the countryside), social media, e-newsletters, events, website updates, monthly article in Blackmore Vale magazine, and press releases. We continue to send monthly e-newsletters to our members, Parish and Town Councils, Councillors, like minded organisations and those who signed up to receive our e-newsletter.


Membership

Total membership as at 31st August 2024 is 609, an 4% decrease on last year's membership which was 635. The total is based on the number of Households, Organisations and Parish/Town Council who pay a monthly or annual subscription.

Fifteen Dorset CPRE volunteers manned our stand over two days at the annual Stock Gaylard Oak Fair during the August Bank Holiday weekend. It was a successful event, and a good opportunity to meet members and recruit new ones. Fifty four people signed up to our e-newsletter mailing list. Lots of discussions were held on housing, rooftop solar, hedgerows and water pollution.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to members who have supported us through their volunteering efforts during this year, we are very grateful. We hope that the inspiring work carried out by our local groups and volunteers will encourage more to join us. We welcome new members, new trustees and more volunteers who can bring enthusiasm and new energy and help us to find positive solutions for the issues and threats facing our beautiful Dorset countryside and our communities. Working together for a better Dorset is our aim and we would like to thank all of you for making Dorset CPRE so successful and influential.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on16/11/24..... and signed on its behalf by:


Mr N Matthews
Chair of Trustees

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 15 to 24.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do 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.



Marcus Cridland B.A.(Hons) F.C.A.

Scott Vevers Ltd.

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

65 East Street

Bridport

Dorset

DT6 3LB

Date: 26 November 2024

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	21,551	21,551	29,209
Activities for generating funds	3	2,363	2,363	1,186
Investment income	4	24,164	24,164	15,254
Total Income		<u>48,078</u>	<u>48,078</u>	<u>45,649</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	5	(58,239)	(58,239)	(41,298)
Charitable activities	5	(12,853)	(12,853)	(14,021)
Total expenditure		<u>(71,092)</u>	<u>(71,092)</u>	<u>(55,319)</u>
Gains/losses on investment assets		<u>34,843</u>	<u>34,843</u>	<u>(5,186)</u>
Net movement in funds		11,829	11,829	(14,856)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		748,813	748,813	763,669
Total funds carried forward	11	<u>760,642</u>	<u>760,642</u>	<u>748,813</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 11.

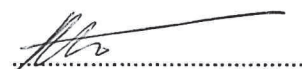
The notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

(Registration number: 211974)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	71	107
Investments	9	538,124	380,863
		<u>538,195</u>	<u>380,970</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		224,360	372,007
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(1,913)</u>	<u>(4,164)</u>
Net current assets		<u>222,447</u>	<u>367,843</u>
Net assets		<u>760,642</u>	<u>748,813</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted		<u>760,642</u>	<u>748,813</u>
Total funds	11	<u>760,642</u>	<u>748,813</u>

The financial statements on pages 15 to 24 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 16/11/24 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr N Matthews
Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis of preparation

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of the staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Support costs

Support cost include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets for charity use are capitalised at cost. They are stated in the accounts at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follow:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% straight line basis

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted General	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Appeals and donations	199	199	6,091
Legacies	-	-	2,000
Subscriptions	21,352	21,352	21,118
	<u>21,551</u>	<u>21,551</u>	<u>29,209</u>

3 Income from activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted General	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Events income;			
Fund raising activities	2,363	2,363	1,186
	<u>2,363</u>	<u>2,363</u>	<u>1,186</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted General	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Income from fixed asset investments	16,079	16,079	13,180
Bank interest	8,085	8,085	2,074
	<u>24,164</u>	<u>24,164</u>	<u>15,254</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

5 Total resources expended

	Charitable activities	Costs of generating funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Subcontract cost	-	41,308	41,308	24,858
Travelling	-	380	380	403
Insurance	-	451	451	1,156
Telephone and fax	-	201	201	195
Room hire	-	435	435	110
Printing, postage and stationery	-	3,470	3,470	3,008
Advertising	-	190	190	449
Branch news letter	-	4,004	4,004	4,497
Other expenses	-	404	404	575
Accountancy fees	-	1,895	1,895	1,297
Management charges	-	4,420	4,420	3,730
Bank charges	-	169	169	190
Depreciation	-	36	36	119
Professional fees and subscriptions	-	495	495	495
Computer software	-	381	381	216
Shows and functions	1,940	-	1,940	1,192
Campaigns	10,913	-	10,913	12,829
	<u>12,853</u>	<u>58,239</u>	<u>71,092</u>	<u>55,319</u>

Included in the above figure, £58,239 (2023: £41,298) relates to support costs, and £12,853 (2023: £14,021) relates to direct costs.

Accountancy fees are wholly in respect of an independent examination.

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mr R J Bowmer

£40 (2023: £nil) of expenses were reimbursed to Mr R J Bowmer during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other reimbursed expenses or other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
As at 1 September 2023	2,168	2,168
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
As at 31 August 2024	<u>2,168</u>	<u>2,168</u>
Depreciation		
As at 1 September 2023	2,061	2,061
Charge for the year	36	36
Eliminated on disposals	-	-
As at 31 August 2024	<u>2,097</u>	<u>2,097</u>
Net book value		
As at 31 August 2024	<u>71</u>	<u>71</u>
As at 31 August 2023	<u>107</u>	<u>107</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

9 Fixed asset investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Other investments	538,124	380,863
	<u>538,124</u>	<u>380,863</u>

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
As at 1 September 2023	192,529	188,334	380,863
Revaluation	16,120	18,723	34,843
Additions	85,000	42,499	127,499
Disposals	(5,081)	-	(5,081)
As at 31 August 2024	<u>288,568</u>	<u>249,556</u>	<u>538,124</u>
Net book value			
As at 31 August 2024	<u>288,568</u>	<u>249,556</u>	<u>538,124</u>
As at 31 August 2023	<u>192,529</u>	<u>188,334</u>	<u>380,863</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	610	2,800
Accruals	1,303	1,364
	<u>1,913</u>	<u>4,164</u>

11 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted					
General	(637,412)	(48,078)	71,092	-	(614,398)
Designated	(62,047)	-	-	-	(62,047)
Revaluation reserve	(49,354)	-	-	(34,843)	(84,197)
Total funds	<u>(748,813)</u>	<u>(48,078)</u>	<u>71,092</u>	<u>(34,843)</u>	<u>(760,642)</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural Enland Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General	Total funds at 31 August 2024
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	71	71
Fixed asset investments	538,124	538,124
Current assets	224,360	224,360
Current liabilities	(1,913)	(1,913)
Total net assets	760,642	760,642

	Unrestricted funds General	Total funds at 31 August 2023
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	107	107
Fixed asset investments	380,863	380,863
Current assets	372,007	372,007
Current liabilities	(4,164)	(4,164)
Total net assets	748,813	748,813

13 Financial instruments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Categorisation of financial instruments:		
Financial assets that are debt instrument measured at amortised cost	224,360	372,007
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	(1,913)	(4,164)