



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
OXFORDSHIRE

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## **CPRE Oxfordshire News Release**

**Date**

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### **Planning changes threaten 80 years' work for the countryside**

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has said it is appalled by the Government's proposed changes to the planning system which include a default 'yes' to development.

The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published yesterday and includes measures such as making councils allocate 20% more land for housing than is needed and potential weakening of the Green Belt Policy.

Helen Marshall, Director of CPRE Oxfordshire, said: "This shift towards development at all costs threatens to undermine everything CPRE has worked for in the county over the last 80 years. The language used is all about economic growth with no account taken of protecting the environment for future generations.

"The current system certainly has its flaws, but it can't just be made the scapegoat for all our economic problems."

CPRE Oxfordshire is now urging people to write to their local MP asking that any changes to the planning system take into account the needs of local people and the environment, not just developers.

People can also sign up for CPRE Oxfordshire campaign updates at [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Department of Communities and Local Government, Draft National Planning Policy Framework, 25 July 2011. <http://bit.ly/pNluxz>
2. CPRE Oxfordshire promotes the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural Oxfordshire by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. Established in 1931, the charity is this year celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are part of the national CPRE charity. For more information see: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)
3. CPRE fears that the proposed Framework would put pressure on the countryside from a growth in damaging development due to:
  - Loss of emphasis on brownfield regeneration - as a result of the removal of the national brownfield target [1] and the failure to promote efficient use of land
  - Over-allocation of land for new housing - the draft NPPF requires local councils to allocate at least 20% additional sites for housing over and above the existing five year supply [2]
  - Weakening of the 'town centre first' policy by removing office development from the sequential test [3]
  - Pressure for increased car use - by removing the requirement to set maximum parking standards for non-residential parking [4] in major development
  - Abolition of exceptions policy which allows small scale affordable housing to be built in rural settlements, which is likely to add to pressure for market housing and reduce the supply of affordable housing [5]
  - Weakening of controls over outdoor advertisements, including no mention of billboards being inappropriate in the countryside [6]
  - Changes to Green Belt policy which would allow local communities to support building which would previously have been restricted [7]

[1] Department of Communities and Local Government, Draft National Planning Policy Framework: Impact assessment, 25 July 2011, page 95. <http://bit.ly/rg13GX>

[2] See 1 page 30

[3] See 1 page 45

[4] See 3 page 39

[5] See 3 page 97

[6] See 1 page 34

[7] See 3 page 72

### **For Further Information**

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