

September 2020

working locally and nationally to
protect and enhance a beautiful,
thriving countryside for everyone to
value and enjoy

CPRE OXFORDSHIRE - TRUSTEE INFORMATION

CPRE fights for a better future for the countryside and our rural communities.

Campaigning is carried out by county-based branches, which aim to influence decision making on a range of environmental and land-use issues, such as housing, transport, footpaths and water.

About CPRE Oxfordshire

CPRE Oxfordshire was one of the earliest CPRE Branches, established in 1931. Although affiliated to national CPRE, it is an independent charity entirely dependent on local members and supporters for our income and volunteers.

Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East, with more than half of its residents living in small towns or villages. But the challenges are coming thick and fast. Growth targets to 2031 envisage 85,000 more jobs and 100,000 more houses - the equivalent of 2 new Oxfords- with inevitable environmental and social pressures. Beyond this, we have the challenge of the proposed new Oxford-Cambridge growth corridor, including a major new Expressway that would cut across the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, and potentially a doubling of Oxfordshire housing stock.

Our rural communities are therefore under threat from large-scale development but are nonetheless suffering from a lack of affordable housing, cuts to public transport and increasing pressure on local services and the environment.

CPRE fights for the right development in the right place.

At CPRE Oxfordshire:

- We monitor and respond to hundreds of local planning applications.
- We campaign to influence local and national policies.
- We give advice and support to parish councils and local campaign groups.
- We promote solutions such as re-using already developed land or increasing housing density.
- We take action to improve the countryside and help rural communities, such as creating and maintaining walks like the Oxford Green Belt Way and the D'Arcy Dalton Way.

Due to retirements of existing trustees, we now have some spaces becoming available on our Branch Executive Committee (our Trustee Board), to assist our staff and existing volunteers in the effective and sustainable running of the charity.

CPRE Oxfordshire - Becoming a Trustee

The activities and running of CPRE Oxfordshire is overseen by a trustee board - the Branch Executive Committee (BEC). This currently comprises a Chairman, two Vice Chairmen, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, three ordinary members and a number of District Chairmen. The BEC meets four times a year (normally on a Thursday evening, in Oxford Town Hall, but currently virtually) plus an AGM (normally a Saturday in June/July).

As well as proactive work protecting the countryside, which can be tailored to suit your own interests and skills, there are a range of more general trustee responsibilities:

- Contributing actively to the role of the Executive Committee in setting the strategic direction for the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- Helping to ensure that the charity complies with its constitution, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Safeguarding the good name and values of the charity.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the charity.
- Ensuring the financial stability of the charity and the proper investment of the charity's funds.
- Appointing staff and monitoring their performance.
- Being an advocate for the charity and taking part in events. We ask that all trustees are, or are willing to become, members of CPRE Oxfordshire.

In addition, trustees are invited to become Directors of the associated CPRE Oxfordshire limited company.

What we need from you:

You will be home-based, carrying out activities around your other commitments and attending occasional meetings (see above).

This is an excellent opportunity to play a senior role in a respected local environmental organisation, applying your skills and experience to make a real difference and being part of a friendly and passionate group.

To balance the skills of our current team, we are particularly looking for people with experience in law/ IT / human resources /fundraising /marketing and of course planning and environmental specialists are always welcome. However, we would be happy to hear from anyone who can offer a broad mix of general skills as outlined below.

All charity Trustees should have:

- a commitment to CPRE
- an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to their duties as a trustee

- strategic vision
- good, independent judgement
- an ability to think creatively
- a willingness to speak their mind and participate fully in meetings
- a strong interest in the countryside
- good computer literacy - the internet, e-mail and MS Word or equivalent

As a guide, we anticipate this voluntary role will take 2-3 hours per week, with attendance at four meetings per year. In accordance with our constitution, our Trustees have the option to serve for up to five years.

What's in it for you?

CPRE volunteers are motivated to help for a range of reasons, but normally they have a strong interest in protecting the rural way of life and enhancing the environment, as well as encouraging people to enjoy the countryside and all it has to offer.

Benefits include:

- A great opportunity to use your existing experience and to develop new skills
- Working with others to make a difference both locally and nationally
- The potential to meet and discuss issues with a wide range of like-minded people
- Opportunities to attend local and national CPRE activities, events and workshops

The role is voluntary although, with prior agreement, we will pay out-of-pocket expenses in line with our Volunteers Policy.

How to Apply

The application deadline is the **31 October 2020** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

To apply, please email a CV and covering letter to our Branch Secretary, Dorian Grier.

E: dorian.cpre@gmail.com

For an informal discussion about the role, please email Dorian as above or leave a message on our office phone T: 01491 612079 and she will be in touch.

For more general information about the work of CPRE Oxfordshire and other volunteering roles available, please contact the Branch Office on 01491 612079, E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk or visit our website: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

The English countryside is wonderful - help us look after it.