



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

July 2022

CPRE Oxfordshire
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CPRE Oxford District Chair – Role Description

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.

CPRE Oxfordshire (the county-wide Branch) is supported by District Committees reflecting the 5 local authority areas. We now have an exciting opportunity for a District Chair to lead our Oxford City group and help co-ordinate activities in this local area.

About this role

Whilst CPRE has both members and volunteers within the City area, we have been without a formal City-based district committee for a number of years. We are now keen to re-establish this group and are looking for a dynamic chairperson to help us achieve this. There are others willing to participate, but we need someone able to provide the necessary leadership to guide and co-ordinate activity.

In particular, CPRE Oxfordshire is looking to run a proactive campaign over the next couple of years to highlight the benefits of the Oxford Green Belt, the positive contribution it makes to the lives of City residents and why it should be protected. Given the diversity of the City's population, we are also keen to engage with younger residents and underrepresented communities to encourage their engagement with the surrounding countryside. Having a strong City-based group will be an important part of making this a success.

Activities involve:

- Organising and chairing District Committee meetings.
- Helping to build and maintain a strong local committee, with the right balance of people and skills to cover the geographical area and CPRE's activities
- Helping to work towards the right development in the right place, by enabling the group to monitor and respond as appropriate to planning applications in the area, keeping abreast of issues, and participating in any review of local planning policy.
- Maintaining good communications between the District and CPRE Oxfordshire branch as a whole including representing the District on our county-wide Branch Executive Committee. *
- Being an advocate for the charity – representing CPRE at meetings, liaising with other conservation and community groups and the local authority, and talking about our work to the public.
- Supporting the Branch's positive campaigning on issues such as Green Belt and hedgerows.



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- Supporting / inputting to the Branch's proactive work with diverse communities to increase access to and engagement with the countryside.

As well as a network of volunteers, there is a small but strong staff team based at a County level providing support to all our District Chairs.

*CPRE Oxfordshire has five District committees – the Chair of each of these has an ex officio position on the Branch Executive Committee and is therefore invited to become a trustee of the organisation – please see the separate role description.

What we need from you:

You will be home-based, carrying out activities around your other commitments and attending occasional meetings, normally within the City area, at our Branch Office in Watlington or via Zoom.

You will have the opportunity to play a key role in a respected local environmental organisation, applying your skills and experience to make a real difference and becoming part of a friendly and passionate group.

No particular knowledge or qualifications are required, as we are happy to provide training and support. However, you should be able to demonstrate some leadership and organisational experience (either in a paid or voluntary capacity), good 'people' skills, and an interest in/knowledge of environmental, countryside and/or planning issues. You will also need to be computer literate.

As a guide, we anticipate this voluntary role will take a few hours per week and attendance at approximately one meeting per month.

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 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.

To apply



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Please send a CV and covering letter to:

E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Deadline: Friday 30 September 2022

Further information

For an informal discussion about the role please contact our Branch Director Helen Marshall

E: director@cpreoxon.org.uk T: 01491 612079 / M: 07791 376365.

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

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