



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

Glington Parish Council
Mr John Hase
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Bend here to remove card

19 May 2016

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for being a CPRE member. By supporting our work, you make it possible for us to continue to campaign to protect our irreplaceable English countryside.

Now the time has come to welcome you to another year of CPRE membership - and your support is as vital as ever.

The countryside is increasingly under threat, as local authorities are pressured to meet unrealistic housing targets. There will be many battles ahead to save the countryside we love; with members like you by our side, we stand a much better chance of winning.

So it is with gratitude ! attach your new CPRE membership card for the coming year, which begins on 17/06/2016.

I would also like to remind you we are here to help you and your organisation. Whether you need campaigning support to protect your local countryside or guidance with developing an effective Neighbourhood Plan, our experts can help; in person where possible, and through our publications and reports, which are all benefits of your membership.

To renew your membership, simply take a moment to complete and return the enclosed renewal form. Allow me to explain why it is so important.

During the next 12 months, your continuing membership will help us tackle many pressing challenges, locally and nationally. I'd like to highlight just a couple of our current concerns.

This year the Government has been pushing various reforms to the planning system through parliament - many of them at breakneck speed and without the proper scrutiny they deserve. The National

Please turn over

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALSO BRINGS YOU

- Your membership magazine, *Countryside Voice*.
- Membership of your county branch.
- Free regular copies of our campaigning newsletter *Fieldwork*, on request.
- Help with your planning enquiries through our specialist website at www.planninghelp.org.uk and our Planning Hotline 020 7981 2868 (Thursday afternoons 1:30-3:30pm).

Please show your membership card to gain discounted entry to the properties and attractions listed in your free guide. *Discover your Countryside*, and when attending your local meetings or AGM. Discounted entry is not available to organisational members.

Telephone: 020 7981 2870
5 - 11 Lavington Street, London, SE1 0NZ
supporterservices@cpre.org.uk
www.cpre.org.uk

Discover your Countryside

Enjoy fascinating days out in England with discounted entry to over 200 houses, gardens and attractions such as the Aldershot Military Museum, Powderham Castle and the Spa Valley Railway in Kent.



Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introduced four years ago and intended to last a generation, is already being modified. And the Housing and Planning Act will see even more powers transferred to central Government.

The Government is right to want more houses built, but wrong to think that the best response to low building rates is to weaken the planning system. These latest proposals will see rules slanted even further in favour of developers, forcing the release of more countryside in the hope that they will build more quickly and on the scale required. We have responded in detail to the Government's consultation on the NPPF and will be working hard to influence the outcome, which we expect to be announced in June.

Ministers do not seem to understand that low building rates have little to do with the planning system or a shortage of land. According to recent analysis, the country's biggest housebuilders are sitting on enough plots of land for over 600,000 new homes: four times the total number of homes built in Britain in the past year. Planning permissions are up, developers' land banks are healthy, but the houses we need are still not being built.

We are calling for the Government to implement measures that will get the houses built we so desperately need, as well as protect the countryside. Given that developers will choose greenfield sites over brownfield when given the chance, we are pushing for a 'brownfield first' policy to be enshrined in the planning system. We also want to see an end to the setting of wildly unrealistic housing targets that are driving the release of so much greenfield land.

Renewing your membership now will help us accomplish this crucial work. To do so, simply complete the enclosed renewal form - or call our Supporter Services team on 020 7981 2870. You will also find a Direct Debit included on your form in case you prefer to spread your gift over time to make it more affordable.

Please let me say again how much your loyal support means to CPRE and how grateful to you we are for helping to make this vital work possible.

Together we have achieved many important victories for the countryside; you can see just a handful of these opposite. With your continuing support, I am confident we will achieve many more successes to protect the countryside we all value so much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Spiers'.

Shaun Spiers
Chief Executive

The Direct Debit Guarantee

This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits. If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit CPRE will notify you fourteen working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request CPRE to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request. If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by CPRE or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when CPRE asks you to. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

If you would prefer not to receive certain communications from us, please call our Supporter Services Team on **0800 163680** or email supporterservices@cpre.org.uk.