

SURREY VOICE

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DARK SKIES MATTER



The countryside charity
Surrey

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Citizen engagement and the Surrey Climate Commission



By Richard Essex



We launched the Surrey Climate Commission in June 2019 with the aim of establishing an independent and authoritative voice to help guide individuals and organisations towards achieving the necessary climate targets, in order to avoid runaway climate chaos.

The Commission has an unofficial mandate from Surrey County Council and has two representatives from the Council in its Core Group. We have the support of a wide range of organisations, including Surrey Chambers of Commerce and the University of Surrey as well as environmental groups such as WWF-UK, Surrey Wildlife Trust and CPRE Surrey.

Our aim is to guide people in two ways. Firstly, we want to foster engagement between various individuals and organisations so they can share ideas and best practice on tackling climate change. Secondly and, perhaps more importantly, we aim to create a pathway, which plots an ambitious but workable route by which we, as a county, can achieve our climate targets.

We feel this pathway relies on two important elements. Firstly, we realise this can only be based on firm evidence of where Surrey is now. With this in mind, we commissioned the University to undertake a Baseline Study. Interim results were presented at an event we held at the WWF Living Planet Centre in Woking in December.

Citizen engagement

Just as important, however, is to have 'citizen engagement' so as to get real buy-in from the public and to give the work of the Commission a type of 'social license'. The need for engagement has become ever-more evident following two recent Climate Forums we held in the county. Here we invited representatives from business, the public sector and civil society organisations. We were keen to find out what people felt were the real challenges, and barriers to be faced in tackling the climate emergency.

The one message that came out loud and clear above everything else was that they all wanted to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

This heartening response has been echoed all around the country. As a result, Parliament commissioned a citizen's assembly last year to consider how the UK can meet the Government's legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Results are being presented to select committees between January and March this year. We would want to build on this by inviting an assembly to help construct and support more ambitious outcomes than the current Government view.

Chris Shaw from Climate Outreach, and a facilitator at our Forums, says: "A broad and deep engagement with the issues will make it difficult for politicians to backtrack on the commitments they have made and strengthen support for the policies needed to deliver a safe climate for our children and grandchildren."

Reaching a consensus

One criticism sometimes made is that leaving decision-making to a citizen group weakens the ability to implement anything beyond the lowest common denominator. However, if the process is adjudicated properly this shouldn't be the case. In addition, it's important that such a group is given quality input and evidence in order to make better resolutions. In this regard we have now set up Working Groups of experts, focusing on particular sectors, to share best practice and create blueprints for the way forward.

Once quality suggestions can be presented, backed by evidence from the Baseline Study, we think this is an excellent time to introduce a 'Citizen Assembly' or 'Citizen Jury' to challenge and endorse a workable way forward. These assemblies and juries will follow a deliberative process, with key questions and challenges put to the audience and worked through via a series of engagements until a consensus is achieved. It's also vital that the jury or assembly is truly representative of Surrey's communities, and that there is a robust and independent process in place so that the group is run responsibly.

To conclude, a Surrey Citizen Assembly, along with evidence-based research and key expert input, will be a vital part of the mix to guide the work of the Climate Commission.

Richard Essex is Chair of the Surrey Climate Commission

THE HIDDEN REALITY OF AIRCRAFT NOISE

With plans for airport expansion at both Heathrow and Gatwick, and with the Government due to produce a new aviation strategy for the United Kingdom, CPRE groups in the south east of England have joined together to call on ministers to improve the way aircraft noise is monitored.

A major research project commissioned by CPRE through its Network Aviation Group (NAVg), representing CPRE groups across the south east, shows that noise pollution from aircraft is significantly underestimated in official figures, and the problem has not been adequately mapped.

The new study measures the impact of noise pollution at lower levels than those currently mapped in the UK. These low levels, which are already used for monitoring noise pollution in other European countries, are believed to be a better indicator of the true impact of noise pollution on the countryside and urban areas.

Published by CPRE as 'Flight Blight: The social and environmental cost of aviation expansion', the report uses Gatwick airport as an example and finds that applying appropriate standards increases the area impacted by aircraft noise fivefold.

If this European style modelling was applied to other airports it is expected it would show large increases in the areas affected by noise. Measuring noise at a lower level than currently mapped is a more accurate representation of the extent and severity of the noise pollution:

"We are becoming more sensitive to low level aircraft noise," says Kia Trainor, Director of CPRE Sussex. "For many people it is not just a minor annoyance: Noise has been linked to serious health issues such as cardiovascular disease, depression and anxiety and disturbed sleep".

"There are also other less quantifiable impacts such as fear – for example about climate change or safety – and the stress caused by the discovery that a formerly quiet location where you live is increasingly blighted by noise pollution".

Health impacts

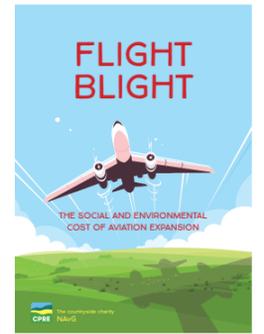
Neil Sinden, Director of CPRE London, agrees and believes that the impact of noise pollution is becoming increasingly important: "Much of the debate over aviation expansion has quite rightly focused on the climate change impacts. But the more immediate impacts of noise pollution with direct effects on human health are increasingly important."

Andy Smith, Director of CPRE Surrey, believes the Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN) should play a key role. "ICCAN should be given additional powers, to genuinely reduce levels of aircraft noise," he says. "The Government's forthcoming aviation strategy must fully address noise pollution as well as air quality and climate change."

The report makes four main recommendations:

1. The UK should monitor and report at lower noise threshold levels as this better reflects people's experience of aircraft noise.
2. Government should commission independent research into the impact of aviation noise on health.
3. The Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise should be given statutory powers so that communities' distrust of the aviation industry is reduced.
4. The Government should include aviation CO2 emissions within the net zero greenhouse gas emissions target and further aviation expansion should be ruled out on climate grounds.

The report can be downloaded from <http://www.cpresussex.org.uk/campaigns/gatwick/item/3069-flight-blight-the-social-and-environmental-costs-of-aviation-expansion>.



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FRONT COVER: Orion, pictured from Dorset by Bob Mizon.

New guide will help enhance AONB

Protecting and enhancing the rural character, safety and tranquillity of Surrey's villages and country lanes is the aim of a newly-published 'Environmental Design Guide' produced for the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Surrey Hills AONB is well-known for its network of winding, narrow, secluded lanes, often with high banks and hedgerows, connecting villages and hamlets. These lanes are often rich in history reflecting centuries of human use and still retain much of their traditional charm.

At a time of increased pressure on the rural road network, and with Surrey having a higher level of car ownership than any other county, the new design guide offers a series of principles to follow in order to protect the AONB and encourage a safer and more considerate approach to driving in the area.

One focus of the guide is to encourage through traffic and HGVs to keep to principal roads, to help protect country lanes which are not designed to cope with large volumes of traffic and HGVs.

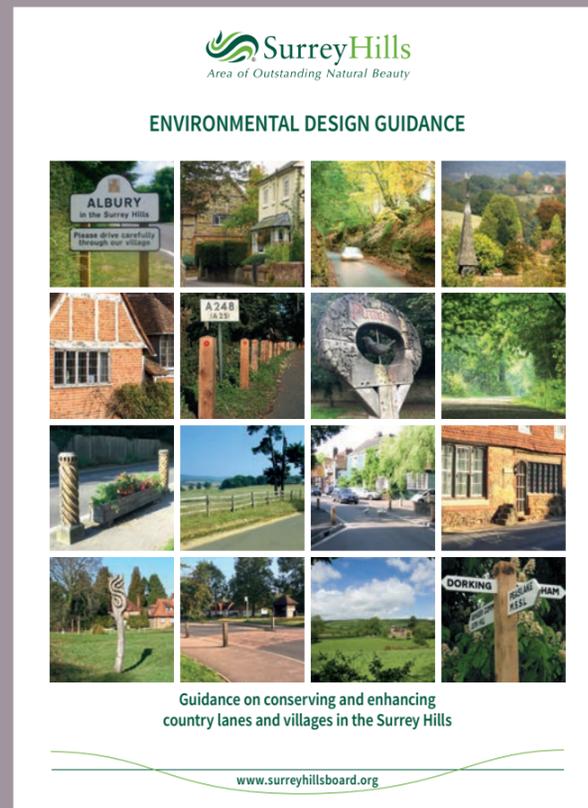
Not only is there guidance on installing new signs that promote the rural character of villages in the AONB but the guide also provides advice on 'de-cluttering' and gives examples of where existing unnecessary and unsightly signs could be removed.

Less is more

Liz Cutter, Vice-Chair of the Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC), explains: "De-cluttering is the process of removing unnecessary roadside and village signage clutter to help reinforce the rural character of the Surrey Hills."



Colin Davis, author of Streetscapes, Trevor Leggo, Chair of SALC and Liz Cutter at the launch of the Design Guide



"Research shows us that reducing unnecessary signing actually benefits road users who find it hard to distinguish those signs which provide crucial information from those which do not. Less signs actually help to discourage through traffic and HGV movements from our country lanes."

Rob Fairbanks, Surrey Hills AONB Director, adds: "Being so close to London means there are significant development pressures on the Surrey Hills landscape. Development needs to take place in response to the needs of society but it is necessary to ensure that the very features that make the Surrey Hills special and worthy of its AONB designation are protected."

"Our new environmental design guide highlights a series of principles that should be adopted for all forms of development within the Surrey Hills AONB, whether inside or outside settlements, or for large and small developments."

The Surrey Hills Environmental Design Guide is aimed at local communities, parish, district and borough councils, as well as transport planners, contractors and developers. Visit <https://www.surreyhills.org/discover/surrey-hills/leaflets/> to download a copy of the new guide.

Counting stars – and helping to keep our countryside dark at night

By Emma Marrington



CPRE, the countryside charity, in partnership with the British Astronomical Association's Commission for Dark Skies, is encouraging people to take part in our Star Count 2020 which takes place 21-28 February. We're asking people to count the number

of stars they can see in the Orion constellation, which will help us map the best and worst places for stargazing. This information will be really useful as it helps CPRE build up a picture of where there's too much artificial light spilling out into the sky.

Starry skies are one of the most magical sights our countryside has to offer, but light pollution means that many of us can't see the stars. Not only does it affect people's experience of this natural wonder, it blurs the distinction between town and countryside, and disrupts wildlife too. Too much artificial light can also affect our sleep patterns when it shines in through our windows at night.

Satellite maps of Britain's night skies – and what about Surrey?

In summer 2016, CPRE published detailed Night Blight maps of Britain's night skies, based on satellite data captured at 1.30am throughout September 2015. The maps captured the amount of light spilling up into the night sky, from 400 x 400 meter pixels, and these were then put into nine different brightness categories. There are detailed maps of every English county, district, National Park and AONB. Our

maps showed that just 22% of England is untouched by light pollution. In Surrey, Waverley is the darkest district, with the south west of Mole Valley district very dark too. The Surrey Hills AONB covers the majority of Surrey's dark skies, with 72% of the AONB in the three darkest categories! It's fantastic that CPRE Surrey is working with partners such as the AONB and Surrey Wildlife Trust on a 'Dark Skies Matter' campaign. This is a great initiative.

How do I take part in the Star Count?

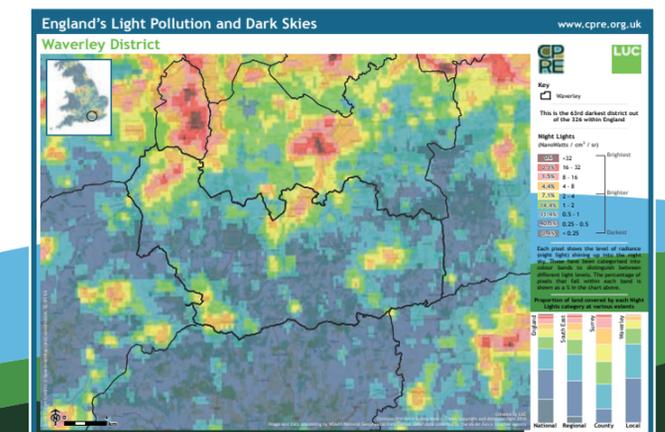
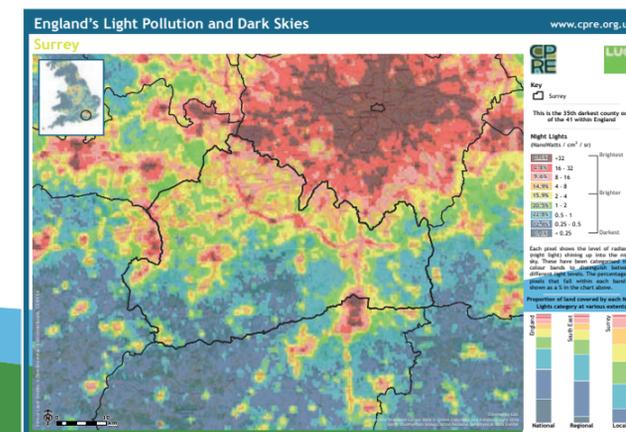
Star Count 2020 is a fun, easy activity and we're encouraging everyone to take part – simply step outside after dark and enjoy the stars!

Find the constellation of Orion in the southern sky (look for the three bright stars on his famous belt). The constellation is a rough rectangle shape, with a star on each corner – bright orange Betelgeuse on the top left and icy blue Rigel on the bottom right. Take a moment to let your eyes adjust to the darkness then count all the stars you can see inside the rectangle (excluding the four stars on the corners).

The ideal dates to do your Star Count are between Friday 21 and Friday 28 February 2020, as that's when the moon is least bright. But CPRE will accept results from any night during the last two weeks of February.

Families could make an evening of it: create stories about the characters and animals you see in the stars – and a spot of stargazing! Find out more and send your results at www.cpre.org.uk/starcount.

Emma Marrington is Rural Communities Enhancement Lead at National CPRE.



Why light pollution is much worse than ugly and what we can do about it

By John Evans

Dark Skies Matter – Surrey is a partnership between CPRE Surrey, Surrey Hills AONB, Surrey Wildlife Trust and RSPB Guildford. These organisations have come together to speak with one voice against the spread of light pollution in Surrey and to share up-to-date information on its harmful effects. We hope and anticipate that others will join us.

The damage caused by waste light at night is now known to be diverse and serious. The soiling of the night-time environment by badly designed and ill-directed lighting, and by lights that are on when they don't need to be, has devastated our view of the night sky. It has wiped out in a few decades a source of wonder, inspiration and understanding that has been there for us from the earliest times.

For many of us, that magical darkness has gone from our lives. In its place we have ubiquitous artificial light that is often neither desirable nor necessary. This loss can be largely redressed but only if we relinquish the wasteful, uninformed lighting habits of the recent past.

Health and well-being

Negative effects of artificial light hit home more tangibly and in arguably much more serious ways. There is now evidence identifying the disruption of our natural rhythms by artificial light at night as harmful to human physical and mental well-being and linking it to the occurrence of specific diseases.



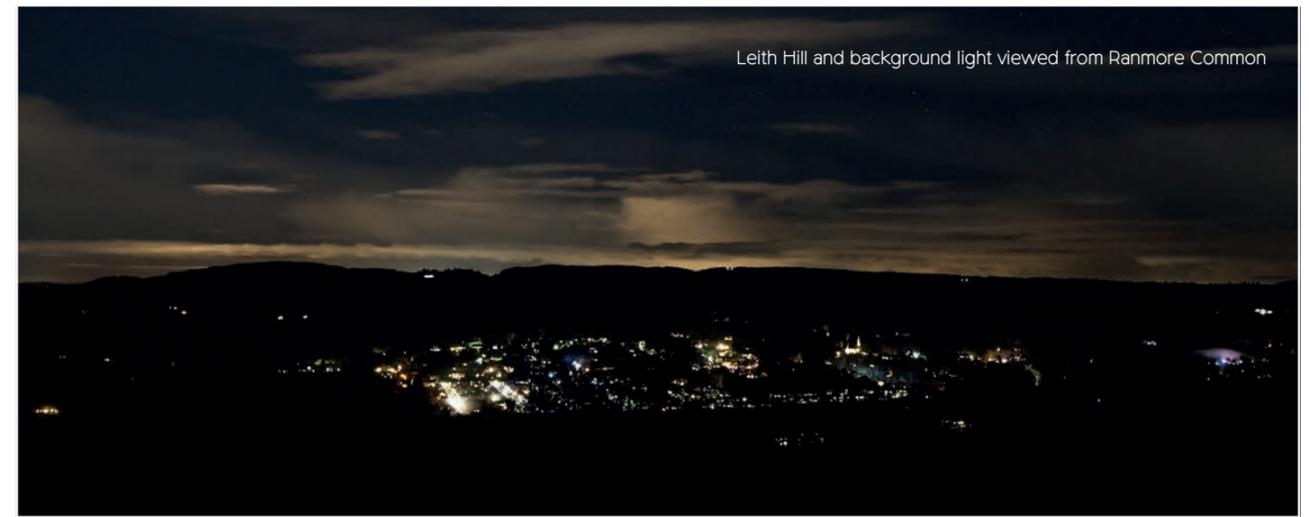
Also well documented is the harmful impact of artificial light on biodiversity and on animal communities, on some of which, for example pollinating insects, we depend. We cannot isolate ourselves from this; our lives and self-interests are intricately entangled with theirs. The persistence of uninformed lighting practices is doing all of us more harm than good.

Then there are the obvious issues of waste and the impact on climate change of keeping lights burning through the night. Many such lights are doing nothing useful, reflecting outmoded expectations and myths about safety that have been discredited by current knowledge. Light going up into the sky signals resources being wasted. There can be no excuse for this when there are genuinely pressing social needs to be met.

Sharing knowledge

It is unfair to attribute retrospective blame for the bad lighting habits of the past. Our understanding of some of the types of damage caused by artificial light is comparatively recent and until now has not been widely shared. However, that knowledge is now readily available and is being discussed widely including at national level. Light pollution has now joined the list of human behaviours that formerly we dismissed as 'one of those things' but that we now recognise as cause for real and urgent concern.

With this knowledge comes shared responsibility. The harm due to waste light impacts everyone.



Escaped light travels to pollute the skies – and lives – of others far from its source. The right amount of artificial light at night is the minimum amount consistent with meeting a real need: not too bright, focused only where it is required, not escaping intrusively into the sky or neighbourhood, not on when it could be off.



Homeowners need to ask themselves whether their 'designer' lighting looks prettier than the natural night it is helping to destroy. Businesses need to query whether office blocks need to impersonate urban lighthouses after everyone has left and gone home.

Incoming technology gives us the opportunity to take control of street lighting not simply in order to cut costs – though this is of course desirable – but to implement lighting regimes that reflect current knowledge.

Lower energy costs

Science tells us that artificial light at night is injurious to the well-being of living creatures and damaging to the environment; and the amount of polluting artificial light in Surrey is already well beyond the point that should trigger serious concern.

Using the lower energy costs of LED technology to justify maintaining these current levels would mean allowing damaging, old habits to shove aside the evidence and compromise the future.

Given what we now know, the defensible amount of artificial light at night is the minimum amount consistent with meeting genuine need. Where such need exists, for example on busy roads, measures should be taken to limit collateral damage, like glare and spillage, that the lighting causes.

There is no place for light pollution in a modern, environmentally aware society. It has no upsides, only downsides. But we CAN do something about it. Please take time to read our Declaration and consider getting involved. You can do so by emailing me at darkskiesmatter@gmail.com.

John Evans is Coordinator of Dark Skies Matter – Surrey



Why design counts

By Paul Miner



CPRE has had a longstanding interest in the design of new housing in the countryside, dating back to our charity's foundation in 1926. Over the intervening decades we have produced a number of reports on the design of new housing in rural and urban areas, CPRE's

last major initiative being our 'Sprawl Patrol' campaign some years ago. But the issue has been given much greater prominence in our new Strategic Plan, which has been produced to guide our work between now and our centenary in 2026. And we have set a major objective of seeing that new homes are designed 'in context' and that they are energy-efficient.

That's why CPRE is developing a long-term vision for a better planning system in England – one that produces better outcomes for local people and provides for more efficient use of land. We will be supporting communities in campaigning for more rural affordable housing, and seeking to create a holistic view of what sustainable rural communities look like, supporting brilliant local 'place-making'.

There is a lot that needs putting right. Most new housing development is taking place at significantly lower densities than in the past, and is therefore using land much less efficiently. This reflects a move towards the construction of larger (typically 3 or 4 bedroom) houses that are more profitable for the housebuilding industry. The Government's latest Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS) show that we are now building fewer new homes than in 2007 but are using up nearly twice as much farmland and green space in order to get them.

What does 'good design' mean?

Against this background, CPRE realised it was time to revisit the design of new homes, especially those in rural areas, to see what good housing design means, and to ensure that rural homeowners are getting the chance to live in brilliant places. So we worked with campaigners Place Alliance, based at University College London, on 'A Housing Design Audit for England', looking at new homes all over the country.

We found some examples of great design – but far more that need drastic improvement. Important factors in the design of new housing developments,



Good housing design allows for provision for safe walking and includes green spaces

such as access to local services, transport connectivity, safe routes for walking and cycling, and access to public greenspace, are frequently overlooked in new schemes.

Overall, we found that 75% of new housing development is of 'mediocre' or 'poor' design. We also discovered that less affluent communities are ten times more likely to get badly-designed housing, even though better design is affordable. On balance, the south east of England proved to be a marginally better performing region than some others – but, even here, most new housing schemes were found to be, at best, 'mediocre'.

We concluded that 94% of all new developments in the rural areas we audited were so bad they should never have been given approval to go ahead.

CPRE is calling for a series of reforms, and in particular we are calling for more emphasis to be placed on quality planning outcomes (rather than just speed), for clearer expectations on and within the housebuilding industry (especially the major developers who currently dominate the sector), and for more priority to be given to providing expertise and a commitment to quality in local government.

The picture is not entirely bleak. Surrey's 'Place Ambition', published last year by Surrey County Council, sets out some laudable objectives, including higher quality housing and better design. But the 'Place Ambition' is virtually unknown outside the county council. Frankly, a lot more needs to be done on involving the public. And there is not enough about ensuring that Surrey starts to get genuinely affordable homes for local people rather than yet more premium-priced 'executive homes'. There also needs to be a firm commitment to improving the public transport network in Surrey.

Paul Miner is Strategic Planning Lead at National CPRE

Land value: Whatever happened to 'planning gain'?

By Tim Murphy

"Land is by far the greatest of monopolies". So said Liberal MP Winston Churchill in 1909. He went on to say that a landowner "has only to sit still and watch complacently his property multiplying in value... without either effort or contribution on his part." Why should the appreciation of land values, particularly following the grant of planning permission, be of interest to CPRE?

That the Surrey countryside is under the most intense development pressures is obvious to all. We are often told that if only more of our greenbelt countryside and other rural areas were to be developed then houses would be more affordable for local people. However, there is no evidence, at least in the south east of England, that enough market sector homes could be built to significantly reduce house prices.

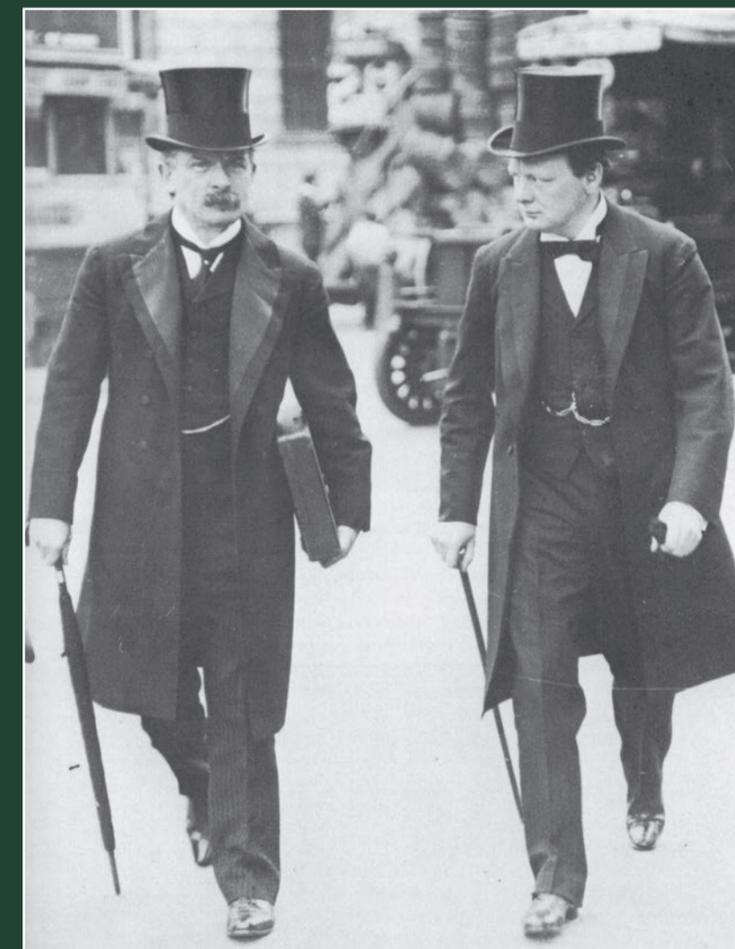
In any case, it is not in the interests of housebuilders to see prices fall and the building industry doesn't have the capacity to build homes at the necessary rate.

What is evident is that the main reason why housing in areas such as Surrey is so expensive is that nearly all the uplifted value resulting from planning permission – often a hundred times the agricultural land value or more – goes to the fortunate landowner.

As a consequence, the 'viability studies' submitted to local authorities by applicants will, typically, include grossly inflated land purchase costs. These are used to justify why little or no truly affordable housing can be included within their proposals.

Planning gain

This has not always been the case. Before 1961, what can be termed the 'planning gain' generated by local authorities giving planning permission for housing was returned to the community to allow subsidised



Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, 1909

homes to be built and the necessary infrastructure to be constructed. Without such a provision the post war new towns could not have been built.

If the Land Compensation Act were to be reformed to enable local authorities and other public bodies charged with development to acquire land at prices closer to current use values, just think what these additional resources could be used for. We could have more truly affordable homes, better public transport, roads and other physical infrastructure, and upgraded health, educational and other social facilities.

Tim Murphy is Chair of CPRE Epsom & Ewell and Vice-Chair of CPRE South East

Local Plan challenges

By Kristina Kenworthy



CPRE Surrey and local action group Protect Our Waverley (POW) together challenged the adoption of Waverley's Local Plan, first in the High Court and then in the Court of Appeal. Unfortunately, we were not successful. In dismissing our appeals, Lord Justice

Lindblom said the main question was whether Waverley Council, when preparing its Local Plan, had made any legal error in its consideration of 'unmet housing need' in Woking. The Inspector, Jonathan Bore, had recommended a main modification to the Local Plan, after its examination, increasing the annual housing requirement figure by 83 homes a year, or 1,575 extra dwellings over the plan period, in order to address Woking's unmet need.

CPRE argued that the method used to calculate Woking's unmet need was inconsistent with Waverley's approach to its own housing figures. Waverley and Guildford borough councils had both agreed that they could not accommodate Woking's housing need due to constraints (specifically the Green Belt and Surrey Hills AONB). Woking Council never requested Waverley to take a portion of their so-called unmet need. Yet the Inspector roughly calculated Woking's housing requirement and allocated half of it to Waverley. The Court found that

CPRE had failed to demonstrate any error of law in that approach or that the Inspector's conclusion was unreasonable. They concluded that the scope for reasonable planning judgment was so broad that arguments contending what a decision-maker 'should' or 'could' or 'might' have done in assessing housing need are unlikely to prevail. Accordingly, the Court said, Inspector Bore had not exceeded his range of reasonable planning judgment and the appeal was dismissed. CPRE Surrey has had to pay part of Waverley Council's costs.

Green Belt loss

After this salutary lesson, CPRE Surrey did not seek to challenge Guildford's Local Plan when it was adopted by the Council days before the May 2019 local elections (in which 31 councillors of the ruling party lost their seats). However, CPRE did provide some financial support to Compton Parish Council in their challenge to Blackwell Farm being allocated for development, together with a policy for a new access road from the Hog's Back through part of the AONB. Julian Cranwell, a member of Guildford Greenbelt Group, while Ockham Parish Council, together with Wisley Action Group (WAG), challenged the allocation of Three Farm Meadows (the former Wisley airfield) for major development. All three claimants had participated in the public examination of the Plan, as had CPRE Surrey, presenting evidence to the Inspector against development of these 'strategic' Green Belt sites.

Inspector Bore was appointed again for the Guildford Plan examination held in June-July 2018. In September the revised 2016-based household projections were released giving the Inspector cause to resume the public hearing for two days in February 2019. Again, CPRE and the parish councils attended and gave evidence. Ironically, this hearing was to consider the effects of reducing the need for housing in Guildford's area to meet any needs from Woking. In his report dated 28 March, Bore reduced Guildford's housing requirement to 562 dwellings per year or 10,678 during the plan period. While a welcome outcome this did not translate into a reduction in the headroom or allocation of sites with the potential to deliver 14,602 homes over the plan period.

Planning judgement

The common ground for all three claims was whether the Inspector had erred in law in his approach to what constituted the 'exceptional circumstances' required for redrawing the Green Belt boundaries. The claims were heard by Sir Duncan Ouseley over three days in November 2019, with nine parties all represented by counsel. The Judge dismissed all three applications, saying there is no definition of the policy concept of exceptional circumstances. This itself is a deliberate policy decision, demonstrating that there is a planning judgment to be made in all the circumstances of any particular case. It is deliberately broad, and not susceptible to dictionary definition. It is a less demanding test than permitting inappropriate development in the Green Belt, which requires 'very special circumstances' – but both tests or broad policy concepts are a matter of planning judgement for the decision-maker.

Only Ockham PC and WAG have the funds and fight left in them to appeal this judgement. Their appeal, on the 'exceptional circumstances' ground, was lodged just before Christmas and they await to hear if they gave permission to appeal.

In conclusion, it is clear that the courts remain reluctant to interfere with an Inspector's planning judgement unless it can be shown to have been irrational. The local plan-making process includes public consultation, participation and transparency up to and during the examination-in-public. The imperative is to prepare a sound plan for adoption by elected councillors at the end of the process. CPRE members must be involved throughout if they are to exert any influence over the planning policies and development in their areas. The courts cannot consider the merits, and leaving matters to a legal challenge post-adoption is mostly going to be inadvisable.

Kristina Kenworthy is
Chair of CPRE Surrey

CPRE SURREY 100 CLUB

Our 100 Club is an easy way to support CPRE Surrey AND win cash in our monthly draw
Congratulations to last year's winners:

December 2018:

1st Prize: Mr G Thompson (Oxshott)
2nd Prize: Mr W Callingham (Albury)

January 2019:

1st Prize: Mr B Howlin (Guildford)
2nd Prize: Mrs K Chetwynd (Epsom)

February 2019:

1st Prize: Mr K Savigar (Wallington)
2nd Prize: Mr A Ayres (Chiddingfold)

March 2019:

1st Prize: Mr A Gorge (Godstone)
2nd Prize: Miss D Lamport (Godstone)

April 2019:

1st Prize: Miss P Bishop (Charlwood)
2nd Prize: Mr C Stuart (Farnham)

May 2019:

1st Prize: Mr W Callingham (Albury)
2nd Prize: Ms J Barham (Peaslake)

June 2019:

1st Prize: Mr G Couper (West Ewell)
2nd Prize: Mrs M Nelson (Ashtead)

July 2019:

1st Prize: Mr T Harrold (Guildford)
2nd Prize: Mrs R Gleeson (Wood Street Village)

August 2019:

1st Prize: Lady Toulson (Wood Street Green)
2nd Prize: Mr P Slade (Guildford)

September 2019:

1st Prize: Mrs A Simpson (Epsom)
2nd Prize: Mr W Callingham (Albury)

October 2019:

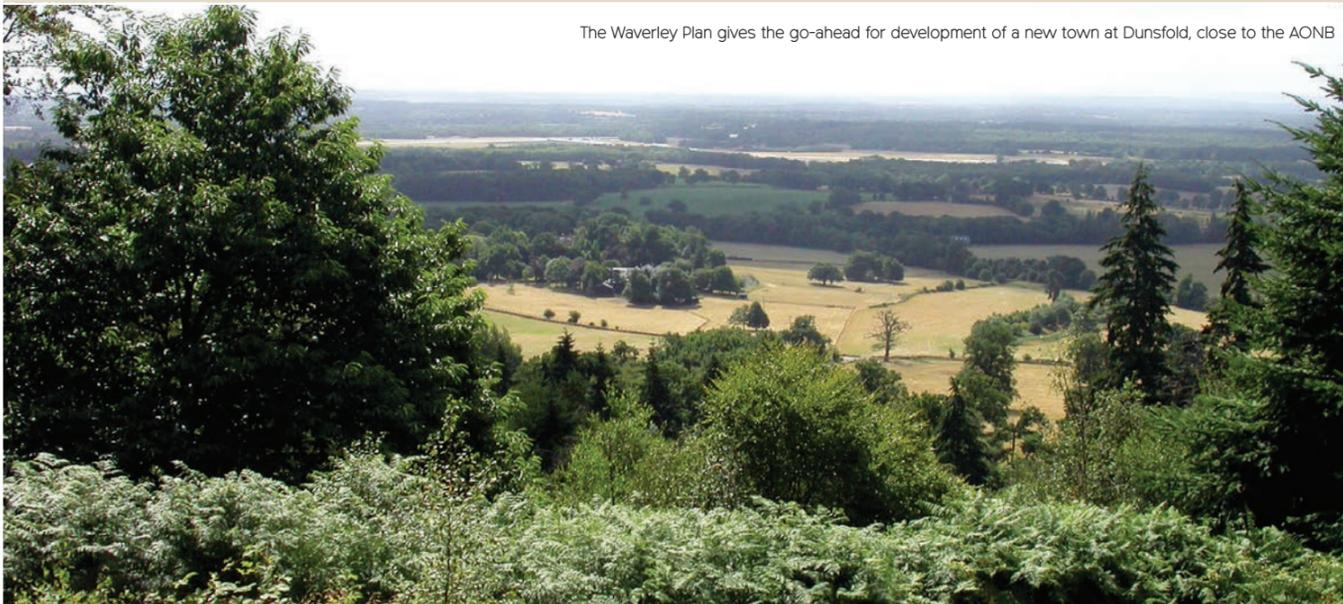
1st Prize: Mr G Couper (West Ewell)
2nd Prize: Mr R Roads (Chobham)

November 2019:

1st Prize: Mr W Callingham (Albury)
2nd Prize: Mr G Burne (Woldingham)

Members of the 100 Club have the chance every month to win cash. There are two prizes – £40 and £20. The annual subscription is just £12 (or a multiple of £12, depending on how many draw numbers you have.) Half of all subscriptions are returned as prize money with the rest going towards our campaigning work. If you would like to join the 100 Club, please contact us at the CPRE Surrey office in Leatherhead, email cpre.surrey@btconnect.com.

The Waverley Plan gives the go-ahead for development of a new town at Dunsfold, close to the AONB





DARK SKIES MATTER – SURREY DECLARATION –

This Declaration aims to protect the fragile oases of natural darkness still to be found within the county of Surrey and to seek a reduction in the prevalence and harmful effects of unnecessary, artificial light.

The loss of dark sky in Surrey – and the harm caused by light pollution across the county – affects us all and should matter to everyone. Light pollution is the soiling of the natural twilight and night-time environment by artificial light. Why does it matter?

- It destroys a precious heritage of natural beauty that for millennia has inspired us and expanded our understanding
- It is wasteful, consuming resources unnecessarily and contributing to climate change
- It is associated with risks to human health and well-being
- It disrupts wildlife and impacts the wider ecology and biodiversity
- It travels far from its source, escaping to pollute the countryside
- Our roads and neighbourhoods can still be safe with informed lighting design and practice

You can support the Declaration and help by:

- Speaking out against light pollution in Surrey
- Adopting and advocating good lighting practice
- Championing dark sky oases within the county

The Dark Skies Matter – Surrey Declaration is already supported by:



The countryside charity
Surrey



Email: darks skiesmatter@gmail.com • Tel: 07496 333301



The countryside charity
Surrey



CPRE Surrey Branch
The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead,
Surrey KT22 8AH. Tel: 01372 362720
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