



The countryside charity
Surrey

Surrey Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
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Dear CPRE member,

Please find enclosed the latest issue of *Surrey Voice*, with a selection of news and commentary from the Surrey Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Here in Surrey we currently face a growing range of threats to our rural landscapes and green spaces: pollution in our rivers and chalk streams; litter and fly-tipping in our countryside; proposals for 'solar farms' and other industrial developments that deplete and disfigure our agricultural land; and, most alarmingly, seemingly never-ending plans for large-scale housebuilding and urban sprawl.

In recent weeks the new government has made some very welcome announcements on some of these things, including making the directors of water companies liable to face criminal charges if they dump raw sewage in rivers, and for development there is a renewed emphasis on brownfield regeneration and ensuring that new building is environmentally sustainable and supported by appropriate infrastructure.

Unfortunately, there are some extremely worrying new policies too: for instance, making it even easier to get planning permission for solar farms, re-classifying some of the Green Belt as 'grey belt' so that it can be built on, reintroducing mandatory housebuilding targets for local councils and changing the methodology for calculating housing numbers so that it piles even more development pressure on counties like Surrey while reducing the burden on London despite the fact that it is in the big cities that most new housing is really needed. Looking at the new figures for Surrey districts, it is clear that the threat to our countryside and open spaces from the housebuilders is about to become very serious indeed!

CPRE Surrey will be campaigning on all these issues in the months ahead. But to be effective we need more volunteers – and we need more funds! So if you can help us in any way, either by volunteering your services, skills and time to your local district group, or by giving us a donation towards our work, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you. Also enclosed in this mailing is the Notice of our AGM on 4th October and I very much hope to see you at this gathering.

Yours sincerely,

John Goodridge
Chair, CPRE Surrey