9 July 2024

**PRESS RELEASE: Countryside charity reaches out to new MPs**

***CPRE Sussex calls on newly elected MPs to back the countryside, nature and affordable housing in parliament.***

Campaigners have written to newly elected MPs across Sussex asking them to back the countryside and promote sustainable development policies.

CPRE Sussex has asked MPs for meetings to set out its key asks over the next four years. The asks are based on the charity’s pre-election manifesto including:

* Backing the rapid rollout of rooftop solar.
* Stopping airport expansion, including the new runway at Gatwick.
* More funding for nature-friendly farming.
* Abolishing “hope value” to help local authorities build social housing.

The letters to MPs were sent as the new Chancellor was setting out her plans “to get Britain building again”. The charity emphasised the need to protect nature, water and climate, and to get genuinely affordable homes rather than simply ripping up the planning rules on behalf of developers.

**CPRE Sussex director Paul Steedman said:** “One of the key things we want to discuss with our new MPs is how we square the circle of addressing the affordable housing crisis with the need to protect the countryside. We hope our new representatives will make climate, nature, affordable housing and appropriate planning key priorities and back the countryside in parliament.”

Read more about the CPRE Sussex election manifesto here: [cpresussex.org.uk/get-involved/cpre-sussex-election-manifesto-planning-for-climate-nature-affordability](https://www.cpresussex.org.uk/get-involved/cpre-sussex-election-manifesto-planning-for-climate-nature-affordability/)

The charity has also launched a tool which allows anyone living in Sussex to contact their newly elected MP. The tool includes draft text which can be edited and personalised to allow each letter writer to highlight their own countryside priorities.

Access the letter writing tool at [actionnetwork.org/letters/contact-your-new-mp](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/contact-your-new-mp)

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Sheena Campbell on 07709 354924.

**Notes for editors:**

**About CPRE Sussex**

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

* Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
* Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
* Sustainable development for thriving communities
* Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.