

CPRE Leicestershire aims to protect the beauty and tranquillity of our rural county and promote a sustainable and living countryside for future generations. To achieve this we take a proactive role on rural issues, working with key partners. We are a branch of a national organisation, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, whose county-based branches campaign throughout England to influence decision making on a range of environmental and land-use issues.

CPRE Leicestershire – Planning Volunteer

We are seeking to recruit a Planning Volunteer to help us monitor, examine and respond to relevant planning applications and engage with planning policy at all levels. The person appointed will help us to increase our capacity to respond to planning issues across Leicestershire.

Responsibilities:

Working with branch trustees and district groups

- To monitor planning applications across the county and inspect relevant planning applications within a designated area of Leicestershire;
- To respond to planning applications as agreed by Leicestershire Branch as requiring CPRE input (including site visits as appropriate);
- To act as advisor, where requested, to CPRE District Groups;
- To oversee strategic planning responses on behalf of CPRE, especially local plan consultations;
- To appreciate the different Leicestershire Local Planning Authorities procedures;
- To establish effective relations with local planning departments and officers;
- To engage at an appropriate level with Neighbourhood Plans in the county;
- To represent CPRE, if required, at Planning Committees, Appeals, Public Inquiries, Public Meetings, etc.

You will be supported and supervised by the Branch Committee.

CPRE prides itself on taking a holistic approach and recruiting highly committed volunteers. Flexibility in order to work together to achieve organisational priorities is a valued aspect of our culture.

The Individual:

Ideally, we hope that you can offer us most of the following qualities:

- a strong interest in the countryside
- an understanding of the planning system
- an interest in investigative work, with an eye for detail
- a desire to share your knowledge with others in the branch
- good communication skills - written and verbal
- willingness to travel around Leicestershire and to attend meetings or, when not possible, to provide updates for meetings
- computer literate - the internet, e-mail and MS Word or equivalent

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:

- an opportunity to use your existing skills and experience and to develop new skills
- working with like-minded people and being part of a friendly and active team;
- opportunities to attend local and national CPRE activities, events and workshops;
- attendance at Branch meetings and contributions to the decision-making process;
- training and development opportunities, based on individual and branch needs.
- expenses as agreed
- Planning Magazine subscription is included

The role is voluntary and is mainly home-based. However we will pay all out-of-pocket expenses with prior agreement, in line with our Volunteers Policy.

Other information:

Time Commitment:

Variable but approximately 10 hours a month

Planning Team:

You will work with the Planning Campaigner, members who already respond to planning applications and the Charnwood and Hinckley and Bosworth District Groups. Part of your role will be to identify the applications that CPRE should respond to.

For more information contact:

Joyce Noon, Planning Campaigner, on 01509 414519 or via email: joyce_cpre@yahoo.co.uk