



Charity Number: 1164985

Addressee xxxx
Etc xxxx
Etc xxxx

Date November 2019

Dear xxxxxxx

Please reply to:

Tony Stott

CPRE Leicestershire Trustee

Email:

info@cpreleicestershire.org.uk

Tel: 0116 2302715

Leicestershire and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Manifesto

As you are a candidate in the forthcoming General Election I am writing to you on behalf of CPRE Leicestershire to request your support for the manifesto, '***Our countryside: a manifesto for the next government***', produced by CPRE nationally and to raise with you some of our local concerns.

CPRE Leicestershire is part of a wider national network of CPRE groups in every county which campaign for a beautiful and thriving countryside for everyone to value and enjoy.

CPRE Leicestershire's local concerns

Turning first to our local concerns, we would ask also for your support in connection with the following:

1) *Review of Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP)*

In the light of the climate emergency, there is an urgent need for the strategy of the SGP, the A46 Expressway proposal and their climate implications to be reviewed. *If elected, will you press for this review to be undertaken as a matter of urgency?*

2) *A46 Expressway and Sustainable Transport*

CPRE is strongly opposed to the A46 Expressway plan and the role it would have in facilitating development areas which the evidence shows would be highly car dependent. Instead of costly and damaging new road building, which would increase traffic, we are campaigning for, integrated, sustainable public transport across Leicester and Leicestershire. *If elected, will you oppose the A46 Expressway proposal and support moves towards an integrated sustainable transport network across the city and county?*

3) *Undesignated Countryside*

Currently, although Leicestershire has particularly attractive, unique or valued landscapes and countryside, such as Charnwood Forest, High Leicestershire and the Wolds, it has no Green Belts, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOBs) or National Parks and as such, is among the English counties that have the least nationally protected countryside. Its protection is dependent on policies from local authorities that are constantly under pressure to find yet

more land for housing and development. *If elected, would you support national designations for important and valued areas of Leicestershire countryside?*

4) Neighbourhood Plans

CPRE strongly supports Neighbourhood Planning and would like to see more support provided for the preparation of these Plans and greater weight given to adopted (and emerging) Plans in deciding planning applications. *If elected, would you support a community right of appeal against speculative development in areas where Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted?*

5) Rural Affordable Housing

In many villages, housing is increasingly unaffordable for local people. CPRE Leicestershire supports well-planned, high quality affordable and social housing that provide homes in perpetuity for people living or working in village communities. While a number of high quality rural exception site schemes have been delivered, more needs to be done. *If elected, will you support measures designed to increase affordable housing for local people in rural areas?*

CPRE's National manifesto

The manifesto sets out priorities for a thriving and accessible countryside which makes a significant contribution to reaching net-zero carbon by 2045 and for maintaining sustainable rural communities. A number of measures are put forward to reduce carbon emissions, safeguard the countryside and improve access to green spaces for everyone, as well as for a well-resourced planning system that empowers communities, prioritises brownfield sites and provides affordable homes.

The manifesto can be accessed at:

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/cpre/campaigning/item/5210-our-countryside-a-manifesto-for-the-next-government>.

We look forward to your response to the CPRE Manifesto and the issues of local concern raised here. If you are elected on December 12th, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss them further with you.

Kind Regards,

Tony Stott

Chair, CPRE Leicestershire SGP Task Group,
Trustee, CPRE Leicestershire