

# CPRE West Yorkshire Review

Including 2018 Annual Report



Published: March 2019

# Introduction

“This is an interesting and challenging time for our Branch. The need to protect and promote the countryside is perennial. National CPRE is embarking on a bold re-launch with the aim of finding new supporters and new sources of income. Many people don’t even think of West Yorkshire as a rural area, yet two-thirds of it is countryside and much of it is beautiful and interesting. We have to change perceptions of West Yorkshire and of CPRE.

Our dedicated Branch Trustees recognise what needs to be done, but we can’t do it on our own. We’d love to welcome new Trustees and volunteers to bring their time and expertise to our aid.”

*David Cove - Chair of CPRE West Yorkshire*

Welcome to the CPRE West Yorkshire Annual Report. 2018 is already fading into the distance, so this report looks forward as well as back. Our planning work is non-stop, influencing Local Plans across the county. We are also embarking on a project to show decision-makers that West Yorkshire’s countryside is rich with interesting things that people care about, not just a blank canvas to be filled in with development. Our members and volunteers have an important role to play in this, and our AGM on 27th April will be a chance to find out all about it.

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# Ways of Seeing West Yorkshire

Our new project, ‘Ways of Seeing West Yorkshire’, is all about the huge array of people, organisations and activities that make up what West Yorkshire’s countryside means, and why it’s so important that we protect and promote it. For too long, local and national decision makers have regarded the countryside as empty space into which towns can grow, with too little thought for what the countryside is full of. As West Yorkshire’s towns and cities grow, the countryside needs to work ever harder. Ecosystems need to be stronger and the recreational, cultural and health-giving assets of the countryside must be available to more people.

The project aims to build evidence that our countryside is beautiful, complex and vital, as well as threatened. We need to influence what happens in the countryside, and give many more people a reason to support us and become volunteers and activists. That means we need to reach far beyond those people whose corner of the countryside is immediately under threat. This will also help us position the Branch for a stronger financial future.

CPRE’s Yorkshire & Humber region has given us a grant to develop the mapping tools that will underpin the work. At the time of going to press, we await the outcome of a major funding application, submitted to CPRE National Office. The successful outcome of this bid will enable us to increase the scope and impact of the project. Members can read about the project on the CPRE West Yorkshire website. A workshop at the AGM will give members a chance to learn more about the project and how they can get involved.

# AGM 2019

27th April 2019  
Temple Newsam House, Leeds

## Programme for the day

12:00pm  
Ways of Seeing West Yorkshire

1:00pm Lunch

1:30pm  
The way forward for CPRE  
nationally and locally

2:30pm AGM

This year we are pleased to be holding our AGM at Temple Newsam House near Leeds. The birthplace of Lord Darnley (husband of Mary Queen of Scots) and lovingly restored in 2005, Temple Newsam is full of fine and decorative art treasures.

Delegates receive free parking and free entry to the house, including an audio guide, so why not make the most of the day? If you want to get out and enjoy some fresh air - the house is set within 1,500 acres of beautiful parkland, gardens and mature woodland designed by Capability Brown. With all this and a rare breed farm, there is something for everyone to enjoy...

... and there is plenty happening at the AGM itself.

We will be launching our ambitious new project for 2019 to 2021, 'Ways of Seeing West Yorkshire' and we'd be delighted to tell you about it and why it's so important to us.

Our event on 27th April will include talks from Andrew Wood and Katy Mugford, who are working on the project for us. The talks will focus on how and why we're doing the project and how you can help. There will also be a session explaining national CPRE's new strategy, and a colleague from National Office has been invited to join us.

# Wakefield Local Plan: A Fresh Approach

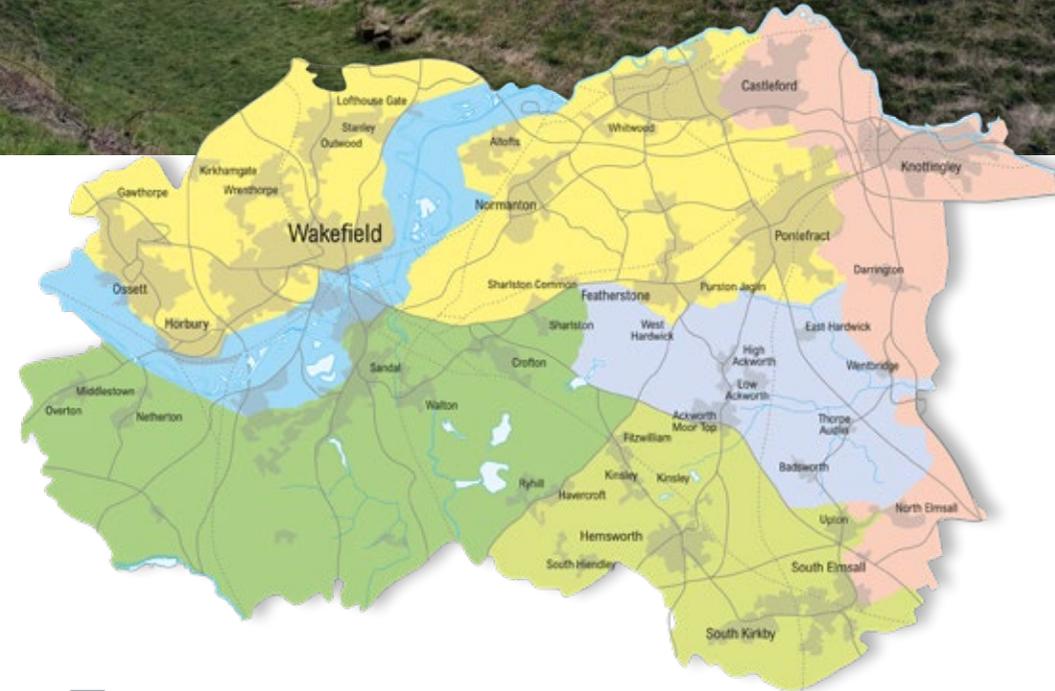
For some years, CPRE has had no local activists in the Wakefield area. Our influence on other Local Plans has been greatly helped by working with local groups, and as a review of Wakefield's Local Plan is now beginning, we are faced with starting from scratch.

The timing coincides with our 'Ways of Seeing West Yorkshire' project, offering an ideal opportunity to try a different approach to influencing the plan. This involves:

- good dialogue with the Local Authority from the outset;
- using our project work to generate interest in CPRE amongst communities and organisations in Wakefield;
- promoting the role of the countryside and the need to enhance it.

Wakefield's Initial Draft Plan opens with a welcome commitment to address climate change, and innovative use of Garden City principles - these include 'land value capture', which would tackle the problem of landowners benefitting more from development than communities. This suggests that the Council is open to constructive ideas. But the usual risks remain: growth around Wakefield, Normanton and Knottingley is very motorway-dependent, and new roads are proposed to unlock greenfield sites around Pontefract, Featherstone and Ackworth. HS2 is also a significant landscape threat.

Wakefield district's 'rural core' is a defining characteristic. It includes farmland, wetlands and several country parks, and a rich Roman and medieval heritage. Connecting the urban populations with this rural heart, especially with its relatively good rail network, is a positive approach that we will continue to advocate as the Local Plan progresses.



- Calder Valley
- Northern Coalfield
- Went River Basin
- Limestone Escarpment
- South East Coalfield
- South West Coalfield

Photo: Sandal Castle (Andrew Wood)  
Map Source:  
Wakefield Landscape Character Assessment, 2004

# Local Plan Review

2018 was a very busy year for our Local Plans work. How did we do?

## Kirklees

Our influence in Kirklees was greatly strengthened by close collaboration with local activists, from Kirklees Community Action Network and local groups from Holmfirth, Mirfield and Clayton. We argued that the scale of growth was unrealistic and didn't warrant the Green Belt impact. We also argued for a stronger urban renewal vision for Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley. It wasn't all good news: at Chidswell and Ravensthorpe large extensions into open countryside will go ahead. But we can take credit for saving sites at Clayton and Cooper Bridge from unjustified employment land allocations.



Photo: Dewsbury (Andrew Wood)

## Calderdale

In Calderdale we have again worked very closely with local activists and responded to the draft Local Plan in October. The proposals focus most new development in 'Garden Suburbs' between Brighouse and the M62, and risk merging the built-up areas of Brighouse with Huddersfield. We fear that the Garden Suburbs will not live up to their name, and will actually be huge, car-dependent housing estates. We do not accept that Green Belt should be lost to such ill-conceived developments.

## Leeds

To Leeds City Council's credit, most housing growth is targeted to brownfield sites in inner urban areas. However, saddled with excessive housing targets, and under attack through a succession of planning appeals, they have sought to quench developers' thirst for greenfield sites, especially around Garforth, Horsforth and Wetherby, and with a new settlement at Parlington. Sadly, the choice of sites has been driven by a mixture of land availability and party politics - not by where homes are most needed. CPRE has fought for a rational, needs-based approach. The housing target is now being reviewed, which offers some hope for the threatened Green Belt sites. When the chance comes for Leeds to make a fresh start and do a better plan, we want to be ready with our own vision.



Photo: Otley (Katy Mugford)

## Bradford

After adopting their Core Strategy in 2017, Bradford have made an abortive attempt to produce a Site Allocations Plan. In late 2018 the Council began a Core Strategy review, and we will be working on it in 2019. Bradford's biggest challenge is that developers want to build in lucrative rural locations like Keighley and Ilkley, but the greatest need for development is in urban Bradford where there is also a large supply of brownfield land.

# Annual Report

President	John Denham
Chairman	David Cove
Hon Treasurer and Trustee	Charles Tunbridge
Hon Secretary and Trustee	Michael Church
Trustees	Robert Bamforth
	David Cooke
	Margaret Dale
	Marion Temple

## Member Stats

Our overall membership reduced by 16 members in 2018. This is the background to the why our new project is important and will be our focus in 2019-21.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sadness for the 7 members who passed away in 2018 and our thanks for their contributions to the Branch.

We warmly welcome our 10 new members. We hope that you will enjoy being part of the CPRE West Yorkshire Branch.

Household	310
Organisation	9
Parish/Town Council	18
Individual Life	8
Joint Life	2
Individual Over 65 Life	0
Branch Life	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>

## Volunteering

If you have skills in fundraising, media, geographical information systems (GIS) or volunteer recruitment, and would like to help, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please speak to any of our Trustees at the AGM, or get in touch via the contact page of our website.

# Accounts

CPRE WEST YORKSHIRE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2018					
	2017	2018		2017	2018
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank Interest	540.85	446.12	Polo Shirts	330.00	
Donations and Legacies	30.00		Postage	262.28	221.28
CPRE Quarterly	6,851.37	6,974.58	Design New Web Page	120.00	520.08
			Consultancy Fees	11,297.46	11,799.17
			Insurance	400.64	409.66
			Printing & Stationery	447.94	177.13
			AGM & Annual Report	266.82	6.00
			Travel Expenses	51.25	
			Outreach Costs		
			Room Hire	278.70	427.60
			Surplus/(Deficit) for year	13,455.09	13,560.92
				<b>-6,032.87</b>	<b>-6,140.22</b>
	<b>£7,422.22</b>	<b>£7,420.70</b>		<b>£7,422.22</b>	<b>£7,420.70</b>

CPRE WEST YORKSHIRE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018					
	2017	2018		2017	2018
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
HSBC Current Account	1,342.61	556.27	Balance brought forward	36,725.04	30,692.17
United Trust Bank	29,211.03	23,857.15	Surplus for the year	<b>-6,032.87</b>	<b>-6,140.22</b>
Yorkshire Bank	138.53	138.53			
	<b>£30,692.17</b>	<b>£24,551.95</b>		<b>£30,692.17</b>	<b>£24,551.95</b>

I have independently examined the above accounts for the CPRE West Yorkshire Branch for the year ended 31st December 2018 and I certify them to be in accordance with the books, papers and explanations given to me.

John N Jacklin B. Comm  
Date:- 23rd February 2019

Gorse Barn, Rock Lane,  
Tockholes, Darwen,  
Lancashire, BB3 0LX



Photo: Saltaire (Andrew Wood)

Registered charity number: 500481

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