

COUNTRYWISE

Newsletter from CPRE the Countryside Charity
for Northern Lincolnshire

 The countryside charity
Northern Lincolnshire

December 2021



PRESENTATION EVENING 2021

CPRE's Annual Presentation Evening was held at Worlaby on 4 Oct 2021. The evening was a celebration of the Best Kept Village competition and an opportunity to present the Annual Environment Awards.



Having been unable to hold last year's event, due to Covid, it was great to meet people in person and congratulate them on their success in winning their Awards.

The hosts, Worlaby (shown above), winners of the medium village group, were also thanked for their excellent hospitality.

David Rose (Chair of CPRE Northern Lincolnshire) presented the Awards and praised the winners on their achievement and commented on the very high standards, that had given the judges a really hard task this year.

He also thanked Jenny Haynes, the organiser of the Best Kept Village competition, for her excellent work.



South Ferriby scooped 3 Awards – most imaginative planting, best community planting and 2nd place in the medium village group.



Peter Smith (left) receives the Small Village Winners Award on behalf of Low Burnham, who won their category for the third year in a row and deservedly won further plaudits for their success.

Winners of awards spoke enthusiastically about the efforts they had made to make their village a more attractive environment and there were inspiring examples of the hard work and commitment of local residents.

Julie Reed accepting the Best Kept War Memorial certificate and prize for Crowle, summed up the thoughts of many, when she commented: "we really appreciate all of the hard work that is freely given by many people in our town and village. Whilst the Town Council support this event and enter us for the competition every year, it really is the residents and volunteers that deserve our thanks."



Tricia Murphy receives a well-deserved Environment Award for the Tiddy Mun Trail initiative in Amcotts, who also came 2nd in the small village group.

Litter Champions

Special Awards 2021

CPRE has always championed litter picking and all efforts to clean up our countryside. Due to the remarkable efforts of local people in the past year, we agreed to give certificates and prizes to John and Marion Pearson of Scawby and a number of local litter picking groups, as part of our Best Kept Village Awards.

The groups were

- Broughton Bloomin Wombles
- Scunthorpe Litter Pickers
- Barton Baggers
- Isle of Axholme Clean Up

As well as their prize they all received a smart certificate (example shown below)



The litter groups have done an amazing job in the past year, with the now familiar red sacks seen on the side of roads, demonstrating the amount of hard work and effort that has resulted in a dramatic reduction in litter in many areas.

The groups have used Facebook to promote their work and one member of the Barton Baggers posted this comment on learning of the CPRE Award.

"Brilliant! We don't do it for praise. We do it for the benefits of wildlife and everyone who lives in the area. Recognition is great. The battle goes on against litter. Fantastic group!!!"

We are all grateful for their tremendous efforts and the support of North Lincolnshire Council, who have supplied much of the litter picking equipment.

The new Environment Act 2021

CPRE has welcomed the new Environment Act, the first for nearly 30 years, which has been significantly improved since the first draft in 2018. The most important new measures are

- plans for the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) - an independent watchdog to replace EU oversight institutions - have been greatly improved.
- the Act has important legally binding targets, including a 2030 target to halt species decline. There will also now be a legal environmental improvement targets, covering nature, water, air and waste. There are plans for a public consultation on the targets in February next year. This could prove interesting, given the scope of concerns the general public have on



- environmental issues.
- the government has pledged a new action plan to improve soil health.
- the Act extends the ability to charge for all single use items and not just those made from plastic.

The new Environment Act will also extend some protections for the natural environment; however, one of the key tests for the government will be the introduction of the long-awaited Deposit Return Scheme.

HEDGEROWS

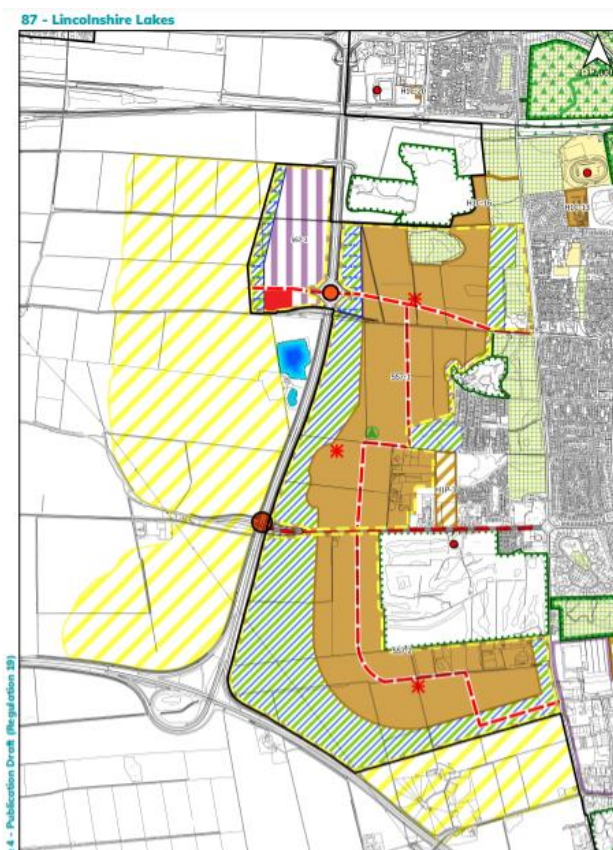
CPRE has long argued that hedgerows could be champions of climate action and nature recovery. In an open letter to the government in July 2021, CPRE commented: "Hedgerows are the unsung heroes of our countryside. They are icons of our landscape, steeped in history, providing a haven for wildlife while absorbing carbon emissions".

The hedgerow network, across the country, is our largest 'nature reserve'. Unfortunately, it is estimated that more than half our hedgerows have been lost since WW2, and many existing hedgerows are in a very poor state.

In September 2021, CPRE published a report demonstrating the huge environmental and economic benefits of hedgerows. Investing in 40% more hedgerows would support around 25,000 full-time equivalent jobs

in hedgerow planting and management over the next 30 years across both rural and urban areas. CPRE is campaigning for these benefits to be recognised by the government, who need to set clear targets and plans, of the sort already announced for tree-planting. Local authorities can also support community groups to plant more hedgerows, while farmers can help by letting hedgerows grow taller and bushier.

Many of the government's nature-based solutions to the climate emergency to date have focused on trees, but hedgerows are also crucial in soaking up carbon, protecting against flooding and aiding nature's recovery.



The Publication Draft Version of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan has now been issued and was open for consultation until 3 December. This was the final consultation upon prior to submission to Government for Examination in Public, which should take place by early summer 2022, after which the Plan can be formally adopted.

CPRE Northern Lincolnshire used this opportunity to submit their comments on the Plan, which will be a consolidated and comprehensive single Local Plan setting out the principles for development until 2038.

CPRE remains on the whole supportive of the document and we are pleased to see commitments to the preservation and enhancement of the North Lincolnshire countryside and open green spaces, including to its biodiversity and geodiversity. We also welcome the brownfield first priority for future development (see next page).

With the passing of the Environment Act 2021 and the revision of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021, CPRE have suggested a number of amendments to ensure the Plan is consistent with national policy and as robust as possible.

COP26 and the countryside: the view from CPRE



At CPRE, we've long known that a thriving countryside is critical to the UK's response to the climate crisis.

CPRE is now challenging the government to go further and faster and make use of the solutions at hand; to increase the hedgerow network by 40% by 2050 and restore our peatlands and soils by 2030.

The power of peat, plus our hedgerows and trees, to lock carbon up has seen the Climate Change Committee, the independent advisory board to the government, specifically call for measures to protect and expand them.

Through our local groups and volunteers across the country, CPRE has the power to effect change, and by working together, we can deliver nature-based solutions that protect the places we love, now and for decades to come.

CPRE campaigns on 'Brownfield first'



CPRE has long argued that more brownfield land should be developed for housing and recently commissioned research on the state of previously developed land. This was publicized in the 2021 edition of CPRE's annual reporting on the status and potential of brownfield land.

Key statistics, from the research includes:

- There is land available for 1.3 million new homes in swathes of previously developed sites across the country, but at the same time, development on greenfield sites is increasing.
- There is more brownfield land available for redevelopment but a smaller proportion is being granted planning permission over the past 12 months.
- The proportion of brownfield housing units with planning permission is the lowest since records began – down to 44% in 2021 from 53% in 2020 – and the actual number, at 506,000, is the lowest for four years.

Each local authority keeps a Brownfield Land Register identifying land suitable for residential development. In North Lincolnshire there are 44 sites covering 78.9 hectares, with 20 of the sites already having planning permission. In North East Lincolnshire there is 38 hectares with 50 sites, 40 of which having planning permission.

PLANNING HELP – If you have any concerns about local plans or potential development in your area, CPRE Northern Lincolnshire can offer professional help or advice using our planning experts. Please contact David Rose davidjohnrose@gmail.com or jenny.haynes@btinternet.com giving brief details of your issue or concern.

JOIN US

Countrywise is the Newsletter of CPRE, the countryside charity – Northern Lincolnshire. The branch is one of over 40 county branches throughout England, with 75,000 supporters nationally. Joining CPRE is open to all and we positively welcome involvement from supporters in all of our activities and campaigns.

If you would like to learn more about us, our website address is cprenorthernlincs.org.uk

If you would like to be more involved, please contact either:

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