



The countryside charity  
Rutland & Lincolnshire

President: Dr Sarah Furness PhD  
Registered Charity No: 500480

To all CPRE Rutland and Lincolnshire Members and Supporters

16.6.2025

Dear CPRE Member/Supporter,

### **A New CPRE Branch Serving Rutland and Lincolnshire**

I write on behalf of the CPRE Rutland and Lincolnshire Trustees to thank you for your support for CPRE and to echo their hope that you wish to continue this relationship throughout 2025 and beyond. Your commitment to the Rutland and Lincolnshire countryside and the environment is much appreciated.

Our big news is that you now have a new combined branch serving both counties following the collapse of the old Lincolnshire branch some time ago. Our new constitution and change of name are now registered with the Charity Commission. An updated website at [www.cprerutlandandlincs.uk](http://www.cprerutlandandlincs.uk) should be operating by the end of the month.

The past six months have been very busy for the charity at both local and national level. This is a critical time for the future of the countryside with government planning policy on land use under review, preparation of new local plans under way, local government devolution and reorganisation on the agenda and the energy debate accelerating interest in, and challenges to, alternative forms of renewable energy production. All of this is having a disproportionate impact on our rural communities with the ongoing threat of unwelcome development in inappropriate places threatening an increasing percentage of our farmland and green space.

Our 2025 Branch AGM, attended by the CPRE Chief Executive Roger Mortlock, endorsed the composition and construct of the CPRE Rutland and Lincolnshire board under its new President and countryside champion, Dr Sarah Furness. I am delighted to be supported again by an energetic team of Trustees in the form of Rachel Burkitt (Vice Chair and Media Specialist), Geoff Clyde (Administration), Annabelle Meek (Membership Lead) and Carolyn Cartwright (Planning Lead). Board places have been reserved to enable the appointment of new Lincolnshire Trustees and hopefully a new volunteer Treasurer from the county. The board would welcome any expression of interest in these roles from among the Lincolnshire membership.

Our combined membership stands at 156, evenly split between the two counties. Due to the size of the new branch area, it will be necessary to hold some meetings via Zoom, but an early objective in Lincolnshire is to create two round table discussion groups with a view to determining local priorities and interests. Of necessity, the new branch will in future seek to communicate primarily by email on routine matters. Nevertheless, some meetings will be held in appropriate locations in the north and south of both counties. It would be helpful therefore if you felt able to acknowledge this communication so that our membership lead could verify our new joint database. Also, if in Lincolnshire, tell us if you are interested in attending a round table discussion.

Our new updated website will provide a range of local information including this year's Annual Report and accounts, links to key national priorities and programmes, as well as details of key county activities in the fields of energy, air quality around quarries and our water authority partnerships. The branch has had some recent success using artificial intelligence to challenge inappropriate planning applications and is keen to encourage joint dialogue with local authorities in making positive contributions to progressing community transport, affordable housing and environmental improvement.

Next month the branch will advertise its first ever staff vacancy. A part time role, initially for two years, to help take the branch forward and seek new funds. A new CPRE legacy programme to help support local initiatives in Lincolnshire and/or Rutland will be published soon.

With your help and interest a lively and far reaching work programme for the coming years is planned with greater engagement with local authority and parish council opinion firmly on the agenda and a new collaborative partnership with like minded community organisations among our goals.

Once again, thank you for all your support to date. CPRE Rutland and Lincolnshire would not be possible without it.

If you would like to discuss any of the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Ron Simpson*

Ron Simpson BEM

Chair - CPRE Rutland and Lincolnshire

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