

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CAMPAIGNS

It has been another very busy and productive year of campaigning. In particular, it was a real achievement to produce the following *three* major reports in less than twelve months:

- **A Done Deal** (published in December 2015)
This report revealed how the Government's Education Funding Agency had been buying up Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land for building schools on, ignoring the policies for protected land and without any mention in Local Plans. This attracted national media interest and remains a live issue.
- **The Strongest Protection?** (March 2016)
This report described how 51 London Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land sites in Greater London were being allocated for housing and schools ignoring the protection in Government planning policies. This led to TV interviews with Alice Roberts, our Head of Green Space Campaigns, and firm commitments to the Green Belt and MOL from all Mayoral candidates and Zac Goldsmith visited Shirley Oaks, one of the threatened sites, on the day of the launch, which was covered by BBC London.*
- **Safe Under Us?** (September 2016)
This substantial 47-page report examined the widespread threats from housebuilding to the whole of the London Metropolitan Green Belt. It identified 203 sites and proposals to build 123,000 new homes. It criticised inflated housing targets, landbanking by developers, and a weak defence of protected land by local authorities being pressured by Government messages and Planning Inspectors to favour economic growth.

This last report followed the publication in May on our website (<http://www.cprelondon.org.uk/>) of a detailed interactive map showing all the threats to the Metropolitan Green Belt and the various local campaigns being mounted to counter them. We launched the report on 13 September jointly with the London Green Belt Council in the House of Lords to which were invited MPs, Peers, representatives of other environmental organisations, GLA members, local councillors, and many local campaigners. The launch was very well attended and the report got significant media coverage, including BBC TV. This was one of the first initiatives taken under a new Partnership Project set up by CPRE London working with other CPRE branches around London and the London Green Belt Council.

In addition to these reports we continue to provide a regular e-newsletter with details of planning news from across London which we send directly to over 500 member and supporters, and make available to others via our website.

Election of London Mayor and Assembly Members

A significant event of the year was the election of the London Mayor and Assembly Members on 5 May. We took the opportunity to issue our own Manifesto of policies we wanted to see adopted by the various Mayoral and Assembly candidates.

We held a hustings event on 22 March with partners Planning Aid and the London Civic Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies. This was chaired by the environmental activist and former head of Friends of the Earth, Tony Juniper.

We invited existing Assembly members and candidates to speak and answer questions about their approach to Green Belt and green space protection. The following politicians attended who - perhaps unsurprisingly - were all very supportive of our messages:

David Dean, Merton and Wandsworth councillor and Conservative candidate
Caroline Russell, Islington councillor and Green Party candidate;
Val Shawcross, Labour member
Annabel Mullin, LibDem candidate
Peter Harris, UKIP candidate

TRUSTEES

Two new trustees joined us in March: Susan Crabtree and Victoria Crawford. Unfortunately Victoria left later in the year when she changed jobs. We recruited and lost within the year, Alan Tang and Kate Foster, as our Treasurers. Fortunately, vice-chair Carol Hamcke-Onstwedder stepped into the breach until Alex King joined us as our new Treasurer. Susan is a solicitor and works for an insurance company, and Alex works for global software company having previously been in financial services. Steve Eminton our Secretary left us in November. Steve Butters stood down as a trustee at the AGM. Sadly, John Turtle, a former trustee and special adviser on staffing matters, died in May. Trustees held an away day in November to discuss strategy.

STAFF

Alice Roberts continued to work as Head of Green Space Campaigns through the year. Rebecca Pullinger left in March and was replaced by Catherine Maguire as Green Belt Campaigner. Georgia Wrighton, our Director for the last two years, left at the end of the year to take up an appointment as a Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Planning at Hertfordshire University. Neil Sinden, previously Policy and Campaigns Director at CPRE National Office, joins us in April 2017 as our new Director. Following recent legislation all three staff joined our new NEST pension scheme which we introduced in November. All staff work part time.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FUNDRAISING APPEAL 2016

Following the completion of the formal business we were delighted to invite Tony Juniper back once more to talk about his book *'What Nature Does For Britain'*. Tony described how we take supplies of clean water and secure food for granted but we are damaging natural systems through intensive farming, drainage of bogs, clearing forests and turning rivers into canals. He argued that our 'natural capital' is not properly valued in conventional economic decisions. The fundraising appeal launched around the AGM raised over £8,000. Thanks to all who contributed. During the year we also received an anonymous donation of £10,000 from a trust for which we are very grateful. Our finances remain tight and we intend to prioritise fundraising this year.

CONCLUSION

In 2016, London CPRE was highly productive with evidenced-based research that proved influential in Mayoral manifestos and helped to shape the Government's Housing White Paper published in February. The staff, trustees and all our supporters are to be congratulated for their efforts. This is a year to be proud of!

John Croxen, Chair, CPRE London, on behalf of the Executive Committee
April, 2017

CPRE LONDON: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2016 (£)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income	2016	2015
Membership income	44,845	42,592
Grant income	0	0
Contributions to projects	5,200	6,000
Donations and Branch Appeal Proceeds	19,226	6,986
Legacies and bequests	0	0
Bank interest earned	232	283
Total Income	69,503	55,860
Expenditure		
Staff salary costs	60,209	41,912
Rent	9,000	9,000
Office expenses	2,238	1,729
Travel and meetings	2,041	592
Project and Event costs	5,594	1,659
Publications	3,232	3,433
Dues and subscriptions	10	160
Insurance expense	589	571
Professional fees	1,440	1,200
Governance costs	1,282	656
Bank charges	82	-
Total Expenditure	85,717	60,911
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(16,214)	(5,051)

Note 1

Note 2

BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets	2016	2015
Cash at bank and in hand	75,314	88,774
Prepayments	2,250	2,250
Total Current Assets	77,564	91,024
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	3,512	300
Other payables	1,199	1,657
Total Current Liabilities	4,711	1,957
Net Assets	72,853	89,067
Capital and Reserves		
Funds brought forward	89,067	94,118
Deficit for the year	(16,214)	(5,051)
Total Capital and Reserves	72,853	89,067
Of which Restricted Funds	10,000	5,266

Note 3

Note 1: The accounts filed for 2015 included Travel and meetings within the category of Office expenses

Note 2: Project and event costs includes £3,170 of publication costs in 2016 that relate specifically to projects and events. The cost of CPRE London's general publication costs such as the newsletters is categorized as Publications.

Note 3: All restricted funds carried over from 2015, and received during 2016, related to the London Green Belt project, were spent as the project costs exceeded the sum of both. The remaining £10,000 of restricted funds represents an anonymous donation received late in the year for CPRE London's Green Spaces work.

Treasurer's Report

CPRE London's financial position remains strong but has moved towards requiring a focus on more active fundraising as compared to previous years as costs have continued to exceed income. The core income from membership subscriptions increased by 5% from £42,592 to £44,845.

Additionally, the charity increased Donations and Branch Appeal Proceeds and actively raised new funds through a successful crowd funding campaign raising £8,633, funding from other CPRE Branches and the London Green Belt council of £5,200 to support work with the latter, and a one-off private donation of £10,000. Total income therefore was £69,503, an increase of 24% from 2015 (£55,860).

Overall expenses increased by 41% to £85,717 in 2016 from £60,911 in 2015. This was primarily driven by increased staff salary costs, rising by 44% to £60,209 (2015: £41,912) because of the addition of a third part-time staff member. Project and Event costs increased significantly in 2016 compared with 2015 to £5,594 from £1,659 as a result of our producing more publications, our hosting of a launch event for the "Safe Under Us?" publication in the House of Lords, and as a direct outcome of the joint London Green Belt Council and London CPRE Partnership Project. Additionally, there was a general increase in travel costs to £2,041 (2015: £591) as staff networked more and attended meetings for the Urban Network.

Governance costs increased by 95%, from £656 in 2015 to £1,282 in 2016. This increase was a result of including an external facilitator in the annual strategy sessions. Whilst the inclusion of a facilitator was a useful addition, the trustees are assessing whether this represented adequate value for money and will decide whether to repeat this in 2017 accordingly.

The outcome of this is a year-end deficit of £16,214 (2015 deficit was £5,051). CPRE London remains in a strong net asset position of £72,853, with year-end cash balances of £79,067, which includes restricted funds of £10,000 for Green Spaces work.

CPRE London would like to express their gratitude to Mr. David Tillett FCA for his continued volunteering of his time in acting as our Independent Examiner.

Alexander King, Treasurer, CPRE London
April, 2017