

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2017

Last year marked a fresh start for CPRE London. We welcomed three new trustees, Kate Allardyce, Linda Duberley and Danny Garvey, as well as our new Director Neil Sinden. We also undertook a fundamental review of our strategy. This report outlines our main activities undertaken for the public benefit having regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

### STANDING UP FOR THE GREEN BELT AND GREEN SPACES

In May we published a report *The Strongest Protection? - one year on*, which revealed a significant increase in threats to protected land within London, mainly from schools and residential development. We provided advice to local campaign groups and were pleased to help campaigners in Redbridge successfully oppose building on Oakfield Playing Fields.

In July we published our report *Space to Build* showing that we don't need to build on green spaces to solve the housing crisis. Our research showed there was space for over one million new homes in London if we made more effective use of previously developed land and buildings, including single storey supermarkets, surface car-parking, and low density industrial parks. The research attracted national media coverage, influenced the Chancellor's pre-Budget speech and was echoed by the Communities Secretary, Sajid Javid.

In October, in association with the London Green Belt Council, we published *The accelerating loss of London's Green Belt* which revealed a doubling in the number of sites threatened by housing development across the whole Metropolitan Green Belt both within London and in surrounding counties. This report was discussed in Parliament and fed into work by CPRE National Office which received widespread media coverage.

We also initiated a joint project with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) to map all Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land borough by borough across London. This data will be of value to all those concerned with green spaces, planning and development in the capital.

Critical to the future of London's green spaces is the network of local community groups prepared to stand up for their protection and enhancement. We have developed the *Our Space* project, in association with the London Friends of Green Spaces Network to help build the capacity and number of Parks Friends groups by sharing best practice and inspiring action.

### TRANQUIL LONDON

During the year we began to develop a new project *Tranquil London* to explore the extent, characteristics and benefits of the tranquillity of London's green and public spaces and the potential for improvement. There is growing recognition of the importance of 'tranquillity', a sense of calm and relaxation in an outdoor setting, as an aspect of environmental quality and public health. As part of this project we have researched the impact of traffic noise on London's parks and our enjoyment of them. A report on this will be available at the AGM.

### THE LONDON PLAN

We responded to three major consultation papers by the Mayor of London on environmental, transport and housing policies for the city. We outlined our aspirations for the new draft London Plan which was published for consultation in November and organised a seminar on the subject. Many of the policies contained in the draft Plan, not least concerning the Green Belt, have been influenced by our work.

### REFRESHING OUR STRATEGY

With a new Director and trustees arriving during the year, and in the face of significant external changes, the Board felt it was a good time to review our Vision, Mission and Strategy. We were keen to build on the strengths that CPRE London has established. As a starting point we agreed the following key messages:

- We are London's leading environment charity in protecting green spaces and providing solutions for our city
- We are respected by policy makers as an authoritative voice in the planning and development of London
- We are trusted by a network of more than 100 community groups to provide critical advice to support their local campaigns
- We are backed by a powerful national organisation that amplifies our voice, enhances our resources and increases our impact

The output from the review is summarised in the graphic below. Three goals, Protect, Revitalise and Engage, relate to our external activities and one goal, Organise, relates to ensuring we develop as a strong, sustainable branch of the national CPRE network.



## TRUSTEES

We were delighted to welcome Kate Allardyce, Linda Duberley and Danny Garvey as new trustees at the AGM. They joined John Croxson (Chair), Carol Hamke-Onstwedder (Vice- Chair), Diane Kennard (Vice Chair), Alexander King (Treasurer), Susan Crabtree (Secretary) and Cynthia Jenkins. Kate Allardyce kindly offered to take over as Secretary while Susan Crabtree was on maternity leave. The Board met on a quarterly basis to review management of the charity and receive reports from staff and honorary officers. Following the birth of her child and a move out of London, Susan has decided to relinquish her role with CPRE London. We thank her for her work, especially on the review of the constitution (see AGM papers). We are currently seeking to reinforce the Board with the appointment of a new trustee with expertise in fundraising through an open recruitment process.

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

We were sorry to say goodbye to Catherine Maguire who left us in December to take up a role working on air pollution at Client Earth. Catherine provided us with administrative support and was also the London Green Belt Campaigner. We thank Catherine for her contribution to our work, alongside our Director Neil Sinden, and Alice Roberts our Head of Green Space Campaigns who are both part time. We are also grateful for the contribution to our work made by volunteers and, in particular, we thank Sebastian Archer, Surriya Javed, Elisabeth Ntambwe, Rosie Burrells, Dominic Innes, Nicholas Spickernell and Brigid Finlayson.

## FUNDRAISING

At the last AGM we said we would prioritise fundraising. During the year we launched two appeals. The first, to help us defend London's parks and green spaces, raised over £5,000. Our second appeal in December for donations to support the *Our Space* project - outlined above - raised over £2,000. Many thanks to all those who contributed. We were also delighted to receive an anonymous donation of £10,000 for our work to protect London's green spaces.

*If you would like further information about any of the matters covered in this report or would like to become more involved in bringing our new strategy to life, please contact us at [office@cprelondon.co.uk](mailto:office@cprelondon.co.uk)*

John Croxson, Chair, CPRE London on behalf of the Board. April 2018

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2017 (£)

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Restricted Funds 2017	Total 2017	Total 2016
Membership income	43,523	-	43,523	44,845
Earned income	-	-	-	-
Grant income	-	-	-	-
Contributions to projects	-	10,600	10,600	5,200
Donations and branch appeal proceeds	390	17,868	18,258	19,226
Legacies and bequests	-	-	-	-
Bank interest earned	90	-	90	231
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>44,003</b>	<b>28,468</b>	<b>72,471</b>	<b>69,503</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff salary costs	25,767	28,468	54,235	60,209
Rent	9,000	-	9,000	9,000
Office expenses	2,400	-	2,400	4,280
Project and event costs	413	-	413	5,594
Publications <sup>1</sup>	1,660	-	1,660	3,232
Dues and subscriptions	10	-	10	10
Insurance expense	585	-	585	589
Professional fees	1,103	-	1,103	1,440
Governance costs <sup>2</sup>	2,290	-	2,290	1,282
Bank charges	137	-	137	82
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>43,365</b>	<b>28,468</b>	<b>71,833</b>	<b>85,717</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>(16,214)</b>

Note 1: The significant drop in publications is due to the reallocation of the annual newsletter associated with the AGM to governance costs

Note 2: See note 1

Note 3: The £10,000 of restricted funds carried over from 2016, and all received during 2017, related to the London Green Belt project and Green Spaces projects, were spent with the exception of £10,000 received late in the year which has been carried over to 2018.

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 (£)

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	73,559	75,314
Prepayments	2,829	2,250
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>76,388</b>	<b>77,564</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	1,783	3,512
Other payables	1,114	1,200
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,897</b>	<b>4,711</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>73,491</b>	<b>72,853</b>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
Funds brought forward	72,853	89,067
Surplus/Deficit for the year	638	(16,214)
<b>Total Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>73,491</b>	<b>72,853</b>
<b><i>Of which Restricted Funds</i></b>	<b><i>10,000</i></b>	<b><i>10,000</i></b>

### Treasurer's Report

CPRE London's financial position remains strong thanks to the efforts of the staff to reduce costs and a focus on more active fundraising as compared to previous years. The core income from membership subscriptions has decreased by 3% from £44,845 to £43,523. Donations and Branch Appeal proceeds also decreased by 5% but remain significantly higher than the £6,986 that was raised in 2015. Once again a generous private donation of £10,000 contributed here. The Contributions to projects income was driven by the joint work with London Green Belt council contributing £10,600 to support work with the latter- this arrangement is not expected to continue in 2018. Total income therefore was £72,471, an increase of 4% from 2016 (£69,503).

Overall expenses decreased by 16% to £71,833 in 2017 from £85,717 in 2016. This was partly due to a reduction in salary costs by 10% but also due to ongoing cost saving efforts by the staff more broadly. Office expenses were reduced by 44%, and significantly Project and Event costs (including travel) reduced by 93% from £5,594 to £413 partly due to the lack of events in 2017 like the House of Lords event held in 2016. The reduction in Publications costs by £1,572 (49%) was not due to a significant reduction in expenditure in this area but the shift to recognising the annual newsletter as a Governance cost. This also explains the increased expenditure on Governance costs. In 2016 the expenditure on the annual newsletter was £1,731.74 and in 2017 it was £1,811.48. Governance costs excluding the annual newsletter actually reduced to £479 from £1,282 in 2016.

The outcome of this is a year-end surplus of £638 (2016 deficit was £16,213). CPRE London remains in a strong and marginally improved net asset position of £73,491 with year-end cash balances of £73,559, which includes restricted funds of £10,000 for Green Spaces work.

CPRE London is currently transitioning to a new independent examiner after Mr. David Tillett retired from the role after submission of the 2016 accounts to the Charity Commission. The new examiner has been identified and, subject to AGM approval, will examine these accounts ahead of submission later this year.

Alexander King, Treasurer CPRE London, April 2018