

London's green space: more successes!

Green Belt land is set to receive stronger protection in the new London Plan. Following our campaigning, London Mayor Sadiq Khan is seeking to tighten policy to resist the loss of Green Belt through local plan reviews.

Land protected east, west, north and south

We are delighted to have helped save Oakfield playing fields in east London from development. We also joined hundreds of objectors to proposals to build on Green Belt in Hounslow. In Barnet a school was refused permission to expand into the Green Belt. And in Sutton protected sites proposed for development were removed from the Local Plan after widespread opposition.

Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land mapped

We have worked with Greenspace Information for Greater London to comprehensively map London's protected land. Surprisingly this has never been done before but it will be critical for future monitoring.

Driving in Circles

Earlier this year we published research which showed why the Green Belt must brace itself for 5 million extra car journeys each week. Proposed developments will leave people with little choice but to use a car for more journeys. The impact on congestion and air pollution will be huge. We want planners to use this evidence to push for more new development to be based around public transport, walking and cycling.



Space to Build: why we don't need to lose green spaces to solve the housing crisis

Our influential report *Space to Build*, published last year, makes the case for reusing previously developed land for housing rather than building on green space. We wanted to respond to claims that 'we need to build on the Green Belt to solve the housing crisis' - a mantra often used by developers to push for lucrative planning permissions with little impact on the delivery of new housing.

'This is about building homes on sites that have been previously developed - not about, in any way, undermining the Green Belt' Sajid Javid MP

Our report shows that there is plenty of disused and underused space in London including single storey supermarkets, surface car parking, low density industrial parks that could be modernised and used more intensively. Even road space can be reclaimed and recycled! The Chancellor referred to the figures we used in his Budget Speech in November and more recently the Communities Secretary said we need to use land more effectively, echoing our research. We are pleased that our messages are also taken up in the new London Plan.

CPRE London AGM 2018

on Thursday 24 May (6-8.30pm) at 70 Cowcross St, EC1M
 with a talk by the **Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues**, followed by a panel discussion on
Tranquil London: improving green and open spaces for health and wellbeing.
 Book your place by contacting us at: office@cprelondon.org.uk or
 by calling 020 7253 0300



CPRE London in the national and local media

We have again made headlines raising awareness about green spaces under threat. Our *Space to Build* report was covered by The Times and our Campaigner, Alice Roberts, appeared on BBC London News and was interviewed on London Live News. Our manifesto for the local elections in May attracted considerable media interest and was widely supported by local candidates.

Traffic Noise in London's Parks - our new report

One in three of London's Parks are severely impacted by traffic noise and related air pollution. This was the shocking finding of our recent survey of 888 parks using official noise mapping data. ***Please donate to our annual appeal to enable us to do more to tackle this awful blight.***

Our Space - working with the London Friends of Green Spaces Network

Launched in January, this new project is supporting Parks Friends groups. We are currently collecting and sharing stories and organising events so groups can learn from and visit one another, and be inspired.

Thank you!

We would like to thank all our members and supporters for your continuing support. We are especially grateful to our volunteers Sebastian Archer, Rosie Burrells, Brigid Finlayson, Dominic Innes, Surriya Javed, Elisabeth Ntambwe, and Nicholas Spickernell who have given a great deal of time and without whom we wouldn't have achieved half as much!

Tranquil London - in search of calm

This year we are launching a major new campaign *Tranquil London* to promote action to improve the quality and health benefits of our green and other public spaces. As our new report reveals, too much of London's parkland is damaged by excessive noise, affecting public enjoyment of them, and the ability to relax and experience peace and quiet. Too many of our streets and public spaces are unpleasant places to walk or linger. CPRE has pioneered the appreciation of tranquillity in a rural context but there is less understanding of its value in towns and cities. The World Health Organisation considers excessive noise to be second only to air pollution in terms of its impact on human health.

Noise pollution and lack of clean air are key public health concerns.....creating places of calm in major urban settings like London takes leadership and I welcome CPRE's Tranquil London project,
Rushanara Ali MP, 2018

Working with partners, our *Tranquil London* project will raise awareness of the value of tranquillity, challenging the notion that cities must always be stressful. We want to enable more people to experience calm in the urban environment by promoting action to protect and extend tranquil places through better land use planning, landscape design, traffic management and public realm improvements.



We all need space: unless we have it we cannot reach that sense of quiet, in which whispers of better things come to us gently. Our lives in London are over-crowded, over-excited, over-strained. This is true of all classes: we all want quiet: we all want beauty for the refreshment of our souls, **Octavia Hill, 1888**

You can find out more about our work by visiting:
www.cprelondon.org.uk - where you can sign up to receive regular updates and our bi-monthly **Green London e-Bulletin** by using the *join us* link at the bottom right. Alternatively you can email: office@cprelondon.org.uk