



CPRE Bedfordshire
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Bedfordshire's countryside needs you - become a planning volunteer!

Bedfordshire's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Bedfordshire) is calling for people to help stand up for Bedfordshire's much loved countryside.

The local charity is recruiting new volunteers to its team that responds to planning applications that impact our green spaces and rural communities.

If you have some time to give, and some experience in working on local planning issues, then we'd love to hear from you.

Who is CPRE?

CPRE fights for a better future for the English Countryside, working to protect, shape and enhance our beautiful, thriving countryside for everyone to value and enjoy. Much of this work is done by volunteers in county branches across England.

CPRE Bedfordshire is a branch of CPRE and operates as an independent charity, working to protect Bedfordshire's countryside.

At CPRE Bedfordshire, a small team of volunteers engage in the local planning system and campaign on local planning issues to influence how Bedfordshire's countryside and rural communities are developed.

What does being a planning volunteer involve?

Our planning work is varied and largely desk-based, and depends on the nature of planning applications or issues at any time. Work could involve:

- reviewing plans, applications and other consultations on the internet
- drafting response letters to the local planning authority, and assisting in the preparation of responses to wider consultations, including planning appeals
- researching planning policy and best practice
- highlighting the local angle to some of CPRE national office's campaigns, which have included light pollution, green belt protection, litter and planning reform.

Occasionally the role may involve visiting sites, plus meetings with other CPRE planning volunteers, parish councillors, local residents or other organisations.

Who are we looking for?

This role requires a keen interest in the protection of our countryside, alongside some experience of campaigning or local planning issues. This may be, for example, through your role as a parish councillor, from your involvement in a neighbourhood plan or a community campaign.

We also hope that you can offer us most of the following qualities:

- a strong interest in the countryside
- an interest in investigative work, with an eye for detail
- good communication skills - written and verbal
- computer literate - the internet, e-mail and MS Word or equivalent

You will have the option to work either from home or from our Bedford office, at hours that suit you. You will also be given support in your role as a CPRE volunteer, including an induction at our national office in London.

What's in it for you?

You will become part of a friendly and capable team, improving your knowledge of our local planning system and working to make a difference to the future of Bedfordshire's towns, villages and countryside.

As well as working as part of our branch's planning team, you will also have opportunities to get involved in wider CPRE campaigns and events as a part of its volunteer network.

The role is voluntary although we will pay all out-of-pocket expenses with prior agreement, in line with our Volunteers Policy.

Contact details:

To apply for this volunteer role, please email us with some information about yourself, including why you would be interested in joining our planning team.

Please also contact us if you would like to find out more about this role.

To apply or for more information, please contact Susan on susan.walls@cprebeds.org.uk or call 01234 353331.