



# ACTION ESSEX

The Newsletter of the Essex branch of the  
Campaign to Protect Rural England

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Editor: David Williams

The county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is a registered charity (no.1094178) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England, no. 4536412. It exists to promote the beauty, tranquility and diversity of rural Essex by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

## A TIME FOR CHANGE

The effectiveness of many organisations and companies depends on how well it can deal with inherent problems. But it also means acknowledging them in the first place – and that may be the harsh truth now facing CPREssex. As a branch, do we have problems which are diluting how well we operate and if we have, what can we do about them?

*“Should we be working closely with other agencies who share our concerns?”*

If you don't think there is much wrong with CPREssex then why bother to read on. However, you may feel uneasy about the way we are handling our primary objectives of protecting the beauty and tranquillity of the countryside. If so then maybe you can contribute to the debate which is now gaining momentum. The voices of the members should be heard.

The structure of CPREssex has changed little over the years. The district groups have close contact with what

is happening in their areas but at the moment are only represented in eight of the 14 council districts. They report back to the Advisory Committee as do the specialist groups which concentrate on planning, aviation, transport, mineral waste and energy. Some believe this structure needs a shake-up especially as representation in some parts of the county is virtually non-existent.

Sometimes our expertise is spread too thinly and therefore makes little impact; so should we focus more on special projects with a small group of people taking a broader look at important issues and working closely with other agencies who share our concerns about what is happening to the landscape? Why compete with others when the ultimate goal is the same?

The best example has been the involvement that CPREssex had with SSE (Stop Stansted Expansion). They were the high-profile leaders of the campaign to stop airport expansion but our commitment and advice was valuable and appreciated. *(continued on page 2)*

This edition of the ACTION ESSEX includes all the details of the Annual General Meeting to be held at Copped Hall on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. See pages 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

It is important to recognise that we are neither powerful or well-known enough to ignore what other countryside protection groups are doing. Our members may not chain ourselves to farmyard gates or sabotage construction equipment moving onto green field sites. That is not our style. We use argument and persuasion, discussion and expertise to support our causes and that is surely the best approach in the years ahead.

We have a lot to contribute. But the world around us is changing rapidly. So too are attitudes. We have to accept that protecting the landscape in industrialised and urban areas deserves as much of our focus as the wide, open agricultural areas and rural communities. It may surprise some people to know that 63% of Basildon district and 60% of Thurrock is designated as green belt.

Look at the way Thameside Essex, once a heavy industrialised area, is being targeted by the developers; Runwell faces the prospect of a new prison on the hospital site and this also involves loss of green belt land; residents in Southend are incensed about the expansion of the airport.

These are issues which people in Essex feel passionate about – and we should be alongside them giving support and advice. So we need to be in a position where our resources are being maximised to give the best advice and support. But we are not a high-powered organisation with financial muscle that can stand toe-to-toe against government, local authorities and private companies.

Our volunteers give their time, energy and knowledge on a wide range of topics and do not always get the back-up they deserve. So it is time to re-organise and re-structure; consider our strengths and try to improve on our weaknesses.

At a time when the new Coalition Government is making sweeping financial cuts right across the board will clearly demand some change of strategy on the part of CPRE nationally. In Essex we are facing challenges that may expose weaknesses in our methods and strategies that have survived for a long time. Now they need reviewing. We have to make sure that we are using our resources effectively and efficiently.

## ***ACTION TEAM APPROACH HAS ADVANTAGES***

*The Temple Farm experience is an example of the new approach which CPREssex may adopt when dealing with difficult and complex planning matters that involve public enquiries.*

*This development at West Hanningfield offended several CPRE principles. The origins of the plans submitted by Wharf Land Investments date back to the early 1990s when industrial development on the 33 hectares at Temple Farm - including a small 5 acre brownfield area - had been allowed to go unchecked by Chelmsford Borough Council. WLI wanted to expand their activities over a larger area.*

*In the past, opposition would have been co-ordinated by the District Group with support from local organisations and opponents. This time we were on our own so a branch 'action' team was formed (Helen Clothier, Tricia Moxey, Ed Dixon, John Drake) with a variety of skills and knowledge that could be utilised to support our case.*

*The Public Enquiry was held in June and John Drake has summarised the team's presentation. In his 'wash-up', John says that some things went well; others didn't. Scheduling tasks according to individual strengths, getting professional advice, making full use of IT opportunities with plans and maps, concentrating on the land and visual impact of the planning*

*issues - these were some of the big plus points of the new approach.*

*But the downside needs to be addressed as well. More help is always a bonus; the team needed a traffic expert; there was minimal support from local residents; press or media coverage was virtually non-existent.*

*District Groups with their local knowledge provide an important link with issues and concerns which might otherwise slip 'under the radar'. But from this experience, a branch 'action' team can be effective when the issues are more complex and require additional expertise to support selected campaigns.*

# TALES OF THE LANDSCAPE

**As we remember the Battle of Britain**  
**70 years ago, David Williams looks back**  
**at a time when the Essex landscape**  
**played a part in winning the war.**



**Who** would argue that Britain has a diverse and fascinating landscape? There's something for everyone. The broad horizons of East Anglia, the wild moorlands of Yorkshire, rugged mountain ranges in Cumbria, green rolling Shropshire valleys – and so it goes on. For years, CPRE has been reminding everyone that the character of this landscape must not be compromised by the unchecked development of roads, housing estates and industrial parks. Sadly, though, many ambitious schemes are manipulating and restructuring the natural landscape and creating something that is often intrusive and uninspiring. Golf courses are just one example and wind turbines can't be ignored!

Why do we have to destroy a view that has given so much pleasure to so many people over decades, even centuries? How often is natural skyline penetrated by tall buildings or an unspoilt valley considered an ideal site for an exclusive housing estate with replanted trees and wide areas of lawns and cultivated shrubs.

Airport expansion is a landscape destroyer and in Essex the recent battles over the second runway at Stansted and the re-development of Southend has aroused a lot of anger and resentment. The plans that BAA had for Stansted have been shelved but the Stobart Group show no signs of bowing to outside pressure and halting the runway extension and terminal re-building at Southend.

Yet nearly 70 years ago it was so different. As Britain stood alone against Hitler, air power was making a significant and winning contribution. After the Battle of Britain, plans to take the fight to the enemy were being drawn up – and that included building over 450 new airfields across the country, many of them in East Anglia. If ever there was a time when the phrase “covering the countryside with concrete” meant anything, this was it!

At the peak of wartime activity there were 720 operational service airfields covering a total of 360,000 acres. Since then, around 600 have disappeared, almost literally, because over the last half-century they have been reclaimed for agriculture, converted into civil airfields or used for light industrial purposes. Count the number of chicken and

turkey farms on ex-airfields the next time you drive through East Anglia! Some were left derelict and the old wartime buildings became overgrown and almost lost from view.

In Essex, 15 airfields were allocated to the United States Army Air Force most of them class A design involving the three converging runways. At the peak of construction, in 1942, airfields were being commissioned at the rate of one every three days. Altogether, 24 military facilities were operational in Essex, 34 in Suffolk and 37 in Norfolk.

There were no complaints, no petitions, no angry public meetings. Under the Emergency Powers Act of 1939, landowners could not object and compensation was not paid out until years after the war was over. There was a price to pay if we wanted to win the war and that price scarred the landscape, the parks and green open spaces.

Food was an essential so allotments flourished; grand houses and agricultural land were requisitioned to house troops and build military facilities; with the Americans entering the war there was a desperate need for more airfields to accommodate the thousands of fighters and bombers of the United States Army Air Force. These and other fascinating facts were included in a document “The Impact of Airfields on the British Landscape” compiled by R. N. E. Blake in 1965 and published in *The Geographical Journal*. He was a research officer for the East Suffolk Planning Department and went on to lecture at Manchester University's Department of Town and Country Planning.

*After the war, 85% of the airfields were closed down. Many were later restored for agricultural use and the concrete broken up and used as hardcore for building work on new towns and roads, including the M 11.*

Blake concludes that the average size of an airfield was 400 acres although there were some, like North Weald, which were about 250 acres. The area of agricultural land requisitioned was slightly larger than Bedfordshire and represented about 1% of the total agricultural land in England. The most common construction was

the three-paved-runway lay out that were 150ft wide and with 50 ft wide perimeter tracks. With the dispersal bays, technical sites, munitions stores and living quarters this amounted to 100 acres of concrete.

In the years following the end of the war in 1945, around 85% of the military airfields were closed. Some were sold to companies who used the buildings as light industrial premises and many were restored as farmland. In some cases the concrete was crushed to use in the construction of motorways and other road developments. By the time Blake's report appeared nearly 50% of land had been restored to the farming community.

The runways at RAF Chipping Ongar – also known as Willingale – were used as hardcore for the Brentwood bypass; RAF Earls Colne is now a golf course; RAF Hornchurch, established in World War One, is part of the Thames Chase Community Forest. When RAF Stansted Mountfitchett was bought by British Airports Authority in 1966, few believed that it would become London's third airport.

Today not all the Ordnance Survey maps show the familiar triangle-shape runway layout that characterised many of the airfields. Nearly all traces have disappeared although closer inspection will often reveal featureless areas lacking woodlands, hedgerows, ditches and tracks. Water drainage was disrupted when the airfields were constructed so although many of these sites are now intensively cultivated, some farmers reported lower yields in the years following reclamation.

Research has shown that the effects of disturbing the landscape has been greater than anyone probably realised and it did impact on the lives and attitudes of communities in the more remote and beautiful corners of the country.

It is still possible to get a hint of what happened all those years ago by searching the internet and reading some of the many books that have been written about wartime airfields. The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust have a dedicated following and their memorials appear across the county. There's even an enthusiastic band who contribute regularly to [www.controltowers.co.uk](http://www.controltowers.co.uk)

For industrial archaeologists of the future, these areas will always hold a fascination but it remains to be seen whether all traces of these abandoned and reclaimed airfields dating from World War Two finally disappear. As we look around and see what is being done to our landscape today it is worth asking the question – when we destroy such unique features are they lost forever?

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**THE RURAL CHALLENGE**  
**(CPRE's latest report)**

What does the future hold for rural England? CPRE and other national

organisations who share our concern for sustainability in the countryside, have produced a comprehensive report – THE RURAL CHALLENGE – setting out the future objectives which are needed to support rural communities. Some CPREssex members have given their first reactions.

*I see two particular challenges facing the countryside at present. How do we make farming sustainable both for the farmer in terms of a decent income and in terms of the wider countryside so we see an increase in trees, hedgerows, farmland birds and insects and so on?*

*Secondly, how do we keep the countryside and its communities as a balanced and thriving place rather than one dominated by second homes, commercial leisure centres, overlarge new or extended homes out of the reach of ordinary families or couples and without basic essential services. (David Green)*

*I would say that we must retain all valuable farmland for food production to support / improve our quality of life. (Peter Foreman)*

Visit [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk) for more details of The Rural Challenge

## **RESTORING ANCIENT WOODLANDS**

### *CPREssex links up with Essex Woodland Partnership*

A new initiative by CPREssex, working alongside the Essex Woodland Partnership, could encourage greater protection for ancient woodlands across the county which have been declining over the past 20 years.

The Essex Woodland Partnership was recently created to address serious concerns of environmentalists and conservationists. Now EWP have enlisted our help to reverse this trend and emphasise the ecological value of these special woodlands by restoring their economic viability and in local communities and right across the county.

It is a positive example of how CPREssex can support the work of other organisations who share our determination to protect the diversity and special character of the countryside.

Efficient woodland management can also create jobs and save woodcraft skills which are in danger of being lost. Our woodlands don't just produce timber, but also, for example chestnut split fencing, which is used throughout the county. Businesses and homes can become self sufficient through the wood fuel initiative. EWP has a database of all the county's woodlands of this kind.

For any eligible woodland the Partnership will produce, free of charge, a detailed management plan and identify the work required and where and when the management will take place. It will evaluate the cost of the work and the potential economic return from



timber sales and grant aid. There is no discrimination between sites in public or private ownership.

EWP has already completed detailed management plans for numerous County Council woodlands, large estates such as Braxted Park, mixed farm sites, and shooting woodlands.

Patrick McKenna, representing the EWP, has the full support of the Executive Committee. We would like to help EWP identify potentially suitable woodlands for management throughout the county.

If you are a farmer or landowner, or if you have a detailed knowledge of a particular part of the county, please let us know of any ancient woodlands which might benefit from EWP project.

Patrick McKenna can be contacted on 07770 690899 or 01787 227555. He would also like to know if anyone is interested in one of his sites as an observer or a helper.

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### **GREEN BELT DEVELOPMENT REJECTED BY INSPECTOR**

Green Belt land at Rochford and Hawkwell has been saved after Governor inspectors turned down appeals by developers to build 656 new homes. It is a massive boost for local people who launched a determined and convincing campaign to prevent the housing schemes at Christmas Tree Farm (Hawkwell) and Coombes Farm near Rochford.

The decision came just weeks after Eric Pickles, MP for Brentwood and Ongar and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, announced that he was scrapping the previous government's regional spatial strategies. On the face of it, this looks like good news but there are likely to be some uncomfortable details in the small print as the Government pushes ahead with its 'Big Society' agenda.

The Government is currently preparing a fundamental reform to the planning system to devolve more power down to local authorities and communities.

**Copped Hall: The building was in a sad state before the Trust took it over in 1995 and began their restoration work.**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

A grand mansion with a history dating back to Elizabethan times is the venue for this year's Annual General Meeting of CPREssex.



It takes place at Copped Hall, Epping on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October and members will have the opportunity to see the progress that has been made to restore one of the great houses of West Essex. It has been rescued from dereliction by the Copped Hall Trust and a guided tour of the house and gardens and a talk by the architect and co-founder of the Trust, Alan Cox, will precede the AGM.

This fine 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian building which can be seen from the M25 was purchased by the Trust in 1995. Work then began to bring some of the former glory back to this imposing mansion and the CPRE members will be able to see what has been achieved since their last visit over 10 years ago. You can see some of the upstairs rooms, the cellars and the four-acre walled vegetable garden which is now under cultivation.

Educational talks and workshops are a major part of the Trust activities and these will be highlighted by Alan Cox who will then give a talk for CPRE members about the progress and aims of the Trust.

### PROGRAMME FOR THE AFTERNOON

*1.30 pm Members to arrive at Copped Hall via the Crown Hill entrance on the Epping-Upshire road. The controlled gate will be open for vehicles for about 45 minutes.*

*2.00 pm Guided Tour of Copped Hall and gardens. Members should be aware that this will involve climbing the stairs to the upper rooms as well as visiting the cellars. Those who are less mobile and have difficulty moving around may prefer not to join the tour but are very welcome for the rest of the afternoon activities.*

*3.30 pm (approx.) Refreshments*

*4.15 pm (approx.) Talk by Alan Cox, co-founder of the Trust*

*5.00 pm Annual General Meeting*

There is only one entrance (on the Epping-Upshire Road) and members are urged to arrive in good time. Late arrivals must follow the instructions given on the flyer/attendance slip which is included with this edition of ACTION ESSEX.

There is an excellent web site detailing the history of Copped Hall from its earliest days and the work of the Trust. Log on to [www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk](http://www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk)

Directions to Copped Hall: Follow signs to Loughton (then to Epping). Drive uphill through the forest to the roundabout. Take the first left exit (B1393), passing the garage on the left. In slightly over half a mile, turn left, signposted Upshire. After a few hundred yards you will see on the right the entrance gates and gate houses to Copped Hall.

# CPREssex Chairman's Report for the period April 2009 to March 2010



This Report summarises the Branch's activities . The Advisory Council and Executive Committee meetings were held bi-monthly. Topic-led sub committees and District Groups met regularly with Chairmen reporting to the Advisory Committee.

The main campaigning issues were:

1. Opposition to centrally imposed housebuilding quotas, which continued to create massive pressure for greenfield housing development all over the county, but particularly in the Colchester, Chelmsford and Harlow areas.
2. Support for regeneration of the existing housing stock and brownfield rather than greenfield housing development.
3. Opposition to the expansion of Stansted and Southend Airports.
4. An urgent repeal of the government guidance in Circular 01/2006 which has enabled opportunistic and environmentally-damaging site developments by travellers.

In the countdown to the May 2010 General Election, we wrote to all the main parties' Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in Essex seeking their commitment to these issues if elected. A very good response was obtained from 14 PPCs.

CPREssex representatives continued to attend quarterly meetings of CPRE East of England, a regional link between the branches, the East of England Development Agency, and the Government Office for the East of England

Communications were maintained with CPRE's National Office by CPREssex attendance at the Annual General Meeting and a number of other National Office events.

Communication with our members were maintained by the CPREssex website and the ACTION ESSEX newsletter. Our thanks to David Williams for keeping us updated.

## [Branch organisation](#)

From April to November 2009 Vice Chairmen Peter Chillingworth and Petra Ward managed the Branch pending the appointment of Tom Holme as Chairman in November 2009. We are most grateful to Peter, Petra and Tony Middleton for all their hard work in challenging circumstances.

Throughout the year, CPREssex employed two part time staff: David Williams as Press Officer and Tony Middleton as Campaigns and Development Manager.

Tony, assisted by volunteers including Richard Beauchamp, Jenny Pennick, Tracey Brunero, most ably ensured the smooth running of the CPREssex office in Feering, attracted new CPREssex volunteers, and maintained contacts with National Office and the District Groups. Our thanks to Tony, whose role has been integral to the continued success of CPREssex's campaigning and to our volunteers.

We were sorry to learn of Terry Callaghan's retirement as a trustee. Terry made a huge contribution to the protection of the Green Belt, and to the Epping District Group, which he will continue to support.

Our Branch AGM at Brightlingsea on October 3<sup>rd</sup> was preceded by a tour of All Saints Church and concluded by James Lawrence's talk about his barging days.

## Thames Chase

This is a major environmental project in south Essex, planting wide areas of new woodland and providing good public access. CPREssex is fortunate to have good representation at various levels. Our Vice President Ann Bartlett is the Chairman of the Thames Chase Trust, Gareth Gunning is a member of the controlling Joint Committee, representing the Forestry Commission and Natural England, Helen Clothier is the Vice Chairman of the Forest Forum, and several CPREssex members belong to the Friends of Thames Chase.

## Aviation Group

### (a) Stansted

Much time and resource was devoted to the second runway inquiry. The CPREssex contribution centered on tranquillity, light pollution and landscape impacts. Events, including a High Court victory on Heathrow, and effective lobbying by Stop Stansted Expansion, meant a string of delays in the inquiry start date.

### (b) Southend

In November 2009 Eddie Stobart Ltd seemingly lost patience with Southend and Rochford councils' joint consultative process and submitted its own application to extend the runway. In January 2010 Southend Council's Development Control Committee voted to approve Stobart's application, having failed to publish the results of its own consultations which were expected to show overwhelming opposition. This generated a lot of local anger.

### (c) CPRE National Aviation Group

John Drake continued to represent CPREssex, dealing with a number of aviation issues of national and local to Essex significance, including recognition of the adverse impacts of aviation on tranquillity and quality of life, and analysis of the real relationship between airport expansion and job creation.

Our thanks to John Drake for his tireless and tenacious work in this contentious area.

## Plans Group

Under David Green's excellent leadership, this has continued to provide valuable resource and guidance.

Its main task was to respond to a draft replacement for the East of England Plan. All four growth levels proposed were felt to be too high for the sustainability of the county's environmental, agricultural land and water resources, and infrastructure.

## Transport

It was another busy year for Peter Foreman nationally and locally, taking part in consultations on road and rail issues, corresponding and lobbying.

## Minerals and Waste

Richard Beauchamp and Colin Mayes joined this committee in November. Their activities included responding to Essex County Council's public consultation on potential new mineral extraction sites required to meet the demand for sand and gravel in the county up to 2026 and Thurrock Council's public consultation on its Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document, and site visits. Our thanks to Richard and Colin.

## District Groups

Under Ed Dixon's leadership, the Basildon Group has opposed the potentially very damaging Temple Farm Warehouse and Depot development; Ed, Tricia Moxey and John Drake attended the pre inquiry meeting.

Petra Ward's Braintree Group joined forces with a local community group to combat plans to build the largest waste management site in the UK on Rivenhall Airfield, with major environmental implications for the local area and beyond. Essex County Council granted permission, but the application was called in by the Secretary of State, and a Public Inquiry was held in autumn 2009. The Inspector recommended granting consent, but the developers still have to overcome huge financial and environmental hurdles before any construction commences. We joined many other local groups in opposing National Grid's proposals to install new power lines and pylons between Bramford and Twinstead.

Barrie Logan's Brentwood Group observed a significant increase in the number of caravans and mobile homes brought into the area. We were represented at all the appeals, all of which were lost, and continued to press for a repeal of Circular 01/2006.

In Colchester, Bertram Rope highlighted the threat of the proposed West Tey development of 10,000 new homes near Marks Tey, to which there were very strong objections. In spite of strong opposition, planning permission was obtained for five football practice pitches and an extensive Colchester United club house on grade 2 agricultural land outside the Tiptree envelope.

In Rochford, Valerie Stanton, supported by Helen Clothier, concentrated on proposals in the Site Allocations Plan for much new development in the Green Belt, and the proposed expansion of Southend Airport.

The Uttlesford Group was reformed under the Chairmanship of Tony Phillips in August 2009. During this period Uttlesford District Council issued their Core Strategy Document for the period to 2026. We objected to the housing proposals for 4000 new homes as required by the East of England Plan: 3000 in the Elsenham area, and the rest distributed round Dunmow, Great Chesterford, Saffron Walden and a number of villages. In November 2009 Tesco submitted plans for the extension of an existing store, and Sainsburys for a new supermarket, both in Saffron Walden. With a number of local groups, we joined in forming an action group, Save Walden Town Centre.

Tony Middleton and Tom Holme continued to encourage or try to locate potential leaders of Chelmsford, Harlow and Tendring Groups.

We are most grateful to all our hard working volunteers who give up so much of their time on our behalf. My participation in Brentwood, Colchester and Epping District Group meetings reinforced my admiration for the dedication and determination of all our activists who fight to preserve the beauty, diversity and tranquillity of our county's natural resources. My thanks to everyone for another year of tireless campaigning.

Tom Holme. July 2010

## **Campaigns and Development Manager's Annual Report 2010.**

Following the departure of the Honorary Secretary and Office Administrator my responsibilities have extended to include the operational management of the Feering Office, which continues to fulfil a number of important functions. This involves coordinating responses to numerous potential threats to the countryside brought to the attention of the Branch by members of the public, CPRE members and other groups and organisations. These are passed on to the appropriate district groups where they exist.

Unfortunately not all Districts have a group or an individual volunteer to make representation against inappropriate development. In these situations I am very grateful to David Green and Helen Clothier who generously give up a great of their time to provide local residents with planning advice as well as responding directly on behalf of CPREssex to applications detrimental to the countryside.

The Feering Office acts as a communication focal point for National Office, the Regional Office and a whole range of other organisations and groups many of which are affiliated to the Branch. Much of this communication is about consultation opportunities on national and regional planning policy changes as well as other initiatives. The office plays an important role in the dissemination of this information internally and to affiliated groups and also plays a part in the coordination of responses.

The Advisory Council, which is well attended by CPREssex activists and affiliated organisations also plays an important part in the process of sharing information, networking and partnership working. The Branch office continues to provide the administrative support to the Council meetings. The systems associated with this have been reviewed with more information being sent out by email and outsourcing some of the copying. There has also been a review of the storage of papers and documents generally which has resulted in the creation of more space and has had the effect of making the remaining information more accessible for those using the office.

The Feering Office manages the local systems associated with membership. I am grateful to Richard Beauchamp for his contribution to improving the administration of this and helping to move things in the direction of electronic information storage and retrieval. Membership has shown a steady decline and as part of exploring ways of increasing membership a small scale study of Branches having successfully recruited more members was conducted. This was a useful exercise in generating a number of helpful pointers to recruiting more members.

In addition to Richard Beauchamp I am also very grateful to Tracy Brunero and Jenny Pennick for their very valuable contribution to the work of the office.

Recruitment of new volunteers and activists has been and continues to be a high priority for the Branch this included recruiting a new Branch Chairman following the departure of Michael Roche. The Branch works with Volunteer Centres (part of Volunteering England) throughout Essex, Anglia Ruskin University and Reach, the National volunteer recruitment organisation. A new volunteer for the Tendring District has recently been recruited and amongst the existing volunteers Richard Beauchamp and Colin Mayes have extended their roles into minerals, waste and energy.

I am most grateful to all CPREssex activists for their ongoing support, commitment and involvement. I very much look forward to continuing our relationship and to the opportunity to add to their numbers during 2010/2011.

Tony Middleton: July 2010

#### **CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ESSEX Trustees' Annual Reports for the year ended 31st March, 2010**

**Full Name:** Campaign to Protect Rural Essex **Working Name:** CPREssex  
**Registered Charity Number:** 1094178, A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England No 4536412  
**Registered Address:** RCCE House, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Rd, Feering, Colchester, CO5 9SE.

#### **Trustees/Directors:**

Mr. T. P Callaghan (resigned March 2010)	Mr T Holme (appointed Nov 2009)
Mrs E H Clothier	Mrs J L Hinds
Mr B L Cook (appointed Oct 2009)	Mr B Logan
Mr J Drake	Mrs P Moxey
Mr E J Dixon	Mr J Palombi
Dr P H Foreman	Mrs T Petra Ward

*The Trustees/Directors are the members of the Executive Committee elected and appointed at the Annual General Meeting. During the year £627.88 was paid to Trustees solely in repayment of expenses incurred on behalf of CPREssex or its district groups.*

**Banks** CAF Bank, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA  
National Westminster Bank plc, 8 The Vineyards, Great Baddow, Essex, CM2 7QR

**Independent Examiner:** Mrs Janet E Cole, FCCA, 4 Docwra Place, Kelvedon, Colchester, Essex, CO5 9DT

#### **Purposes and Objectives:**

To promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural Essex by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

#### **How CPREssex operates:**

CPREssex has a membership of approximately 900, which includes a number of corporate members (parish councils and local amenity groups). Founded in 1932 it is the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

The secretariat of CPREssex is based at its office in Feering. During 2009/10 there were groups based in the local authority districts of Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Colchester, Epping Forest, Rochford, the Unitary Authority of Thurrock and Uttlesford.

There is a Plans Group, Publicity, Transport, Aviation and Energy, Minerals & Wastes sub-committees. CPREssex is actively involved in monitoring planning applications, including proposed airport developments, the East of England Plan, Local Authority Plans, proposals for new roads, mineral extractions, waste management and regional housing provision; it is frequently involved in discussions with District and County Council planning department officers who, from time to time, seek the views of CPREssex.

CPREssex is one of the county branches which together form CPRE East of England, the others being Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

#### **Charity No 236101 – Council for the Protection of Rural Essex.**

Except for £200, on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004 the assets, liabilities and undertakings of Registered Charity No 236101, "Council for the Protection of Rural Essex", were transferred to Registered Charity No. 1094178, "Campaign to Protect Rural Essex", a company limited by Guarantee in accordance with the reports made to members at the Annual General Meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2004.

The old charity retains its number and the name "Council for the Protection of Rural Essex", thus enabling any money that continues to be donated to it, to benefit the work of CPREssex. (During 2009/10 CPREssex acquired £139.73 in this way.) Its Trustees are the same as those of the new charity.

#### **Review of Financial Activity.**

The general fund decreased by £14,288.58 in 2009/10 in comparison with a decrease of £10,789.32 in 2008/9. Compared to 2008/09, income decreased by £3,588.13. Whilst declines were seen in subscriptions of £1,712.74, interest received £1,943.51 and income from events £1,592.70 we saw an increase in donations as a result of the National Office fund-raising appeal which netted us £1,810.51. Expenditure was £228.40 lower; whilst the full-year effect caused employment salaries to rise by £4,107.91. Major savings of £1,000 were seen with the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign, £743.48 on tranquillity mapping and £1.050 on our CPRE East of England contribution.

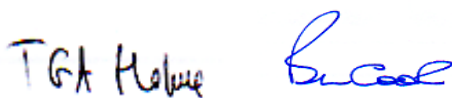
#### **Reserves Policy.**

The Reserve is used to fund any excess of expenditure over income incurred by the employment of a Press & Publicity Officer and a Campaigns and Development Manager. This policy is to be maintained until the Reserve seems likely to fall to the equivalent of 9 months' expenditure excluding such personnel within the following 6 months. This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Committee from time to time.

#### **Risk Assessment.**

The major risks to which the charity is exposed have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate them. CPREssex occupies an office in RCCE House, Threshelfords Park, Feering, under a Tenancy Agreement entered into with the Rural Community Council of Essex. The total rent for the year 2009/10 was £2,400. The rent is subject to annual review.

A fee of £100 has been paid to the Independent Examiner of the Accounts in the current financial year (2009/10) for work on the accounts presented here. NB. The Chairman's Report should be read in conjunction with this Annual Report.



Tom Holme (Chairman of CPREssex)

Brian Cook (Hon Treasurer) As Trustees & Directors of CPREssex. 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010



## **SOUTHEND AIRPORT:**

Protests continue against runway extension.

### **Letter to the Editor**

My earlier puzzlement about your coverage of Southend Airport has deepened after reading the last issue of ACTION ESSEX and I feel obliged to ask what the CPRE stance is on this airport?

You appear to make a factual report that the airport is being extended with little more than a passing comment on what unspecified opponents might be concerned about, yet in the same issue there are many plaudits for the work to stop Stansted expanding as well as an article on the Dengie being a place to 'get away from it all'.

From our house in central Maldon we can clearly see the tower blocks of Southend, ironically by looking over parts of the Dengie. The impact on this area for miles around will be environmentally damaged by flights to Europe and North Africa and if passenger numbers swell to two million.

Already the skies here are blighted by the constant vapour trails of planes heading for London airports - but at least these are at relatively high levels so the noise intrusion is mild depending on the wind. That will clearly not be true of flights arriving and leaving Southend. We can even see the annual air show from our arm chairs! Please tell me what efforts will stop this expansion at Southend!

Judy Radcliffe

*Reply from John Drake who represents CPREssex on the National Office Aviation Group.*

*Dear Ms. Radcliffe,*

*I can assure you that CPREssex has been strongly opposing the runway extension at Southend. Prior to Stobart's planning application, we have also been opposing various options for aviation expansion at Southend proposed by Southend and Rochford councils, as part of the local development plan process.*

*As CPREssex aviation representative, I have been responsible for our submissions going back to 2005 when the Airport Master Plan was issued. However I can well understand your perception that little was being done by CPREssex and natural feeling of frustration.*

*The reason is that Stansted is also my responsibility, and, as I am sure you will understand, has had to take priority in terms of CPREssex resources. We have been doing our best - and I believe doing quite a good job, to fight on both fronts. Southend has admittedly suffered in terms of reporting. If you would like to see CPREssex most recent submissions on Southend I can send you electronic copies.*

We welcome the views of our members on topics relating to the principles and work of CPREssex. Send your letters by email or post to the Office and we will endeavour to print your views and provide further information. Ed.

*Please note that some of the opinions expressed in ACTION ESSEX are those of individual contributors or of The Editor and do not necessarily represent the views of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.*

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**TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS of the CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ESSEX:** Mr. Tom Holme, Mr. David Green, Mrs. Helen Clothier, Mr. Edward Dixon, Mr. John Drake, Mr. Barry Cook, Dr. Peter Foreman, Mrs. Jill Hinds, Mr. Barrie Logan, Mrs. Tricia Moxey, Mr. John Palombi and Mrs. T. Petra Ward

County chairman, Tom Holme. Vice chairman, Peter Chillingworth. Vice-chairman, Patricia Moxey. Treasurer, Brian Cook. Press and Publicity Officer, David Williams. Campaigns and Development manager, Tony Middleton



