

Overview of CPRENEY Activities 2024

Dear Member

Throughout 2024, CPRE North and East Yorkshire ('CPRENEY') trustees have been actively representing **your** interests on a range of important issues.

Our planning team responded to numerous **planning consultations** across our large **administrative area**, ensuring that the voice of the countryside is heard in decisions affecting our cherished landscapes and communities. Alongside our published response to the first North Yorkshire Local Plan consultation, we have also responded to policy consultations for the City of York, East Yorkshire, Middlesbrough and the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We fully expect that the other Local Authorities in our area will publish draft local plans for consultation in 2026.

Trustees have worked diligently to review proposals, offer constructive feedback, and advocate for sustainable development that protects our rural heritage. In addition, we have provided **dedicated support to members**, addressing a variety of enquiries and requests for assistance, reflecting our ongoing commitment to being accessible and responsive to your needs.

Education and community engagement have remained an important part of our activities in 2024. We were delighted to continue our primary school '**Poetry for Climate Change**' project, encouraging young people to creatively express their hopes and concerns for the environment, particularly in relation to a changing climate. This initiative not only fostered environmental awareness among students but also strengthened our links with local schools and families, making climate action a shared endeavour across generations.

Our continued involvement in the **North Yorkshire Climate Coalition** has further amplified our efforts to tackle climate change at a regional level. By working alongside like-minded organisations, we have contributed to collaborative campaigns and policy discussions aimed at building a greener future for our county. Additionally, trustees attended the **Great Yorkshire Show**, where we connected with members, shared updates on our work, and showcased CPRENEY's impact.

This snapshot of activities reflects our ongoing commitment to championing the countryside and supporting you, our members, throughout the year.

The Trustees invite you to attend
CPRE North and East Yorkshire's Annual General Meeting
On Friday 7th November at 10am, online

Agenda

- 10.00 - Welcome
- 10.05 - The Chairman's Report and Trustee Introductions – Jan Arger
- 10.30 - Financial Report 2024
- 10.35 - Opportunity to speak with Trustees
- 10.45 - Close and Thanks

RSVP by Friday 31st October to: info@cpreney.org.uk or us by return of proxy voting form



Financial Overview for 2024

Income

Our income increased by 65% to £30,787 compared with £18,668 in 2023.

Additional grant funding designated for our region was secured from the National Office of CPRE and used to support critical activities, including to obtain a legal opinion on planning and climate change policy with national relevance.

Expenditure

We prioritised our activities and maintained expenditure consistent with previous years (£54,737 in 2024 compared with £55,372 in 2023).

Impact

We influenced 87 planning policy and decisions across North and East Yorkshire - almost two every week of the year!

We shared our expertise and experience in 12 policy consultations, provided technical responses to 67 planning consultations and made 3 interested party representations regarding Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - to protect the landscapes and communities we love.

We engaged with parish councils, local groups and residents – receiving positive feedback

Membership

Every new member strengthens our collective voice for the North and East Yorkshire countryside.

We welcomed around 20 new members in 2024 and are actively working to nurture and grow our membership.

Becoming a member or sharing the gift of membership to family or friends takes a few moments only - and provides lasting benefits for the region we cherish.

Please contact Holly Fawcett, CPRENEY Admin Officer, for more information: 07983 088120 or follow the link: <https://www.cpreney.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/>



“Your report was a major contributor to (the Planning Inspector’s decision to dismiss the application) and I would like to offer my thanks for producing such a professional response in such a short amount of time, somewhat under pressure!
Well done CPRE! Marvellous, thanks again”

*Hurgill Stables Objection Group
September 2024*

“Thank you for your attendance at the recent Parish Meeting – your advice and knowledge helped many of our community in responding to the proposals”

*East Barton Parish Council,
December 2024*

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband borrowed our campaign slogan when he promised to 'unleash a solar rooftop revolution' BUT now we need to see action!

CPRENEY supports the need for a rapid transition to clean power to tackle the climate emergency and recognise solar power is a key part of the energy mix. But right now, a vast amount of potential space for solar is being wasted – our rooftops. Combined with other smart energy systems, such as heat pumps, every UK home has the potential to be a clean energy powerhouse.

As a result of our national and local campaigns, **your membership and support** has helped us secure a huge win with the Government now planning for solar panels to be fitted on all new-build homes in England by 2027.

CPRENEY are campaigning for solar panels to be fitted on:

- All new affordable and social rented homes
- Roofs of warehouses, schools, hospitals, agricultural buildings, supermarkets
- Canopies above carparks
- Brownfield land
- Retrofitted existing buildings, where possible

Our countryside **should** play a vital role as carbon sink, home for nature, and protected source of food.



CPRENEY remains committed to calling on the Government to set a target for at least 60% of solar energy to come from rooftops, car parks and brownfield land. We also support a full ban on ground-mounted solar farms on our valuable scarce Grade 1 and 2 best quality agricultural land.

Two Fossil Fuel Extraction Planning Applications in North Yorkshire - A Critical Moment for the Countryside and Climate

In North Yorkshire, the countryside faces a critical juncture as two major planning applications for fossil fuel extraction—specifically via a form of hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking'—are considered in Burniston (Scarborough district) and Foxholes (Ryedale district).

These proposals, if approved, would dramatically alter our highly valued landscapes and test the UK's broader climate commitments.

North Yorkshire, known for its sweeping scenery and traditional villages, would see the installation of a 38-metre drilling rig at Burniston, operational 24/7, with associated methane flaring, significant processing infrastructure, and a marked increase in heavy vehicle traffic through rural communities and already-congested roads. At Foxholes, similar plans raise serious concerns due to the area's high-quality farmland and vulnerable watercourses near the Great Wolds Valley.

North Yorkshire Council must now apply its Joint Minerals and Waste hydrocarbon extraction policies for the first time. Notably, the Burniston application is adjacent to the North York Moors National Park and within the Heritage Coast.

Your membership is helping CPRENEY lead a robust opposition, underlining both the necessity of countryside stewardship and the urgent need to act on climate change.

Katie Atkinson, Trustee Planning Lead explains;
"These extraction plans, arriving as the national debate on energy security and climate responsibility intensifies, could set a precedent that undermines the region's cherished natural assets and the UK's climate ambitions."

The North Yorkshire fossil fuel extraction proposals are a test not only of environmental policy, but of the Council's commitment to Climate Change. We hope that the Council will demonstrate true leadership and help us to protect the countryside that we all know and cherish.

CPRE North and East Yorkshire Members Help Shape the Future of the County

We're delighted to update you on the important progress made in North Yorkshire Council's journey to create a new Local Plan—a blueprint that will guide every aspect of life across North Yorkshire for years to come.

Thanks to your commitment and participation, CPRE North and East Yorkshire (CPRENEY) has played a significant role in shaping the debate on critical issues such as countryside protection, safeguarding agricultural land, coastlines and landscapes, preserving the natural and built environment, and supporting our rural communities. Your feedback to the Council's consultation has amplified our call for strong leadership on climate adaptation and mitigation.



Katie Atkinson, our Trustee Planning Lead, shares her gratitude:

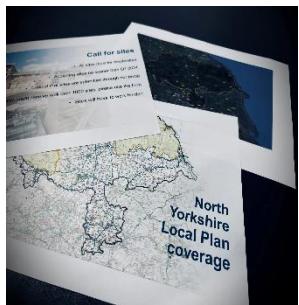
"Thank you to all our members who gave their time to comment. Your opinions and recommendations will help the Council's Planning Officers to shape the direction of growth across the county, ensuring sufficient affordable homes are built in the most appropriate places, helping our diverse rural communities and industries to thrive, whilst protecting our most valuable countryside, landscapes and habitats for generations to come."

The Local Plan: What Is It?

The Local Plan will set the framework for planning applications, allocation of land for homes and employment, and define how landscapes, and heritage assets are treated. When done well, it's a roadmap for sustainable development, aiming to balance economic growth with environmental stewardship and community well-being.

Local Plan Consultation Highlights

North Yorkshire Council's 'Our First Conversation' consultation on the new Local Plan marked a significant chance for residents, communities and stakeholders to help shape the planning and development of our county for decades ahead. The consultation sought views on key themes including:



- Future housing development: How much housing is needed and where it should be built
- Economic growth opportunities
- Infrastructure requirements for transport and services
- Environmental priorities, climate change and the preservation of green spaces
- Maintaining North Yorkshire's distinct local character

What Happens Next?

The initial consultation phase in July 2025, set the foundation for more detailed discussions to come. The collective response—powered by your voices—will help shape the policy choices that determine the locations of new homes, protection of green spaces, and the transport links we'll rely on in the future. We'll keep you updated as the Local Plan process develops and the next consultation is published for comment - currently scheduled for late 2026.

Thank you once again for your continued membership and support, ensuring your voice is heard in helping to champion North and East Yorkshire's countryside and communities.

With our Gratitude
Your CPRE North and East Yorkshire Team