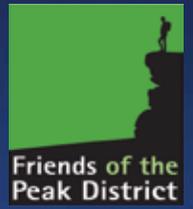




Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside



Annual review 2016

Our principal aim is to promote and encourage the improvement and protection of the countryside within the Peak District and South Yorkshire.



Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire

2016 ~ Our achievements ~ 2016

Overall 2016 was a successful year for us. We had significant achievements in protecting the countryside and in developing our organisation.



Organisation and people

2016 was the first year of our new five year strategic plan. As a major part of our new plan, we started work to build our membership substantially, principally through the appointment of Rob Parratt to the role of membership development officer. The intention is to build our income as well as our influence and effectiveness as a campaigning organisation. We recruited 94 new memberships by the end of 2016. CPRE membership income has also grown again in 2016.

We revamped our business membership offer, following a review of companies and venues which offer benefits to our members. We were pleased to welcome The Maynard, Bagshawe Cavern and Peak Foot Health as new business members in 2016.

Planning

Our core activity continued to be monitoring planning applications and commenting on local plans. During 2016 we examined 219 planning applications, an increase of 15% compared to 2015 which can be attributed in no small part to Matt Marsden, our placement student from Sheffield Hallam University. We made detailed submissions on 31 cases, and were effective in influencing 74% of the cases we engaged in.

Key successes included the refusal of a damaging housing scheme in Edenthorpe (Doncaster) but we were very disappointed by the approval, on appeal, of a controversial housing scheme in Hartington, despite us having worked closely with the Parish Council to oppose the development.

In January we attended the last public inquiry in respect of Backdale Quarry, giving evidence supporting a Prohibition Order being confirmed. In June we received the momentous news that the Secretary of State agreed with our submissions and had signed the order, meaning the



troublesome planning permission was null and void. We celebrated this huge victory, following thirteen years of campaigning, with a walk and picnic with partners from the National Park Authority and the Save Longstone Edge Group.

As well as commenting on planning applications, we also sought to influence the local plans produced by every planning authority in our area. We provided written consultations on Sheffield Growth Options, Doncaster Homes and Settlements Plan, Barnsley Local Plan Publication Draft, and the Rotherham Sites & Policies Document. We appeared at Public Examinations in High Peak and Rotherham, and engaged directly with Sheffield City Council officers to put forward our case for better protection of the Sheffield green belt.

Campaigns

With our Take Back the Tracks campaign we paved the way for Traffic Restriction Orders (TROs) banning offroaders from the beautiful and



sensitive Washgate near Hollinsclough and Derby Lane near Monyash. We also led the campaign to get Hollinsclough Rakes closed, pressuring Staffordshire County Council to serve a temporary TRO.

Our Undergrounding campaign to get intrusive electricity pylons and wires removed has also continued. We gave strong support to National Grid in developing their detailed plans to remove the pylons which blight the landscape east of the Woodhead Tunnel entrance at Dunford Bridge. The project is progressing well and we expect that it will be the first national scheme of this type to be completed, hopefully by 2021.

We continued to engage with the government's Northern Powerhouse initiative, to try to establish whether it might be used to secure major gains for the countryside. Through the auspices of our President, Fiona Reynolds, we also worked in partnership with the British Academy's 'Where we live now' project, contributing to independent research on the value of the northern countryside.

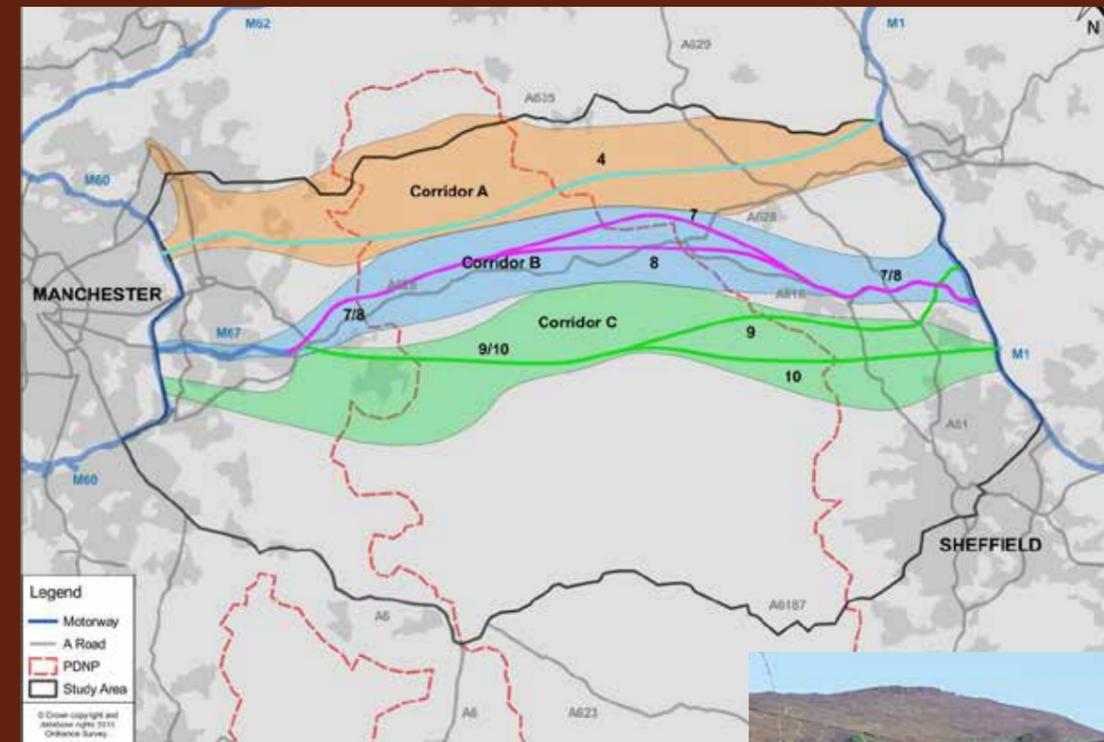
Development work was started on two major campaigns: protecting the Sheffield green belt from increasing pressure for inappropriate housing; and opposing fracking for shale gas in South Yorkshire and the Peak fringe. We adopted a new policy on fracking and worked closely with national CPRE to develop a revised Policy Guidance Note on Shale Gas, due to be published in 2017.

Transport

We continued to work on transport issues related to the government's Northern Powerhouse initiative, especially the proposed road tunnel, which would be the longest in Europe, to link the cities of the North-West to those of Yorkshire. We continue to oppose a road tunnel instead of a rail tunnel, which we would have welcomed in principle. We firmly believe that a new road tunnel under the Pennines, running under the Peak District, would create more problems than it would solve: great environmental damage would be caused to the countryside and the urban environments on either side of the tunnel.

Highways England brought forward fresh plans to alleviate congestion on the A57 with a bypass of Mottram, a link road at Glossop, climbing lanes in the National Park, and safety improvements along the whole of the corridor. At the same time a consultation was undertaken on extending the Mottram bypass to Tintwistle. As we know from the 2007 public inquiry into the Mottram Tintwistle bypass this new road infrastructure would merely increase traffic along the route with profound adverse impacts across the Peak District and in South Yorkshire. We therefore objected to these plans.

A new HS2 option was proposed following the M18 corridor, heading north and leaving South Yorkshire near Ryhill. We agreed that it is good to use existing transport corridors and warmly welcomed the fact that the proposed change of route would eliminate the serious landscape impacts of the previous route. However, the new route crosses the Magnesian Limestone ridge around Barnburgh and Hickleton, which is a distinctive, high quality landscape and a number of small settlements would be adversely affected.

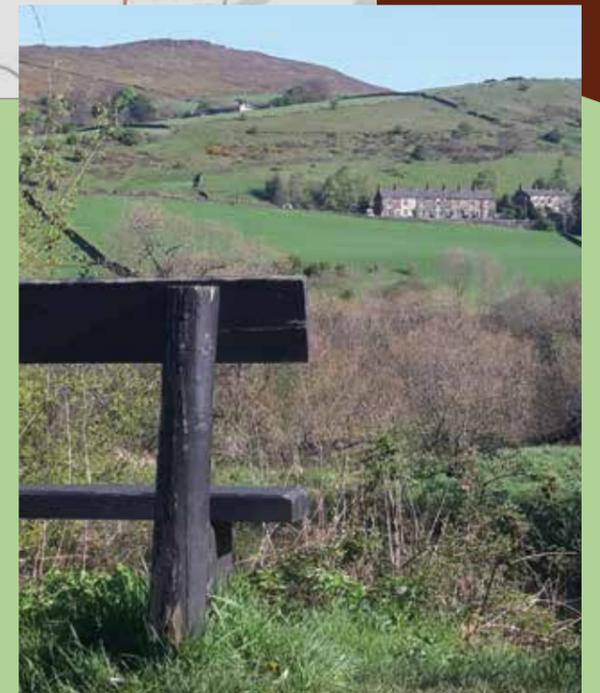


We supported proposed rail improvements in the Hope Valley and Dore in principle but had to object to the former as Network Rail had failed to fulfil its statutory duty to have regard to national park purposes and to satisfactorily meet the criteria of the test of major development in a national park. We attended the public inquiry at which Network Rail failed to provide sufficient evidence for us to remove our objection. The decision by the Department for Transport is expected in 2017.

Projects and events

We held a successful if wet Magnificent Walk based on Hayfield. This annual event showcases the landscape of the Peak District and raises funds. We continued to plan the new Peak District Boundary Walk, which will be launched in 2017 with an accompanying guidebook.

Working with Rural Action Derbyshire, we helped deliver a workshop, funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government, aimed at encouraging more local communities in the Peak District to get involved in neighbourhood planning. We also delivered two further workshops in South Yorkshire, using funding from CPRE Yorkshire & Humber Regional Group and the Yorkshire and Humber Environment Trust, to encourage participation and advocacy in local plan making.



Finance report

We planned to run a deficit budget in 2016, with the expectation of sustainable growth in membership income, in due course. However, the deficit proved to be larger than expected because, after two very good years we received very little legacy income in 2016.

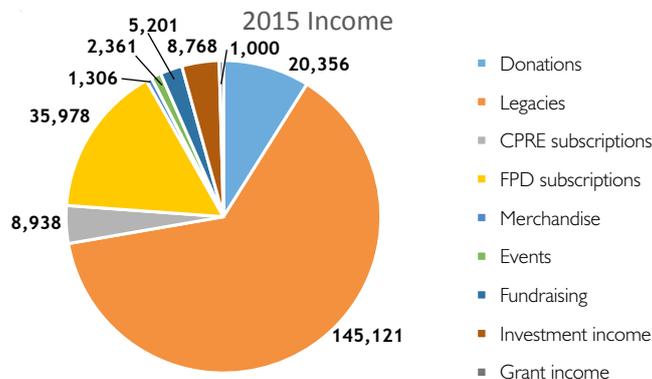
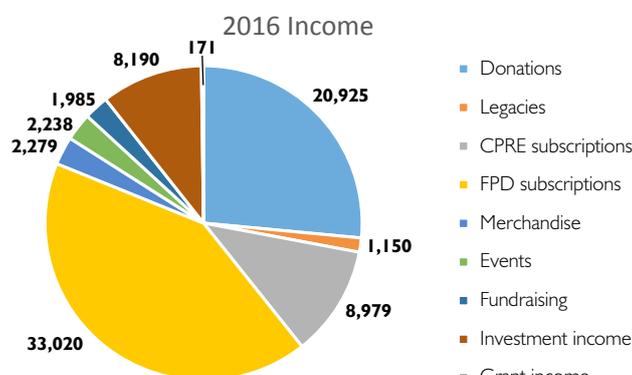
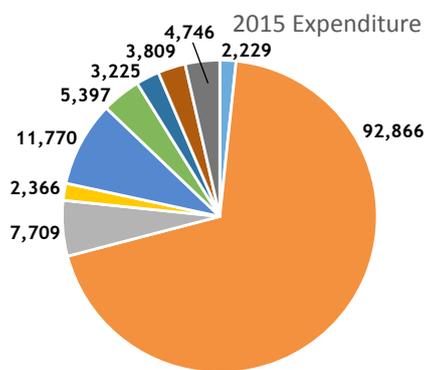
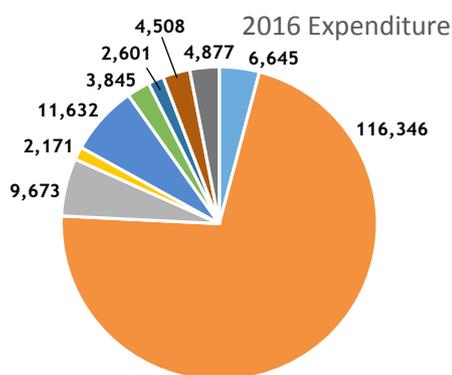
As at 31 May 2017, our membership numbers were:

- Friends of the Peak District 730 memberships (862 members)
- CPRE South Yorkshire 386 memberships (614 members)

Our total income for the financial period was £78,937 compared with total expenditure of £162,298. As a result, the net movement in funds before investments for the period was a deficit of £83,361. However we also had an increase in the value of investments of £36,360 making a total deficit for the year of £47,001. The deficit of £29,808 on our restricted funding arose because expenditure for the period included the disbursement of unspent restricted funds bought forward from previous financial periods. Thus overall our unrestricted funds decreased by £17,193 from £393,876 at the beginning of the period to £376,683 at the year-end.



	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
INCOME				
Donations	18,788	2,137	20,925	20,356
Legacies	1,150	-	1,150	145,121
CPRE subscriptions	8,979	-	8,979	8,938
FOPD subscriptions	-	33,020	33,020	35,978
Merchandising income	470	1,809	2,279	1,306
Events income	60	2,178	2,238	2,361
Fundraising income	-	1,985	1,985	5,201
Investment income	8,361	-	8,190	8,670
Grant income	-	-	-	1,000
Total income	37,808	41,129	78,937	229,029
EXPENDITURE				
Costs of generating funds	18,219	17,761	35,980	20,563
Charitable activities	71,110	52,807	123,917	110,330
Governance costs	2,032	369	2,401	3,225
Total expenditure	91,361	70,937	162,298	134,118
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before investments	-53,553	-29,808	-83,361	94,911
Investment gains/(losses)	36,360	-	36,360	-2,979
Total funds brought forward	393,876	51,455	445,331	353,399
Total funds carried forward	376,683	21,647	398,330	445,331



Staff: Director – Andy Tickle; Administration and finance officer – Susan Belt; Fundraising and marketing co-ordinator – Julie Gough; Membership development officer – Rob Parratt; Consultant planning officer – Andrew Wood

Trustees: Chair – John Lambert; Vice chair – Andy Topley; Honorary Treasurer – Andy Brightmore; Jenny Aldridge; John Anfield; John Hoare; Robert Hunter; Faith Johnson; Yvonne Witter

President: Dame Fiona Reynolds; Vice Presidents: Baroness Morris of Yardley; Julia Bradbury; Jack Burling; Bella Hardy; Anne Robinson; Prof. John Tarn

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