

**Company Registration number 04496754**

**Registered Charity number 1094975**

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign  
to Protect Rural England**

**Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2016**

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England**  
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**For the year ended 31 December 2016**

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**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England**  
**Legal and administrative information**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2016**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

**Full name**

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

**Other names by which the charity is known**

Friends of the Peak District; CPRE South Yorkshire

**Registered Charity Number**

1094975

**Registered Company Number**

04496754

**Registered Address**

Victoria Hall  
37 Stafford Road  
Sheffield  
S2 2SF

**President**

Dame Fiona Reynolds

**Vice Presidents**

Julia Bradbury  
Jack Burling  
Simon Groom (to June 2016)  
Bella Hardy (from June 2016)  
Baroness Morris of Yardley  
Anne Robinson  
Professor John Tarn

**Board of Trustees**

**Honorary Officers:**

**Chair**

John Lambert

**Vice Chair**

Patricia Coleman (to June 2016); Andy Topley (from June 2016)

**Honorary Treasurer**

Andy Brightmore (from March 2016)

**Other Trustees**

Jenny Aldridge (from June 2016)  
John Anfield  
John Hoare  
Robert Hunter (from June 2016)  
Faith Johnson  
Yvonne Witter

**Branch Staff**

Andy Tickle	Director
Susan Belt	Administration and Finance Officer
Julie Gough	Fundraising and Marketing Co-ordinator
Rob Parratt	Membership Development Officer (from April 2016)
Andrew Wood	Consultant Planning Officer

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England  
Legal and administrative information (continued)  
For the year ended 31 December 2016**

**Independent Examiner**

Sarah Lightfoot, ACA DChA

Voluntary Action Sheffield  
Community Accounting Service  
The Circle  
33 Rockingham Lane  
Sheffield  
S1 4FW

**Bankers**

CAF (Charities Aid Foundation)  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4TA

HSBC  
Fargate Branch  
2 Fargate  
Sheffield  
S1 2JS

**Investment advisors**

Investec  
Beech House  
61 Napier Street  
Sheffield  
S11 8HS

# **Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2016**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

### **Structure, governance and management**

1. The Branch is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The business of the Branch is managed by the Board of Trustees according to the powers set out in the Articles of Association. The Branch employs four part-time members of staff, including the Director who manages the day-to-day work of the organisation. We also continue to contract much of our planning work to a consultant planning officer, Andrew Wood (Stride Works Ltd).

### **Objectives and activities**

2. The principal activity of the charity is to promote and encourage the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular the area within the Peak District and South Yorkshire. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the organisation's strategic aims and in planning future activities.

### **Achievements and performance 2016**

3. This was the first year of our new strategic plan to cover the five years to 2020. As a major part of the plan, we started our work to build our membership substantially, principally through the appointment of Rob Parratt to the (part-time) role of membership development officer. The intention is to enable us to build our income but also, as a consequence, our influence and effectiveness as a campaigning organisation. We have made a good start with this, recruiting 94 new memberships by the end of 2016. CPRE membership income has also grown again in 2016.

4. We are recruiting members primarily, but not exclusively, through attending events such as local shows and fairs, and having a presence at retail outlets such as outdoor gear shops and garden centres. 2016 was also a trial year in which we learned which events and venues were likely to be fruitful and which were not, so we could target our efforts better in 2017.

5. We also revamped our business membership offer, linked to a review of companies and venues that offer discounts and offers to our members, which we are working to extend. We were pleased to welcome The Maynard, Bagshawe Cavern and Peak Foot Health as new business members in 2016.

6. We planned to run a deficit budget in 2016, spending more (from reserves) than we earned with the expectation – in due course – of sustainable growth in membership income. However, the deficit has proved to be larger than expected because, after two very good years for legacies in 2014 and 2015, we received very little legacy income in 2016.

7. The Trustee Board comprised nine members at the end of 2016. Our new Board members have diversified the range of available skills and experience, and have also significantly reduced the average age of Trustees.

### *Planning and Transport Issues*

8. 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 year-long 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 which suffered from poor design and insufficient provision of affordable homes. We worked closely to oppose the development

## **Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2016**

with the Parish Council, through two public inquiries, but to no avail (not assisted by NPA planning officers' recommendation to approve). We believe the Inspector's decision was poor but unfortunately fell short of being challengeable in law. However, we thank CNP for assistance with obtaining (*pro bono*) Counsel's opinion on the matter.

9. In January we attended the last public inquiry in respect of Backdale Quarry, giving evidence supporting a Prohibition Order being confirmed. By 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, later in the year with a walk and picnic on Longstone Edge with partners from the National Park Authority and the Save Longstone Edge Group.

10. As well as commenting on planning applications, we also spend a good deal of time seeking 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 senior Sheffield City Council officers to put forward our case for better protection of the Sheffield Green Belt.

11. 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, beneath the Pennines to link the cities of the North-West to those of Yorkshire. We continue to oppose a road tunnel as opposed to a rail tunnel, which we would have welcomed in principle. We firmly believe that a new road tunnel under the Pennines, which in practice would run under the Peak District, would create more problems than it would solve. In particular great environmental damage would be caused to both the countryside and the urban environment on either side of such a tunnel. By the end of the year a number of proposed corridors had been suggested for a tunnel, though it will be some time before any detailed routes are proposed. We will continue to press for the option of a new rail tunnel to be considered as part of a strategic approach to improving connectivity between northern cities.

12. Highways England brought forward fresh plans to alleviate congestion on the A57 through Mottram, with a bypass of Mottram, a link road to Glossop A57 road, 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.

13. A new HS2 option was proposed which would follow the M18 corridor and head north, passing between Mexborough and Conisborough, east of Thurnscoe and west of South Kirby, to leave South Yorkshire near Ryhill. We agreed that it is good to use existing transport corridors and warmly welcome 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.

## **Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2016**

14. 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.

### *Campaigns*

15. With our Take Back the Tracks campaign we paved the way for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) banning recreational motorised traffic 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. However, Derbyshire County Council continued to drag their feet regarding the action needed to protect Jacob's Ladder, between Stoney Middleton and Eyam.

16. 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 that 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.

17. Elsewhere, and working in partnership with the Peak District National Park Authority, good progress was made on low voltage schemes with undergrounding work completed at Butterton, Sheen, Hope and Derbyshire Level, near Glossop. Sadly, we lost the services of our (volunteer) project officer David Allwood who has given sterling service in surveying Peak schemes in recent years and pressing for their completion.

18. 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. Towards the end of the year the new Chancellor of the Exchequer published a strategic plan, but changes within Government seemed to have greatly diminished the impetus of the Northern Powerhouse. Through the auspices of our President, Fiona Reynolds, we also worked in partnership with the British Academy's 'Where we live now' project, attending workshops and contributing to independent research on the value of the northern countryside, thus highlighting its importance to the Government.

19. We also started development work on two major campaigns, namely protecting the Sheffield Green Belt from increasing pressure from inappropriate housing and opposing fracking for shale gas in South Yorkshire and the Peak fringe. We undertook research on green belt reviews and engaged at a high level with Sheffield City Council to some effect, although the publication of their proposed new plans and policies has been delayed to 2017. For fracking we adopted a new policy on fracking (incorporating a clear presumption against extraction in local countryside) and worked closely with the national (CPRE) organisation in their development of a revised Policy Guidance Note on Shale Gas, due to be published in 2017. The Campaign for National Parks already oppose fracking in the English national parks.

### *Projects and Events*

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

## **Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England Directors' report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2016**

21. Working with Rural Action Derbyshire, we helped deliver a workshop, funded by the Department for 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.

### *Conclusions*

22. Overall 2016 was a successful year for us. We had significant achievements in protecting the countryside and in developing our organisation. I want to record my thanks to our hard-working staff and volunteers, and to my fellow Trustees, as well as to all of our members and supporters without whom we could not exist.

### **Plans for the future**

23. We intend, while reserves allow and in line with the Strategic Plan (2016-2020), to invest in growing the membership base of the organisation whilst ensuring that we address key threats to our local countryside, including the Peak District National Park.

### **Financial Review**

24. 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.

### **Investment policy**

25. The Trustees (Directors) agree investment instructions and policy annually. Cognisant of their obligation to manage the charity in such a way as to maximise income and ensure the prudent investment of funds, our investment brokers are delegated with annual total return objectives within a set asset allocation with an overall medium investment risk profile. There are restrictions placed on investments in companies with mining/quarrying interests in the Branch area or those companies whose interests and activities are opposed to CPRE's charitable objectives or those which would damage our reputation and effectiveness through negative associations and/or significant loss of members.

### **Reserves policy**

26. The trustees' current reserves policy states that the equivalent of a year's planned expenditure should be kept in reserve to ensure that the charity could continue to work through a period of unforeseen difficulty. The trustees assess the reserves policy on an annual basis. Our strategic plan objectives include spending out 'excess' reserves on both increasing charitable activities and investing in growing the organisation's membership and capacity.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England  
Directors' report (continued)  
For the year ended 31 December 2016**

**Directors' responsibilities for the financial statements**

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to: select suitable accounting policies and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The Trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

**Small company provisions:**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the board on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on its behalf by:

**John Lambert**  
**Board Chair**

**Andy Brightmore**  
**Honorary Treasurer**

# Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

## Independent Examiners Report

### For the year ended 31 December 2016

I report on the accounts of Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the year ended 2016 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep appropriate accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah Lightfoot, ACA DChA

Voluntary Action Sheffield  
Community Accountancy Service  
The Circle  
33, Rockingham Lane  
Sheffield  
S1 4FW

Date: \_\_\_\_\_