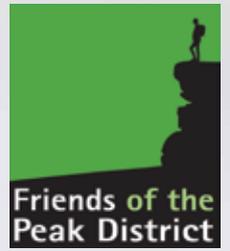




South Yorkshire
Campaign to Protect Rural England



Annual review 2017

Without government funding or subsidy, the Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire rely almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters. The Peak District and surrounding countryside, would look very different had it not been for our founders, and the ongoing commitment of this organisation to continue their work, fighting to maintain the beauty and tranquillity of these special places.



Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire

2017 ~ Our achievements ~ 2017

Organisation and people

We were pleased to conclude our search for a new Board chair with the appointment of Chris Heard, a retired oil industry executive from Hayfield in the High Peak. We also welcomed Les Sturch to the Board, a former Head of Planning at Sheffield City Council.

We continued to run our 'face-to-face' membership recruitment project, attended more venues and shows and invested in display equipment and materials to professionalise our presence. Unfortunately recruitment income was under target, which prompted a full review of the project and led to a Board decision to discontinue it. We thank Rob Parratt for his unstinting work on the project over the past two years.

Planning

Our core activity continued to be monitoring planning applications and commenting on local plans. During 2017, postgraduate placement student, Matt Marsden, streamlined the casework monitoring system, making substantial time savings, enabling a slight increase in the number of submissions made (35 up from 31), and a huge reduction in cases on which we spent staff time without making a submission (25 down from 140). It also made a difference to our effectiveness: our submissions had an impact in 90% of cases (compared to 74% in 2016), with only one case going clearly against our views.

A notable success for us, relating to affordable housing on brownfield sites, was at the Oughtibridge Paper Mill site in the Upper Don Valley where the developer tried to remove their affordable housing contribution, using the Vacant Building Credit scheme. We fought this case very strongly, securing good media coverage, and calling on the services of national CPRE's pro bono legal panel to strengthen the city council's case against the developer. As a result, the developer did not pursue the Vacant Building Credit case, which thus averted a damaging precedent being set.

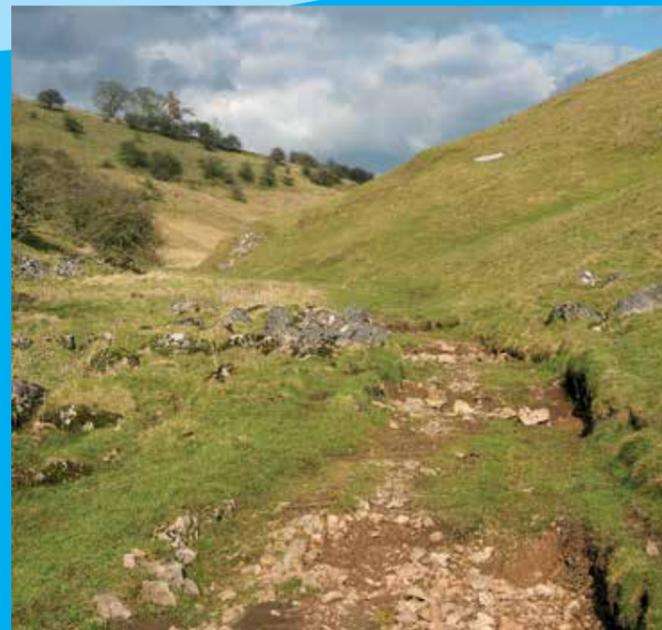
A major planning case that took much time and effort was the appeal inquiry on 650 houses in Edenthorpe, where we were defending Doncaster Council's ability to refuse inappropriate development in non-green belt countryside, and to give weight to



Part of Oughtibridge Mill housing site

local open space designations. We worked closely with Edenthorpe Parish Council, acting as their advocate and expert witness at the appeal inquiry.

Our work to influence the local plans produced by every planning authority in our area continued. We provided written consultations for North-East Derbyshire, Rotherham and the Peak District National Park, and participated in the Public Examination of the Barnsley Local Plan. We also commented on proposed quarry allocations in Derbyshire County Council's draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan.



Wetton Hills

Take Back the Tracks

Two Traffic Restriction Orders (TROs) came to fruition in 2017: recreational motorised traffic is now banned from the beautiful and sensitive Washgate near Hollinsclough and at Derby Lane near Monyash. We were pleased that there was an exemption for two historic motorcycle trials on Washgate, a use which pre-dates national park designation and is part of local cultural heritage.

Our campaign to get the Hollinsclough Rakes managed had some initial success. Both Rakes had become impassable to all motorised users except the most reckless and Staffordshire County Council were finally persuaded to issue a temporary TRO closing the route to everyone.

Following persistent lobbying from us and our partners, the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance, Derbyshire County Council finally promised a consultation on a TRO to protect Jacob's Ladder between Stoney Middleton and Eyam.

Undergrounding

We continued to work with National Grid as they prepared to underground the electricity transmission line east of Dunford Bridge, and remove the most intrusive section of pylons. Working with the PDNPA, we secured commitments from Northern Power Grid to remove most of the remaining electricity lines in and around Dunford Bridge.

Elsewhere, progress was made on low voltage schemes with undergrounding completed near Glossop and Moscar by Electricity North West and Northern Powergrid respectively.

Transport

We opposed the proposed road tunnel beneath the Pennines on the grounds that it would increase traffic and congestion in Manchester and Sheffield. We continued to press for a new rail link to be considered as part of a strategic approach to improving connectivity between northern cities.

As stakeholders on the tunnel study, we – alongside other environmental and civic groups - participated in transport strategy development workshops with Transport for the North, highlighting the need to respect both designated and non-designated countryside.

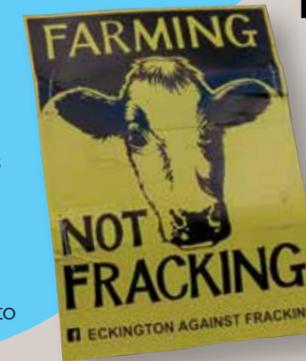
Highways England plans to alleviate congestion around Mottram (with a bypass, a link road, climbing lanes and safety improvements) went through a second consultation to identify the preferred route. As we knew from the 2007 public inquiry into a bypass, we knew these plans would increase traffic along the route with profound adverse impacts across the Peak District and in South Yorkshire. Amidst fears that these plans represent a 'motorway-by-stealth', we objected to them.

Sheffield green belt

We published our Green Belt Blueprint report which is an advocacy document setting out our agenda for the importance of the green belt in shaping the future of Sheffield. The work enhances our long history of campaigning to protect and improve Sheffield's unique relationship to its surrounding countryside. We hope it will have significant influence on the draft Local Plan for the city

Fracking

With three applications (all by INEOS) for exploratory drilling at Marsh Lane, Eckington (in NE Derbyshire) and Harthill and Woodsetts (Rotherham borough), we worked closely with the affected communities to provide planning advice and helped co-host (with Friends of the Earth) quarterly network meetings to co-ordinate campaigning and skill sharing. We also led on a strong national press release criticising INEOS for appealing Harthill and Marsh Lane before due process was exhausted.



Projects and events

We held a successful Magnificent Walk based in Wetton, Staffordshire. Many walkers enjoyed the day despite indifferent weather. We thank all the volunteer planners and marshalls who make this event possible and the Royal Oak pub for hosting us. This annual event showcases the landscape of the Peak District and raises vital funds for our work.

2017 saw the completion of our epic Boundary Walk project, with the help of a hard working team of volunteers. The launch was highly successful, thanks to the Buxton Town Team, and CPRE's national President, Emma Bridgewater, who helped 'first foot' the whole route in one day (with 200+ other walkers) and then officially opened the walk at a major civic ceremony in Buxton. The accompanying book, edited by Andrew McCloy and published and distributed by Vertebrate Publishing, has sold well.

Through an appeal to members by former staff Jean Smart and Jean Hodgkinson, we raised money to restore the graves of our founder and conservation pioneers, Ethel and Gerald Haythornthwaite, in Crookes Cemetery to honour and highlight their contribution to countryside protection. We thank all those who contributed, especially the remaining members of the Ward family, the Sir Hugh and Lady Ruby Sykes Trust and the J.G. Graves Trust for their significant contributions. The restoration work will be undertaken in 2018.



Magnificent walkers



©Kate Beresford

Conclusions

Overall 2017 was a successful year for us. We had significant achievements in protecting the countryside and in further developing our organisation, despite the failure of the face-to-face membership recruitment campaign to meet its targets.

We thank all our volunteers and our members and supporters without whom this organisation would not exist or be as effective.

Plans for the future

While reserves allow and in line with the Strategic Plan (2016-2020), we will invest in new ways to increase the membership of the organisation whilst ensuring that we address key threats to our local countryside.

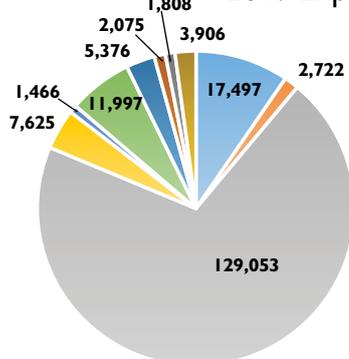
Finance report

We planned to run a deficit budget in 2017, spending more (from reserves) than we earned, with the expectation – in due course – of sustainable growth in membership income. However, with substantial legacy income, the anticipated deficit became a positive net income.



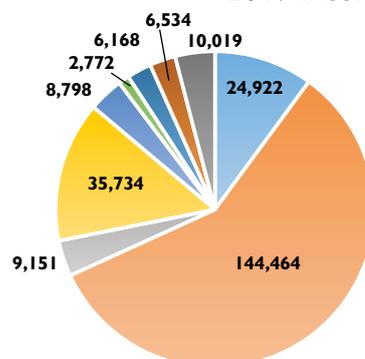
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
INCOME				
Donations	23,719	1,203	24,922	20,925
Legacies	298	144,166	144,464	1,150
CPRE subscriptions	9,151		9,151	8,979
FOPD subscriptions		35,734	35,734	33,020
Merchandising	100	8,698	8,798	2,279
Events		2,772	2,772	2,238
Fundraising		6,168	6,168	1,985
Investment	6,534		6,534	8,190
Grant	269	9,750	10,019	-
Total income	40,071	208,491	248,562	78,937
EXPENDITURE			0	
Costs of generating funds	19,918	21,870	41,788	35,980
Charitable activities	63,720	76,128	139,848	123,917
Governance costs	1,599	290	1,889	2,401
Total expenditure	85,237	98,288	183,525	162,298
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before investments	-45,166	110,203	65,037	-83,361
Investment gains/(losses)	13,141		13,141	36,360
Total funds brought forward	375,683	22,647	398,330	445,331
Total funds carried forward	343,658	132,850	476,508	398,330

2017 Expenditure



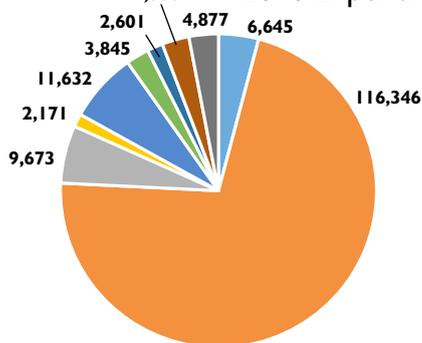
- Boundary Walk
- Equipment
- Staffing
- Office costs
- Other costs
- Premises/Utilities
- Promotion and campaigns
- Governance and volunteers
- Fundraising
- Investment management

2017 Income



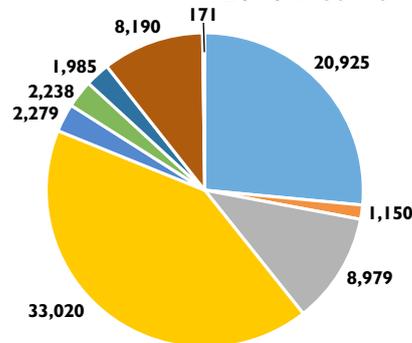
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- Legacies
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- Events
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- Investment
- Grants

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

Board of Trustees. Chair: John Lambert (to October 2017); Chris Heard (from November 2017); Vice Chair: Andy Topley. Honorary Treasurer: Andy Brightmore. Other Trustees: Jenny Aldridge, John Anfield, John Hoare, Robert Hunter, Faith Johnson, Les Sturch (from September 2017), Yvonne Witter.

President: Dame Fiona Reynolds. Vice Presidents: Julia Bradbury, Jack Burling, Baroness Morris of Yardley, Anne Robinson, Professor John Tarn. Ambassadors: Mark Cocker (from October 2017), Bella Hardy, Helen Mort (from October 2017).

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