



Mark Chung

## The end of a love affair...

She has been reliable and fun, stylish and chic. She wears black well and is often the recipient of an admiring glance. I will miss her but the time is right.

I bought my black Fiat 500 pre-loved and she is now 11 years old. She has never broken down, is frugal and very cheap to insure. I pay just £30 annually in tax and the fold-down seats allow for suitcases, boxes and the paraphernalia of home removal for our student daughter. She is a dream to park and has spent very little time in a garage too. So why am I saying goodbye you ask, and not unreasonably??

Well, she is showing her age. Both the driver and passenger door handles have fallen off!! She rattles when there used to be silence. Her seats are past their best and she has a few scratches from misfortunes with stone walls and metal stanchions. But I could still keep her, particularly when we all need to replace less frequently and to use for much longer. So why my decision? Well, the call of the electric revolution beckons. Every time I drive the Italian job I am burning petrol and contributing to carbon emissions. Gulp.

I would love to use public transport more but, in line with many others in rural areas, my village has a very poor bus service. CPRE research in the North East and South West of England has demonstrated that over half of small towns (population 5000-30000) are already or are close to becoming transport deserts. The situation in villages and hamlets is even worse. Nationally, we are campaigning for better integrated multi-modal transport schemes, supporting people to transition to low-carbon means of travel.

In the meantime, I have decided to go electric. I have

researched and read, pondered, discussed and budgeted. The consumer champion, Which? and various car journals have guided my decision. A Nissan Leaf, 2018 or 2019 is my aim. There are plaudits galore for it. Tick. I am not buying new but reusing. Tick. It is very affordable. Tick.

How will I adapt to the new regime?? I am having a charging point fitted to my garage wall at home. I plug the car in to the charger (and the car is secure) and leave it. About £5.60 of electricity cost is enough to fully charge the battery giving a running cost of about 3.5 pence per mile or 2 p per mile with an economy tariff. Yippee!!

I can also get an OLEV grant (not means tested) of £350 towards the cost. The installer handles the grant and supplies and fits following a site visit. The charger can be used by another car too and future owners of our home.

But what happens if I find myself low on charge when I am out? The Leaf mileage of 168 miles on a single charge is plenty for my largely local needs. My local towns have charging points. The shops I use have free charging points. A free mobile app lets one know where one's nearest public charging point is. Motorway services have rapid charge points – 100 mile charge in 30 minutes – so I can use the facilities, stretch my legs and grab a snack or a newspaper whilst the Leaf gets its TLC. Long journeys are rare, being usually by train. Its mileage on a single charge of 168 miles is plenty.

I will write again soon with the next steps on my pathway to an electric future!!

Debbie McConnell, Chair

# Planning update

## Peel applications for housing on golf courses in Bolton (Horwich and Hulton Park)

We helped Stocks Residents Association at an appeal by Peel Land Holdings against Bolton Council's refusal of its applications for development of 276 and 150 houses on Horwich golf course. A previous scheme of 300 homes had been dismissed at appeal on the grounds of being contrary to Bolton's adopted Local Plan policies for Other Protected Open Land and landscape character harm.

In opposition, CPRE said the housing requirement for Bolton is too high, and housing should be built in more sustainable locations prioritising previously used land. Professor Penny Cook of Salford University, an expert on health impacts, highlighted the value of quality green space near to where people live. She evidenced that part of the surrounding area is relatively deprived with associated poor health and high mortality rates. During Covid the value of local green space for people's health and well-being has been increasingly recognised and this needs to be factored into development decisions in the future.

Previously, CPRE successfully secured a condition to Peel's approval to build 1,000 homes and a championship standard gold course in the Green Belt at Hulton Park for a single Ryder Cup event. No Ryder Cup no development. Peel is now preparing a revised scheme for a health spa development at the same site with 3,000 homes. Our planning team will consider the details once an application is formally submitted.

## St Helens Local Plan Examination

Our planning team represented CPRE at the examination in public of the emerging St Helens Local Plan, which will set the land use policies and allocations to steer development over the next 15 years. CPRE seeks policies that support countryside protection and enhancement in the future, including continued protection of land in the Green Belt. The area of St Helens has considerable brownfield land identified on its registers and this should be the focus of new development.

## Climate change and local plans

We hosted a seminar in July attended by planners from Lancaster City Council to share information on how local plan policies can support real action on climate goals by using



# Knowsley project

We're delighted to be working with Incredible Edible Knowsley on a project to raise awareness of the countryside, nature and local food in a Heritage Lottery Funded project developed in conjunction with national CPRE and CPRE London.

Pupils from local primary schools and young adults with learning disabilities have attended sessions both at Incredible Edible's base in historic Court Hey Park and within the school classroom, learning about the countryside, nature and plants. The learning has been backed up with a CPRE booklet, which contains a series of tasks for students to carry out in their own time, linked with CPRE's campaign priorities.

Over the summer holidays, there will be a mix of sessions; every Friday in August, from 11am - 1.30pm, there will be

drop-in sessions open to the whole community, with activities to do with nature-spotting and exploring the historic park, to craft activities.

There will also be three smaller workshops per week for families to take part in, which will have a focus on food growing and tasting - booking for these sessions is essential as places are limited.

In the autumn, some of the participants will have the opportunity to join us on a trip to the countryside, with further activities to explore nature and the outdoors.

Pictured above are Pete and Lynn who are working with the students on site.

If you would like to download and print your own copy of our Countryside Challenge booklet and work through it with children/grandchildren, it's available on our website:

<https://tinyurl.com/CPRE-countryside-challenge>

land more sustainably. The Lancaster planners provided interesting information on the refresh of the local plan following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, including work on blue and green infrastructure strategy. Ensuring local plans are effective at securing carbon neutral development is a priority for CPRE.

Rural areas offer solutions to the climate emergency and politicians and planners need to act and stop making empty promises.

### Revised NPPF, July 2021

We are currently considering the impacts to the countryside from changes to the planning system brought about by Government through secondary legislation in the form of revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and a new National Model Design Code.

CPRE successfully campaigned for a strengthened provision to ensure development in National Parks, Broads and AONBs is sensitive to its setting. Of concern is that the Government persists with the Housing Delivery Test, based on inflated ONS 2014 population data, resulting in an increase in housing development in the countryside. The Government really does need to ensure more housing is built in our towns and cities and not our rural areas, as it is unsustainable.

### Huge road based (B8) logistics developments proposed in the Green Belt

We supported communities with their objections to large road-based logistics warehouse developments proposed in the Green Belt. The Omega site, Warrington, and Parkside former colliery, St Helens, were called in for decision by the Secretary of State. The inspectors focused on the extent of

### Mo Lambat: Dean Clough Reservoir reflection

If you watch ITV news, Granada Reports or BBC North West, you may well have spotted one of Mo Lambat's atmospheric shots used as a backdrop. We asked Mo to share his experiences of walking and taking photos in Lancashire's wonderful countryside.

**"One of the most beautiful aspects of the countryside is being able to connect with like minded people who love & appreciate the great outdoors just as much as I do. No matter which part of Lancashire I have visited, I have always been welcomed in a friendly manner by the locals. This is why I feel safe, even if it means going for solo walks in the dark, with the aim of reaching the viewpoint in time for Sunrise, just like you can see in the photo below that I captured before Sunrise at Deanclough Reservoir."**

Green Belt harm, other harms, and material considerations arising from the millions of square meters of development.

CPRE focused on the harm to the landscape character from urban sprawl and countryside encroachment. The developments are contrary to Government policy aims of a 'Green Revolution' ensuring economic growth is truly sustainable, owing to threats posed to woodland habitat and biodiversity, air quality, light pollution and loss of high-grade farmland in use for agriculture.

We thank planning volunteer Ken Marr, Parkside Action Group and the Bold and Clock Face Action Group for helping CPRE to protect the countryside.

### Brownfield Land Register Workshops

Jackie Copley, Planning Manager, presented at three 'Brownfield workshops' attended by people from across the CPRE network.

The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 brought into force a requirement for all councils to maintain a Brownfield Register to record all 'suitable' (available and deliverable) brownfield sites. Jackie highlighted the importance of working constructively with stakeholders, and using the Brownfield Land Register Toolkit to identify more brownfield land to be reused to save land in the countryside from being bulldozed.

Individuals can find the Toolkit, with guidance contained within, on our website ([www.cprelancashire.org.uk](http://www.cprelancashire.org.uk)) to identify missing sites to be added to brownfield registers in the future. Watch out for more CPRE complimentary work on brownfield land in the next few months.



# Events

It was great to finally get together with members and supporters on our Preston Green Belt walk, which took place on June 13th.

Dr. Andrew Read guided the group on a wonderfully diverse route that included Georgian architecture, nature reserves, riverside paths and much more. Fortunately the weather was not too hot and the group enjoyed a well earned drink at the end. We look forward to seeing people at our next in-person event!



Mike Cushing

## Annual General Meeting: Friday 24th September

Our AGM will again be held virtually this year. As well as being more planet-friendly by cutting down on the need for members to drive, at a time of uncertainty in the Covid pandemic, we want to ensure that any of our members who are clinically vulnerable are still able to take part in the meeting. CPRE's national Chief Executive, Crispin Truman, will be in attendance.

## Rimrose Valley Demo: 20th August

We've long supported the campaign of Rimrose Valley Friends against the building of a major road which would have a hugely detrimental effect on this well-used green lung, providing access to nature and space for recreation for a huge number of people. To find out more about the August 20th event, please follow the link on our website.

## Wirral Walk: 3rd October

We're working with Liverpool City Region to host a walk in the Wirral as part of the events programme linked to COP26.

## Quiz night: 17th November 2021

Our online quiz night will take place on the evening of 17th November, with questions for all the family. Members and non-members are very welcome, the fee is £5 per team.

Find out more about all upcoming events on our website:

<https://tinyurl.com/CPRE-Events>

## Hedgerow matters

CPRE is campaigning nationally for Government to commit to extending the length of our hedgerows network by 40% by 2050. As well as improving the landscape and providing vital wildlife corridors, hedgerows can play an important role in mitigating the climate crisis. If you haven't already, please sign the petition:

<https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/85848/petition/1>



Rimrose Valley wild flower meadow, Becca Nelson

Join in.  
[www.cprelancashire.org.uk](http://www.cprelancashire.org.uk)

© CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester  
C/O Acres Brook, Sabden Road, Higham, BB12 9BL  
Tel: 01772 378831 | Email: [info@cprelancashire.org.uk](mailto:info@cprelancashire.org.uk)  
Registered charity number: 1107376



The countryside charity  
**Lancashire, Liverpool City Region  
and Greater Manchester**