



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

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For immediate release: Tuesday 25 May 2010

Good planning needed after Queen's Speech

In response to the Queen's Speech, Ben Stafford, Head of Campaigns at CPRE, says:

"If the Government's proposed planning and housing Bill follows the pre-election Conservative proposals, we are in for massive and far-reaching changes to how development is carried out. Those changes have huge potential, but for this to be realised will need some careful handling. Ministers must remember that a successful planning system is about more than just delivering economic development. Planning is also one of the best ways to bring about genuinely sustainable development that involves local people and protects and enhances the environment.

"A new planning system should keep the best of what has gone before, including a plan-led approach, strong protection for Green Belt land and the wider countryside, as well as making better use of previously used 'brownfield' sites. Given the scale of the changes the Government is proposing, there must be a full process of consultation before the new Bill appears this autumn. A draft Bill would give MPs and others the chance to make sure that the final proposals are strong and effective.

"Finally, we hope that the Government presses ahead quickly with its plans to protect wildlife, promote green spaces and safeguard the countryside. The Conservatives promised a White Paper in this area, and the Liberal Democrats have similar proposals. The new Government obviously has a very full in-tray, but acting to protect the wildlife, landscapes and beauty that make rural England so distinctive should be near the very top."

Ends

Notes to Editors

CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is a charity which promotes the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England. We advocate positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside. Founded in 1926, we have 60,000 supporters and a branch in every county. President: Bill Bryson. Patron: Her Majesty The Queen. www.cpre.org.uk