

**Planning Volunteer/Caseworker – CPRE Warwickshire**

CPRE fights for a better future for the English Countryside. We work locally and nationally to protect, shape and enhance our beautiful, thriving countryside for everyone to value and enjoy.

## Campaigning throughout England is carried out by county-based branches, which aim to influence decision making on a range of environmental and land-use issues. At CPRE Warwickshire we have an opportunity for a Planning Volunteer to join us to help with our core work.

**Activities involve:**

* investigating planning applications which have a significant impact upon the countryside and helping us to influence their outcome
* visiting the local planning offices to look at plans and record details
* reviewing plans, applications and other consultations on the internet
* visiting sites and recording details
* liaising with parish councils, district councils and other conservation bodies
* sharing the information, and your thoughts, with CPRE Warwickshire

As your skills develop you will be encouraged and supported to:

* draft letters to the local planning authority
* research planning policy and best practice
* assist in the preparation of responses to wider consultations, including planning appeals
* contribute to our Planning Team/Policy Committee and assist CPRE Warwickshire in planning research.

This role does not require any previous experience with planning, as training and guidance will be provided.

**What we need from you:**

Our branch office is in Warwick, but you will work primarily from home. We keep in regular contact via phone and/or email to discuss progress and to provide support. You would also be encouraged to attend planning committee meetings.

This is an opportunity to be involved in a vital aspect of our work. You will gain satisfaction from investigating local concerns, improve your knowledge of the planning system, meet local people and feel part of a friendly and passionate group.

Ideally, we hope that you can offer us most of the qualities described below:

* a strong interest in the countryside
* an understanding of the planning system (or be willing to learn)
* an interest in investigative work, with an eye for detail
* a desire to share your knowledge with others in the branch
* good communication skills - written and verbal
* can attend meetings or, when not possible, can provide updates for meetings
* computer literate - the internet, e-mail and MS Word or equivalent

As a guide, we anticipate this role will take 3-4 hours per week.

**What’s in it for you?**

CPRE volunteers are motivated to help for a range of reasons, but normally they have a strong interest in protecting and enhancing the environment, as well as encouraging people to enjoy the countryside and all it has to offer.

Benefits include:

* A great opportunity to use your existing experience and to develop new skills
* Working with others to make a difference both locally and nationally
* The potential to meet and discuss issues with a wide range of like-minded people
* Opportunities to attend local and national CPRE activities, events and workshops

The role is voluntary although we will pay all out-of-pocket expenses with prior agreement, in line with our Volunteers Policy.

## Contact details: For more information on this role or others like it, please contact John or Myles on 01926 494597 or office@cprewarwickshire.org.uk

The English countryside is wonderful - help us look after it.