



The countryside charity
Somerset



Stand up for your countryside

A manifesto for the Somerset Unitary Authority elections - May 2022

CPRE Somerset is the local countryside charity that campaigns to promote, enhance and protect the countryside for everyone's benefit, wherever they live.

As part of the national CPRE family, we have been standing up for the countryside for almost a century.

Here in Somerset, we work with communities, landowners, businesses, local government and other groups to ensure that Somerset remains a special and beautiful place to work and live.

The local elections in May 2022 will determine the shape of the new Unitary Authority and the future of Somerset. We want the countryside and rural issues to be at the forefront of the minds of our new Councillors.

We are calling on all candidates to commit to:

- finding local, countryside solutions to the climate emergency
- ensuring our planning system works for people, nature and the environment
- improving rural, sustainable transport
- a cleaner countryside

Committing to care for Somerset's countryside

Finding local solutions to the climate emergency

We want nature based solutions like planting more hedgerows, restoring peatlands and sustainable farming. Renewable energy is vital but it must be carefully sited so it doesn't damage valuable landscapes. Solar panels should be mounted on industrial roofs, not on valuable farmland.

A planning system that works for people and the environment

Well-designed developments incorporating affordable homes for local need must be a priority.

Brownfield land should be used first.

New developments must be designed to minimise light pollution.

Improving rural sustainable transport

All new housing developments must be well connected to footpaths and cycle routes.

More investment is needed so our communities have access to reliable bus services.

A cleaner countryside

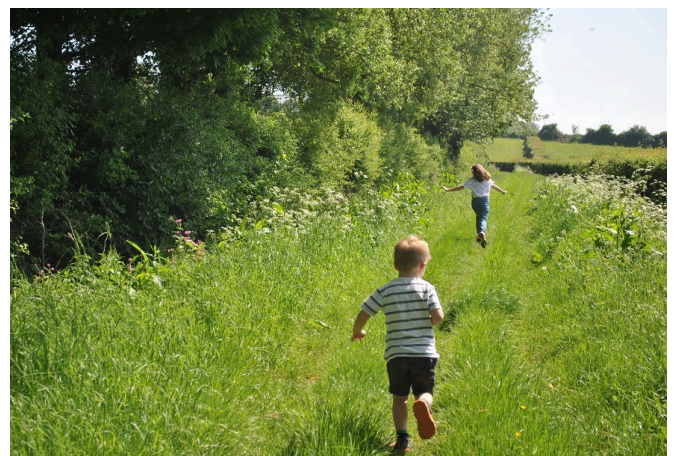
Support our campaign for a Deposit Return System. By placing a small deposit on the cost of drinks containers, they will be gone from our roadsides, rivers, public bins and green spaces. This will dramatically reduce littering, bringing huge savings for the new Somerset Council.

Will you pledge to be a
Countryside Champion?

Show your commitment to
Somerset's countryside by
pledging to support these
key aims if you are elected.

Share your views:

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Carefree - by Ben Redward

cpresomerset.org.uk

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