



APPG for Nature Annual General Meeting

23 March 2022, 16:30-17:15, Portcullis House, Room O.

Attendees

Parliamentarians: Barry Gardiner MP, Baroness Barbara Young of Old Scone, Caroline Lucas (present for vote), Donald Anderson, Baron Anderson of Swansea (present for vote), Paula Barker MP (present for vote).

Secretariat: Amber Connett (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)

Associate members: Kit Stoner (Bat Conservation Trust), Mark Prina (A Rocha UK), Craig Llewellyn (Atkins)

Minutes of the meeting

Election of Officers

MPs and Peers voted to approve the election of the following:

- Barry Gardiner MP as Chair of the APPG for Nature
- Baroness Kate Parminter as Vice-Chair of the APPG for Nature
- Alexander Stafford MP as Officer of the APPG for Nature
- Baroness Barbara Young of Old Scone as Officer of the APPG for Nature

For information, current non-officer members are:

- Lord Randall of Uxbridge
- Caroline Lucas MP
- Wes Streeting MP
- Derek Twigg MP
- Philip Dunne MP
- Kerry McCarthy MP

Statement of income

Total income from Associate Members: £1823.00

It was noted that the APPG has rolled over membership due to a series of cancelled events, and will continue further promotion of Associate Membership following the AGM.

Suggested Programme of Events

Amber noted the following priority topics that had been identified for 2022:

- COP15: global nature restoration, integration of nature into all of society, 30x30 and landscapes review: connectedness of nature, protected sites, access to nature.
- Skills and implementation: A shortage of applicants for key posts in ecology and environmental management, especially at senior levels, is leading to mounting pressure

impacting the health and wellbeing of staff as well as jeopardising the delivery of a Green Recovery. Nature recovery initiatives and development activity ranging from small-scale projects through to large-scale and critical infrastructure is at serious risk of delays due to a severe shortage of skilled and experienced ecologists. Defra sitting on research ALGE. We will also have a comparative picture in Scotland following a CIEEM survey.

- Data driven conservation – There is a shift towards data driven conservation but a concern that we don't have robust enough data to support new measures. CIEEM is undertaking work with ALERC.

Amber also outlined a suggested programme of events as follows:

1. Site Visit with Floodplain Meadows Partnership: (June) - Focus on economic benefits for flood management, opportunities for farmers through Environmental Land Management Schemes and biodiversity of meadows. Proposal to join with APPG Farming/APPG Environment.
2. Kew Gardens (mid-July) – see Appendix.
3. COP15 (October) - Post-COP event on implementation of framework. Aim to get Minister to speak on how Defra will be taking this forward and information on skills needed to implement.
4. Event on data driven conservation and ALERC work (Dec/Jan) – Proposal for event at Natural History Museum (TBC)

Attendees discussed the importance of the Nature Recovery Green Paper and agreed that we should aim to hold a discussion event on the proposals, inviting Wildlife and Countryside Link and possibly a member of the OEP board to attend. Another suggestion for speakers was Dieter Helm. It was also agreed that we should aim to produce a paper on this event for the library.

De-regulation and watering down of species and habitat protections is a key worry that CIEEM and Wildlife and Countryside Link will be working on over the next few weeks.

Possible dates for the floodplain meadows event are week of 9th June, 21st June 23rd June or 30th June. 30th June was suitable for attendees. More dates will be sought.

Activities in the lead up to COP15

The group discussed what activities should be undertaken in the lead up to the second part of COP15 taking place this year. It was agreed an update from Ministers on what the Government is doing in the lead up to COP would be useful.

It was noted the outcomes of COP15 and COP26 are still being treated separately and the group should be pushing that these are twin issues and that outcomes should be linked, including Nature Based Solutions.

Barry agreed to approach the Minister and ask if there is anywhere the group could usefully contribute in the lead up to COP15.

Close

Barry thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Appendix

Kew Gardens: Role in Addressing the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis, and Engagement with Nature

The APPG for Nature is hosting a site visit to Kew Gardens that will showcase the challenges of the biodiversity and climate crisis, and the critical role of Kew's collections has in providing solutions. We will also focus on education and engagement with nature and take a deeper look at some of Kew's current projects. Transport and optional lunch will be provided for Parliamentarians. The full agenda is set out below:

Time	Duration (minutes)	Venue	Narrative	Purpose
10.00	30	Jodrell reception	Arrival at venue, Teas and coffees	Welcome
<i>Move into lecture theatre (5 mins)</i>				
10.35	20	Jodrell Lecture Theatre	Welcome – Richard Deverell Introduction to Kew – who we are and what we do, Kew's manifesto & science strategy, future ambition and priorities, Kew at COP26 and ambitions for COP15	Understanding Kew and the work we do, introducing our strategic priorities
<i>Move to Atrium (stall/display) (5 mins)</i>				
11.00	20	Jodrell Atrium	Introduction to the work of Kew's Commercial Innovation Unit (CIU) and partnerships	
<i>Transfer to Explorer (outside Duke's Garden) (10 mins)</i>				
11.30	20	Explorer land train	Short tour of the Gardens to give an overview of the ambitions for Kew's upcoming projects (Palm House & new Learning Centre)	
<i>Transfer from explorer to TH (10 mins)</i>				
12.00	30	Temperate House & Exploration House	Introduction to education & engagement Visit the Kew COP26 display	
<i>Transfer from TH back to Explorer, to drop off at Elizabeth Gate (10 mins)</i>				

12.40	20	Herbarium Wing C	Introduction to Kew's Herbarium to convey history, scale and contemporary importance of the herbarium collections.	To convey the challenges of the biodiversity and climate crisis, and the critical role of Kew's collections has in providing solutions.
<i>Move to (Orangery?)</i>				
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch and opportunity for further discussion and questions with RBG Kew staff.			
<i>The group is welcome to stay on to visit other parts of the Gardens</i>				