



THE PARKS & GREEN SPACES ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Annual General Meeting

27th January 2022, 10:00-10:30am

Zoom

Minutes

Present

Liz Twist MP (Chair)
Lilian Greenwood MP
Mark Tami MP
Afzal Khan MP
Navendu Mishra MP
Gerald Jones MP
Ian Byrne MP
Fleur Anderson MP
Andrew Bridgen MP
Lord Blencathra
Representative of Sarah Olney MP

Apologies

Caroline Lucas MP
Rosie Duffield MP
Seema Malhotra MP
Theresa Villiers MP
Sara Britcliffe MP
Kerry McCarthy MP
Henry Smith MP
Bob Seely MP
Paul Girvan MP

10:00	Welcome Liz Twist MP, Chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chair welcomed parliamentarians to the APPG's AGM.
10:02	Election of Officers Liz Twist MP, Chair
	The following officers we re-elected: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair: Liz Twist MP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-Chair: Sir John Hayes MP • Vice-Chair: Fleur Anderson MP • Vice-Chair: Matt Western MP • Vice-Chair: Bob Blackman MP • Vice-Chair: Rosie Duffield MP • Vice-Chair: Helen Hayes MP • Vice-Chair: Ian Byrne MP • Vice-Chair: Seema Malhotra MP <p>The following officers were newly elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-Chair: Afzal Khan MP • Vice-Chair: Theresa Villiers MP
10:05	<p>The APPG's successes in 2021 and overview of the year ahead Liz Twist MP, Chair</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair referenced the successful meetings held in 2021, including the meeting on Levelling Up Access to Green Space (March) and the meeting reviewing Progress since the 2015 Select Committee Inquiry into the Future of Public Parks, with Committee Chair Clive Betts MP (July). • The Chair noted that one of the greatest achievements of the APPG has been facilitating discussions between parliamentarians and the parks sector. We have a huge number of land managers, friends groups and other parks sector staff who are engaged with the APPG and attend our meetings. • The Chair gave an overview of topics planned for 2022, which will all aim to demonstrate why investment in parks needs to be a strategic national priority. • With planning reform and 'levelling up' being two key parts of the Government's policy agenda this year, there is an opportunity for the APPG to make the case for access to high-quality greenspace to be a key measure of success of these reforms. • We would also like to explore the link between parks and greenspaces and climate adaptation.
10:07	<p>Overview of the year ahead Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allison emphasised the importance parks and greenspaces have at Keep Britain Tidy and provided an overview the work the charity is planning for 2022, including new research into how people's geography and level of deprivation affects their access to quality greenspace, in order to demonstrate that parks are one of the key building blocks and indicators of

	<p>the levelling up agenda. Keep Britain Tidy also continues to support the Green Flag Award programme, the national standard for quality spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Britain Tidy will continue to support the APPG to make sure that parks have the prioritisation they deserve.
10:10	<p>Opportunity for members to raise points of interest and make suggestions for future topics</p> <p>Liz Twist MP, Chair</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Bridgen MP raised the issue that not many cities have as much greenspace as London, and suggested that London be an example of the amount of greenspace that is needed in other cities. Lord Blencathra supported Mr Bridgen’s point and said that the organisation London City Park have produced useful maps demonstrating the city’s greenspaces. • Fleur Anderson MP suggested that it would be good to have a meeting topic or briefing on the implications of the Environment Act and secondary legislation on parks. She also suggested that the group invite Friends of Parks groups from across the country to a meeting to specifically share knowledge and experience with parliamentarians and other groups. • Lord Blencathra noted he is Deputy Chair of Natural England and raised a number of issues: first, the fact that many studies show people do not use the greenspace on their doorstep, second, that we need much more quality greenspace in some areas, third, that we need a big boost on the concept of social prescribing which could save the NHS £2billion per annum, fourth, that he expects to see a focus on creating greenspace in the forthcoming Levelling Up paper, and finally, that people might be more encouraged to spend time in parks if there is more nature and biodiversity. • Ian Byrne MP noted that the number of parks and active friends groups has drastically increased in Liverpool. He also suggested we highlight initiatives where greenspace is created or protected, for example in Sheffield where an old 70s shopping centre is being demolished to build a park. • The Chair agreed with the other members contributions, particularly the need to highlight the importance of Friends groups which we know manage or support many parks around the country.
10:25	<p>AOB and close</p> <p>Liz Twist MP, Chair</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair thanked members for their contributions and confirmed that the group’s secretariat will be incorporating these suggestions into plans for the upcoming programme of work. • She noted that many of the nation’s parks are in a critical condition, yet they are being used so much more and are so important for our wellbeing. She

	said the APPG is here to speak up for our parks and highlight the benefits they bring to all of us.
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Keep Britain Tidy provides the secretariat for the Parks and Green Spaces APPG