

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MAY 2022**

### **APPG for Dark Skies Annual General Meeting**

25 May 2022, 16:00 BST

- **Welcome and Introduction**

- **In attendance:**

**Parliamentarians for quorum**

Lord Rees of Ludlow (Co-Chair)

Sir Peter Bottomley MP (Co-Chair and Registered Contact)

Lady Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Vice-Chair)

Lord Carrington (Vice-Chair)

Greg Smith MP (Vice-Chair)

**Others**

Alexander Black (Office of Andrew Griffith MP)

Gurjeet Kahlon (Royal Astronomical Society)

Emma Marrington (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

Dr Robert Massey (Royal Astronomical Society)

David Smith (Buglife)

- **Apologies for absence**

Philip Dunne MP

Simon Fell MP

Jerome Mayhew MP

Lord Rennard

Lord Stunnell

James Wild MP

- **Election of officers:**

The following have been nominated and elected for positions:

**Co-chairs:**

Sir Peter Bottomley MP (Conservative)

Lord Rees of Ludlow (Crossbench)

**Vice chairs:**

Tonia Antoniazzi (Labour)  
Lady Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Liberal Democrat)  
Bob Blackman MP (Conservative)  
Sir Graham Brady MP (Conservative)  
Lord Carrington (Crossbench)  
Alberto Costa MP (Conservative)  
Virginia Crosbie MP (Conservative)  
Tracey Crouch MP (Conservative)  
The Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP (Conservative)  
The Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP (Conservative)  
Tim Farron MP (Liberal Democrat)  
Simon Fell MP (Conservative)  
Marcus Fysh (Conservative)  
Lord Grantchester (Labour)  
Fay Jones MP (Conservative)  
Lord Judd (Labour)  
Tim Loughton MP (Conservative)  
Caroline Lucas MP (Green)  
Jerome Mayhew MP (Conservative)  
Sheryll Murray MP (Conservative)  
Lady Neville-Rolfe (Conservative)  
Lord Rennard (Liberal Democrat)  
Selaine Saxby MP (Conservative)  
Bob Seely MP (Conservative)  
Greg Smith MP (Conservative)  
Lord Steel of Aikwood (Liberal Democrat)  
Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE (Conservative)  
Lord Vaux of Harrowden (Crossbench)  
The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP (Conservative)  
The Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP (Conservative)  
James Wild MP (Conservative)

- **Priorities for 2022**

- The main priority for 2022 is to ensure that the report gets carried forward as much as it is able to, and that it is brought up in Parliament.
- The need to increase interest of parliamentarians in the topic of dark skies, hold meetings to increase interest.
- Research on the effect of bright skies on animal lives
- In the cycle of 2-3 years, it might be a good idea to put something out to interest MPs and peers from the House of Commons: for example Buglife, the enjoyment of dark skies, general space interest
- Think of how to get on board with other groups of similar interest
- Try to get government ministers to come and meet and discuss the protection of dark skies

- Discouraging bright flood lights, harsh street lighting etc., particularly focussing on restrictions where floodlights are concerned

- Encouragement of dark sky areas and intelligent lighting

- Dark skies protection planning reform - DEFRA may act as a starting point for legislation

- **Discussion:**

- Issue of Starlink satellites and making use of Low-Earth orbits unusable is another issue

- Across the country, there are very different approaches to lighting management and light pollution, with particular concerns regarding safety

- There is a general public interest in the night sky and looking up. Nearly 8,000 people took part in the Starcount activity last year.

- DEFRA were working on light pollution, however this hasn't been their focus recently. Light pollution was mentioned in 25-year environment plan, however is now lost. Best plan of action may be to contact and question DEFRA officials.

- RAS, CPRE, and Buglife are to collect links containing relevant information to circulate those interested, for example to RAS Fellows and RAS working groups

- **Date of next meeting: TBC**

- **Meeting concluded at 16:24 BST**