

LINK Strategic Planning Meeting 11 November 2020.

Round up of member body plans ahead.

APRS John Mayhew: Countryside protectors film following on from the successful Deposit Return campaign. Education initiative brochure and website, setting up online resources for schools to teach young people about 3 priorities, Circular Economy, National Parks, and countryside. They have a new education officer Joanna McFarlane.

Buglife Natalie Stevenson: Top things completed the beelines map for all of Scotland, launching soon. Project development around beelines, working with Nature Scot. Looking for a new office around Stirling.

Butterfly Conservation Chris Corrigan: 1. Getting more trees without damaging wildlife; 2. future wildlife friendly farming grants delivering for butterflies and moths. 3. peatlands, banning burning and peat for horticulture.

JMT Mike Daniels: How wild land can capture carbon. Carbon credible, how land is managed in that way. Still involved in renewable energy in the right place. Monadhliath mountains planning case. Trying to protect wild land and focussing on carbon.

KSB Barry Fisher: Two areas of general interest, climate emergency training delivery with local authorities which has gone really well. About to launch local environmental quality report, significant decline on whole range of indicators. Encouraging Government to think differently.

We anticipate that the Fly Tipping Strategy will be published before the end of this current parliament and a new Litter Strategy will be released in the next session

MCS Calum Duncan: Just finished great beach clean 98 beaches, campaign for reusable facemasks with KSB and others. Marine recovery, home strait of developing the plan and vision. Updating the good fish guide app, dashboard of sustainability for potential restaurants. Celebrating 20 years of MCS in Scotland as part of the AGM on 19 November, with Doug Allen of Blue Planet and Life in the Freezer fame.

NTS Diarmid Hearn: New CEO . New strategy being developed, 10 year vision, using it as an opportunity to engage the wider public and government on the impact of natural and built heritage. Launch over next 18 months. Covid recovery, culture sector badly impacted. Much more use of the countryside with some downsides. Thinking about CAP and how it will effect the countryside, Continuity bill, Green recovery, themes for the next year.

Ramblers Helen Todd: Been an exceptionally busy 6 months. Exercise and covid, increased numbers of people out which led to mayhem in some places, mostly to do with lack of visitor management measures. Now on loads of VM groups, and expect next year to be very busy. Working on manifesto for Scottish Outdoor Alliance, capitalising on that. Mapping exercise in Scotland and getting young people outside.

Here's the link to the Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance manifesto - calling for more leadership and investment in outdoor recreation. Other orgs are welcome to sign up in support if that's of interest, LINK members SCRA and SWLG already have! <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/latest-news/2020/july/a-joint-scottish-manifesto-for-the-outdoors.aspx>

RZSS Helen Senn: Challenging year, not able to furlough due to needs of the zoo animals. Wildcat project pursued, hoping to have cats in the breeding centre. Finishing the beavers work, and hoverfly. EU LIFE WILDCATS <https://savingwildcats.org.uk/>

RSPB Aedan Smith: Priorities are closely aligned to LINK's The FFSN campaign around the Continuity bill. Also around the nature recovery plan and the transformative plan for nature around manifestos. Nature of Scotland awards are online, free to register. On 25 November all welcome

Scottish Badgers Eddie Palmer: Better year, done ok for money, two workers, moved one project online very quickly. Lots of new material. Great online conference in Oct with 200 people and AGM with 60 people. Issues with police improving, they are trying hard despite resources. NatureScot report on the effect of badgers on ecology and wildlife, dismissing the effect, and being pressurised as a result. Want to keep them to the science.

SCNP John Thompson: 1 visitor management in the countryside and lack thereof, trying to make that a platform to campaign better provision in parks and NPs and more rangers and reverse local authority rundowns. 3. More National Parks in the party manifestos. Success with the LibDems. 3 protected landscapes which is down govt pecking order, NSA been withdrawn. Planning a conference in autumn 2021 to integrate protected landscapes with the biodiversity agenda.

SCRA Roger Powell. Busy over summer. SCRA petition still ongoing to Scottish Parliament, NatureScot document on ranger services is bad, and want them to look at it again. Lot of discussion around wild camping, lot of rangers and service managers looking for a tighter definition, which may be something to look at in next few months.

SWLG Beryl Leatherland: Have been impacted by covid, no site visits, and had to postpone annual away day. Looking at a new project around wild land area issues, at early stages, to be refined.

Woodland Trust Arina Russell: For 2021 NPF and development of new planning policy for protection of ancient woodland. Campaign for the big climate fightback, about increasing the forestry target for native species. <https://campaigns.woodlandtrust.org.uk/page/67180/petition/1>

Saving Scotlands Rainforest joint initiative.

WWFS Fabrice Leveque: Busy, manifesto launched last month, climate and nature emergencies, NE based on the work in the recovery plan. Climate, got £2bn of funding. Not so good on policy. Climate emergency response group will be publishing a report on govt's progress. Recruiting for a new Public affairs post.

Fidra Clare Cavers: Working on various projects on chemicals and plastics and aquaculture. Receipt ink and flame retardants on household goods. Part of a SGovt working group looking at plastic supply chains and policy around that. Also packaging. Aquaculture, working on increasing transparency in the supply chain. Also looking at creating bus stops that are planted up to be good pollinator stations.

FoES Matthew Crighton: On climate change continuing on policy the Climate Change plan and the energy strategy with SCCS. On Cop 26 set up with others the Cop 26 coalition, pulling together movements at Scottish UK and global levels. Also the Just and Green Recovery work. coalition has 100 orgs signed up, includes many social justice and other types of orgs. Circular Economy and plastics, air quality and transport, just transition, the oil and gas industry, trying to expand that work in new year. Focus on climate justice and activism.

