



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 (Conservative)

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)

## 5. 2020 achievements

- APPG for Dark Skies founded (January)
- Dark Skies consultation (July – September)
- Ten Dark Sky Policies for the Government policy paper launch with Rebecca Pow MP of DEFRA (December)
- Adjournment debate on Government policy on Dark Skies with the Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP responding on behalf of MHCLG (December)

## 6. Priorities for 2021

### · **Commercial dark sky project**

With still some way to go in convincing ministers of our dark sky policies, this year the APPG should look to companies and organisations to partner with that would be willing to implement some of our recommendations. Suggestions have included partnering with the Crown Estate, fuel retailers to reduce rural petrol station lighting, or opening talks with individual football teams in the Premier League to help them to reduce light pollution around their stadiums at night when not in use.

### · **Dark Skies visit**

If over spring and summer lockdown restrictions are reduced, members agree it would be a good idea to have MPs and Peers go on a dark skies visit to a national park or AONB. We've had several offers from national parks around the country so we'd also want to decide the location for any visit in consultation with members. One suggested national park is Anglesey, hosted by member Virginia Crosby MP.

### · **Parliamentary Dark Skies Forum**

Initially planned for last year, the Parliamentary Dark Skies Forum would be a morning hosted in parliament for dark skies campaigners and experts. Several panels could be put together to discuss different aspects of light pollution, comprising of a mixture of public figures, politicians and academics.

### · **Promotion of Dark Skies in the Lords**

Members from the Lords expressed their desire to organise a debate on the topic of dark skies in the Lords within the next year. APPG member Lord Carrington will look into the possibility of this.

## 7. Questions/Discussion

- The group notes that it will help promote the CPRE's annual star count, 6th – 14th February.
- Use of the Environment Bill as a platform to advocate for dark skies

- Look into the possibility of establishing a Select Committee enquiry into the topic of dark skies. Members expressed that to add weight to the work of the APPG, an enquiry by the Environmental Audit Committee on dark skies would be worth pursuing. APPG member Jerome Mayhew MP sits on the committee.
- Members expressed support for helping Chiltern AONB in applying for national park status.
- APPG researcher to look into the ‘Considerate Builders’ Code’ on how to limit light pollution from temporary structures and national infrastructure projects such as HS2.
- Members acknowledge there is work to be done in promoting astrotourism alongside DCMS and working with Local Authorities to promote dark sky policies.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

Meetings between members will take place ad-hoc.