22/10/24

**APPG on Parkrun Inaugural Meeting**

1/ Welcome & introduction from the Chair

Nick Smith opened the meeting and there were round-table introductions.

Present: Nick Smith MP, Cat Smith MP, James Wild MP, Rebecca Harris MP, Martin Wrigley MP, Scott Arthur MP, Chrissie Wellington (Parkrun), Lindsey Kell, a representative from the office of Dame Tanni Grey Thompson.

2/ Election of Officers

There were nominations and elections for the persons below:

* Chair – Nick Smith MP
* Vice-Chair – James Wild MP
* Vice-Chair – Cat Smith MP
* Secretary – Valarie Vaz MP

3/ Update from Chrissie Wellington of Parkrun

Chrissie updated those present about the 20th anniversary celebrations, work around engaging deprived areas and Parkwalk.

She also set out the work Parkrun was doing in prisons and the criminal justice system, as well as GPs linking to Parkruns (social prescribing).

There was interest from Members in the Junior Parkrun programme and how schools were partnering with local Junior Parkruns.

Chrissie mentioned the ‘Get Active’ strategy and the National Physical Activity Taskforce, which were both launched under the previous government. Are they continuing and could Parkrun be involved if there are. Nick Smith offered to write to the Sports Minister and feedback.

There was a Q&A from Members which touched upon Parkrun and the criminal justice system, Junior Parkrun, how data and technology can assist Parkrun and possible barriers to Parkrun, particularly for women.

Chrissie informed MPs that Parkrun asked sign-ups to take part in a survey looking into barriers each year, but stressed that this was voluntary.

Chrissie also set out that Parkrun were undertaking a health and wellbeing survey with Sheffield Hallam University, which had a week left until it closed. There were 45,000 responses already to date.

Scott Arthur mentioned that he had been asked about the carbon footprint of Parkrun and Chrissie set out that this was an area that Parkrun was looking into, with a review concluding in 2025.

4/ The Year Ahead

There were discussions about possible events in the future.

Nick Smith mentioned the suggestion of having an event next Spring at a nearby park to promote Parkrun, possibly linked to the 21st anniversary.

Chrissie suggested that MPs could do a Parkwalk to support the activities of Parkrun who are keen to relaunch Parkwalk in 2025.

Scott Arthur asked about visiting a prison in his constituency which was involved in Parkrun.

There was also interest from the MPs present about visiting schools which had linked to Junior Parkruns in their constituency.