



Environmental
Protection
Scotland

Newsletter

October/November 2019

EPS 7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WITH the end of an exceptionally busy year almost upon us, the Board of Trustees has made the decision to defer the 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Environmental Protection Scotland until January 2020.

The date and venue will be confirmed in the next Newsletter at the end of December.

All members and organisation representatives are welcome to attend.

Following the AGM will be an informal networking session which members are cordially invited to attend. Members can also invite potential new members to join us at that point.

“NOT EVERYONE CAN MOVE TO A COMMUNITY FARM, BUT WE DELIBERATELY TRY AND LIVE A SIMPLER LIFESTYLE”

STEVE Shaw walked across country for two and a half days to reach the Krishna Eco Farm, which is a project run by ISKCON Scotland – the name given to the Hare Krishna movement in Scotland.

Without a map and carrying his tent in a rucksack, Steve had hitchhiked to Ayr from his home-town of Chorley in Lancashire and then sought directions as he walked across country after being “captivated” by the farm during an earlier visit.



That was back in 2006. He is now the part-time garden team leader at the eco village which lies on an exposed hillside 900ft above the South Lanarkshire town of Lesmahagow.

Steve oversees the work of a dozen or so volunteers who assist the faith group in nurturing the farm’s work, alongside their other activities such as teachings of yoga and meditation as part of a holistic lifestyle - not an easy task in such a windswept location.

Vegetables are grown in a walled garden that was built by the Krishna monks after their arrival at the site in 1987 and is provided to volunteers for them to eat in a community kitchen at the smallholding. Some are sold locally or given away by the organisation’s Food For Scotland free vegan food distribution project to students and homeless people. There are even two Alpacas, Gaura and Bala! Read the eco-farm’s story [here](#).

“WE WANT DUNDEE TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR PEOPLE AND THAT MEANS HAVING GOOD AIR QUALITY”

DUNDEE is the smallest of the four Scottish cities that have so far been earmarked for Low Emission Zones.

Around 148,000 people live in the City of Discovery which has been rejuvenated in recent years by the pedestrianisation of the city centre, the new train station, Waterfront development and the V&A Museum that opened in 2018.

Despite having a smaller population than Glasgow, Edinburgh or Aberdeen, the city’s compactness posed challenges for the team involved in drawing up the LEZ. Steep hills in the city can be gruelling for cyclists and pedestrians, NHS staff, patients and their families require constant vehicle access to Ninewells Hospital and the city centre lies within two-ring roads with tens of thousands of vehicles passing the city each day enroute to the north-east or the central belt.



Dundee has good overall air quality, but also some pollution hot-spots, including Dock Street, Seagate and the Lochee Road corridor to the north-west.

After the end of the public consultation, which attracted 1,336 responses, we publish an interview with Tom Stirling, the city council's Head of Community Safety and Protection who co-chairs the LEZ delivery group. Read the full story [here](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE INDEPENDENT CLEANER AIR FOR SCOTLAND REVIEW REPORT

One year ago the Scottish Government announced an independent review of its air quality strategy 'Cleaner Air For Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future' (CAFS).

Cleaner Air for
Scotland Strategy –
An Independent Review
Final report to the Scottish Government

August 2019



The CAFS review followed a commitment in the 2018/19 Programme for Government and was launched by Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

You can click on the left hand picture to read the full report by the review's Chair Professor Campbell Gemmill. It incorporated a series of reports by steering groups set up to review the progress of the CAFS strategy to date and assess the current state of the country's air quality and possible future trajectories. They aimed to identify evidence and activity gaps and provide advice and recommendations on priorities for further action.

The Scottish Government is now seeking wider comment on the report and recommendations by the steering groups ahead of a CAFS strategy for consultation and

publication in 2020. EPS members and other wider stakeholders are invited to take the time to provide any additional comments which they may have on the review report or any suggestions for priority recommendations. They can do so via this online Survey Monkey. The deadline for comments is **12 noon on Friday, December 13th** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WHHXVYF>

The CAFS strategy can be found here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-road-healthier-future/>

REVIEW BODY TO CONSIDER TOUGHER FIREWORKS LEGISLATION

AN independent review of existing fireworks regulations, particularly in relation to unlicensed private events, is in the process of being established by the Scottish Government.

The review group, whose chair will be named in due course, will include organisations such as the SSPCA and COSLA and will aim to address public concerns. The group will also look at possible restrictions as to when fireworks can be let off and consider the introduction of firework-free zones.

There were more than 16,000 responses and over 90% support for tighter controls on their use and sales, stronger regulation to ensure that animals are not left distressed or suffer as a result of the noise created by fireworks in a public consultation. In addition, 87% of respondents supported an outright ban on firework sales.

EPS took part in the consultation and expressed its concern noise nuisance caused by private displays, such as at hotels, particularly where notice has not been given in advance to neighbours.

Licensing of fireworks' sales is carried out by local authorities and strict criteria must be achieved before one will be granted to the organiser of an event. Fireworks which emit over 120 decibels cannot be sold widely to the public and there are also restrictions on the sale of bangers, air bombs and 'jumping jacks.'

With fireworks displays becoming increasingly popular for various kinds of celebrations, other respondents to the consultation described how they had encountered problems of anti-social behaviour, a lack of police or other action by authorities to deal with individuals who let off fireworks in public places, and in particular common closes. It was also said that resources are stretched, particularly busy times such as around Bonfire Night.

Participants in the consultation said that some families were currently letting off fireworks in their gardens for celebrations ranging from christenings, birthday parties, graduations or even to celebrate sporting events. They felt that the number of privately held displays had increased in recent years.

One notable contribution to the consultation came from a former soldier who suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), who discussed the adverse impact that loud bangs had on his health. Others who said they had been adversely impacted by fireworks included people with autism and those with mental health problems.

Some respondents called for firework displays to only be allowed around key events, such as Hogmanay, Bonfire Night, Diwali, the Chinese New Year or possibly the Eid. Dozens of organisations participated in the consultation, from City of Edinburgh, West Lothian and Falkirk local authorities through to community groups from Iona to Kirkcubright and ASDA.

The full consultation can be read here [here](#).

RSA FOOD, FARMING & COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION: 'SCOTLAND FIELD GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE'

THE RSA Food, Farming & Countryside Commission launched the 'Scotland Field Guide For The Future' report at Caledonian University in Glasgow on Thursday October 22nd.

The well-attended event was hosted by Professor Lorna Dawson of the James Hutton Institute, who also sits on the EPS Land Quality Expert Advisory Group.

It was the culmination of a three year long independent inquiry in each of the devolved nations, and high level recommendations about the future of food production, how farming can be better supported, especially in rural communities, and considered the challenges – and opportunities – posed by Brexit. Professor Dawson told the audience: "People across Scotland are thinking, both strategically and practically, about how best to use our land – which is another renewable resource – so that we can pass it onto future generations."

She said this could be achieved by educating children, collaborating with farmers and by providing access to correct information and create the solutions to allow people to work together to ensure there is a flourishing rural economy.

Sue Pritchard, Director of the RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, said the RSA's inquiry was established by NGO's and business leaders because of the 'enormous amount of anxiety about Brexit' and its impact on food strategies, farming and the environmental sectors.

The Scotland inquiry group met farmers, cooperatives and communities involved in food growing on 'their own patch.' She said the recommendations transcended Brexit and discussed the need for healthy food, and a 'levelling of the playing field' to create a 'fair food system.'

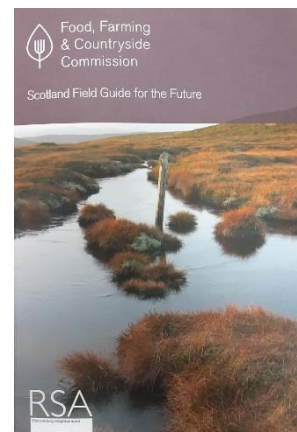
Other recommendations include a call for help to support agricultural cooperatives, regenerative farming and better financial resources to achieve this transition. There were also recommendations around land use, land ownership, including the supply of food, energy and housing.

She added: "I heard many poignant stories in the Highlands, Islands, and even the Borders, where people feel as far from Edinburgh as people (in other parts of the UK) feel from London – that the sense that the Government doesn't really get the challenge of living and working in isolated and rural communities."

Andrew Thin, the Chair of the Scottish Land Commission, described land use and land reform as being 'two sides of the same coin.' He added that Scotland had the most concentrated levels of land ownership in western Europe. "Most other parts of the world have far higher levels of community ownership," which he said meant ownership being in the hands of a few people who live in a certain area.

He said the governance of land was highly concentrated in the hands of property owners and that the established notion that the owner is also the 'governor' was ripe for change.

Of interest to EPS members, the RSA's inquiry also makes findings relating to the importance of soil health, urban food growing and peatland restoration. Read the full report [here](#).



CLEAN AIR DAY PRAISED FOR ENCOURAGING BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AT HEALTHY STREETS AWARDS

Efforts by EPS, the Scottish Government, Global Action Plan (GAP), local authorities, the NHS/Health Protection Scotland and the private sector to encourage behaviour change towards air quality, vehicle use and active travel on Clean Air Day have been recognised at an awards ceremony.

The event, which was coordinated by this charity in Scotland in 2019 and 2018, working with the overall UK coordinators GAP, was highly commended at the International Healthy Streets Awards last month.

It was pitched against two cycling initiatives in London and the South-East of England, and the winning entry, Sustrans' Big Pedal, in the Best Healthy Streets Behaviour Change category, with the results announced at Glasgow City Chambers on October 9th.

If you participated in Clean Air Day, there's still time to tell us how your event went and what could be done better next year. Click here to complete a short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F9Y8RNW>



BROWNFIELD LAND SCOTLAND 2020

THE 13th annual Brownfield Land Scotland conference will be returning to Edinburgh in 2020.

The event on February 5th at the Hilton Edinburgh will provide the opportunity to share first-hand experience and solutions to topical contaminated land and groundwater challenges.

Organised by Environment Analyst, the event is aimed at contaminated land officers, EHO's, others also involved in regulatory work, consultants and contractors.

There will be practical advice, case studies, the chance to share ideas, learn from others and networking opportunities. The line-up of speakers includes Sarah Hamill, a contaminated land officer at West Dunbartonshire Council and Vice-Chair of the EPS Land Quality expert advisory group.

Sarah will be discussing the importance of verification in a brownfield redevelopment project from a regulator's perspective.

An 'early-bird' discount rate – which saves over £50 off the standard place – runs until December 11th. There are also discounts for people working in local authorities and the academic sector. Click the following link to find out more details <https://www.brownfieldscotland.com/>



EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

NOISE

THE most recent meeting of SNAG took place on Thursday November 21st at the EPS offices in Glasgow and was chaired by Jim McIntyre of SEPA. Chis Steel, a noise and vibrations specialist at the Health and Safety Executive, gave an excellent presentation and took part in a Q&A. Julie Robertson of Glasgow City Council and Simon Waddell of ITP Energised were welcomed as new members of the group.

AIR QUALITY

INVITATIONS are invited for the post of Chair of the group after long-serving Dr Stuart Sneddon of Ricardo-AEA recently indicated that he wished to step down from the post. Members of the group keen to stand for election should email the EPS Policy and Communications Officer at john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk The next meeting is set to be held in January.

LAND

THE next meeting is due to take place in January with a Doodle Poll to be sent to members to confirm the exact date and time. EPS will represent the group on the Contaminated Land Advisory Group (CLAG), which will meet at the Scottish Government offices at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, on December 12th

BOOK REVIEW & COMPETITION- 'EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE'

THERE are any number of books out there on air pollution. Readers can take their pick from doom-laden predictions of our future to comprehensive accounts of the 'diesel-gate' scandal.

It also seems that any number of people calling themselves air quality 'experts' are behind titles on the booksellers' shelves in a bid to cash in on the public's raised awareness.

However, Mark Broomfield is better qualified than most to write a book about the policy. He has been working in this field since 1992 after completing his PhD in environmental chemistry. He's specialised in air quality, public health and odour issues and is an environmental consultant, having even spent time measuring air quality on the Cornish moors. He's conducted research for SEPA and DEFRA on airborne pollutants and been a member of UK Government expert advisory groups and panels on air quality.

Mark begins by outlining how Earth's atmosphere works and the process of burning, whether its coal or combustion engines for vehicles, is extracting oxygen faster than plant life can put it back in, even though in percentage terms over 500 years it only a 1% loss.

He covers the different gases such as argon (discovered by the University of Edinburgh's Professor William Ramsay in the 19th century) through to CO₂ and discusses the links between climate change and air quality. Read our review and enter the competition to win a signed copy [here](#).



NEXT MONTH – ELECTION TIME

THE result of the general election on December 12th will shape UK environmental policy and Brexit.

We will publish a report on the EPUK annual conference in Birmingham and have the latest on the Edinburgh and Glasgow flightpaths consultations.

We will also report on a speech by Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, at the Scottish Transport Emissions Partnership (STEP) conference on November 7th.

In early 2020, we plan to publish an in-depth article on the work of local authorities to roll-out EV or hydrogen fleets and charge-points.

If any council staff wish to publicise their work, they should email the details to admin@ep-scotland.org.uk and write 'EV ARTICLE - NEWSLETTER' in the subject header.

EPS is the continuation of an eminent line of charities going back to the days of the National Society for Clean Air and more recently Environmental Protection UK. Our objectives include the support and development of the work of Scotland's environmental regulators and scientists based on sound science, objectivity and best practice. We seek to work towards a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable Scotland.

Environmental Protection Scotland

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