

Member Network

Annual Members' Meeting

Briefing Note

Scottish Section Annual Members' Meeting 2017

1. Convenor's Report

Scottish Section Events

The committee has worked really hard this year to bring a wide range of events.

The year started well with the Annual General Meeting and conference on Wildlife Crime which was held last January in Glasgow. This was a popular and well attended event.

In February, three training events were held in conjunction with the NBN. These were designed to help train practitioners in the use of the NBN Consultants portal and again proved very popular.

The March event was an evening seminar entitled "an introduction to Raingardens". This had some great feedback, and even had interest from some of the London members who asked if we could webinar it for them. This unfortunately wasn't possible, but it was nice to have found an event with such wide appeal.

In April, Greg Chamberlain and Caroline McParland hosted an afternoon event on "technology to benefit ecologists". It's always good to get to see some new tech, and this event was no exception.

The May event was a look at the new BCT survey guidelines, and proved so popular that we had to run the session a second time. Neil, the presenter, was excellent and gave a very thorough overview for the delegates.

In June, as the weather finally improved, we had the first of our two out-door events for the year. This was an Invasive Species Walk along the river Kelvin, followed by a social to a local hostelry.

Our second field trip, in July, took place in Montrose basin and comprised a talk on how to deal with Himalayan Balsam, and subsequent practical session.

We then started a series of three events looking at different aspects of the relationships with people and their environment, which culminates this conference.

For the first event in this series, we were very lucky to be able to partner with two other organisations to produce some excellent full day workshops. In September, we partnered with Scottish Natural Heritage to provide a "Sharing Good Practice" event entitled "Biodiversity- design with Nature". This event also included a lot of non-members, which was good publicity for CIEEM.

Member Network

Annual Members' Meeting

Briefing Note

In November, we repeated our very successful partnership with British Ecological Society to put on a two-day event at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. This event focussed on “Connecting people with Nature” and comprised a full day workshop, as well as a policy day for early career researchers.

In addition to these member events, there was also a student event with Aberdeen University. Thanks to Alistair Watson for organising that.

During the 2016 annual meeting, it was pledged that the committee would try to deliver one event per month throughout the year. This didn't quite work out, but the committee did organise nine separate events, which is a good number for an entirely voluntary committee. Opportunities for widening our geographic spread were also discussed. This area still needs some work, but 2016 did see events in Inverness, Aberdeen, Perth and Montrose as well as Edinburgh and Glasgow. The locations of events will always, to a certain extent, reflect the locations of committee members as it is much easier to arrange an event near to where you yourself are located. Consequently, if you feel your area is under represented, please be in touch with the committee so that we can look into this more for you in 2017. Additionally, if you have ideas for an event you would like to see, a partnership you consider to be worth investigating, or the burning desire to put an event on yourself, we would love to hear from you. The committee can be reached directly via scotland@cieem.net, or via HQ.

We are already working on our plans for 2017. We are doing a student event at Aberdeen university next week, and we are working on plans for our first event aimed specifically at graduate and associate level members. Keep an eye on the website and your emails for details on what is coming up soon.

Committee Overview

We have almost a full compliment of 16 committee members, which is great news for the Section. The committee is very diverse, and between us represent a good spread of industry, policy and academia; a reasonable geographic spread (Inverness, Aberdeen, Angus, Fife, Edinburgh and Glasgow) and also represent a number of other CIEEM committees, including the Professional Standards committee, the Membership Advisory Council, the marine and coastal special interest group and the Advisory forum.

One of the few disadvantages of having such a full committee is the difficulty in getting people together for a meeting. Consequently we have only managed two full meetings this year – in April and August – with a number of last minute cancellations due to short notice changes in committee availability. The committee will be meeting in the next few weeks, however, to initiate our plans for 2017.

Office Bearers

We haven't had any changes to the Office Bearers this year. Thanks very much to Elaine, Emilie and Greg for their continued support in helping keeping the committee alive and active. They do a great job, and give up a considerable amount of their spare time.

A special mention should also go to Caroline McParland, Greg Chamberlain, Emilie Wadsworth, Naveed Bhatti, Aftab Majeed and Kelly-Ann Dempsey who have organised events this year.

Member Network

Annual Members' Meeting

Briefing Note

2016 saw the loss of Mike Thornton from the committee. We would like to thank him for all he contributed during his tenure.

There is one new member to co-opt to the committee at the next meeting – Patrick White of Napier University. I very much look forward to working with him for the first time this year.

The members of the 2016 committee have worked exceedingly hard to deliver a wide programme of events to the Scottish membership this year; they are an incredibly enthusiastic bunch, and I would like to offer my sincere thanks. We should not forget that this involves committee members contributing valuable spare time in what are otherwise very busy lives. The committee works tirelessly to support the Secretariat, deliver events, add value to CIEEM membership and represent the membership of Scotland in every way possible.

I would also very much like to thank Vicky Bowskill, the CIEEM Member Networks Coordinator who has been a great help to the committee this year, not least with her help in pulling together the event today, and it's a shame she can't join us!

Sincere thanks also to the Vice President for Scotland, Kathy Dale, who has been influential and contributed her valuable insight in supporting the committee and members in Scotland. We'll hear more from her in a bit, but she has been an enormous help in increasing the influence of CIEEM in and beyond Scotland.

2. Overview of the Committee

1. **Recently elected or co-opted committee members:**

Patrick White has come forward and offered to become a committee member. He will be formally co-opted at the next meeting.

Mike Thornton and Peter Wright both stood down as committee members this year due to work commitments. The committee would like to offer them both thanks for their efforts and contributions during their tenures.

2. **Any committee vacancies:**

We currently still have one vacancy. If anyone is interested in filling it, please contact the committee through the usual channels. The committee tries to be wide ranging in terms of geographical location and specialism. We also have several members who are on other committees, and represent Scotland and Scottish members that way.

Member Network

Annual Members' Meeting

Briefing Note

3. Overview of the current committee:

| | POSITION | FIRST NAME | LAST NAME |
|----|------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Convenor | Claire | Lacey |
| 2 | Vice | Elaine | Anderson |
| 3 | Treasurer | Greg | Chamberlain |
| 4 | Secretary | Emilie | Wadsworth |
| 5 | Committee Member | Caroline | McParland |
| 6 | Committee Member | Juli | Titherington |
| 7 | Committee Member | Clare | Nisbet |
| 8 | Committee Member | Kelly Ann | Dempsey |
| 9 | Committee Member | Naveed | Bhatti |
| 10 | Committee Member | Aftab | Majeed |
| 11 | Committee Member | Fraser | Maxwell |
| 12 | Committee Member | Brian | Minshall |
| 13 | Committee Member | Andy | Mackenzie |
| 14 | Committee Member | Claudia | Gebhardt |
| 15 | Committee Member | Patrick | White |
| 16 | Committee Member | | |

You can find further information about all our Member Networks at: <http://www.cieem.net/member-networks>

All committee vacancies are advertised at: <http://www.cieem.net/cieem-committee-vacancies>

3. CIEEM Update

Sally Hayns has joined us from HQ and provided the following update from CIEEM.

Sally started by offering thanks to the committee from all at HQ and the Governing Board. The Scottish committee is clearly very active, and this is appreciated by all.

2016 saw the 25th anniversary of CIEEM, and several events were organised to celebrate this across the country.

The 2016 CIEEM awards were very successful, with the most nominations ever being received. Members are encouraged to submit nominations for the 2017 awards (deadlines are the end of January), as they are a great way to recognise the contributions of ecologists, and celebrate wonderful projects.

Member Network

Annual Members' Meeting

Briefing Note

CIEEM has been very busy this year, with policy work, particularly following the result of the EU referendum. The impact of Brexit has been key priority for the policy team and Board members.

Training and Development has undergone a refresh recently, with the training courses are being expanded as much as possible to provide more course in more areas. CIEEM really need feedback from attendees/members to help with this, so all are encouraged to get in touch either directly or via the committee. The online CPD tool was launched in 2015/16, with now over half of members using it. The paper forms are no longer necessary. A random selection of members get audited each year. Webinars are now being organised, to facilitate easier access to topics that are suitable for this medium. The webinar programme is in its early stages, but CIEEM are keen to do more of these as they are cost and time effective and highly accessible. Please feedback suggestions of topics.

Guidance – The EIA guidelines have been revised, with the Marine ECIA guidelines needing to be reviewed. It is likely that these 2 documents will be merged. Guidance for householders on engaging a consultant was produced in 2016, particularly focusing on what is needed/required from a bat survey. This is to help householders get what they need for licences and planning consent. CIEEM have also been working with CIRIA & IEMA on the principles of achieving net gain for biodiversity. The drive for this is coming from developers, not the ecologists or environmental managers.

The membership continues to grow, with over 5000 members UK wide. Scotland now has over 800, which is around 16%. There is a current drive to encouraging student members and CIEEM are looking at creating a career development pathway. Also looking at non-academic routes into membership, for example producing standards for apprenticeships.

The AGM process was changed in 2016 in order to try to improve engagement, especially to increase voting numbers. Therefore, all elections are done online in autumn, and appear to have been successful in the first year. CIEEM is still keen for Member Networks to have meetings, and are promoting “annual members meetings”, such as this one.

There's been a refresh of the content management system of the website, which will ultimately result in a fresher website and a more useable members portal.

CIEEM are trying to identify better ways of sharing the results of mitigation assessments, and a report will be produced towards the end of 2017, which will then be translated into guidance for members.

The Professional Standards Committee will soon to have no representation from Scotland or Ireland. A call for new members will be going out soon and responses from these 2 areas will be prioritised. Please consider putting yourself forward.

Kathy Dale – update from the Scottish VP

Kathy is now 4 years into a six-year term, and represents Scotland and Scottish members in a variety of ways. She sits on the Governing Board, and the Advisory Forum, both of which require a strong geographical presence. As a Fellow, Kathy also sits of the Fellow Forum, which involves more “blue sky”

Member Network

Annual Members' Meeting

Briefing Note

thinking than the Board or Advisory Forum. She also assesses applications for Chartership, and would encourage more members to apply for both this, and for Fellowships, especially from geographical regions.

Kathy is the CIEEM point of contact for organisations, agencies and individuals in Scotland who want to engage with CIEEM, for example, being involved in events, and has been involved heavily in liaising with Scottish Government on behalf of CIEEM, particularly on Brexit.

Kathy represents Scotland at the CIEEM Awards events, and is delighted to see many Scottish nominations and winners. She supports the committee as and when necessary, and over her career has developed many contacts and networks who can help with advice, events etc.

Finally, Kathy provides Scottish context and input on the review and production of guidelines both for within CIEEM, and externally.

4. Members' Q&A

1. Can HQ provide any feedback from the discussions with Scottish Government on Brexit?

Notes from the meeting have been produced and sent to the Secretariat, and this will need to be shared with the membership. The general feeling from those present was that SG were supportive of the CIEEM concerns, but there is much still to do.

2. Following the webinar on updating EIA guidelines – has there been any more formal guidance produced on this, including ecosystem services?

There is nothing formal as yet, as ecosystem services are not a legislative requirement presently, but it's clear that there is a drive towards including them. HQ will keep us posted, however, their priority at the moment is to complete the guidance on things that are currently legal requirements.

3. Is there an update of the ECow/Register of ECoWs?

CIEEM are working in this, and hoping to launch something soon. There have been advisory meetings with specialist groups organised, so watch this space.

4. Mitigation guidance – great to hear that this is still on the agenda, but what about enforcement?

There are many cases when mitigation has been part of planning conditions, but there's no monitoring, so we have no idea if the mitigation has even been implemented, never mind if it has been successful.

5. Is there anything ordinary members of CIEEM can do to address this?

This is a really important question. The lack of evidence is a major issue as monitoring doesn't take place, even when a condition of planning consent. The value of biodiversity is not appreciated properly, so

Member Network

Annual Members' Meeting

Briefing Note

winning the argument on monitoring and enforcement is very difficult. All members can push this, as can CIEEM, and HQ recognise the need to work with some of the other professional bodies.