

APPG on Limits to Growth AGM

20th June 2023, 9.30am
Room Q, Portcullis House

Notes of the meeting

Voting parliamentarians present:

Caroline Lucas
Clive Lewis
Sir Peter Bottomley
Patrick Grady
Barry Gardiner
Christina Rees

The group duly re-constituted the APPG and elected the following officers:

Chair - Caroline Lucas MP – Green
Co-Chair – Clive Lewis MP – Labour
Officer – Patrick Grady MP – SNP
Officer – Sir Peter Bottomley MP – Conservative
Officer – Barry Gardiner MP – Labour
Officer – Christina Rees MP – Independent

Report on activities over the last year:

A particular highlight over the last year was the APPG's meeting with the Club of Rome to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *The Limits to Growth* and to mark the publication of the Club's new book, *Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity*. Members of the APPG continued to champion postgrowth thinking in the Houses of Parliament through speeches, amendments, and their role in committees. This included key interventions on the UK Government's Financial Services and Markets Bill and the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill. In light of a recent speech by the Irish President critiquing the 'obsession' with economic growth, and the major 'Beyond Growth' conference hosted at the European Parliament in May 2023, the Chair of the APPG tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM), calling on the Government to conducting a review of the growth dependency of the economy and developing a comprehensive strategy to transition to a wellbeing economy. To date, the motion has been signed by 23 MPs. It was further noted that the APPG's Quarterly Newsletter is being continued. It provides a regular editorial round-up of national and international activities around postgrowth economics and politics.

Future Plans:

Discussion around forthcoming activities included the potential for a 'Beyond Growth' conference in the UK parliament, similar to the one in Brussels. A suitable forum will need to be

found, including carrying political support to facilitate this meaningfully. Another project for the APPG will be a policy briefing around the Care Economy, to be tied in with the 75th anniversary of the NHS this year. The secretariat will seek collaboration with other APPGs on this. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of Schumacher's landmark book *Small is Beautiful*. The APPG could run a public event to celebrate the occasion. The secretariat will further explore opportunities to widen the audience for the APPG newsletter, using innovative networking platforms. MPs suggested that developing argumentative tools for debates and interviews could be helpful to advance the political debate. The APPG shall continue to maintain and further the space for postgrowth discourse and look at the mechanics of it.