



Representation in BCT

Representation is a process that allows individuals and groups to have a voice in BCT, i.e. it's an opportunity for individuals/groups to let BCT and the Board of Trustees know what – in their opinion – the current key priorities in bat conservation are, thereby allowing BCT an opportunity to respond.

Mechanisms for representation

BCT membership

At least two BCT members can request in writing to the Secretary for any motion to be put on a General Meeting agenda at least six weeks prior to that meeting. All BCT members have an opportunity to vote on motions at a BCT General Meeting. Usual items at an Annual General Meeting include:

- Changes to the Memorandum and Articles
- Elections to the Board of Trustees

Details of how members can represent their views to the Board of Trustees can be found in the Memorandum and Articles.

Partner Groups

Partner Groups will have a direct relationship with BCT. They will, therefore, have an opportunity to let BCT know where, they think, priorities should lie by liaising with an agreed BCT contact. Relevant information from Partner Groups will be escalated collectively to the Board of Trustees and groups will be informed of outcomes directly.

Prior to the Board of Trustee meetings, Partner Groups will be invited to comment on specific issues, or raise particular matters of concern via a dedicated trustee email address. This information will be taken to the Board and, where appropriate, feedback given.

In addition, a motion will be put forward at the next General Meeting (scheduled for 11th September 2010) recommending that Bat Group nominated representatives on the Board of Trustees become nominated representatives of Partner Groups. This change will require approval of the membership at the 2010 AGM.

Other bat volunteers

Anyone who volunteers for BCT initiatives, such as the National Bat Monitoring Programme and Count Bat, or who volunteers as a Natural England roost visitor or is a registered bat carer, will have a direct relationship with relevant BCT members of staff.

Everyone with an interest in bats

Bat Workers Forum (BWF) meetings are open to anyone interested in bats. BWF meetings superseded the Bat Group Forum, reflecting the broadening of this event to a wider audience in 2005.

They will take place once a year, at the National Bat Conference. Attendees will have the opportunity to share and discuss concerns, views and opinions with BCT staff and Trustee representatives.

Regional and national bat conferences are also open to everyone with an interest in bats. Attendees at these events will have an opportunity to talk directly to members of staff and Trustees.

At the annual Scottish Bat Conference and Wales Bat Workers Day, and biennial regional bat conferences in England, individuals can contribute to the 'Priorities' session at the end of the day. This session will be an opportunity to let BCT know what – having taken part in the day and listened to the BCT update – they feel the key priorities should be and if anything important is missing from the BCT agenda.

Who has voting rights?

BCT members, only.

(Note: groups can join BCT and nominate a representative to exercise the right of membership on its behalf. The named representative would be registered as an individual member representing the group and would thus get one vote.)