

## ***Monmouthshire Bat Group***

Monmouthshire Bat Group (The Group) is a voluntary group set up to further the aims of bat conservation within the county of Monmouthshire and Newport.

### **Constitution**

1. The group will be known as 'Monmouthshire Bat Group'
  - a) The general running of the Group will be undertaken by a Committee to be elected at the annual General Meeting from members who have been members for a minimum of 2 years and who are in good financial standing with the Group.
  - b) The Committee will comprise a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 members 4 of whom are to be Licensed Members. The committee will include a treasurer.
  - c) Advice or opinion on behalf of the bat group shall only be given by or on request of the Committee
  
2. All members are volunteers and are expected to be actively involved in the Group's projects.
  
3. Communication will be via E-mail and any member who has not been active with the group in any year or who has not paid their subscription will be dropped from membership.
  - a) Membership will be subject to a subscription to be set at the Annual General Meeting.
  
4. Any member wishing to pursue individual activities under the name of the group must seek approval from at least two of the licensed members of the committee. Approval will not be given for any commercial activity, or for use of Group funding without prior agreement of the Committee. Such approval to be only considered when such activity actively benefits the Monmouthshire Bat Group.

5. Membership of the Group does not give right of access to private land and buildings.
6. A licensed member is one with a current conservation licence issued by the Countryside Council for Wales or any successor Body.
7. The Group will be a 'network' partner of the Bat Conservation Trust. (BCT).
8. Any activity deemed as an authorised Group project will benefit from insurance provided through 6 above. The group will decline a commercial consultancy role.
9. One member will act as contact person to receive communications from BCT and forward them to current members of the Group.
10. The Group will hold funds in a bank account, currently Nationwide Building Society, Monmouth Branch.
  - Three members are authorised signatories of this account.
  - One of these shall be pass book keeper and record income and expenditure.Authorised expenditure on behalf of the Group will be reimbursed on production of a valid receipt.
11. In the event of the Group ceasing all remaining funds shall be allocated to any group within Monmouthshire having the same aims as the Monmouthshire Bat Group.
12. An annual meeting will be held in April of each year to discuss formal business associated with the Group's activities. Notice of this meeting will be given to members at least 4 weeks ahead.

13. A quorum for this and any other formal meeting is deemed to be 5 members of whom two must be committee members.
14. Any member shall vote with a simple show of hands.
15. Any meeting held to vary this constitution will be notified 6 weeks ahead together with any proposed changes.
16. No Member shall utilise their membership status of the Monmouthshire Bat Group for commercial or financial gain.
17. Any information derived from bat group activity regarding roosts shall not be divulged to third parties without the approval of the Committee. This does not apply to statutory returns, or information about the visit given to the roost owner or their representative.
18. In the event of a conflict of interest with the committee regarding bat group activities, members of the group and in-conflicted committee members may co-opt others to assist in any situations that arise. The committee can co-opt a member of the bat group onto the committee outside of election to assist with committee roles
19. Disruptive/ irresponsible behaviour will not be tolerated with the Group. If an issue arises through group activities the committee will consider the issues. The committee reserve the right to take appropriate action which may include termination of group membership.
20. The bat group will normally refrain from participating in commercial or consultancy activities unless agreed by exception by the committee. Eg Where there are over-riding conservation benefits.