

Dear All,

NEXT STEPS AFTER STARLIT SKIES CONFERENCE AT BRLSI 20 SEPTEMBER

We hope you found the conference on Wednesday as stimulating as we did. Bob Mizon and Chris Sperring got us off to a good start, and it was great to see and hear the lively discussions that resulted at the Tables and the ideas that came out of them.

So, what happens next?

Well, nothing much unless we turn at least some of those ideas into actions. A summary of the ideas is attached. They are identified by the Table they came from; in some cases, more than one where we have combined similar suggestions. (There are also a few that Tom has developed subsequently, generally as extensions of conference ideas.) The ideas themselves vary in scope and timescale. They all have potential but we could not tackle them all.

What we would like you each to do

Please look again at the ideas in the list, and **decide what you yourself can do to make, or help make, one or more of them happen**. (We assume you will look at the ideas from your Table, but don't feel confined to that if you think there is more value in your tackling a different one). You may want to work with others from your Table, or other Tables at the conference, or other contacts entirely. That's absolutely fine.

Contacting others and coordinating action

You may already have the means of contacting those at the conference who you would like to work with. If not, then you can do so via the **Starlit Skies Facebook Group** (if both you and they have accepted the invitation Simon has sent you) **or** you can email one of us and we will put you in touch with them.

For most of the ideas, we have identified one of us as a co-ordination link*. This means that if you have a proposal on how to make one of the ideas happen, but are not sure who else could help, then please tell that coordinator. With luck one of your colleagues is asking the same question, and we can put you together.

It would also be really helpful if we could identify an overall coordinator. At one level, we need to identify a local CFDS rep who can act as a link to Bob Mizon, distribute literature, help manage CFDS stands etc. But we'd really like someone who can also give a significant amount of time and energy to help the ideas we discussed on Wednesday become reality. If you might be that person, or know a potential candidate, please let us know.

We need to make a start.

Some of the ideas are short term, some would take years, but can still be embarked on. We have no fixed preference. You may even have a new and better idea with the same broad intention that you would rather pursue instead. **Can you therefore please tell us in outline by 31st October what you plan to do to improve the protection of our night skies and the benefits that will bring?** We will then put the plans together to see how we can maximise the usefulness of our collective efforts at the review meeting in January next year.

We propose to call ourselves the "Starlit Skies Alliance (Bath and Surrounds)" The name is intended to convey a broad and replicable aim, but with a specific local focus. We hope this works for you, but if you can think of a better name, please let us know.

Penny, Tom, Simon, Charles.

24 September 2017