

Wales Hospitality, Events and Food & Drink Businesses APPG inaugural meeting

Held on 21st January, 1pm in Portcullis House, Room P

Attendees: Llinos Medi, Tonia Antoniazzi, Jessica Morden, Baroness Bloomfield, Andrew Ranger, Gill German, Lord Dafydd Wigley, Claire Hughes, Catherine Fookes, Liz Savile Roberts, Ann Davies

In attendance: David Chapman (UKHospitality Cymru), David Sheen (UKHospitality), Isabella Roberts (UKH), Assistant to Llinos Medi

1. Election of officers

Llinos Medi was proposed as the new chair and was unanimously endorsed.

Jessica Morden, Baroness Bloomfield and Ann Davies were nominated as vice chairs and all were unanimously endorsed.

2. Members

All attendees of the meeting agreed to be members of the group and to seek further membership from their peers. The group needs twenty members to be constituted as a group.

It was noted that there are 50 people in Lords with an interest in Wales, with more to be appointed imminently.

ACTION: Members of the APPG to approach their colleagues and request that they join as members of the APPG.

3. Activity

The APPG is aiming to hold its first session on the 27th February, a showcase of Welsh produce in the Jubilee Room. This forms part of Wales week

Aiming for showcase in Jubilee Room on 27th February. Part of Wales week in London.

As part of ongoing activity, it was proposed that UKHospitality Cymru facilitates member evidence sessions to the APPG to share their real-life experiences. This would include a visit to a hospitality business to see behind the scenes. UKHC is also part of the Food7Wales group and can bring representatives from a broader food perspective.

The APPG secretariat could also facilitate constituency visits and position the APPG as a source of information for Parliamentarians more broadly.

The group could also act as a “pressure group” on behalf of Welsh hospitality, events and food and drink, looking at specific issues. Members discussed tourism marketing, the impact of food festivals and also the skills agenda.

ACTIONS: Take forward work in three areas

- a) Promotion of Wales as a destination: take evidence from VisitWales and feed into the Welsh Affairs Committee inquiry (deadline 27th January for written evidence, an extension is being sought).
- b) Commission an investigation into the economic impact of food festivals in Wales, including case studies, and assess barriers to growth.

- c) Assess the Welsh skills infrastructure and how to support wider skills development in Wales (it was suggested that, to avoid duplication and to increase participation, this could link to the APPG for Hospitality & Tourism's upcoming inquiry and the work of the APPG for Education).

4. Name of the group

It was proposed that the group's name from the previous Parliamentary session could be amended to consider tourism elements; it was further suggested that the phrase "Visitor Economy" could be added. No formal decision was taken at this stage and is therefore proposed that the group remains the All Party Parliamentary Group for Welsh Hospitality, Events and Food and Drink and that a change of name (and focus) be discussed and formalised at the next business meeting.

5. AOB

The APPG should consider a SWOT analysis of the strength of the sector in Wales.