Calderdale Badger Protection Group

Constitution

Reviewed, amended and agreed at the Annual General Meeting on 26th April 2025.

1. The Purpose and Objectives of the Group.

Calderdale Badger Protection Group (referred to in this document as 'the Group' or CBPG) is made up of voluntary members whose common interest is the protection of badgers. The Group is a full member of The Badger Trust (charity no. 1111440).

All active members will work towards enhancing the understanding, welfare, protection and conservation of badgers (as a species and individual badgers) so that the animal may lead a natural life without hindrance and interference wherever possible.

In order to achieve this objective the Group will seek to:

(i) Carry out sett surveying, recording and monitoring (maintaining secure records to assist the work of the group, responding to any sett reports submitted to Badger Trust and passed on to the group, and to aid in supporting the police or RSPCA in any criminal investigation).

(ii) Rescue and facilitate the treatment, rehabilitation and/or return of injured or orphaned badgers (in accordance with the current Badger Rehabilitation Protocol).

(iii) Respond competently to threats to badgers, their setts and habitats.

(iv) Give advice to landowners, statutory agencies and others concerning treatment of badger related problems.

(v) Deliver assistance to the RSPCA, police, other responsible authorities in relation to badger welfare matters.

(vi) Give talks on badger issues and publicise local concerns and problems so that the local community can better understand and appreciate badgers.

(vii) Liaise with local schools and other youth or community groups to offer badger ecology talks or events to promote a better understanding of badgers (with necessary safety checks and clearance in place as appropriate, as a responsibility of the group).

(viii) Monitor planning and development activities in the area and responding as appropriate to potential threats to badgers

(ix) Oppose badger culls

(x) To support and promote the vaccination of badgers against bovine tuberculosis (bTB) as appropriate.

2. The General Commitments of the Group

(i) To work with BT in a mutually positive, respectful and collaborative way.

(ii) To support Badger Trust campaigns and wider initiatives, delivering these at local level as appropriate.

(iii) To develop a cooperative and supportive relationship with other local badger protection, animal welfare and wildlife groups.

(iv) To accept any decision necessarily made by the committee of Badger Trust directors concerning any member group's name, geographical area of operation, constitution, or operation within that constitution.

(v) To pay the Group's annual subscription to the Badger Trust, as required.

(vi) To produce an Annual report

(vii) To produce an Annual Statement of Accounts by an experienced person independent of the committee.

(viii) To comply with any relevant legislation, regulation or best practice advice with regards the following:

a. data protection and the fair and lawful handling of personal data (as per the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance).

b. fundraising (as per Fundraising Regulator guidance).

c. internal/external complaints procedure.

d. governance and operations for non-profits (see National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Charity Commission).

e. Other CBPG policies and procedures.

(ix) To have an elected Committee (ideally rotating - see below).

(x) To hold Group & committee members' meetings that are minuted and stored.

3. Membership.

(i) This shall be open to members of the general public who support the purpose and objectives of the group, whether or not they choose to be actively involved

(ii) Members must agree to abide by this constitution, the membership policy and Code of Conduct.

(iii) Shall be granted on receipt of the membership form, and maintained on confirmation of continued membership annually, and/or payment of the subscription, set annually at the AGM.

(iv) Members must declare any professional or personal roles or activities which present, or could reasonably be perceived to present, a potential conflict of interest with the objectives of CBPG.

(v) The people in the Secretary and Treasurer roles shall maintain a confidential, up to date membership list of members' contact details. Should one or both of these roles be left vacant, member(s) must be appointed to take up this responsibility, so that a minimum of two, but maximum of three, roles maintain the membership list.

(vi) All members shall be entitled to attend Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) of the group. All members 18 and over are entitled to vote at AGMs/EGMs.

(vii) Members under 18 must have permission of parent or guardian to join the Group. Members under 18 will not have to pay a membership fee, and will not have a vote. They will be able to participate in discussions, but will need to attend with their parent or guardian to participate in the Group's activities.

(viii) A person shall cease to be a member of the Group if their conduct is considered to be directly detrimental to the objectives of the Group or a serious breach of the Group's Code of Conduct by not less than two thirds of the Committee.
Such a person will be given reasonable notice in writing of a meeting convened by the Committee to consider such a matter and may in writing or in person submit an explanation of their conduct to the Committee before a vote is taken.

4. Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

An Annual General Meeting shall be convened within three months after the end of the Group's financial year, or as soon as reasonably practically possible for the following purposes:

(i) To receive the Treasurer's report.
(ii) To receive and approve the accounts for the financial year.
(iii) To receive the Annual Report which is collated by interested members.
(iv) To elect or re-elect Committee members for the ensuing year.
(v) To agree the following year's members' subscription rates.
(vi) To resolve any proposed changes to this Constitution, such proposals having been seconded and furnished in writing to the Secretary 7 days prior to the date of the AGM or EGM. At the AGM or EGM a decision may be taken to defer resolution of proposed changes to a later meeting.
(vii) Changes to the constitution can only be made if the AGM or EGM has a minimum of 6 people or 10% of the membership whichever is the lower, and if a vote is held more than two-thirds of the members at the AGM/EGM vote for the proposed change. Members shall be able to vote by proxy or postal vote (including email) if they choose to.
(viii) An EGM may be held if all members are given notice at least fourteen days in advance.

5.Designated roles within the Group.

(i) The Committee: In line with BT requirements, the group shall have an elected Committee. The Committee shall oversee the administration of the Group.

1. The Committee will be elected annually and comprise a minimum of four and maximum of ten members (who may or may not hold other roles). Should there be less than ten members of the Committee, then it may be deemed that there is a vacancy. If a vacancy occurs during the Committee's period of office, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy. The committee meetings shall require a minimum of 4 members or one half of the committee (whichever is the lower) to be present (in person or virtually) in order to be quorate.

2. The Committee shall include the following officers:

- Chair and vice-Chair (these roles can rotate among Committee members)
- Secretary
- Treasurer

3. The Committee Membership will ideally include a diverse range of representatives covering the range of activities that the group undertakes (Fieldwork, Planning, Admin and Comms).
4. The Committee will ensure the objectives and commitments of the group are fulfilled in line with legal requirements, and develop policies around its membership and responsibilities for the wider group, alongside whole group policies. The Committee will ask the Membership to ratify any proposed changes to policies which will significantly affect the CBPG's objectives.
5. Committee members should rotate, such that members of the committee should remain in post continuously for a maximum of 5 years. Former committee members may be re-elected to Committee following a period of two years outside the Committee. However this clause is suspended if its implementation would obstruct clauses 5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4.

(ii) Other Roles: In order to achieve CBPG's group objectives, the group will seek to fulfil the following other roles:

1. Database Administrator
2. Crime Liaison
3. Planning

4 Emergency responders

5. Hotline holder
6. Fieldworkers
7. Fundraisers

8 Events

9. Minute taker (could be rotated).
10. Comms, including social media, website, press officer.
11. Education
12. Campaigns

13. Plus other roles as determined by the needs, priorities and skillset of the group members, to meet the group's objectives.

All non-committee roles are unelected but would still require the person to nominate/offer to fill the role, and agreement of the Committee.

CBPG recognise that there may be occasions where the person filling one of these roles will need to take temporary full or partial leave. This may be due to circumstances such as parental or

caring responsibilities, illness, or other reasons. In such cases the Committee will seek to find someone to provide appropriate cover for as long as required.

1. N.B. Representation of the group is not implied in or given to any role. Should formal representation be required then the member/members with the most relevant knowledge and skills will be given the authority to represent the group by the group on its behalf regarding a particular issue, standpoint or statement regardless of their position or lack of position within the group.