

## Chair's Report

I'm writing this whilst on the Caving in the Abode of the Clouds expedition in Meghalaya, India. The Internet connection is no better than a damp piece of string, I might be out of date on this topic, for which I apologise.

I would like the meeting to discuss the Forrest of Dean Conservation and Cave Access Group (FoDCCAG) becoming a Regional Council. This proposal was put to and passed by the last BCA Council meeting. I've not seen the wording of the proposal (it wasn't published in the Agenda) so I might be basing the following on false assumptions.

The Forest of Dean is a significant caving area with exciting discoveries happening on a regular basis. More cavers are visiting the area so it makes sense that it should be a Regional Council.

But I do think the BCA have handled this badly, primarily in that this proposal has been passed with no knowledge or discussion by CSCC members. The BCA have also passed this proposal without sight of FoDCCAG's proposed new Constitution or proposed area map.

Without sight of the Constitution BCA have lost the opportunity to ensure an appropriate level of democracy and good governance. Having said that, knowing the people who are writing the Constitution I think this is unlikely to be a problem.

With respect to the area map, I'm not sure the boundaries were ever properly established when FoDCCAG came into existence. For example is South Gloucestershire part of the Forrest of Dean? Now the boundaries are being fixed there should be a discussion between CSCC and FoDCCAG in the first instance rather than between FoDCCAG and BCA.

David Cooke  
February 2026