*Your local media – newspapers, radio and news websites – are always on the hunt for stories about local people doing interesting things! Phone up, tweet them or send a press release prior to your event, telling them some specific details about your event and that you have invited your local MP (see our sample press release below). And be sure you tell your MP, too! You can send them the press release in advance and ask if they want to add any quotes.*

*Take lots of pictures at the event and collect any quotes from participants or from the MP, so that you can follow up with your local media after the event, too. This will make your press release stick out from all the other press releases they receive.*

**Sample press release**

Immediate release

[*Date*]

**Title: [*Local residents OR your group name*] invite [*local MP*] to have a heart-to-heart about climate change on/ at a [*describe event, e.g. nature walk*]**

People from across [*town*] [*or your group name*] have invited [*name of MP*] to join them [*describe event, e.g. nature walk*] on [*date*] for a heart-to-heart about climate change. [*If you send this after the date, you can add how many attended.*]

Local residents will ask for [MP’s support] in calling for a step up in UK ambition in the name of the things they love that could be affected by climate change. The event starts at [*time*] and will be held at [*location*].

They will ask [*him/her*] to help ensure the UK’s climate targets are strong enough to meet the ambition in the landmark 2015 Paris Climate agreement. They will also be calling for [*add detail of any local, or other,* *asks that you will be taking to your MP*]

[*Include a quote from the MP if possible, for example: Joe Bloggs MP said “Making the connection to local people concerned about climate change is important to me. I’m pleased to support their calls for greater action to protect what [add detail] we love”. You might like to suggest a quote like this for your MP or ask them to supply their own*]

The event is part of the Speak Up Week, which will see thousands of local people meeting their MPs across the country in the week of 30th June - 8th July. From nature walks to church tea parties, people of all ages and from all walks of life will make sure their politicians see how much their constituents care about what we could lose to climate change.

[*Insert your own quote/a quote from someone organising on why this event is so important, for example: Organising the event, 31-year-old local mum Jane Smith said, “We’ve seen how climate change can affect us directly [include detail of local impacts e.g. flooding]. We need to tackle climate change now and we need our MP to lead the way...”*]

The Speak Up Week is organised by The Climate Coalition – a group of over 130 organisations including Women’s Institute, Christian Aid, National Trust, WWF, CAFOD and Tearfund as well as local groups. It is part of an ongoing effort to encourage our government to raise carbon emission targets to a more ambitious level to protect the people, places and life we love from climate change. This year’s Speak Up Week builds on two years of community activity which has seen nearly 2000 events involving hundreds of MPs.

*Insert a few short quotes/soundbites from different people. Example quotes:*

[*A - insert name, age and location*], attending the [*event*] said: “I want to see progress on tackling climate change because I care about [*my children/ a local nature reserve/ not just for local people but for communities in East Africa, the Philippines and elsewhere already severely affected*] and I think weneed to do all we can to protect them….”

[*B - insert name, age and location*], attending the event said “We’ve seen lots of progress in the local area [*include detail of a local initiative that is saving/ producing clean energy*]. This is just the start and I want to see how much more we can achieve”.

**Note to editors:**

1. For further information and photos or to confirm attendance please contact:

[*insert details of person responsible for media contact, including email and phone number*]

*2. Add information about the local groups involved in your event, e.g. [group name] meets [monthly] to [add in information about what your group does], especially if you are unable to fit this into the article.*

*3.* Along with our sister organisations [Stop Climate Chaos Cymru](http://stopclimatechaoscymru.org/) and [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](http://stopclimatechaosscotland.org/), we are a group of  over 130 organisations — including the National Trust, Women's Institute, Christian Aid, CAFOD, and RSPB — reaching across the UK to show our love for all the things we want to protect from climate change.

4. In 2015, 195 countries signed a landmark climate agreement in Paris which endeavours to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

5. Constituents will ask MPs to support them in encouraging the government to raise the ambition of the UK’s climate targets to be more in line with the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

6. Updated information on the number of lobby events and people attending will be available at [speakupweek.org](http://speakupweek.org)

**ENDS**