



## Paths for Communities (P4C): Expression of Interest Form

The Paths for Communities competitive grant scheme is administered by Natural England, on behalf of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

In order to register your 'Expression of Interest' in the scheme please complete the details below and email this form to [p4c@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:p4c@naturalengland.org.uk)

We will acknowledge receipt of your completed form and pass your enquiry to one of our Local Grants Officers, who will seek to make contact with you within 10 working days.

### Section 1: Who are you and how do we contact you?

#### Contact details for your group

Give the name of your community group as it appears on your governing document (such as your constitution or set of rules):



#### Address for your group, including postcode

**Address**

**Town**  **County**

**Postcode**  **Website address**

**Phone area code**  **Phone number**  **Fax number**

**Email address**

*For Office use:*

*Date received;  
P4C ref number;*

## Section 2: Project Description

'On the Way' is a project group that is affiliated to the mental health charity, Shropshire Mind. The group promotes the therapeutic benefits of countryside recreation and includes a membership of 20 people who are keen nature enthusiasts, wildlife photographers, ramblers, climbers and cyclists.

Since 2008 we have worked closely with Shropshire Council's Countryside Services and with the charity, Fieldfare Trust, who have trained and supported our group to volunteer on a range of nature conservation, access improvement and promotional work along the North Shropshire Way.

The Paths for Communities grant scheme has been identified as a means by which we can sustain our valuable contribution to Rights of Way management in the North Shropshire countryside. Following consultation with Shropshire's Local Access Forum and the Ramblers, our project proposes the creation of new Rights of Way and the implementation of a range of measures to improve access to key 'Meres and Mosses' countryside sites in North Shropshire. Our work, focussing on Brown Moss, Colemere and Ellesmere are sites that are owned by Shropshire Council who have granted permission for our group to develop and deliver the project with their guidance and support.

If successful in our application, Paths for Communities will add value to the larger 'Meres and Mosses' Landscape Partnership scheme and Nature Improvement Areas (NIA) which are lead by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, who also endorse our project. Furthermore, we have enlisted the support of the charity, Disabled Holiday Information, who will assist in the promotion of nearby businesses and services that are made accessible to the public.

The first phase of the project is already underway. We are currently undertaking survey work with the Fieldfare Trust to identify improvements that will promote easier and therefore wider access to a variety of stakeholders and user groups. We therefore hope to secure Paths for Communities funding in order that we can follow this up with Phase Two, which will involve a practical work programme including footpath/bridleway creation and the installation of new site furniture and interpretation. The project work will thereby offer continuity to our winter-based habitat restoration projects which include hedge laying and the management of invasive species. Phase Three of the project involves promoting the new network to a wide audience. Recently, the Fieldfare Trust supported our group to produce a podcast of a heritage area in North Shropshire, as well as 'Phototrails' which provide visitor information on accessible countryside sites and services. The project will therefore include an element of research so that we can use our creativity and skills to produce promotional Podcasts and Phototrails of the new networks.

We require funds to meet the revenue costs associated with the development and delivery of the project as described above, which for the most part will include costs for sessional staff, volunteer support costs (e.g. training and travel expenses) and learning resources. In addition, we also require capital funds associated with the creation of new Rights of Way, to include tools and materials and where necessary, contractor costs.

## Section 3 : How did you hear about P4C?

From the Shropshire Local Access Forum

*For Office use:*

*Date received;  
P4C ref number;*