

12.1(c)

NOTES FROM WALKERS FORUM MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2013

Present

Alex Ball	-	Canal and River Trust
Peter Carr	-	Oswestry Ramblers
Liz Evans	-	North Shropshire Walking Co-Ordinator
David Farncombe	-	Mere Ambles, Walking for Health
Ann Moore	-	Whitchurch Walkers
Neil Moore	-	Whitchurch Walkers
Peter Moss	-	Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Meres and Mosses LPS
Alison Parker	-	Ramblers
Jim Stabler	-	Shropshire Council

Liz would like to thank David Farncombe for chairing this meeting.

Feedback from last meeting

PC said he has been unable to access a list of car parks that the Ramblers use at the moment.

AP said the Red Lion and Corner Café in Ellesmere welcome walkers and will take posters etc.

PC said the Bradford Arms at Llanymynech welcome walkers.

WALKS FROM PUBS

Everyone had suggestions of walks that could be done, or have been done already, and there was a risk of duplicating if new ones designed.

JS to collate walk leaflets so people can identify what has been done and see if there are any gaps in this area.

DF identified there is a problem with producing walks using permissive footpaths as these can be removed.

Jane Ellesmoor, via email, asked LE to mention that there are walks from farms available with facilities, hers being in Woore.

Action

JS to collate walks

Everyone else to feedback to JS

SHROPSHIRE WAY UPDATE

LE said that Peter Dunhill has now finished his contract for the Shropshire Way, but he will continue to do some work around Whitchurch that is outstanding.

NM asked if Shropshire Way ends at the locks in Whitchurch or Grindley Brook – JS to clarify.

NM said it has been reported to him that new waymarks have been put up, but these are not on the route and so will be removed.

At the North Shropshire Way Steering Group on Friday 4th January, it was agreed that the Shropshire Way Association should now embrace the Shropshire Way North Steering Group to form a county wide group that will meet once or twice a year to review the state of the Shropshire Way as a whole, promote its use and participate in further developments.

Action

Jim Stabler and Keith Pybus will convene a meeting in late June/early July probably on a Friday.

WALKING FESTIVALS

NM reported the organising of the Whitchurch walking festival was progressing well. It will happen on Friday 10th May to Sunday 12th May 2013.

AB said the Montgomery Canal triathlon will be on Saturday 11th May 2013, entitled 'boats, bikes and boots'.

PM said Luke is still trying to organise the Meres and Mosses festival and will attend the next Meres Ambles meeting on Tuesday 29th January, 10am at the GP surgery in Trimpley Street, Ellesmere.

LE said the Oswestry walking festival will be on Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September 2013.

Action

JS to list festivals on website

Everyone to input dates of events

Saturday 18th May 2013, Oswestry railway walking day.

WALKING FOR HEALTH UPDATE

LE said walking for health was continuing to be well (mostly) supported in North Shropshire.

Market Drayton continued to be difficult to recruit new walkers.

St Martins was a non-starter as no-one turned up to start a new group.

Wem has increased in numbers following the change of time.

Baschurch now has a leader so can run every week.

The remaining well established groups continue to be well attended.

FOOTFALL

PC said he had found it difficult to contact them and felt they appeared reluctant to work with walkers.

Action

LE to contact John Waine and Corrie Davies about this.

ROUTE PRIORITIES

LE read the email from Shona Butter, asking for people to identify routes that should be treated as a priority.

PC said that if a footpath is in a public guide it should be a priority.

AM said that the public rights of way should be enforced as the continual bad state of repair wears down peoples' motivation as P3s can only do so much.

Jl suggested people approach landowners directly to sort things out.

Everyone registered their concern over this and requested more details for this new policy.

Action

JS to put on LAF agenda.

Everyone to complete user online survey.

Date of next meeting Monday 8th April 2013, 7pm, Ellesmere Town Hall.