

12.1(a)

MINUTES FROM NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALKERS FORUM OCTOBER 1ST 2012, WELSHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

Present

Peter Carr –	Ramblers
Neville Edwards –	Wem Walkers
Liz Evans -	Walking Co-Ordinator
Ernie Heath -	Wem Walkers
Jane Ing -	P3 group – Baschurch
Margaret and Brendan Markland -	Myddle
Harvey Morgan -	Shropshire Council, Access Team
Gerald Moss-	Whitchurch Walkers
Peter Moss -	Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Meres & Mosses
Alison Parker -	Ramblers
Colin Ruck -	Myddle
Jim Stabler -	Shropshire Council, Access Team
Russell Tucker -	Volunteer walk leader, Walking 4 Health
Emma Walton -	Market Drayton Community Partnership

Feedback from last meeting

Liz had asked the young farmers, national farmers union and tourism people to attend, but received no replies. Jane Ellsmoor, a farmer from Woore, sent her apologies and would like to be involved in the future.

Jim is still working on getting the website to encompass walks from all interested groups. He reminded people there is a facebook page and twitter is due to start soon. The website to find local walks is shropshirewalking.co.uk.

We need more local walks and events to be included on the website so can everybody who has information to share send it to Liz for inclusion on the website. Jim and Mick Dunn are working on a simple template for walk guides.

How do we get business involved?

It was felt publicans, borderland tourism, cafes, chamber of commerce and Destination Development Partnership should be involved.

Tourist information centres are happy to distribute walking routes, but the cost of printing prohibits people from publishing.

There were suggestions for :

- bed and breakfast walks
- walks based from farm shops
- walks from gyms, health centres, leisure centres and community centres

Car parks are not able to be advertised by the council as a starting point if they are not public land. It should be noted that we cannot promote non-Council car parks and we should be looking to signpost to the Rambler's lists of unofficial car parks.

People were asked by Jim to see if they could produce some walks from their local pubs – Jane Margaret and Russell volunteered to do so in their area

Shropshire way update

A map showing the north part of the Shropshire was viewed.

The linear Shropshire Way is marked with a black and white buzzard. The circular walks are marked with a green buzzard inset and states circular walk

Peter Dunhill has asked for volunteers to help with signage for their area.

On 2nd November the Shropshire Way will be officially launched in the north in conjunction with Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership. Invitations will be sent to all at the meeting.

Walking Festival

Peter Carr felt the attendance from the Oswestry walking festival was disappointing. He spoke about other, successful walking festivals and how it could perhaps be improved by employing someone to organise it and combining with the rest of North Shropshire.

Peter Moss said the Seven Wonders Walk had been a great success and so perhaps in future it would be useful to follow their template that his project was willing to help organise and fund a couple of walking festivals next year. He would be able to fund two events in the Meres and Mosses area each year for the next 5 years.

Liz to feed this back to the Oswestry Walkers are Welcome committee. Perhaps to ask the Destination Development Partnership to promote.

Walking for Health update

Liz said the Wem group now starts at 10am to see if more people come. She asked people to spread the word.

The newest Prees and Baschurch groups are going well.

Market Drayton is now weekly to try to build up momentum there.

Dogs are not allowed as many walkers find them intimidating or annoying.

Market Drayton Community Partnership

Emma said Bernard Beek is proposing a photo competition for the Tern Valley 2014 calendar to win a £300 camera. He wants to get sponsorship for each page which will include a walk.

It was questioned why the meeting was held at Welshampton as not everyone had a car. This venue was thought to be central and public transport at night is not viable in north Shropshire.

Next Meeting

Monday 7th January 2013, 1pm, Ellesmere Town Hall. To be confirmed.

Possible items for agenda next time

Footfall – people are asked to consider if and how it could be done to promote walking

Walking festival

Local walks from pubs, cafes etc for publishing.