

# Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Tuesday, 24 June 2014

## Shropshire Local Access Forum

**Date:** Wednesday, 2 July 2014  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Field Studies Centre Preston Montford, Montford Bridge,  
Shrewsbury, SY4 1DX

You are requested to attend the above meeting.  
The Agenda is attached

Linda Jeavons  
Secretary to the Forum

### Members of The Forum

<b>Name</b>	<b>Fields of Interest</b>
Stephen Bell	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Gareph Boxley	Motorised Vehicular Use/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Peter Carr	Walking/Canals
Alex Carson-Taylor	Landowner/Rural Business/Conservation
Chris Chillingworth	Walking/Voluntary Activities/Community
Richard Cotham	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Walking
David Cowell	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Tourism
Pauline Dee	Scouts and Guides
Margaret Markland	Conservation/Wildlife/Walking
Janet Mees-Robinson	Carriage Driving/Disabled Access/Tourism
Stuart Morgan	Walking/Tourism/Route Design and Application
Alison Parker	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Local Community
Roger Plowden (Chairman)	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Farming
Zia Robins	Horse Riding
Dave Tremellen	Shropshire Council
Mark Weston (Vice Chairman)	Horseriding/Carriage Driving/Voluntary Activities Shropshire Council
Leslie Winwood	

Your Committee Officer is:

**Linda Jeavons** Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 252738

Email: [linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk)

# AGENDA

## **1 Welcome / Introductions / Apologies for Absence**

## **2 Minutes and any matters arising (Pages 1 - 6)**

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 May 2014.

## **3 Public Question Time**

To receive any questions, statements or petitions of which notice has been received from members.

## **4 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

## **5 The Field Studies Centre Preston Montford and its work**

Adrian Pickles, Head of Centre, will be in attendance and provide an overview of the work of the centre.

## **6 Update on Shropshire Council's Parks and Countryside Sites**

Mark Blount, Outdoor Partnerships Team Leader – Parks, Shropshire Council will be in attendance.

## **7 Feedback from other Forums and items for noting (Pages 7 - 36)**

7.1 Items for Noting

7.2 The following minutes/papers are provided as updates for members:

- (a) Shropshire Cycle Forum – 11 February 2014 (marked 'A')
- (b) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 17 February 2014 (marked 'B')
- (c) Central Walking Forum – 7 March 2014 (marked 'C')
- (d) South Walking Forum – 25 April 2014 (marked 'D')
- (e) North Walking Forum – 28 April 2014 (marked 'E')

## 7.2 Future Meetings

(a) Members are asked to suggest agenda items for the next meeting.

(b) Future dates for 2014/15 starting at 10.00 a.m. are as follows:

Thursday, 16 October 2014  
Thursday, 5 February 2015  
Date in May 2015 – TBC

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## Committee and Date

Shropshire Local Access Forum

2 July 2014

## **MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 1 MAY 2014 10.00 AM - 12.18 PM**

**Responsible Officer:** Linda Jeavons  
Email: linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk    Tel: 01743 252738

### **Present**

Roger Plowden (Chairman)  
Gareph Boxley, Peter Carr, Alex Carson-Taylor, Chris Chillingworth, Richard Cotham,  
Janet Mees-Robinson, Stuart Morgan, Alison Parker, Zia Robins, Mark Weston and  
Leslie Winwood

### **29 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced everyone. In particular, he wished Deb Hughes, Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Manager, a speedy recovery; and thanked Paul Wynn for his valuable input and commitment during his membership on the Shropshire Local Access Forum.

### **30 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

#### **Members**

Stephen Bell; David Cowell; Pauline Dee; Margaret Markland; Jennifer Spenser,  
Dave Tremellen and Paul Wynn.

#### **Officers**

Deb Hughes and Tim King

### **31 Minutes and any matters arising**

#### **31.1 RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 February 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the word 'Plan' (Minute No. 22, bullet point 6) being amended to read 'Path'; and the word 'Way' (Minute No. 24) being amended to read 'Trail'.

#### **31.2 Arising on the Minutes:**

- Mark Weston provided an update on the position to date with regard to the Deregulation Bill. The Bill had progressed through the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Committee

stages; a new Clause with regard to motor vehicle use was now being considered; once enacted a further stakeholder working group would be set-up by DEFRA to consider the issue of motor vehicles on Rights of Way; and the Bill would go before the Lords early July with any further amendments to the Bill being tabled in the Lords. A further issue relating to guidance on diversions and extinguishment had been produced and this guidance had been deposited in the House of Commons library. No further information relating to gates was currently available; and

- Jim Stabler, Access Development Officer, reported that a report on the Annual Online User Survey would be presented to the next meeting.

### **32 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

### **33 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

### **34 European Funding and the LEADER programme**

Joe Bubb, Principal External Funding Officer, was in attendance and provided an overview of the European Funding and LEADER programme.

A question and answer session followed.

A member made reference to the national equine data figures in respect of the number of horses in Shropshire which, when multiplied by £3,000 (which was the suggested average amount each horse-owner spent each year), equated to an investment into the County of over £64m every year and requested that this economic driver be fed back to the appropriate body.

A member commented that the Ramblers Central Office had circulated an email, which indicated that some European funding received by LEPs might be spent on supporting rural tourism, including investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and sign posting of touristic sites and small scale tourism infrastructure.

In response to questions from the floor, JB explained that tourism was recognised as a key growth area and an asset. The next round of LEADER delivery would be focussing on underdevelopment so existing local action groups, eg AONB and The Marches, would be working-up proposals which will be presented to DEFRA.

JS explained that one possible way forward would be to produce a TOOLKIT which would provide businesses, ie B&Bs, with the information they need to create permissive walks from their doorstep and encourage visitors to use their premises. He urged everyone to come forward with ideas.

Suggestions included:

- The work done by this LAF on the Tourism Strategy should be revisited;
- Long distance multi-user routes and including accommodation for horses and owners should be explored; and
- Impact of short-events should not be overlooked – these events have the potential to generate instant financial benefits for the local economy.

It was **AGREED:** that:

- The Principal External Funding Officer to produce a précis (one side of A4) of the programme (a copy of which would be attached to the signed minutes); and
- A copy of the communication from Ramblers Central Office to be circulated to all members.

### 35 **LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and Local Nature Partnership**

Dan Wrench, Biodiversity Officer, was in attendance and provided an overview of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Local Nature Partnerships (LNP).

A discussion and question and answer session followed. Jim Stabler, the Access Development Officer welcomed the LEP and LNP and commented that the only way we could continue with projects that had a finite budget would be to involve these partnerships. A member asked if it would be possible for Shropshire Council to report to DEFRA as and when schemes came to an end and also to ask the question about what happens to permissive rights when funding was no longer available.

It was **AGREED:** That the Biodiversity Officer be invited to all future meetings.

### 36 **Launch of the Humphrey Kynaston Way**

Zia Robins provided an overview of the position to date. The route was already being well used, had been waymarked, and maps were available on the web.

The Chairman thanked Zia for all her hard work, drive and enthusiasm.

Jim Stabler commented that the work on the ground had finished but work on the website was currently ongoing. He was currently uploading maps of the routes and these would include links to local businesses.

### 37 **Shropshire Local Access Forum - number of meetings**

**RESOLVED:**

That this Forum continue to meet four times per year.

### 38 **Volunteering**

Jim Stabler introduced Helen Beresford. He explained that, as a consequence of restructuring, two new positions had been created. Helen Beresford had been appointed to the role of Shropshire Outdoor Development Officer and she would be looking to create and develop new volunteering groups around the County and help

to integrate existing groups. A further post which aimed to reach the more difficult to get to groups would be advertised shortly.

Jim Stabler also made reference to the Probationary Service who currently contributed to the volunteer network and was doing an excellent job.

Dan Wrench explained that limited funding had been made available to use on projects that would benefit the environment and this money had been used to fund groups in the north of the County. These groups had gathered and shared useful information regarding the natural habitats in their respective parishes and he envisaged that this could be expanded to research e.g. farm buildings and footpaths and suggested that information gathered could then be used to inform the planning decision making process.

The Chairman welcomed the huge amount of volunteering that was already undertaken in the County and commented that there was a further need to harness the volunteering ethic and he asked for suggestions on how this could be achieved and how the future role of volunteering could further be developed and encouraged:

- Some reservations were expressed with regard to using scientifically unqualified persons to gather information that could detrimentally impact upon the planning decision process if misleading information was provided;
- Farmers and landowners would be a good source of information as they might have already undertaken surveys of their land and/or wildlife;
- The excellent work of the P3 groups was acknowledged;
- Schools could be approached; and
- The excellent ability of the Canal River Trust to attract many volunteers was noted and it was suggested that a representative from the CRT be invited to a future meeting of this LAF to explain how they go about recruiting volunteers.

In response to a question from the floor, JS confirmed that Shropshire Council would provide insurance and training for volunteers.

It was **AGREED:** That 'Volunteering' be included and discussed at the next meeting.

### 39 **Wind turbines and the proposed National Grid Power Lines and their possible impact on access and tourism and Shropshire's economy**

Shona Butter explained that she had recently attended a meeting with the National Grid. With reference to the map displayed she drew everyone's attention to the preliminary proposed line. She commented that Shropshire Council was being consulted and providing the National Grid with accurate information regarding our footpath/rights of way network. Hopefully, this LAF would also be consulted in the future and she was given to understand that the project would definitely be going ahead. The bulk of the underground lines would be in Wales and the majority of the overhead lines in Shropshire.

From the floor it was expressed that consideration should be given to the impact of this project on tourism and the footprint of the pylons should not be positioned on any rights of way.

#### 40 **Wind Turbine Planning Applications**

Shona Butter explained that appropriate Officers were consulted on all planning applications that affected rights of way. The number of wind turbine applications had increased and they responded to each application on an individual basis and any response would also be dependent on the type of route, ie bridleway, footpath.

From the floor, it was suggested that this Forum should have an input and consider how these wind turbines impacted on the right of way network, the general access and tourism and how it might prevent people coming to Shropshire.

Dan Wrench confirmed that the Natural Environment team did get consulted on wind turbine and solar farm applications.

#### 41 **Feedback from other Forums and items for noting**

##### 41.1 **Items for Noting**

JS explained that the Walking Forums were meeting regularly, looking at local projects and involving local people.

##### 41.2 **Minutes/Papers**

The following minutes/papers, which were circulated with the agenda for information, were noted:

- (i) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 7 October 2013
- (ii) South Walking Forum – 24 January 2014

##### 41.3 **Future Meetings**

- (a) The following agenda items were suggested for consideration at a future meeting:
  - What progress had there been on pushing forward UCRs and getting them opened-up. As many paths were overgrown it was suggested that an update from the maintenance team be received at a future meeting; and it was suggested that this could potentially be a suitable project for voluntary groups to undertake.
  - Highways generally and UCRs – update
  - Mapping - update
  - NE Dedication Programme Nature Reserves - update
  - Canal River Trust
  - Volunteering
  - Oswald's Trail - update
- (b) A member commented that there was currently no record of important features on walks/routes – there was a list of listed buildings but no record of important and historic features. She suggested that this would be a suitable project for volunteers to undertake.

- (c) It was noted that the National Library of Scotland had now completed a project to scan and make available on the internet old Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales. Link to be forwarded to all members.
- (d) In response to a question from the floor relating to an obstruction of footpaths as a result of oil seed rape, Shona Butter explained that there was currently no specific policy for oil seed rape but there was a general policy for dealing with any crop. Initially the landowner would be contacted and they would have 14 days to remove any obstruction.
- (e) Jim Stabler informed the meeting that he would be leaving at the end of October and Clare Fildes would become the lead officer for this LAF.
- (f) Future meetings for 2014/15 as follows:

Tuesday, 1 July 2014 (Away Day) – possible venue Field Studies Centre Preston Montford and to include a walk of the new bridleway.

Thursday, 16 October 2014  
Thursday, 5 February 2015  
Date in May 2015 – TBC

All meetings to commence at 10.00 am at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury unless stated otherwise.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....



## MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

### MAKING CYCLING MAINSTREAM

Tuesday 11 February 2014, The Gateway, Shrewsbury

#### 1. Present

Cllr Miles Kenny (Chair)  
James Owens  
Mary Diggory  
Jean Breakell  
Michael Willmot  
Derek Owen  
John Nowell  
Helen Gilmour

Alex Grant  
Jenny Willmot  
Ken Thorpe  
Gill Wood  
Ian Gordon  
Will Baugh  
Keith Mason  
Ray Hughes

Peter Walden  
Peter Mathison  
Brett Kibble  
Phil Pool  
John Morris  
Emma Bullard

#### Apologies

Peter Crofts  
Geoff Shinner

Eliz-Anne Williams  
Jill Henderson

Bill Dorrell  
Martin Beardwell

#### 2. Previous minutes and matters arising

There were no amendments to the minutes of the October meeting.

PM reminded members that Martin Beardwell had asked for Shropshire Council's highway maintenance schedule. MK said that we had received a response from Tim Sneddon with general information though not a detailed schedule. RH had received a response from the Highways Agency. **Post-meeting note:** MB reports (12.04.14) that the HA's contractors have done a good job along the A5 and he has written to the HA and local MP to express his appreciation.

#### 3. Making Cycling Mainstream – Miles Kenny

A discussion paper had previously been circulated and MK introduced the topic.

There have been many improvements to cycle routes and parking since 1996 when the Forum was set up; and a big increase in cycling, especially in Shrewsbury. There is still huge potential to get more people cycling.

The context now is one of large-scale council cuts to staff numbers and services; and it is hard for members to argue the case for money to be spent on cycling when eg day centres are being closed. But there should also be some new opportunities eg to work with public health and voluntary organisations. There may be other groups who could help with the regular maintenance; such as Sustrans volunteers or offenders on "community payback".

Cycling should not just be seen as being for eccentrics or sporty types; we need to work harder to get this message across especially in view of the high profile of cycle sports. Getting more people cycling can help Shropshire Council to meet its targets for carbon reduction and can add to tourism revenues.

A discussion followed on topics including:

- JM: there is no cycle parking where he works, and there are often thorns or broken glass on cycle tracks. He supports using community payback to work on this. Also stresses the need to challenge the 2015 General Election candidates on the importance of cycling's contribution to carbon reduction – get a spending commitment from them. We also need safer lorries and Highway Code changes.
- Shropshire Council has not applied for European funding for highway maintenance.
- MD: she finds that car drivers seem to be getting less patient and still don't seem to expect to see people cycling. London Road is still difficult even though it has been resurfaced. It's important to encourage confident cycling so that drivers expect to see cyclists in traffic.

- JB: The “exercise on referral” model might be useful. Staff on these schemes have to assess the individual’s need – this might include cycling in the gym, and that person could then be recommended to move on to a real bicycle. RH said Public Health colleagues were happy to signpost to cycling services but did not wish to include cycling as an option in the exercise on referral scheme.

#### 4. “Mainstreaming Smarter Travel” – LSTF conference December 2013.

Ray Hughes had attended this conference and gave a presentation on some of the highlights including projects in Liverpool, Derby, Leicestershire and New York City. Bicycle ownership is growing (3.6 million bikes and 2 million cars were sold in the UK in 2012). All experience shows that you need a long-term vision – “What sort of place do you want your grandchildren to live in?” – to work towards; particularly as funding pots are short term.

From March 2015 when the current LSTF grant ends, capital funding for sustainable transport initiatives will come from the Local Growth Fund administered by Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Marches LEP covers Shropshire, Herefordshire and Telford <http://www.marcheslep.org.uk/> and is chaired by Telford businessman Graham Wynn. It has published its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) with information about what infrastructure projects it would like to support – the list includes the Shrewsbury North West “Relief” Road. There is support for improving conditions for walking and cycling in town centres but no specific schemes are mentioned.

At present it’s unclear what amounts of money might be available for sustainable transport from the LEP; no amounts are ring-fenced either to a particular county or budget area.

In addition, local authorities can bid for further LSTF revenue for 2015-6 and the bid must be supported by the LEP. **Post-meeting note:** Shropshire Council has submitted a bid and should hear in July whether it has been successful.

Ray’s conclusions were

1. There is still revenue funding for LAs for promoting cycling; but in competition with each other.
2. LEPs will receive capital – unsure how this will look post 2015
3. We need to build a new working relationship with LEPs
4. Can we sustain our activities with background of cuts and staffing losses?
5. Need for Champions to work together across all sectors

#### 5. Examples of Shropshire projects – EB

Agreed with the need to work with other organisations to get cycling as everyday transport embedded in people’s thinking so that it becomes normal. The sustainable transport team is always looking for ways to do this:

- South Shropshire Housing Association – has sent a number of workers on ride leader training courses and now runs cycling projects for tenants in supported housing. One of the most enthusiastic workers had not been on a bicycle for 30+ years before attending the ride leader training – illustrating the importance of influencing the relevant professionals in health, housing, education etc in order to reach the people they work with.
- Tourism and Leisure – the LSTF team is organising led rides with the National Trust and the Meres and Mosses project in May. [www.themeressandmosses.co.uk](http://www.themeressandmosses.co.uk)
- Planning – cycling facilities are often included in new developments but not linked further to the town centre and other facilities, making them more or less useless. (Shrewsbury Business Park is a prime example). There is a need to get high-quality, continuous cycling networks designed as part of the major developments planned for Shrewsbury and elsewhere in Shropshire. See <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/site-allocations-and-management-of-development-samdev-plan/> for information about this process.

## 6. Latest cycle data for Shrewsbury.

Graphs were displayed showing data for 2009-13 from some of the locations in Shrewsbury where there are electronic counters. Telford Way where there were no cycle facilities before December 2008 has shown the most dramatic increase. Castle Walk which is one of the oldest and most popular traffic-free routes has sadly shown a decline, probably due in part to the fact that postal workers no longer cycle on their delivery rounds. All the routes clearly showed the impact of weather conditions especially the severe winter of 2010-11.

## 7. Update on cycling in Telford

See report from Jill Henderson attached.

DO gave an update on the new BMX track in Dawley. **Post meeting note** see Shropshire Star article of 10 March

<http://www.shropshirestar.com/news/editors-picks/2014/03/10/bmx-fans-are-riding-high-at-new-telford-track/>

## 8. Shropshire events and update

- Alex Grant is leading monthly rides in Ellesmere on the third Sunday of the month. Details will be posted on the Travel Shropshire website  
<http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle/events/ellesmere-cycling-group-ride.aspx>
- The Bikeability contract is out to tender. RH confirmed that adult training is included. PM suggested we ask the Director of Public Health to encourage schools to take up the training. **Post meeting note:** the contract has been awarded to Cycle Experience who started delivering Bikeability in schools at the beginning of the summer term. There is no charge to the schools or children.
- BikeFest: Shrewsbury Sat 7 June 12.00-4.00pm; Oswestry Sat 5 July 11.00am-3.00pm. All information on the Travel Shropshire website.
- Shrewsbury Grand Prix Sunday 25 May; including family rides and activities  
<http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle/events/grand-prix-family.aspx>
- Sustrans Big Pedal competition: this took place in March. **Post meeting note:** Shropshire schools won both categories in the West Midlands – Oxon Primary was the winning large primary school and Worthen Primary the winning small primary school. Many congratulations to all the children, staff and parents.

## 9. AOB

(i) JB gave an update on efforts to provide more opportunities for “inclusive cycling” using the adapted bicycles and the track at Shrewsbury sports village. Points to note:

- The CTC has funding to help promote inclusive cycling. Shropshire comes under their north-west region for this project and Jayne Rodgers is the co-ordinator
- A group of interested people has been meeting in Shrewsbury since October 2013 to try to bring together the necessary expertise and resources. EB chairs this group although the LSTF team will not be directly involved in running new sessions.
- Taster or try-out sessions that have been arranged have shown that there is a demand for opportunities to cycle.
- RH is running “Pedal for Health” sessions every month at the sports village. These were originally aimed at members of the public who might need to take more exercise and not be

confident to cycle. There has been little support from GP surgeries to promote these and much of the early take-up was by groups from day centres or others with special needs.

**Post-meeting note:** These sessions are growing in popularity and will continue through the summer

<http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle/regular-cycle-events/pedal-for-health-taster-days.aspx>

ii) AG reported that sections of NCN route 455 (previously 31) are in a bad state after the winter. He was advised to contact Cllr. Ann Hartley (member for Ellesmere) or Cllr. Claire Wild (transport portfolio holder)

iii) BK distributed flyers about the new section of NCN 81 from Welshpool- Newtown along the Montgomery canal. RH said this is a lovely traffic-free ride. Sustrans have plans for the Welshpool-Llanymynech section.

iv) There is a 20s Plenty campaign in Oswestry and Rod King the founder of 20s Plenty will be speaking in the town on 31 March. For more information go to <http://peacecycling.blogspot.co.uk/>

#### 10. Next meetings

**Tuesday 17 June at the Ludlow Brewery,** <http://www.theludlowbrewingcompany.co.uk/> starting at 7pm. Contact Ray Hughes with any agenda items [ray.hughes@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:ray.hughes@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Tuesday 14 October** hosted by Telford. DO has offered the opportunity to try the BMX track at 6pm followed by the meeting at 7pm

Emma Bullard  
2 May 2014

**SHROPSHIRE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING FORUM (SRCDF)**

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014, at 7.45pm, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

**1. Attendance:**

Zia Robins, Shrewsbury & District RC A&BWO, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Linda Russell, South West Shrewsbury BWG. Joint Secretary. Jan Mees Robinson, Telford Bridleways. Gaynor Evans & Margaret Dutton, Broseley Bridleways. Sue Evans, Beckbury, Ryton & Badger BWG. Angela Williams, BHS CABO & Ellesmere. Carol Williams, Long Mynd & Dist BWA. Steve Benbow, Oswestry Riding Club Shona Butter, Shropshire Council.

**Apologies:**

John Gibson, British Driving Society, Chair. Anthony Francis-Jones, Telford BWA, Vice Chair. Andrew Kelly, Vrnwy & Dist. BWA. Ann Durnell, Bridgnorth BWA. Jan Baldwin, Broseley Bridleways. Gill Eyre, BHS South Shropshire East, South Shropshire. Pam Evans, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group. Rosemary Pattenden, Worthen BWA. Mark Weston, BHS

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair it was agreed that Zia would Chair the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 (paper A) were approved, and signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters Arising****(a) Wind Turbines – update on applications.**

The response on behalf of the Forum to Planning application 13/04250/FUL at Wigmarsh, West Felton, (paper B) is noted. The proposed turbine is within fall over distance of the bridleway. The existence of the bridleway was not mentioned in the application. Mat Stephens has done a response to Planning, highlighting the Recreation Team's concerns over the impact on the public bridleway. Zia emailed Forum members today with her response to an application at Conover that will impact on a country lane used by horse riders, as it is closer than the BHS recommended separation distance. If wind turbines are placed close to roads, horse riders have to contend with traffic, as well as any impact from a wind turbine, putting them in a more vulnerable position. The proposed wind turbine at Conover will also impact on tourism, as it will be right in front of Lyth Hill. This is where one of the Humphrey Kynaston Circular routes starts and finishes. RAF Shawbury has objected to the application, as it will impact on their radar. There are a large number of Wind Turbines already granted, and planned, in North Shropshire. These could turn the area into one large wind farm.

**(b) 'Paths for Communities' – P4C**

Zia reported that there is a deadline of the end of February to complete all the works. She and her husband have nearly finished way marking all the routes, but they are waiting for tall waymark posts to come in. The weather has not helped as the ground in many places is waterlogged. The new route at Preston Montford is now opened up with new gates. It goes through the fields with lovely views. It then goes along the bottom of the embankment, through the A5 rest area with a café and toilets, up the slip road, and across a field to Montford Bridge. The Highways Agency has been very difficult holding everything up. They wanted full risk assessments, detailed specifications, and traffic management schemes etc., for putting in three bridleway gates that were not even on the road and two horse-warning signs on the slip road. They wanted to treat everything as though it was on the main A5. It kept being passed from one person to another, with no one prepared to make decisions, or to sign the documents. It took Jim, Richard K, Zia and help from

Mark Weston to eventually resolve it. The Countryside Recreation Team has been fantastic with their support over the whole project. A lot of work is being done to improve gates along the routes. A big complaint from horse riders has been about the stick up handles on self-closing gates as reins and even bit rings have got caught on them, and the stick out bolts which can rip a rider's leg or a horse's side. New low handles are being tried on the self-closing gates: these come to just below the top bar and are stock proof, so the gates, which have 'D' loops around the closing bolt, have nothing protruding to get caught on. On field gates, low pull bars are being replaced with higher easier to reach latches with 'D' loops. As well as the 8 sections of the linear route, there are 4 main circular routes, two smaller circular ones highlighted in the linear leaflets, and link routes. The plan is to build on this and add more routes in the future. The leaflets for the 8 linear and 4 main circular routes will all be on the [www.shropshireriding.co.uk](http://www.shropshireriding.co.uk) website which is being upgraded as part of the Project.

**(c) Helicopter Liaison Meeting**

The meeting held prior to this meeting attended by the New Station Commander, Group Captain Smith, the new Corporate Relations Officer, Squadron Leader Kim Leach, and Squadron Leader Garry James, Station Flight Safety Officer, RAF Shawbury is noted.

**(d) National Grid Power Lines - [www.nationalgrid.com/midwalesconnection](http://www.nationalgrid.com/midwalesconnection)**

Zia attended the consultation meeting held at West Felton Village Hall and put forward her concerns over the impact of the route on public bridleways and tourism. She also attended a meeting at The Venue, Oswestry, called by Keith Barrow of Shropshire Council, and attended by Owen Patterson MP. Concerns were raised on the blight put on properties and businesses, and its impact on tourism. Shona and Matt have had a meeting on the proposals and how they affect Rights of Way.

**(e) Dog Incidents**

It is reported that there are a growing number of reports of incidents with dogs chasing horse riders on public bridleways, and attacking horses. Dogs should be under close control on a Public Right of Way. Serious incidents should be reported to the Police, and it is really important that people report incidents to the BHS accident website [www.horseaccidents.org.uk](http://www.horseaccidents.org.uk). It is suggested that equestrian yards put notices up advising that incidents be reported.

**(f) BHS Access Conference**

Angela, Zia and Jan attended the Conference held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013. It had a very well balanced Agenda, with excellent speakers on a good range of subjects, including The Woodland Trust on providing horse access, Common Land, P4C, Wind farms and horses, and a presentation on submitting Definitive Map Modification Orders. Mark Weston was recently on the One Show meeting a landowner following seven claims put in by the speaker for bridleways in Somerset.

**(g) Any other Matters arising not on the Agenda**

**Chinese Lanterns** – It is understood that Tesco is no longer selling these.

**4. Shropshire Council**

**(a) Cuts and reorganization within Shropshire Council**

Shona reported that a 30day consultation on proposed reorganisation of Outdoor Recreation is on going. Funding has been obtained from Public Health, as getting out into the countryside is recognised as vital to people's mental and physical health. This will give them two years of stability, but they will have to make changes and work more with the community and volunteers.

**(b) Outdoor Recreation Implementation Team**

Currently the staffing levels remain stable but there will be changes to the way they work. They will be working with the Probation Service. They will also look to other ways of bringing money in such as tree planting. They are currently working on the Shropshire Way, and on the Humphrey

Kynaston Way P4C project, and with volunteers The storms brought lots of trees and debris down on ROW, and lots of volunteers had been involved in clearing these. Adcote Bridge suffered damage with a supporting pier damaged and the bridge sinking in the middle. It is currently closed as unsafe. The adjoining ford is still open, but the Adcote river bank has been built up by the landowner making access that side difficult.

The Team are currently working on clearing overgrowth on the BOATS at Hinton/Polemere so the contractors can get in to work on the surface, which is currently waterlogged. Carol reported that there are three trees down on the bridleway from Lea Cross, which joins these 3 BOATS.

#### **(c) Shropshire Council online Rights of Way User Survey 2014**

Everyone said that they had completed it. There has been a disappointing response this year. This may be because people do not realise this is an annual survey, and may think having filled in one before, they do not need to do another. It is agreed that the information given at the beginning, of work done and the status of routes, was good. The 2014 survey was not so walker focussed. It gave more opportunity for horse riders, and others to answer questions. A few questions still proved difficult to answer. Zia was told that some questions are standard ones, and so cannot be changed. Zia asked members to remind their groups and others to fill it in. The results are important as they can influence future work. The need for circular rides had been highlighted in previous surveys.

#### **(d) Shropshire Council Planning**

Shona has followed up on this again. If we are to be consulted on planning applications this will have to include all applications affecting ROW, as footpaths may hold higher rights. Planning applications are shown on the Council's planning website, and some members already check these. Jan checks Telford ones, and Zia regularly checks the Shropshire weekly lists but may not recognise the importance of applications outside areas she knows. It would be a lot for Linda to be sent the whole of Shropshire, and it was asked if it was possible to break it down into areas. There is concern that most Planning decisions are now made by Planning Officers under delegated powers, with not even those with many objections, including objections by Parish Councils, going to Committee, and the Officers just saying that they have mitigated the objections, with no way for the public, or Parish Councils to respond to these.

### **5. Public Inquiries and Definitive Map Issues**

**Adcote Bridge** – A temporary closure notice has had to be issued due to flood damage. The bridge is in private ownership. Responsibility for its repair is being investigated. It is an important link route from Adcote to Baschurch. The closure does not apply to the ford adjacent to the bridge.

**Broseley – BW addition Chapel Lane to Lodge Lane.** There has been no movement on the anomaly. This involves the Willey Estate, and proof is needed that they moved the fence. The land ownership needs resolving. They have authority to publish an order.

**Benthall Woods FP65 upgrade** – A Telford contractor is going to do the gates. One is needed at the end of the railway line, and other gates may be put up to the side to keep horse riders to the line. It is agreed that members will follow this up with Andrew Carless.

**Badger Wood** – Lucy is in touch with the new landowner. The meadow has two new gates across.

**Oaks Wood** – Shona will liaise with Linda on this to resolve the line issue.

**Frodesley** – Shona is dealing with this now. The Orders still have to be sent off.

**Drumbles Wood** – This is still with Mat Stephens.

**Sutton Mill** - Shona confirmed that this is still with Mat.

**Brogyntyn** – We had been consulted on the wrong line, which they had cleared. The correct line shown on the order is now being sorted out, but involves a Tree Preservation Order

**Llanyblodwel** – Lucy has written the detailed evidence statements. Statements of Case can be sent in advance to save time. There are 3 issues. The Order has only been part confirmed but O.S. has put all the routes on their maps.

**Old Moors Lane** – Zia will follow up on this with Mat. It is important that it is resolved.

**Hilton** – The order will have to be published without an outlet.

**Market Drayton** – Following the recent Inquiry the route has been confirmed as a bridleway.

**Lea Hall Quarry** – Lucy is still following up on access there.

**Melverley** – The width confirmed by the Inspector has still not been enforced.

**Duck Lane, Little Ryton to Ryton** - No claim has been submitted yet.

**Welshampton FP addition** - Lucy is dealing with this. There was good local support with evidence given at the Public Inquiry. There are possible higher rights there, and a potential outlet.

**Pontesford Hill** – Zia responded to the planning application, as it will impact on the Humphrey Kynaston Way linear route. The new owner has a 999year lease. Nearly 100 evidence-of-use forms have been submitted for rights of way there. These were Crown lands. The Wildlife Trust has objected to the planning application on future management issues.

**Shirlett/Fish House Wood** – It keeps being blocked. Complaints had held things up. It just needs one gate to be put in, and the corral to be removed. A Legal notice has been served which will be enforced. The team have been told to get on with clearing it.

Shona emphasised the importance of resolving issues quickly when notices have been served.

## **6. Draft Deregulation Bill**

The Committee stage is on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. It has to go through the House of Commons and the House of Lords. It goes through first and second readings, but it is at the Committee stage that they actually debate it in more detail. Concern was expressed over the possibility of gates being put on Byways that had been open for centuries making it difficult for carriage drivers. The section on this was not very clear. Shona understood that it only says that you will be able to authorize gates. Zia said that it does seem to only apply to open land. Lanes should not be gated as this would encourage animals to be grazed on a lane, which would be dangerous to users.

## **7. Highways**

### **Provision of a Definitive Map showing status of Shropshire Highways**

There has been no progress on the report Zia did to Shropshire Council Highways on the 1929 Handover Map road errors and omissions. It is important that the old highway maps are all digitised, but that the original maps are kept. It is important that original documents are kept as copies can be corrupted and then information would be lost forever. Documents should only be copied as a back up. It is important that the original documents are safeguarded as colour and details can be lost when digitising.

## **8. Minutes and Feedback from LAFs and other Forums (not already covered)**

The minutes of the Local Access Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and the Minutes of the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 are available on <http://bit.ly/XNng7vP>. Zia reported that the relevant issues raised at the 6<sup>th</sup> February LAF have been included in our agenda. She raised the impact of National Grid Power Lines, and Wind Turbines and Planning, and updated LAF on the Humphrey Kynaston Way. It is noted that the next LAF meeting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at 10am in the Shirehall

**9. Any Other Business** – There was no other business

## **10. Dates of the Next Meetings**

Shona read a letter with regard to closing of the Shirehall at 8pm. Bookings for meetings are being accepted up to December 2015. Meetings after those currently booked will need to finish by 7.30pm. The meeting at the Shirehall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 7pm for 7.30pm is confirmed, and that is secure, but any subsequent meetings will either have to start earlier or be held elsewhere. It is agreed that we will hold the following meeting on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014** and will need to meet at **5.00pm and start the meeting promptly at 5.30 pm.**

**TO NOTE:** All papers for SR&CDF meetings are now sent out by email.

## Central Shropshire Walking Forum

### Notes of Meeting

1:30pm, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2014

Bridgnorth Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

#### Attendees:

Mick Dunn, Outdoor Recreation [mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 Jim Stabler, Outdoor Recreation [jim.stabler@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:jim.stabler@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 David Hardwick, Outdoor Recreation [david.harwick@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.harwick@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 Bill Hodges, Shrewsbury Ramblers [vibill@phonecoop.coop](mailto:vibill@phonecoop.coop)  
 Trevor Allison, Ramblers [eta-06@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eta-06@tiscali.co.uk)  
 John Newnham, Shrewsbury Ramblers [john.newnham@btinternet.com](mailto:john.newnham@btinternet.com)  
 Hilary Proctor, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 [hilandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:hilandsteve@gmail.com)  
 Steve Lowe, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 [hilandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:hilandsteve@gmail.com)  
 Bob Coalbran, Wellington Walkers are Welcome [bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com](mailto:bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com)  
 Dick Bailey, Much Wenlock WaW & Walking for Health [gdickson.bailey@virgin.net](mailto:gdickson.bailey@virgin.net)  
 David Morgan David Morgan, Longden P3 [davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Brian Dale Patteson, Shrewsbury Ramblers [rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk)  
 Barbara Martin, Pontesbury Walking for Health [b.martin1959@btinternet.com](mailto:b.martin1959@btinternet.com)  
 Geoff Sproson, Marches LDWA & Stiperstones Inn [marches@sproson.com](mailto:marches@sproson.com)

#### Apologies:

Rebecca Gutierrez, Telford & Wrekin [Rebecca.Gutierrez@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Gutierrez@telford.gov.uk)  
 Tim Parker  
 Mike Brooks  
 Susan Daykin

#### 1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Jim Stabler opened the meeting and thanked all those who were able to attend.

#### 2. **Feedback from Previous meeting**

- a. Inaccuracy in previous notes: John Newnham pointed out that Phil Barnes and not Phil Burns had replaced Bill Hodges as footpaths secretary. Phil has been added to the mailing list and will be invited to the next meeting.
- b. Fault reporting feedback: Mick Dunn explained to the group that it is not current practice to inform customers when work has been completed on the ROW network unless they have specifically requested this.
- c. Cycling on ROW: Mick Dunn informed the forum that he had spoken to the National Trust and Forestry Commission about the issues raised at the previous meeting about cycling on ROWs. Both the National Trust and Forestry Commission endeavour to ensure that cyclists behave responsibly. There is guidance on their websites and site noticeboards.

#### 3. **Group Updates**

Attendees were asked to give a brief update on current activity:

*David Morgan – Longden P3*

- a. The P3 group have been surveying routes and have no major issues to report.

b. David is trying to identify funding for an information panel with walking routes for Lyth Hill upper car park. (Jim Stabler said that he could possibly help out with funding)

Action- David is requested to liaise with Jim Stabler reference design and costs

*Barbara Martin – Pontesbury Walking for Health*

Barbara informed the forum that walking for health in Pontesbury is going really well with 40+ walkers attending their Friday walks.

*Trevor Allison - Ramblers*

Trevor's project has now passed the 4400km mark and he is hoping to finish Westbury parish in the near future.

*Bill Hodges – Shrewsbury Ramblers*

- a. There are 3 areas of the Shrewsbury and Atcham left to Survey.
- b. Bill will be promoting Rail Rambles which are walks from railway stations in Wales and the border counties [www.railrambles.com](http://www.railrambles.com)

*John Newnham – Shrewsbury Ramblers*

- a. Shrewsbury Ramblers have been nominated for a president's award for team achievement for the production of the very successful guidebook "20 walks in and around Shrewsbury" [www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk](http://www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk)
- b. Shrewsbury Ramblers walked to Sharpstone Quarry to mark the official instillation of the bench and commemorative plaque the group had paid for.
- c. Shrewsbury Ramblers now have a regular short walk (Thursday mornings) as part of their walk programme.
- d. Map Reading – Shrewsbury Ramblers would like Mick Dunn to run a basic map reading course for the group.

Action- Mick Dunn to organise basic map reading course for Shrewsbury Ramblers

- e. Shrewsbury Ramblers will be leading a walk entitled "Boots blessed with Gold" on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This is a 2.5 mile walk to commemorate Wilfred Owen's life in Shrewsbury. This walk features in the Shrewsbury Ramblers' Group recently published '20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury'. A commemorative panel will be inaugurated. Starting at 10 am from the Abbey Foregate car park (opposite Shrewsbury Abbey).

*Brian Dale Patteson – Shrewsbury Ramblers*

U3A continue to expand its walking offer.

*Bob Coalbran – Wellington Walkers are Welcome & Walk about Wrekin*

- a. Walk about Wrekin has produced a new health walks programme [www.walkaboutwrekin.org.uk](http://www.walkaboutwrekin.org.uk)
- b. Walk about Wrekin will be having a new series of 'fresh air' walks focusing on people with dementia.
- c. The Wellington Walking Festival 2014 will take place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 [www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html](http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html)
- d. Wellington Walkers are Welcome are hosting a 'Spring Gathering' of Walkers are Welcome groups and prospective groups at the Buckatree Hotel on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

*Dick Bailey – Much Wenlock Walkers are Welcome and Walking for Health*

- a. The Much Wenlock WfH group continues to do well with good numbers over the winter period.
- b. The Wenlock Walking weekend will take place in September 2014 date tbc
- c. 2 walks will be carried out during the Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre and the Much Wenlock Festival  
[www.wenlockchristmasfayre.org.uk](http://www.wenlockchristmasfayre.org.uk)  
[www.muchwenlockfestival.co.uk](http://www.muchwenlockfestival.co.uk)

*Geoff Sproson - Marches LDWA & Stiperstones Inn*

- a. Walks from the Stiperstones Inn are now displayed on the wall outside the pub.
- b. Hopefully there is enough interest to start a P3 group in Stiperstones.

Action – David Hardwick to follow up with Geoff

- c. The LDWA South Shropshire Circular walk went very well.
- d. Would like to dedicate a walk in memory of local post lady Elsie Rowson.  
Action – Mick Dunn to speak to Geoff about assisting with walk guide and way marking

- e. Busy planning the Janet's Jubilee Jaunt event on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014

[www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/challenge.htm](http://www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/challenge.htm)

- f. Geoff also updated the group on future LDWA events
  - i. WOW 2014 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July [www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/wow/index.html](http://www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/wow/index.html)
  - ii. Wistanstow Walk 14<sup>th</sup> Sep 2014
  - iii. LDWA social walks [www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/social\\_walks.htm](http://www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/social_walks.htm)

*Hilary Proctor/ Steve Lowe – Shrewsbury Ramblers P3*

Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 group have been very busy around the Bicton Area and have also been involved in work in the Darnford Valley. Have been very lucky so far with the weather!

*David Hardwick*

- a. The weather has been very challenging recently which has delayed or slowed down some programmed works.
- b. Helen Beresford has been appointed as Shropshire Outdoors Development Officer and will be responsible for establishing new P3 groups and volunteer development.
- c. Brush Cutter training will be taking place soon.
- d. Emergency first aid course taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- e. Volunteer Celebration event will be taking place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2014 in the Pontesbury/Minsterly area. Details TBC

#### **4. Get Walking Week**

Get walking week is the Ramblers National Short Walks festival and will take place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Shrewsbury Ramblers and Walking for Health will be leading extra walks during Get Walking Week.

Action – Mick Dunn to produce a Get Walking Week poster for the Shrewsbury walks

#### **5. Outdoor Recreation Updates**

Jim Stabler updated the forum on the following projects:

- a. Outdoor Recreation Survey. Although the survey has not finished yet Jim gave the group an update on how it was progressing. Full details will be available at the next meeting.

- b. Minsterley/Pontesbury market town project. The draft walks booklet is nearly complete. Just waiting for wording and pictures for some walks before printing.
- c. Humphrey Kynaston Way – Work on the new long distance bridleway is progressing well. Most of the route has now been waymarked and the guide is near to completion.
- d. Shropshire's World War 1 Walks. Details of the WW1 walks are attached.

**6. Events/Festivals Mar-July 2014**

- a. Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival 03<sup>rd</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
[www.visitironbridge.co.uk/walkingfestival](http://www.visitironbridge.co.uk/walkingfestival)
- b. Wellington Walking Festival 16<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014  
[www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html](http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html)
- d. Church Stretton Walking Festival 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
[www.churchstretton.co.uk/church-stretton-walking-festival](http://www.churchstretton.co.uk/church-stretton-walking-festival)
- e. Bishops Castle Walking Festival 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
[www.walkingfestival.co.uk/BCWF/default.aspx](http://www.walkingfestival.co.uk/BCWF/default.aspx)
- f. Wenlock Olympian Walk - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
[www.marchesgroupdwa.eu/wow/index.html](http://www.marchesgroupdwa.eu/wow/index.html)

**7. AOB**

- a. Geoff Sproson – Raised the point of bird trapping, with wire traps, on the Stiperstones.
- b. Jim Stabler – Walkers are Welcome towns are now featured on the Shropshire Walking Website with links to their websites. Jim has funding to produce a WaW booklet featuring all Shropshire's WaW towns.
- c. Trevor Allison – Shuttle Busses are not running from Shrewsbury and have to be picked up from Church Stretton.

**8. Date of next meeting - TBC**

## Shropshire's World War 1 Walks both WW1 funded Project and others

ser	year	area	Topic	Notes	Project walk
	Tue 29 Apr 2014	North	Heritage walk	History walk around Fenns and Whixall Mosses. Meet at Whitchurch Railway Station. Part of Edward German Festival <a href="http://www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk">www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk</a>	no
	Wed 30 Apr 2014	North	Heritage Walk	History walk to Prees Heath transit station and military hospital sites. Meet at Whitchurch railway station <a href="http://www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk">www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk</a>	no
1	2014  Sat 24 May	Central  Shrewsbury	Boots blessed with gold	A 2.5 mile walk to commemorate Wilfred Owen's life in Shrewsbury. This walk features in the Shrewsbury Ramblers' Group recently published '20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury. A commemorative panel will be inaugurated. Starting at 10 am from the Abbey Foregate car park (opposite Shrewsbury Abbey).  Wilfred Owen House in Monkmoor walk and along the river, based on existing Ramblers walk "walks in and around Shrewsbury" route 2.  Themes - Wilfred Owen's Poetry from line "buttercups on boots" from the poem Spring Offensive  Contacts Wilfred Owen Soc and John Newnham Ramblers.	yes
	14 Jun 2014	South	In Berlin the last hours before the war	Keith Pybus leads a gentle war walk from Aston-on-Clun via Hesterworth to St Mary's, Hopesay. Peopled by the richest cast of characters researched by Sandra Spence. The attaché at our embassy in Berlin, and later a marked man as POW, is buried here. £5 donation to the Hopesay <b><i>A Festival of Commemoration.</i></b>  RV Aston on Clun Village Hall 1 Broome Road Aston-on-Clun Craven Arms Shropshire SY7 8EH. Shropshire Hills AONB Alison Scimia, Administrator: 01588 674080 <a href="mailto:shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk">shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	no
2	2	South	Preparing for	A walk from the War Memorial Lychgate Halford highlighting the role of the railwaymen to	yes

	and 3 Aug 2014	Craven Arms	War – In the Air and on the Rails	Stokesay via Land of Lost Content [First World War exhibits] and the Hospice Bookshop window display – to Stokesay Church, Shropshire’s Pioneer Aviator, and Old Bill Craven Arms War Memorial. Walks leader Keith Pybus. £3 or £2 for Friends of the Shropshire Hills.  Shropshire Hills AONB Alison Scimia, Administrator: 01588 674080	
3	2014	North	Training for war	Walk from Oswestry to Park Hall via old hill fort. Memorial in park, Oswestry School, trenches on old hill fort. Themes - preparation for war  Contacts - Wilfred Owen Soc, Oswestry School, Park Hall	yes
	6 Sep 2014	Centre	Impact of war on local communities	Walk around Much Wenlock will have a theme of the war’s impact on the local community for those who worked in the quarries, in agriculture and on the railway in 1914 and 1915. It will take in the Lady Forester Hospital, a wartime hospital, the railways and Quarries etc  Part of Much Wenlock Walking Weekend - Contact Dick Bailey	no
4	Sat 20 Sep 2014	South	The Kaiser Gate-crashed my 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Kaiser Gate-crashed my 21 <sup>st</sup> 2/Lt Rouse Boughton’s field diaries are one of the many treasures of Shropshire Archives. On 23 <sup>rd</sup> August it was his 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday. That day, when the massive German onslaught on Mons began, he barely escaped with his life. By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Mark Wiggin, the walk will end at Downton Hall, the family-seat where the young officer’s father had planned a party for several hundred guests.  Shropshire Hills AONB Alison Scimia, Administrator: 01588 674080	yes
	11 Nov 2014	North	????	Oswestry walk to be confirmed	no
5	25 Apr 2015	South Stanton Lacey	Gallipoli Landings	Walk to commemorate William Williams VC born in Stanton Lacy. Walk from Stanton Lacey to Stokesay Court Auxiliary Military Hospital. Ludlow P3 are re-walking the route to Onibury. Theme - Talk about William Williams VC, great loss of life, Stokesay Court as hospital. Read some of thank you letters sent to Stokesay from	yes

				patients. Contact - Keith Pybus	
6	2015	Central	Recruiting/early casualties	Railway station to Cemetery showing plaques for the fallen railway workers to the war graves in the cemetery. First person buried was German POW Contact Railway Soc	yes
7	2015	South	Effects on agriculture	Walk based on Acton Scott	yes
8	2015	North		<b>Suggested Walk needed</b>	<b>yes</b>
9	2016	central Ditton Priors	Battle of Jutland	Tell the story of Sidney Joseph Smallman died when HMS Queen Mary sunk at the battle of Jutland over 1200 dead only 9 survived. There is no memorial here to the man only an entry on the roll of honour in the church Contact local Church	yes
10	2016	South Clee Hills	Conscription starts	Walk on Brown Clee and talk about start of conscription and Tribunals to escape going to war. Many quarry workers exempt as the Dhustone quarried here was used to make roads and railways in Flanders	yes
11	2016	North Fenns Whixall	Rising need for men and mounts	Largest remount centre just north of Whixall used peat as being for the thousands of horses. Tented camp on Fenns Bank for 1000 men longest rifle ranges in UK. Men used to arrive by train from Fenn's bank station and be resupplied by barge on the canal. Contact Natural England Canal Soc	yes
12	2016	South The bog	Somme	Lead mining needed for munitions, new adit dug called the Somme Tunnel. Contacts Shropshire Mines Trust. No response yet may need to contact Simon Cooter of NE	yes
13	2017	Centre	Passchendaele	Katherine Mary Harley died 7 March 1917 of wounds after her hospital in Monastir was shelled awarded Croix de Guerre. Memorial in the old Royal Salop Infirmary, now the parade shopping	yes

				centre, also on roll of honour in St Mary's Church	
14	2017	North		<b>Walk needed</b>	<b>yes</b>
15	2017	Centre		<b>Walk needed</b>	<b>yes</b>
16	2017	South		Possible walk in Church Stretton  Contact Alan Brisbane	yes
17	2018	North  Tern Hill	Formation of RAF	Tern Hill story of formation of RAF from Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service  Also tell the story of Major Cuthbert Everard Brisley and visit his grave  Run with help from RAF Shawbury	yes
18	2018	South  Acton Scott	Poppy field and remembrance	Poppy walk at Acton Scott showing effects of war on agriculture. Rationing started  Contact Manage Acton Scott	yes
19	2018	Central	Death of Wilfred Owen	Rea Brook walk taking in Potts Way, site of POW camp, Shrewsbury Abbey with Owen memorial  Contacts: Railway Soc, Abbey Vicar	yes
	???	South	Linley Hall  The Timber Crisis	Linley Hall Justin Coldwell - I have asked Catherine Landles to contact Justin Coldwell as my e-mail or letter failed to generate any response. The idea would be to obtain permission to walk down the oak avenue talking about the timber crisis [there are some anecdotes about this avenue] and then walk up to the tormented wood at the side of the Hall. You have the South needing a walk in 2017 No 16 but should we wait so long once we get the go-ahead? I have enlisted John Tuer or Tom Wall to help with this one.	no
	Sep 2018	Central	Impact of war on local communities	Walk around Much Wenlock will have a theme of the war's impact on the local community telling the story of the Belgian refugees and POWs  Part of Much Wenlock Walking Weekend - Contact Dick Bailey	no
20	2018	??			yes

	2019	Central	Changes that the war brought about	Changes the war made on forests, women, agriculture, domestic service, Spanish Flu. Start of Forestry Commission  Contact Forestry Ranger	yes
	2019	North	On-going casualties	RJAH hospital formation, transfer from to Park Hall Military Hospital in 1919 number and type of injuries  Contact RJAH archives officer	yes
	2019	South  Ludlow		Awaiting Derek Beatty's book publishing	yes
	2019	south	Forestry commission walk in Mortimer forest	On 1 September 1919 the Forestry Act came into force. This set up the Forestry Commission and gave it responsibility for woods in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Eight Forestry Commissioners were charged with promoting forestry, developing afforestation, the production of timber, and making grants to private landowners. They met for the first time in November under Chairman Lord Lovat.  The first Commission trees were planted on 8 December 1919 at Eggesford	yes

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# Southern Walking Forum

Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

# D

The Greene Room, Wistanstow Village Hall, Craven Arms

10 am – 12 noon, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014

## Present:

Keith Pybus	KP Chair	Shropshire Way Association
Jim Stabler	JS	Access Development Officer, Shrop. Council
Dick Bailey	DB	Much Wenlock WAW
Val Simpson	VS	Cleobury Mortimer WAW
Michael Holland	MH	Ludlow P3 Group
Peter James	PJ	Clun P3 Coordinator, Ramblers F.P. Secretary & Clun WAW
Charles Edwards	CE	R.A./ Ludlow P3 / Discovery Centre
Chris Chillingworth	CP	Ludlow P3
Clare Fildes	CF	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
Helen Beresford	HB	Shropshire Council
Richard Knight	RK	Shropshire Council
Marion Law	ML	Rail Rambles
Gill Mortimer	GM	South Shropshire Ramblers
Steven Levers	SL	Bishops Castle WAW and P3
Helen d'Albert	Hd'A	Walking Coordinator South Shropshire, Shropshire Council

## Apologies:

Simon Cooter	SC	Natural England
Merle Lippitt	ML	Rushbury WFH
Alan Garner	AG	Secret Hills Walking Holidays
Colin Carson	CC	Shrews. Hill Walking Club / HF hols.
Les Lumsden	LL	Ludlow 21/ Ludlow WAW bid project
Phil Sams	PS	Ludlow WAW bid project
Merinda Essex	ME	Craven Arms P3
Mike Beazley	MB	Ludlow WFH/ HF hols.
Alison Caffyn	AC	Ludlow WAW bid project
Sue Jones	SJ	Shropshire Area Ramblers
Chris Tibbits	CT	WFH Church Stretton
Ray Hughes	RH	Shropshire Council
Sue Jones	SJ	South Shropshire Ramblers/ AONB
Rick Summers	RS	Ludlow P3 & Whitcliffe Common
Mandy Smith	MS	Craven Arms WFH
Steph Hayes	SH	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

# Southern Walking Forum

Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The Greene Room, Wistanstow Village Hall, Craven Arms

10 am – 12 noon, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**ACTION**

## Welcome and Introductions

Welcomed Helen Beresford who took up new post as Shropshire Outdoors Development Officer 2 ½ weeks ago.

## Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of last meeting were agreed.

## Forum Topic

P3 - Richard Knight, Outdoor Partnership Team Rights of Way Team Leader outlined the changes in the Team, team's main focus and the new roles.

Name change to service -from Outdoor Recreation to Outdoor Partnership Team. RK explained that have been building relationships with Public Health and been successful in getting support form P.Health to develop the service.

The focus is a lot stronger on Partnership with other organisations, local communities, P3, outdoor volunteering services.

RK explained that they have to deliver outcomes to show the effects of improving ROW and managing sites on physical activity and health.

The focus is more now about getting people active, looking at supporting site volunteers, management of committees, etc. Access to the countryside to get people more active. They will also continue to do their best to maintain the network of ROW. The focus is less about how many gates we have etc and more about how to get there and deliver access to enable physical activity. With the active volunteering focus has brought 2 new posts to the team, the first is Helen Beresford's post and her role is to focus on the P3 primarily and to link other groups in with the P3. There is a second post of Outdoor Partnership Officer which has not been filled as yet.

RK explained that the staffing was reduced by 2 last year and in the restructure there will now be 4 area officers which will increase the support for the P3 groups.

Probation Trust links have been made and groups of 8 offenders have been working 4 days a week on the council owned sites strimming to keep the sites tidy. The project has been successful and RK wants to develop this further and aims to offer this workforce as a labour force to other groups to help them with the work they are doing. He hopes to increase to a 2<sup>nd</sup> probation team so doubling the capacity, and so RK asked P3 groups to think of projects these groups can help with.

Helen B to initially look at reinvigorating Shropshire Outdoors Groups-working with groups with Mental and Physical disabilities, so that these could then work with groups such as P3 as well, then the new officer will work on the support for this area when in post.

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RK explained that extra support is being put into the budget for volunteers, the aim being to increase coverage and numbers. Focus at Nills is working more with the P3. Plan to ensure are well equipped so have what need to do the work. HB to encourage new groups via attendance at Parish meetings etc. RK will advise when the Countryside officers' areas are confirmed.

Brushcutter training been given, but thinking of introducing supervisory training course too, covering risk management and safety training.

SL very encouraged by above info from RK and said basic expenses for fuel would help.

ML asked for clarification on referral route for obstructions-

RK advised emails/ phonecalls and letters come to Lucy Stanley at Shirehall who contacts referrer for more details if needed. She logs it and creates a job sheet that goes to Nills / or to ROW if is an Enforcement or Obstruction issue.

They are prioritised by categories of paths at present, thought likely to in future get support if has a volunteering group in the area, i.e. if it can therefore be shown by this that there is the interest in the community to support this.

PJ expressed that they regard routes that they walk as individuals/ groups as a priority route if it is obstructed.

The need for feedback on reported issues was raised – RK said do try to feedback to who reported the issue where able, but acknowledged this system needs improving. Outcomes and feedback are very important as the service needs to prove to funders how increasing activity and improving access etc.

MH asked about access to info via CAMS by groups, RK stated trying to address but some difficulties in how and need to ensure data protection is maintained.

SL stated everyone needs to know who is doing what and where and when. CI asked if there was a web based way for P3 to access info and input ? Not yet available RK replied.

¼ ly feedback discussed- will be same, but are moving it to ensure get info more timely. So will run 1 month in arrears.

PJ asked that it was noted that not all groups have transport to get heavy stuff across several fields.

V.S. Cleobury area- explained that work done on cross border bridges with Worcestershire- Cleobury- Wyre forest. Asked would it help to be aware of outcomes for this? RK to discuss with Tim Simmons and asked VS to email info to Tim.

VS concerned if more P3 groups will it stretch support from Outdoor Partnerships Service? And said WAW also needs support.

SL said they want to draft something out to send to local land owners to remind them of their responsibilities. Plan to send a letter out as

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reminder then a thank you.

## Walking for Health

Hd'A updated group on WFH in area:

Briefly outlining changes happening with WFH – the criteria for WFH walks is changing and due to come in by end of the year. Walks covered by the scheme will be up to 90 min duration, those over this will no longer be within WFH, and instead the plan is to market these as progression walks and to insure under Council insurance. This is apart from the Footloose walks which are not locality based and Hd'A has met and spoken with leads for this group who are looking at the options open to them.

New groups and proposed groups- Hd'A feedback positive start to new group formed 01.04.14- need to encourage volunteers to train as walk leaders for this group, so can become community led. Kim Skinner Ludlow Foyer is interested in setting up a WFH Youth walk for residents – Hd'A has met to discuss ideas. S. Forum suggested could P3 link in with the young people from this walk?

Hd'A

## WAW

Hd'A feedback from her attendance at recent meeting - Ludlow plans to submit its bid for WAW status in June.

VS feedback that Spring Gathering conference went well. Good turn out and well received. Acknowledgement given by National WAW for the cluster groups support idea.

## Jim Stabler – Outdoor Recreation Survey Report – feedback. Jim's leaving date and plans for O.R. Structure

Due to time constraints of meeting it was decided for this feedback to be postponed.

Most of information about the new OR structure outlined at start of meeting by RK. JS reported he is pleased with the support for P3 groups in new structure. HB is part of JS team. JS advised the other role being advertised will work with less easy to reach groups and will be about more development of volunteering.

JS in revised role now, given restructuring and is retiring on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. Clare Fildes to take over from JS- role to look at projects, development of P3 groups and Volunteering etc. Congratulations extended to CS on getting job, Clare starts in post on 1<sup>st</sup> July to allow overlap with Jim for transfer of information.

KP asked should we have a representative for P3 at all the 3 forums and who? All agreed this was needed. HB to overview countywide.

The question was raised is this the seed for P3 area meetings? JS said

HB

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he saw this meeting as being the forum for P3.

KP expressed that felt needs to show work is appreciated and noticed ad press coverage when project goes well, and to say thank you.

KP asked about distribution of the newsletter? And said should be communicating with P3 members.

RK reported a register of all P3 members has not been done up till now, doesn't want to increase admin for P3 volunteers but feels needs this – means every P3 vol will need to fill in a form and then only the new members to do in the future. Unable to guess how many members currently have. Plan is to separate between active and non-active and log info. RK will be putting this together and will circulate within the next year. This will then inform the service how many supervisors are needed per group etc. and to top up insurance (personal accident) to tighten that up. Part of that is email address and all email to all group / or post out paper copies. SL asked that as part of the process there should be an opt in/ opt out for email or not and review on annual basis those new and those who have left P3 to keep it up to date. Also need to record admin time too.

MH asked if can have some feedback in respect of the time put in.

ML expressed view that producing the glossy product of the O.R.

Volunteer newsletter is not best use of resources so would rather money went to footpaths, JS explained that the newsletter is produced on line.

JS explained that the ¼ ly report will now form the basis of an annual report and it is a ¼ ly issued newsletter.

VS felt it would help partnership approach if was flow of info via emails-collated in an email to send out to other P3 so cascaded in that way.

So have dialogue between groups. This was discussed with use of Facebook mentioned as one possibility so have one stop shop for posting things?

JS wants HB to look at Yammer – LAF, may be good for P3? Which may be better than Facebook?

JS / HB

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## **Helen Beresford, Shropshire Outdoor Development Officer Parish Path Partnerships – new role**

Helen introduced herself and outlined her background. She has worked at Nills for many years and so is very familiar with the practical nature of the work undertaken on footpath maintenance and access improvements both by the team at Nills and P3 groups across the county. She has been in post for 2 ½ weeks and it is a new role. The main focus of her role is on New Parish Path Partnership and volunteer development, working with the P3 groups supporting and encouraging development of new groups and increasing volunteer numbers to help with this valuable work.

## **Clee Hill Heritage Project- Feedback from Clare Fildes**

CF- LEADER meeting is on 7th May at 5.30pm. Discovery centre, C.Arms. Contact CF for info. Working on Leader funding- European funding for South Shrop area - economic growth and creation.

Shuttle Bus leaflets are out.

AONB feedback – moving into Outdoor Partnerships team (there are 5 teams in total, one of which is the AONB team.) OFFA conference held recently was success. Project ends later in year.

CF feedback about C.Hill Heritage project- and provided a sheet for members for further information- see attached copy with these minutes.

## **WW1 walks – update**

DB WW1 Much Wenlock is including walks in walking weekend- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Sept, there will be 3 walks one in 2014, 2015, 2016. The first walk will focus on the impact on the railways and quarries and hospital in 1914/15. Will be a 1.5-2 hour amble through the town, will be guided with stories to illustrate it.

JS – JS and KP working on template for what self-guided walks leaflets are going to look like so have standard format for leaflet. To distribute these via AONB, VIC Shrewsbury.

Have lots of stories from across the county to illustrate the walks.

VS- Cleobury Mortimer had some money and one of the projects is a WW1 biographies booklet, retails at £2 plan is to provide every schoolchild with a copy. Could people take something away from our walks as commemoration of them? VS their role within this is about the people who survived and brought something as a result of it to a community. Simon Evans Walking weekend to be held in 2017 with WW1 songs.

PJ Recommended a set of the leaflets should be kept on display in Shrewsbury.

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KP talked about GPO link with C. Arms walk. The last post exhibition – about getting mail to / from the front, has now opened in Ironbridge for a year.

### **Funding and Potential Projects**

Nil discussed

### **Member's Updates**

Nil further discussed

### **AOB**

Nil raised

### **Next Meeting – Forum Topic/ Day/ Time/ Location:**

KP proposed that the next meeting should be an outdoor meeting given that we are a Walking forum. Details of this to be circulated in due course. Date proposed for meeting was 4<sup>th</sup> July.

KP / Hd'A

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## NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM NOTES FROM MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014

**Present:** Trevor Allison (Ramblers), Peter Carr (Ramblers), Tony Eccleston (Wem Walkers), Liz Evans (Walking Co-Ordinator), Ernie Heath (Wem Walkers), Jane Ing (P3 Baschurch and Myddle), Judith and Alan Kershaw (P3 Cheswardine), Ann and Neil Moore (Whitchurch Walkers & P3), Alison Parker (Ramblers), Gerald Moss (Whitchurch Walkers & P3), Mark Cuthbert-Brown (Kinnerley P3), Jim Stabler (Access Development Officer), Barrie Stephens (Walk Leader, Oswestry)

### From Last Time

Alison was pleased that the footpath inquiry in Ellesmere had gone well and that no-one had objected to the outcome. Alison and Jane felt there should be a celebratory walk along this footpath with tea afterwards, perhaps in the Boathouse.

### Walking for Health

Liz stated that Walking for Health attendance was more or less static in north Shropshire. Many groups are doing well, but it is in the larger towns, ie Oswestry and Market Drayton that it is a real struggle, both to attract walkers and walk leaders. Smaller places where there is a core of people who can spread the word, make chances of success more likely. Liz would be happy to set up a new walking group somewhere if anyone thought there would be enough enthusiasm to keep it going. The new accreditation process has been started. There are no issues with north Shropshire having walks that are too long, ie over 1.5 hours.

### Walking Festival

The Whitchurch Walking is happening on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May. There are long, short and themed walks with evening entertainment. Bookings are coming in, but most walks still have places left. A lot of hard work and planning has gone into this event and hopefully it will be supported. Anyone who wants to sponsor Liz to do the 14 mile circuit of Whitchurch for Macmillan Cancer Support can do so via the Whitchurch Walkers website, where you can also book walks.

Oswestry is not doing a walking festival this year, but 4 x themed walks at regular intervals. The snowdrop walk in February was very successful. The geocaching in April was not attended at all

however. There is a walk to the hill fort on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August, and a Wilfred Owen themed walk on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11am.

#### Walkers are Welcome

There is no further news on Ellesmere pursuing Walkers are Welcome status.

Oswestry Walkers are Welcome is not supported well enough to put on any more events at the moment.

Whitchurch Walkers are Welcome is more active than Oswestry, but still relies more on walkers than local commerce people. Ann and Neil were pleased they had gone to the Wrekin Spring Gathering as they had found Sam Phillips an inspiration.

Jim is going to develop the Walkers are Welcome website page further.

#### Hadley Farm

There are ongoing issues with maize and 4x4s blocking the footpaths around Hadley Farm and Budney Farm. These have been reported. Jim to discuss issues with Rights of Way Officers.

#### Footpath query

Mark said he had been told by a landowner that a footpath can expire in 10 years. He was assured this was not the case and Jim will forward official notification to this effect.

#### Oswald's Trail Update

The 21km route around Oswestry to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ramblers (last year, but never mind), will be launched on 6<sup>th</sup> September by Owen Patterson. Peter Carr thought this would also be a good idea to re-launch the Walkers are Welcome in Oswestry. This idea will be taken to the next Destination Development Partnership meeting.

#### Council matters

Jim outlined the new structure of the outdoor recreation team. (attached).

#### Walking events out of area

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April** – The role of shelf bank in the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW and cold war periods. Contact Shaun Burkey on 01691 624448.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – Photo Walks, Ketley Community Centre.  
Contact <https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/online/coursesearch.aspx> or  
[telfordcentre@wea.org.uk](mailto:telfordcentre@wea.org.uk) or 01952 614451

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May** – 9km Clywedog Trail Walk including Plas  
Power Woods. Contact Jane Craven on 07798 581064 or  
[janecraven@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:janecraven@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Any other information

- 11<sup>th</sup> May treasure hunt in aid of Macmillan, contact Liz for details.
- Get walking week – Liz has done a press release for the local papers and included 3 extra short walks that week for Oswestry. The Ramblers are also doing extra walks, please refer to their website for details.
- There are nearly complete 3 new walks around Cheswardine, soon to be published
- The Market Drayton Tern Valley Walks are also ready for publication
- Jane wanted to thank Deb Hughes for securing the future structure of outdoor recreation
- Jim said the ‘probationers’ have been doing good work and it was suggested they do Villa Farm
- Trefonen Hill walking weekend is on the last one in May. Trefonen have just re-worked and published 10 walks in their area.
- The new Whitchurch Walkers book has just been published with thanks to the Ramblers. It costs £5.
- Jim is going to be on Countryfile talking about the Meres and Mosses starfish site.
- The Humphrey Kynaston Way which goes from Carding Mill to Grinshill is due to be launched on 18<sup>th</sup> May by the High Sheriff.

- The Pilgrimage Way continues to be worked on by people in the Church. It is apparently the near route Henry V took from Shrewsbury to Holywell in 1416 to give thanks for victory at Agincourt the year before.
- WW1 walks continue to be formulated. Keith Pybus has found out about a Major Brisley of the Royal Flying Corps who was based in Tern Hill. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> RAF person in north Shropshire and is buried in Market Drayton after falling out of a plane whilst doing a barrel roll .....
- Trevor would like the website to list all the walks available instead of having to find specific ones. Jim to look into this. Trevor is continuing his mission to walk all the footpaths of north Shropshire and is coming to Oswestry soon.