

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday, 8 October 2014

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday, 16 October 2014
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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

Linda Jeavons
Secretary to the Forum

Members of The Forum

Name	Fields of Interest
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

AGENDA

1 Election of Chairman

2 Welcome / Introductions / Resignations / Apologies for Absence

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

4 Minutes and any matters arising (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 July 2014.

5 Public Question Time

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

6 Declarations of Interest

7 Mid Wales Transmission Line Project - National Grid Presentation

A representative from National Grid (Bryony Cunningham) will be in attendance.

8 Site Allocations and Management Development (SAMDev) Plan and Planning - How Access is Incorporated/Considered

A representative from Shropshire Council's Planning Service will be in attendance.

9 Update on Service Business Plan

Mark Blount (Outdoor Partnerships Team Leader – Parks) and/or Clare Fildes (Outdoor Partnerships Development Team Leader) will be in attendance to provide an update.

10 Launch of Oswalds Trail

Peter Carr to provide an update on the launch of the Oswalds Trail.

11 Quinquennial Review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

Jim Stabler, Access Development Officer, will provide an update.

12 World War 1 - Updates

Jim Stabler, Access Development Officer, will provide an update.

13 Future Project Development

Clare Fildes, Outdoor Partnerships Development Team Leader will be in attendance to provide an update.

14 Potential Member (Will Chambers) - Mountain Biking Representative

15 Feedback from other Forums and items for noting (Pages 5 - 22)

15.1 Items for Noting

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

- (a) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 9 June 2014 (marked 'A')
- (b) Shropshire Cycle Forum - 17 June 2014 (marked 'B')
- (c) South Walking Forum – 4 July 2014 – Members of this Forum met at Halford Church and Stokesay Church to share experiences of putting together WW1 themed guided walks and self-guided leaflets. Keith Pybus (Chair) outlined how the latest WW1 walk information was sourced and links made to gather those necessary details as well as advice on how to approach and present the subject matter. (No minutes available)
- (d) North Walking Forum – 28 July 2014 (marked 'D')
- (e) Central Walking Forum – 16 July 2014 (marked 'E')

15.3 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, 5 February 2015
Date in May 2015 - TBC

16 Farewell Mr Stabler

To note the impending retirement of Jim Stabler, Access Development Officer, and to wish him well for the future.

This page is intentionally left blank

Shropshire Local Access Forum

<u>Committee and Date</u>
Shropshire Local Access Forum
16 October 2014

**MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 2
JULY 2014
10.20 AM - 12.18 PM**

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

Present:

Councillor Roger Plowden (Chairman)
Councillors Stephen Bell, Peter Carr, Richard Cotham, Janet Mees-Robinson,
Stuart Morgan, Zia Robins, Dave Tremellen and Mark Weston (Vice Chairman)

Officers:

Mark Blount, Outdoor Partnerships Team Leader - Parks
Shona Butter, Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader
Linda Jeavons, Committee Officer

In Attendance:

Adrian Pickles, Head of Centre, The Field Studies Centre Preston Montford

42 **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.

43 **Welcome / Introductions / Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced everyone.

Officers Present:

Apologies for absence were received from:

Members

Gareph Boxley, Alex Carson-Taylor, Chris Chillingworth, Richard Cotham, David Cowell, Pauline Dee, Margaret Markland, Alison Parker and Les Winwood.

Officers

Claire Fildes, Deb Hughes, Tim King and Dan Wrench.

44 **Minutes and any matters arising**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 May 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Minute No. 35 (paragraph 2) to read: “.....DEFRA as and when permissive access schemes came to an end.....”;

Minute No. 40 (paragraph 1) to read: “The number of wind turbine applications had increased and they responded to relevant applications on an individual basis.....”;

Minute No. 40 (paragraph 2) to read: “...general access and tourism and how it might deter people coming to Shropshire.”; and

Minute No. 41.3(b) to read: “there was a list of listed buildings but no record of important landscape and historic features.”.

45 **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

46 **The Field Studies Centre Preston Montford and its work**

Mr Adrian Pickles, Head of Centre, Field Studies Council, Preston Montford was in attendance and provided an overview of the facility and their current and future project work. A question and answer session followed. Ideas and views were exchanged on how the Centre, this Forum and Shropshire Council could work closer and how the Centre could interact and be involved with the wider community and the following issues/suggestions were raised (see also Minute No. 47):

Suggestions and comments included:

- Creation of nature corridors;
- Make more use of the local history, i.e. important landscape features and Drovers Roads;
- Improved signage on roadside to advertise and make people more aware of the centre;
- Provision of more dog friendly walks/activities;
- Provision of accommodation/afternoon teas for those undertaking the longer routes;
- Camping provision; and
- Increased contact with the farming community.

In response, Adrian Pickles explained that there were many issues and challenges associated with dog walking on the site and these would have to be taken into account before any decision was made. The centre would like to have an increased contact with the farming community in the future. They currently offered land and farm management courses and the aim was to include low intensity farming and hedgelaying in the future.

47 Update on Shropshire Council's Parks and Countryside Sites

Mark Blount, Outdoor Partnerships Team Leader – Parks and Green Space, Shropshire council was in attendance and provided an overview of the service following the recent financial cuts and staff restructure. He explained that the vision was to improve people's wellbeing and to support local communities, the local environment and tourism economy, through the management and development of recreational access via the Public Rights of Way network, Countryside Parks and Sites, Green Spaces and Play areas.

A question and answer session followed and a discussion ensued on how the role of volunteering could be encouraged and embraced within the Outdoor Recreation service and how better connections could be made with local charities/bodies doing similar work in the community so that they could all work together.

In response to comments, it was noted that it would be possible to provide appropriate training/equipment for willing volunteers. Following a reduction in staff numbers, other ways of working were currently being reviewed, ie the formation of local community groups who would volunteer their time to help with the management of sites. Discussions with parish councils to take over the running of sites were ongoing.

48 Feedback from other Forums and items for noting

48.1 Items for Noting

Stuart Morgan reported that following a Public Inquiry the footpath at Spunhill had reopened. The meeting acknowledged the input of all those involved and specifically Alison Parker who had spearheaded a campaign to get the path reopened.

Stuart Morgan also drew the meeting's attention to the potential risks associated with the lack of a local policy to protect against the potential risks of oilseed rape obstruction.

48.2 Minutes/Papers

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

- (i) Shropshire Cycle Forum – 11 February 2014
- (ii) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 17 February 2014
- (iii) Central Walking Forum – 7 March 2014
- (iv) South Walking Forum – 25 April 2014
- (v) North Walking Forum – 28 April 2014

48.3 Future Meetings

- (a) The following agenda items were suggested for consideration at a future meeting:

- (i) To consider the impact of the Site Allocations and Management Development (SAMDev) Plan on countryside access; and
- (b) Future meetings for 2014/15 as follows:

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:

SHROPSHIRE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING FORUM (SRCDF)

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9th June 2014, at 7.45pm, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

At 7.15, before the start of the meeting, Squadron Leader Kim Leach, Corporate Engagement Relations Officer, and Squadron Leader Garry James, Station Flight Safety Officer from RAF Shawbury, came to inform us of a new safety campaign for Be Seen Be Safe. They outlined the approach that would be taken, and the scenario they would be following.

1. Attendance:

John Gibson, British Driving Society, Chair. Zia Robins, Shrewsbury & District RC A&BWO, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Ann Durnell, Bridgnorth BWA Sue Evans, Beckbury, Ryton & Badger BWG. Gill Eyre, BHS South Shropshire East, South Shropshire. Angela Williams, BHS CABO & Ellesmere. Carol Williams, Long Mynd & Dist BWA. Steve Benbow, Oswestry Riding Club.

Apologies:

Linda Russell, South West Shrewsbury BWG. Joint Secretary. Jan Mees Robinson, Telford Bridleways. Gaynor Evans, Jan Baldwin & Margaret Dutton, Broseley Bridleways. Anthony Francis-Jones, Telford BWA, Vice Chair. Andrew Kelly, Vrnwy & Dist. BWA. Pam Evans, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group. Rosemary Pattenden, Worthen BWA. Mark Weston, BHS. Pam Youille. Shona Butter, Shropshire Council.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th February 2014 (paper A) were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Wind Turbines – update on applications.

It was noted that the application for a Wind Turbine at Condoover has been refused. The Application for a 86.5m tip height wind turbine at The Hills, The Down, Bridgnorth 13/02194 /FUL is subject to an appeal. Representations can be made on the Planning Portal and the closing date is 26th June 2014. Our response will be carried forward.

Angela Williams explained the siting and setting of the family's planning application for a 327ft (99.7m) wind turbine at Tetchill, Ellesmere. 14/01777/FUL. She then left the room. As the lane is used by horse riders, and the turbine, at approximately 140m from the road, falls within the BHS guidance of 200m or 3 times the height, whichever is the greater, the Forum agreed that a letter should be sent to planning, expressing concern at the proximity to the highway. The standard Consultation expiry date is 24th June 2014.

(b) 'Paths for Communities' P4C.

Zia reported that the launch of the Humphrey Kynaston Way had taken place at Preston Montford Field Studies Council. The Field Studies Council has dedicated a section of new bridleway for HKW through their land, avoiding busy roads and giving a safe link from Bicton to the wider bridleway network. The route is open but there are some areas where improvement work has been delayed due to weather. This included a section of bridleway at Ford Heath where clearance and drainage work is still to be done. The two BOATS at Hinton/Polemere have been greatly improved. The overgrown water logged sections have been cleared, drained and stoned providing a safe useable surface. A number of gate improvements have now been carried out along the route, with some still outstanding. Catches have, where possible, been moved to the top of field gates,

and spring pull protruding bolts replaced with safe 'D' loop closures. The stock proof pull handle just below the top rail has been well received by the majority of horse riders. This is much easier to reach than a latch on the closing post, with nothing sticking up on the gate to get caught on. There may be places where a higher handle is needed. The whole project was done under tight deadlines with Zia having to research and write the leaflets and provide the photos. Shropshire Council and Zia were given BHS Access Achievement Awards and the landowners, including the Field Centre were given BHS Route Creation Awards. Zia had also been presented with a Volunteer of the Year Award by Shropshire Council. Members took copies of the HKW leaflets for their Groups.

Leaflets can be downloaded from the www.shropshireriding.co.uk website which is being upgraded as part of the Project. Zia is now collecting the details of businesses, pubs, accommodation providers etc. for the website.

(c) Helicopter Liaison Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2014 are noted. The new Corporate Relations Officer, Squadron Leader Kim Leach, and Squadron Leader Garry James, Station Flight Safety Officer, RAF Shawbury updated us prior to this meeting.

(d) Dog Incidents

It was noted that a paper has been produced by Hampshire County Council and the Kennel Club 'Dogs on your land' available on www.hants.gov.uk/rh/row/dogs.pdf.

Zia reported that there are increasing reports of incidents of dogs on public routes not being under close control. Recently a dog caused two horses quietly walking on a bridleway on the Cliffe Common at Nesscliffe to bolt, chasing them until both riders were thrown, resulting in one rider being knocked unconscious and losing her memory for that time. The dog continued to chase the riderless horses. The owner was on a parallel track. A point raised was the problem when walkers with dogs step back to get off the track, but are hidden from the view of the approaching horse by bushes etc. and where dogs are allowed to run around in the undergrowth, which can spook a horse. Also, owners seem unaware that if they allow their 'just being friendly' dog to run around a horse's legs, the dog may get injured, as a horse will defend itself.

A point raised was that riders are having problems with the feral ponies on the Long Mynd, there has also been problems with colts corralled on a bridleway near Gatten.

It is important that all incidents are reported to the BHS website www.horseaccidents.org.uk

(e) Shropshire Highways

It is reported that there has been no progress on the digitising of the old Shropshire Highway maps.

(f) Any other Matters arising not on the Agenda

Natural England Higher Access – Mark Weston BHS has asked for input on this. Natural England land in Shropshire included the Stiperstones, the Meres & Mosses, and a small part of the Wyre Forest. This has been discussed previously and with Jim Stabler. Members were asked to consider any possible routes for higher access.

4. Shropshire Council

(a) Cuts and reorganization within Shropshire Council

Shona has reported to Zia that the new structure is in place, and that they are now called the Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Service. Jim Stabler is leaving at the end of October and Clare Fildes, who was with the AONB, has been appointed as the Outdoor Partnerships Development Team Leader, and will overlap with Jim from July. It is understood that Shona will be dealing with LAF. They are currently advertising to recruit a Shropshire Outdoors Development Officer, Active Volunteering, and a Recreation Maintenance Officer. They only have 3 Maintenance Officers at present, as Helen has moved to the Shropshire. They are Matt France, Steve Mayer and Rob

Purcell. There are no changes to the staff at the Shirehall, apart from the addition of Helen Beresford, who is now a Shropshire Outdoor Development Officer. Richard Knight still heads the Outdoor Partnership Team Right of Way, Mark Blount the Outdoor Partnerships Team Parks & Countryside, and Shona Butter the ROW Mapping & Enforcement Team with Lucy Mcfarlane, Mat Stephens, Jean Jones and Lucy Stanley.

(b) Outdoor Recreation Implementation Team

The Area Rights of Way Officers are David Hardwick for central Shropshire, Harvey Morgan for the north east, Andy Lipa for the north west, Tim Simmons for the south east and Paul Butter for the south west. Richard Knight has reported that they are currently doing their annual topping and clearing work but are short staffed due to Helen moving to the Shirehall. They have done a lot of work on improvements along the Humphrey Kynaston Way and Circular routes off and new gates are currently being put up near Longden Manor. Work has been done on a 24ft bridge on BW28 at Cleobury Mortimer. Negotiations are taking place over a flood damaged bridge on the bridleway by Adcote Mill, near Little Ness. A temporary closure notice is in place, but the ford alongside is legally still available. They have also worked with Powys on a £20,000 improvement work project on the Kerry Ridgeway. The department are now working with the Probation Service who have done excellent work clearing routes around the County. They did some of the clearing on the BOATs at Polemere/Hinton. Problems on a route near the big wood near Cheswardine were raised, John agreed to look into this.

(c) Shropshire Council Planning

Planning Applications are listed on: <http://planningpa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications>.

A lot of applications are being submitted for rural sites that would not normally be considered, but due to Shropshire not having their SAM DEV in place, many are being granted. This will impact on quiet country lanes, and on the route of the Humphrey Kynaston Way and Humphrey Kynaston circular routes. They include an application for 30 houses exiting onto a narrow single-track lane section of the HKW Ford Circular ride. ROW are not being shown on application maps, and applications are not being correctly advertised as affecting a ROW. This includes an application at Felton Butler for 3 new poultry sheds, with the access route going right across the end of the green lane bridleway that is part of the HKW. The new sheds if granted will result in the bridleway being sandwiched between two lots of poultry sheds. The weekly planning lists seem to miss off some applications which are shown under the Parish lists so it is important to check carefully and to make sure that ROW are aware of any application that will impact on a public ROW.

5. Public Inquiries and Definitive Map Issues

Shona has sent the following updates:-

Adcote Bridge – Following the temporary closure notice, which had to be issued due to flood damage to the bridge, which is in private ownership, they are currently seeking legal advice on how best to proceed. The closure does not apply to the ford adjacent to the bridge.

Broseley – BW addition Chapel Lane to Lodge Lane. There has been no change since the previous minutes.

Benthall Woods FP65 upgrade – The route is now open and available. This is excellent news.

Badger Wood – It was asked if riders could let Lucy know if they are still using this route. The Landowner has not responded to Officer contact. Also, is there any other evidence of usage by walkers and others. Sue agreed to follow up on this.

Oaks Wood – A Site Visit has taken place with Linda attending. They now need to re-consult as the used line on the ground is different to that which has been previously discussed.

Frodesley – There is no update on this. The Orders still have to be sent off.

Drumbles Wood – Shona reported that if they cannot negotiate with the Landowners, then this Order will have to be sent off to the Planning Inspectorate.

Sutton Mill – The Order need to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Brogynryn – The correct line shown on the order is now being opened up and they are waiting for the physical works on the ground to be completed.

Llanyblodwel – The outstanding issues have been sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Old Moors Lane – Zia to follow this up with Mat.

Hilton – This is still waiting to be published.

Lea Hall Quarry – They are awaiting an application from the Landowner. It is unlikely to be a Bridleway.

Melverley – There is still no change. The width confirmed by the Inspector is still to be enforced.

Duck Lane, Little Ryton to Ryton – There is no change. No claim has been submitted yet.

Welshampton FP addition – There was a claim that this route held higher rights, but the Order was confirmed as made as a footpath.

Pontesford Hill – A public Inquiry is to be held in November on claimed footpaths on the hill. The proposed development on the hill will impact on the bridleway. Angela had been sent details of the footpath claim.

Acton Round Shirlett – This is likely to be resolved in the near future. Further physical works are required on the northern end. They are liaising with Mike Baldwin.

Broseley Fish House Wood – Works have now been negotiated and the Officer will be opening this up in the near future.

Defra permissive routes were raised. Many are due to end soon, but there is no funding to renew them. Members are concerned at the loss of these valuable routes.

6. Canal Towpath Consultation

The British Horse Society response on the consultation by The Canal & River Trust on ‘Sharing Towpaths’, attached to the Agenda, which closed on 2nd May 2014, is noted. Zia did not know the BHS were including a list of canal towpaths that are or have been ridden as she could have added a number of routes to their listing. Angela was consulted by the BHS. 2,141 people responded to the Trust’s consultation. Zia did not have a contact address so had to do an online response. She highlighted that canal towpaths were built for horses to use. The old canal route from near the Maltings in Shrewsbury out to Uffington is now a public bridleway. Many canal side routes are ridden. Horses are being excluded from too many routes that are open to cyclists and walkers, whereas cyclists and walkers can use all the bridleways.

7. Rail Crossings and Public Rights of Way

Shona has reported that the Network Rail Officers covering Shropshire have made good contact with Officers within the Mapping and Enforcement Team, and Officers have attended site meetings with Network Rail to look at, and discuss, several crossings within the County. Final proposals will not be made until all areas have been assessed. As Lucy, Mat and Shona have been out with them on site, they are aware of who covers which areas. Due to this early liaison, Shona reported that Officers do not anticipate any major problems. It would be helpful if gated ROW crossings had a method of showing when the next train is due, or some sort of warning device.

8. Draft Deregulation Bill

Andrew asked for this to be put to the end of the Agenda as he hoped to speak on this subject but he has been unable to get to this meeting.

Shona has reported that the bill is now at the Report stage in the House of Commons. Day 1 of the Report stage was on the 14th May 2014 and Day 2 will be after the 4th June, the date on which the next session of Parliament starts. After the Report stage there is a Third Reading in the House of Commons, and then the Bill moves to the House of Lords. Details will be on the parliamentary website. It is not know if any changes have been put forward. The proposals for gates on Byways

was raised as a concern, especially if green lanes were gated and then used to graze stock. The County Council have to approve all new gates.

9. Minutes and Feedback from LAFs and other Forums (not already covered)

The minutes of the Local Access Forum held on 6th February 2014, attached to the Agenda, are noted. Zia takes our concerns forward to LAF. She reported that the meeting held on 1st May 2014 included European Funding and the Leader Programme, Local Nature Partnerships, the Humphrey Kynaston Way Launch, National Grid Power lines and Wind Turbines and their impact on tourism and Rights of Way. The proposed power line is shown as running along the line of a bridleway. Using volunteers is seen as the way forwards for Shropshire Council and the reason for the name change to Outdoor Partnerships.

It is noted that there is a LAF day out on 2nd July 2014 at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre and that the next full LAF meeting will be on 16th October 2014 at 10am in the Shirehall. LAF papers are available on <http://bit.ly/XNg7vP> go to 'archived list of all previous meetings' click on 'Agenda' and all Meeting reports are attached at the bottom.

10. Any Other Business

Zia attended the BHS Safety Conference, which covered some important subjects, including dangerous dog legislation and the equine transport rescue service. The importance of attaching a trailer brake cable to the tow vehicle and not round the tow bar was emphasised. Unfortunately one speaker, the British cycling Campaigns Manager, did not turn up

11. Dates of the Next Meetings

It was noted that the date of the next meeting is **Monday 6th October 2014 at 5.00pm for a prompt start at 5.30. The meeting must close at 7.30pm** due to evening closure of the Shirehall. It is agreed that we will see how the next meeting goes at the earlier time. It is confirmed that the following meeting will be held on **16th February 2015 at 5 for a prompt start at 5.30pm**

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

This page is intentionally left blank

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

B

Tuesday 17 June 2014, Ludlow Brewery

1. Present

Cllr Miles Kenny (Chair)
Helen Gilmour
Carolyn Rowntree
Eliz-Anne Williams

Ashley Green
Louise Reynolds
Kay Dartnell
Keith Mason

Ray Hughes
Phil Pool
Emma Bullard

Apologies

Geoff Shinner
Jill Henderson
John Morris

Jean Breakell
Derek Owen

2. Previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted. Matters arising are dealt with in the agenda.

3. LSTF 2015/16 bid – Ray Hughes

Local authorities had been invited to bid for additional revenue funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, for the financial year 2015-6. RH outlined Shropshire's bid. **Post-meeting** note: the successful authorities were announced in July but Shropshire was not successful. Full details are here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-sustainable-transport-fund-funding-decisions-2015-to-2016>

4. Bikeability and cycle training

Shropshire now has a full programme of Bikeability in schools again. It's being delivered by Cycle Experience who are based in Telford and employing many of the trainers who were employed by Shropshire Council.

<http://www.cycleexperience.com/index.php>

Feedback so far has been good – the Level 2 course is now free (subject to minimum group size) which should encourage greater takeup; and the trainers like the course format which has been developed by Cycle Experience. The contract between Shropshire Council and Cycle Experience lasts until 2016, assuming government funding continues.

5. Inclusive cycling in Shropshire

- **Wheels for All** – this Warrington-based charity has funding to deliver inclusive cycling sessions across Shropshire, principally for children who are registered with the Short Breaks service.

<http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle/wheels-for-all-summer-holiday-sessions.aspx>

Ian Tierney from Wheels for All is also working with the local group which is trying to set up inclusive cycling sessions for all ages, supported by Jayne Rodgers of CTC.

- **Pedal for Health** – these sessions were started by Ray Hughes and colleagues, in response to Rod Thomson's (Director of Public Health) talk to the Cycle Forum in June 2013. They were aimed at members of the general public who want to start taking more exercise and needed advice and information about cycling. The hope was that GP practices would promote these sessions to patients. This has not happened and instead most of the demand has been from people with special needs such as day centre users. This highlights the need for more specialist inclusive sessions – see above – with staff (paid or volunteers) who can supervise the use of the adapted bikes. **Post-meeting note:** a few GP practices have started to respond over the summer. Pedal for Health will continue in the autumn

<http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/pedal4health>

- **Cycling for Health in South Shropshire**

Louise Reynolds of South Shropshire Housing Association reported on the development of cycling 'hubs' at their south Shropshire housing schemes; most successfully to date at Bishops Castle. Housing Support Worker Jeremy Hall has successfully sought grant funding for a pool of adult bikes and lockers in which to store them whilst gathering support from locals in the idea of a regular cycling club. With help from co-worker Roger Crump he has started leading a series of weekly cycle rides and has benefited from help in publicising the rides from the local medical practice. In addition he has requested some free one to one adult cycle training for some of his group from Travel Shropshire and brought some riders unable to ride on two wheel bikes to the Pedal for Health sessions in Shrewsbury. He is looking to add different kinds of bikes to the Bishop's Castle fleet suitable for those with balance challenges such as a tandem.

6. Ludlow and south Shropshire cycling news.

- Ludlow Cycling Festival 21 September. Ashley Green described his plans for this event which is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. For more info <http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle/events/macmillan-cycling-festival.aspx>
- Social cycling – Ludlow Easy Riders. The Easy Riders started in the spring of 2013 and take place on a Tuesday starting at 10am – for dates see <http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle/regular-cycle-events/ludlow-morning-rides>
This is an informal group open to all, they have even been joined by people on holiday in the area. There are now 40 people on the email list. More details from Eliz-Anne Williams at smartycyclepants@gmail.com
- Breeze – Eliz-Anne Williams is returning to ride leading after knee surgery. Breeze is the British Cycling campaign to get more women cycling. Numbers on the rides are small as there aren't yet many trained Breeze leaders – but it's good to see the women who come along gaining in confidence. E-AW said that Ludlow now has a good mix of cycling opportunities for all levels of experience, which has developed over the past couple of years.
- Schools and family rides – RH has been working in the local primary schools and has set up after-school cycling clubs at St Laurence with help from Sasha Lee and at Ludlow Juniors with help from Claire Webb.
- Steve Redknap, a teacher and keen cyclist at Ludlow Education Centre organises regular off road cycling activities for his students. s.redknap@sky.com
- Volunteering with Sustrans – local cyclists are welcome to become a Sustrans volunteer benefiting from support from this national sustainable transport charity and partner to Shropshire Council's Sustainable Transport Project Team. More details from william.baugh@sustrans.org.uk

7. Update on cycling in Telford

See reports from Jill Henderson and Derek Owen attached.

8. Shropshire events and update

- Shrewsbury BikeFest 7 June – was a great success despite the poor weather at the start
- Shrewsbury Cycle Grand Prix 25 May – was well-supported; the family rides around the course before the start of the races had about 100 participants.
- Long Mynd Cycling Festival 7-14 June
- Great Green Bike Ride 28 June (formerly Tour de Ludlow)
- Food Chain ride 19 July – was postponed due to storms. New date – 4 October

9. AOB

- MK put a motion to Council setting the aim of reducing the number of car journeys made on business by 2020. The motion was passed but the target date was removed.

- Tweed Ride takes place in Ludlow on the first Saturday of the month April – October
<http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/tweed>
Vintage clothes and bicycles welcomed!
- Eliz-Anne Williams thanked those involved for supporting the various Ludlow cycling initiatives to start up and get to the stage where they are now well-established and popular.
- KM raised the issue of the health benefits of cycling but said there is “no money” in preventive health. The Travel Shropshire team have more contact with the public health team now that the latter are part of Shropshire Council.

10. Next meeting

Tuesday 14 October, Wellington Civic Centre
Contact Jill Henderson with agenda items

Emma Bullard
27 August 2014

This page is intentionally left blank

NOTES FROM WALK FORUM, MONDAY 28TH JULY 2014

Present:

Peter Carr (*Ramblers*), Mark Cuthbert-Brown (*P3*), David Davies (*W4H*), Liz Evans (*W4H*), Ernie Heath (*Wem Walkers*), Jane Ing (*P3*), Andy Lipa (*SC*), Brendan and Margaret Markland (*P3*), Ian McKenzie (*P3*), Ann and Neil Moore (*P3*), Alison Parker (*Ramblers*), Jim Stabler (*SC*), Barrie Stephens (*W4H*).

Walking for Health

There is nothing noteworthy to say about the walks in general. There will be a walk for north Shropshire walkers on Wednesday 27th August around Colemere. The next volunteer walk leaders' courses are Friday 8th August in Shrewsbury, and Friday 19th September in Craven Arms.

Walkers are Welcome

The Oswestry walkers are welcome are doing a walk around the hill fort on August 12th.

The Whitchurch walkers are doing their anniversary walk on August 30th from Sherry Mill car park at 1.30, to finish at Grindley Brook for refreshments.

The Whitchurch walkers have also decided to do another walking festival next year.

The AONB booklet can be re-published so there is an opportunity for it to be added to by Oswestry and Whitchurch.

Bluebell/Burns Wood Walk

On Saturday 27th September there will be a celebratory walk for the re-opening of this footpath near Ellesmere. The walk will leave at 10.00 am from the Boathouse and is about 4 miles long. Shropshire Council will pay for a drink afterwards in the Boathouse. Jane to liaise with Liz over producing flyers and distribution of same.

To introduce himself

Andy Lipa is taking over the West and Oswestry area rights of way and P3 groups for 2 days a week, and one day a week on the 30 miles of Offa's Dyke that is in north Shropshire. Harvey Morgan will continue to cover the remainder of north Shropshire for 3 days a week.

Council Matters

Jim outlined the new structure for Outdoor Partnerships and a map with these minutes to clarify.

AONB (area of outstanding natural beauty) now report to Deb Hughes.

Points for LAF

Status of the SAMDEVs and planning issues especially where they will affect ROWs, is the existing system robust enough ?

Ploughing and cropping plans for next year

The pylons consultation plans

Walking Events in General

Sunday 3rd August, a guided tour of Nescliffe Hill

Sunday 7th September, Seven Wonders of Oswestry walk for Wildlife Trust, Trefonen Village Hall, 10am.

Oswald's Trail update

The official launch of Oswald's trail will take place on Saturday 6th September. It will be opened by Owen Patterson at 10.00 on the Wilfred Owen Green in Oswestry. There will then be a 2 mile walk to publicise the route. 2,000 free booklets have been printed to go along with this. It is 21km, or about 14 miles in total. There will be a complete walk on Sunday 7th September at 10.00 led by the Ramblers.

AOB

Whitchurch Walkers have a new book out, '10 Varied Walks around Whitchurch'. Jim said there is funding for Mike Aston to do a hard map of footpaths in Whitchurch if that was wanted.

The Humphrey Kynaston Way has been launched and there is a booklet available to cover this.

Ideas are still requested for WW1 walks in north Shropshire.

There is going to be a public enquiry before Christmas for a proposal to put in a path around Llanyblodwell. Trevor Alison is requested to provide details for next meeting, and Shona is asked to supply date.

Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2 pm, Wednesday 16th July 2014

The Lantern, Shrewsbury

Attendees:

Clare Fildes, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Clare.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk
Mick Dunn, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk
Bill Hodges, Shrewsbury Ramblers vibill@phonecoop.coop
Trevor Allison, Ramblers eta-06@tiscali.co.uk
John Newnham, Shrewsbury Ramblers john.newnham@btinternet.com
Dick Bailey, Much Wenlock WaW & Walking for Health gdickson.bailey@virgin.net
David Morgan David Morgan, Longden P3 davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk
Susan Daykin, Marden Walking for Health susanedaykin@gmail.com
Jerry Lawson, Ramblers gerald12@tiscali.co.uk

Apologies:

Mike Brooks
Jim Stabler
Bob Coalbran

1. Welcome & Introductions

Clare Fildes opened the meeting. Clare introduced herself to the forum and explained that she will soon be taking over from Jim Stabler as Outdoor Partnership Development Team Leader.

2. Feedback/Action from Previous meeting

- a. Information Panel at Upper Lyth Hill car Park: David Morgan informed the group that due to negative feedback from local residents the idea for installing an information panel at Upper Lyth Hill car park has been put on hold and will not happen in the near future.
- b. Map Reading Training for Shrewsbury Ramblers: Mick Dunn organised map reading training for Members of the Shrewsbury Ramblers. 15 Ramblers took part in the training. John Newnham thanked Mick on behalf of the Shrewsbury Ramblers and stated that the training had been very well received.
- c. Establishing a Stiperstones P3 Group: David Hardwick and Geoff Sproson were not in attendance. If not already done David is requested to contact Geoff to discuss the matter.
- d. Stiperstones memorial walk: Mick Dunn is organising a meeting with Geoff to assist in taking the project forward.
- e. Get Walking Week Posters: Mick Dunn produced "Get Walking Week" posters advertising the Shrewsbury Ramblers and Walking for Health walks taking place during get walking week.
- f. Presidents Award – "20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury": John Newnham informed the Group that Shrewsbury Ramblers had won the "Best Team Achievement" award in recognition for the groups hard work in producing the "20

Walks in and around Shrewsbury” guide book, Waymarking and maintaining the walks. John also informed the forum that sales of the guide had been extremely successful and another 1500 copies are being printed.

3. Group Updates

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

- a. *Bob Coalbran* – Wellington walkers are welcome & Walk about Wrekin: Unfortunately Bob could not attend the meeting but provided the following update. The Wrekin Spring Gathering Thursday 20th March 2014 - Representatives from all local Walkers are Welcome towns, and from towns and villages planning to join the network or to organise a walking festival attended this day. The day combined workshops and a walk plus an optional evening meal. Most of the day was at the Buckatree Hall hotel, with tea in the King Street Cafe in Wellington. The day was very successful.
- b. *John Newnham* – Shrewsbury Ramblers: John updated the group on the following points:
 - i. John and Audrey Menhinick led the first of the “War Walks on the Home Front” on 26th June. Despite being a wet day the walk entitled “Boots Blessed with Gold” was well attended. An interpretation panel depicting the walk was also unveiled.
 - ii. Hillary Proctor and Steve Lowe who organised the Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 group and were regular attendees of the walking forum are shortly leaving the county. A new volunteer has been identified to continue the work of the P3 group. The walking forum would like to pass on their thanks to Steve and Hilary for all their hard work over the years and wish them our best wishes for their future adventures.
 - iii. Get Walking Week. Daniel Kawczynski MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham joined the Shrewsbury Ramblers for a walk on Sat 3rd May to launch Get Walking Week 2014. The walks were very well attended but mainly by existing Ramblers members.
 - iv. Shrewsbury Music Festival. John Jones who is lead singer of the Oyster Band and president of the Powys area Ramblers will be playing at this year’s Shrewsbury Folk Festival www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk John has established a custom of walking between gigs with fellow band members and those wishing to tag along. This year’s walk, known as the Patrons walk, will start from his home in Presiteigne through the beautiful border landscape to the Shrewsbury Festival. The walk takes place over 3 days (20th, 21st and 22nd August) full details of the walk and how to join can be found at: <http://jr.org/shrewsbury-festival-the-patrons-walk/>
 - v. 20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury. Due to stocks running low another 1500 copies of the popular 20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury have been printed bringing the total copies to 4,000. Copies of the book can be purchased for £4.99 from the TIC or online at: <http://shropshireramblers.org.uk/shropshire/shrewsbury/index.php>

- c. *Dick Bailey* – Much Wenlock Walkers are Welcome & Walking for Health:
 - i. Walking for Health is continues to do well in Much Wenlock with 78 walkers attending Mondays walk (14th July). *Clare spoke on the economic impact from walking on local communities and business in regards to LEADER funding.
 - ii. Planning and organisation has begun for the Much Wenlock Walking weekend which will take place from the 5th – 8th Sep 2014. Details of the walking weekend can be found at: <http://www.muchwenlockguide.info/news/much-wenlock-walking-weekend.shtml>
 - iii. There will be a WW1 walk taking place in Much Wenlock commemorating the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
 - iv. Organising a sponsored walk for the local hospice on 5th October 2014.
 - v. Has joined “The Walking Partnership”. Members of which can claim funding for their group each time a member books a holiday with Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. <http://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/page/thewalkingpartnership>
 - vi. Dick thanked the local P3 group for their continued hard work in clearing and maintaining the paths around Much Wenlock.
- d. *Trevor Allison* – Ramblers Association:
 - i. Trevor is nearing the end of his project and has covered over 4900 miles and has noticed that overgrowth is particularly bad this year resulting in a number of paths being obstructed which would normally be ok.
 - ii. Trevor continues to assist Shropshire Council sifting through planning applications which may affect PROWs. *Bill Hodges asked about the current procedure for checking planning applications. Action – Mick Dunn to feed back at next meeting
- e. *Bill Hodges* – Ramblers Association: Bill spoke about the Ramblers Rail Rambles group. Details of which can be found at: <http://www.railrambles.com/>
- f. *David Morgan* – Longden P3: The group have been quiet lately with only 2 or 3 jobs done (Gate installation and strimming)
- g. *Susan Daykin* – Marden Walking for Health: The Marden Walking for Health group continue to do well and now have 2 people trained as Dementia Friends.
- h. *Jerry Lawson* – Ramblers: Jerry has been away for a while and has lost touch with who in Outdoor Partnerships are responsible for which areas. Action – Mick Dunn to provide updated lists of the new team Structure

4. Walking Coordinator Updates

- a. Get Walking Week – The Walking for Health led walks during Get Walking week were well attended however most people attending were already walking with the wfh scheme.
- b. Walking Festivals

- i. Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival May **14** - Over 460 walkers attended another very successful festival which clocked up over 4600 miles of walking. www.visitironbridge.co.uk/walkingfestival
- ii. Wellington Walking Festival – Bob Coalbran reported that the Wellington Walking Festival was very successful although no figures will be available until after the next festival meeting. www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html
- c. Pontesford Hill Inquiry – A public inquiry to add two footpaths on Pontesford Hill is to be held at Pontesbury Village Hall on Tuesday 11 Nov 2014 at 10.00am. the two paths in question are:
 - i. From car park, over Lower Camp then climbing through the forest following line of old larches, over Pontesford Hill to stile boundary with Nature Reserve.
 - ii. From car park following forestry track past lower camp and along the western flank of the hill.

Anyone may submit a statement/representation to the Planning Inspectorate the deadline for which is 28th August 2014. If any individual would like to submit evidence of use it must be pre 1990.

Footpath 0431/UN11/1 and 0431/UN12/1 on Earls Hill were added to the definitive map in March 2014
- d. Wrekin ROW – Applications to upgrade footpaths 0442/18Z/1 and 0442/18/1 to bridleways have been submitted. There have also been applications made to claim routes from Spot Lane Plantation to Spout Lane Farm and from Spout Lane Plantation through May Plantation to the Road.
- e. Dates for Diaries:
 - i. Carding Mill Valley and Shropshire Hills National Trust guided walks: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carding-mill-valley-and-shropshire-hills/things-to-see-and-do/events/
 A walk through the heather – 19th August 2014
 Long Mynd skyline – 10th October 2014
 Over the Edge – 19th October 2014
 - ii. Wenlock Olympian Walk 19th July 2014: www.marchesgroupdwa.eu/wow/
 - iii. Stomp the Stiperstones 9th Aug 2014: stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk
 - iv. Bishops Castle Challenge Walk 16th Aug 2014: www.bcchallengewalk.co.uk
 - v. Much Wenlock Walking Weekend 5th-8th Sep 2014: www.muchwenlockguide.info/news/much-wenlock-walking-weekend.shtml
 - vi. Seven Wonders of the Oswestry Hills 7th Sep 2014: www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2014/07/03/seven-wonders-oswestry-hills?instance=0
 - vii. Telford Trail 11-14th Sep 2014: www.madeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/home/

5. Outdoor Recreation Updates: Clare Fildes updated the forum on the following projects:

- a. Walking With Offa and the Irresistible Offa <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/things-to-do/walking/walking-with-offa/>
- b. Landscape Partnership Schemes
 Meres and Mosses LPS <http://www.themeressandmosses.co.uk/>
 Stiperstones and Corndon Hill LPS <http://www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk/>

- c. Pontesbury Walk Leaflets: The pontesbury walk leaflets are nearly finished and will soon be at the printers.
- d. Volunteer Focus Groups. Clare spoke about forming Volunteer Focus groups to identify the needs and better ways of working with Volunteers and Volunteer Groups.
- e. WW1 Walks. An update on the WW1 walks will be attached to the notes of the meeting.
- f. LEADER funding: Clare explained that LEADER is a locally delivered European funding programme for rural development. The purpose of which is to improve the economic wellbeing of the area through sustainable development, drawing on the area's environment and cultural assets and qualities. More information about leader and examples of projects can be found at:
<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/leader/>

7. AOB

8. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 29th October. Community Hall 1.
The Lantern, Meadow Farm Dr, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 4NG

Attachments – The following have been attached to these notes.

- a. Results of the 2013/14 Outdoor Recreation on line survey
- b. Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Service Structure May 2014 *
- c. Map of Maintenance Officers Areas
- d. Map of Mapping and Enforcement Officers Areas *
- e. WW1 walks update

* Please note that Mat Stephens has now left the Council. His work load is currently being picked up by the remaining Mapping and Enforcement Officers

This page is intentionally left blank