

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2015

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday, 5 February 2015
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
Janet Mees-Robinson	Carriage Driving/Disabled Access/Tourism
Stuart Morgan	Walking/Tourism/Route Design and Application
Roger Plowden (Chairman)	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Local Community
Zia Robins	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Farming
Dave Tremellen	Horse Riding
Mark Weston (Vice Chairman)	Shropshire Council
Leslie Winwood	Horseriding/Carriage Driving/Voluntary Activities Shropshire Council

Your Committee Officer is:

Linda Jeavons Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 252738

Email: linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Introductions

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Minutes and any matters arising (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 October 2014.

4 Public Question Time

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

5 Declarations of Interest

6 Open Hills - Proposed Scheme and Access

Mr Joe Penfold, Community Officer, Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme will be in attendance.

7 The Use of Towpaths

A representative from the Canal and River Trust (CART) will be in attendance.

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

9 Ploughing and Cropping and the role of Shropshire Council

10 Outdoor Partnerships Update

11 Feedback from other Forums and items for noting (Pages 7 - 28)

11.1 Items for Noting

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

- (a) Shropshire Cycle Forum – 14 October 2014 – (Marked 'A')
- (b) North Walking Forum – 27 October 2014 (Marked 'B')
- (c) Central Walking Forum – 29 October 2014 – (Marked 'C')
- (d) South Walking Forum – 16 January 2015 – (Marked 'D')

11.3 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, 23 April 2015

Thursday, 9 July 2015

Thursday, 15 October 2015

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Shropshire Local Access Forum

<u>Committee and Date</u>

Shropshire Local Access Forum

5 February 2015

**MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 16
OCTOBER 2014
10.00 AM - 12.36 PM**

Responsible Officer: Liz Sidaway
Email: liz.sidaway@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252885

Present

Roger Plowden (Chairman)
Gareph Boxley, Peter Carr, Alex Carson-Taylor, Pauline Dee, Stuart Morgan, Zia Robins
and Mark Weston (Vice Chairman)

1 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Mr Roger Plowden be elected Chairman for the ensuring year.

2 Welcome / Introductions / Resignations / Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Members:

Stephen Bell, Chris Chillingworth, Richard Cotham, David Cowell and Leslie
Winwood.

Officer:

Deb Hughes

The Chairman also reported that Margaret Markland had resigned from the Local
Access Forum.

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Mr Mark Weston be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

4 Minutes and any matters arising

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 2 July 2014 be approved and signed
by the Chairman as a correct record. Page 1

A member asked whether an update could be provided regarding a risk assessment to be undertaken identifying the risks of oilseed rape obstruction. In response, Shona Butter stated that they do ask for a wider reinstatement width but that she was unaware of any statutory legislative requirements and agreed to check and report back to the Forum. Several members of the Forum reported on incidents caused by oilseed rape. It was agreed that oilseed rape obstruction should be treated as a priority and it was agreed that the NFU be contacted to highlight the problem to their members.

5 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

6 Declarations of Interest

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.

7 Mid Wales Transmission Line Project - National Grid Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Jackie Fenn from National Grid and Briony Cunningham from Jacobs Engineering to the meeting. The Forum received a presentation which gave details of the proposed route of the Mid Wales Transmission Line Project, a copy of which would be appended to the signed minutes. Further details could be found at www.midwalesconnection.com

Briony Cunningham explained that following detailed studies and consultation with the public and specialist groups, a draft route for the proposed new connection through Powys and Shropshire and a preferred site for the substation west of Cefn Coch had been established. The route and substation site had been carefully developed to limit effects on the local area as much as possible. Around eight miles (13km) of the route in the Meifod Valley was proposed to be placed underground due to the potential effect an overhead 400 kV steel lattice tower line could have on the setting of the valley. The Forum was informed that a tourism survey had already been undertaken with a business survey being undertaken in the near future with stakeholders and confirmed that the views of the BHS and Canals Trust would also be canvassed. Jacqui Fenn also reported that further consultation would take place in respect of rights of way and stated that a map had been published and accessed at www.midwalesconnection.com/searchable-map and also agreed to let Shona Butter have a copy of the detailed map.

A number of concerns were identified and Briony and Jackie answered questions from the floor including why the line would not be underground in Shropshire. In response to a question regarding the visual impact of the pylons Jacqui Fenn explained that as the pylons have to travel over different types of landscape such as hills, valleys, roads, rivers and trees, the heights and spacing of individual pylons will change to suit the location and its features with low height pylons (up to a quarter shorter than conventional pylons) being used along some parts of the route.

The Chairman thanked Jacqui Fenn and Briony Cunningham for their input and attendance at the Forum.

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

The Chairman reported that this item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Forum to enable a Planning Officer to attend to assist with the discussions.

9 Update on Service Business Plan

Claire Fildes provided an overview by way of a presentation on the work of the Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships over the last twelve months with the following points highlighted:

- £135,000 of planned savings had been achieved with a further £35,500 required for the next financial year, with significant savings being required for the Mere in Ellesmere and the Severn Valley Country Park.
- Greenspace sites were in the process of being transferred to Town Councils (with the exception of those in Ludlow) however, there was no obligation for Town Councils to take on the sites.
- The Rights of Way Team would operate on a more commercial basis with income generation being key. The statutory obligations in respect of Rights of Way would continue to be fulfilled.
- The Walking for Health initiative would continue to be developed in partnership with the public health team.

The Chairman thanked the Outdoor Partnerships Development Team Leader for her update.

10 Launch of Oswalds Trail

Peter Carr presented the newly published Oswald's Trail booklet. He explained that the 12.6 mile trail gave a complete circuit of Oswestry and took in many important historical points of interest along the way. The Trail had been divided into five easily accomplished walks which should be within the capability of most walkers of average fitness and it was hoped that it would promote Oswestry as a walking destination in future.

Peter thanked Officers for their support in the development of the leaflet which had been published in partnership with the Oswestry Group of the Ramblers, Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust and Shropshire Council.

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

Jim Stabler, Access Development Officer provided an overview of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan by way of a presentation, copy appended to the signed minutes. He made reference to the Annual Outdoor Recreation Users Survey, the results of which would be shared with the Forum later in the year. He reported that the Survey gave a useful insight to formulate and identify future priorities.

Jim Stabler briefly summarised the current priorities, which included:

- Fewer stiles
- Easy to walk routes and circular walks and bridleways
- Better information
- Better Sites
- Less dog mess

He also drew members' attention to what had already been undertaken in response to the previous year's survey and indicated that the full results of the current survey would be circulated later in the:

- 69 stiles had been replaced with gates alongside many more general improvements
- Creation of a new bridleway at Montford Bridge allowing walkers, riders and cyclists to safely cross the busy A5.
- Upgraded and opened up paths around Oswestry for Oswald's Trail.
- A wheelchair friendly walk and new car park at Whixall.
- Completed the 6 circular walks at Pontesbury and Minsterley and published a new guide book.
- Created guides for 7 new walks around Hodnet
- Completion of the Humphrey Kynaston Way long distance bridleway with 4 new circular rides.
- Undertaken major improvements on the Shropshire riding website making it more map based and with more downloadable guides, maps and routes.
- 23 sites designated as Queen Elizabeth II Fields which aims to protect sites in perpetuity for the purposes of recreation in order to encourage people to use their local parks and open spaces to be more active
- The Severn Valley Country Park and The Mere at Ellesmere both awarded green flag status
- Installation of more dog mess bins.

Mr Stabler reported that lots of promotion had been undertaken in the local media and improvements made to the website. He thanked officers within the Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Team for all their hard work despite the reduction within the team and in light of the continued budgetary pressures.

A discussion took place in respect of the role of the Local Access Forum and whether any additional measures were required to strengthen its effectiveness. Jim Stabler confirmed that the Council was fulfilling its statutory obligation to consult with the Forum. Zia Robins stated that the bridleways were also used by walkers and cyclists as well as riders and suggested that a Mountain Bike User Group be invited to participate in the Forum. A suggestion was made for more Town and Parish Councillors to become involved with the Forum, Councillor Pauline Dee suggested an approach be made to SALC for expressions of interest. Following a discussion, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Dan Rogerson to request the Local Access Forum Groups become statutory consultees.

The Chairman welcomed the very comprehensive report and thanked officers and members for their input in the discussions.

12 **World War 1 - Updates**

Jim Stabler presented details on the four new World War One Walks which had been recently created commemorating what was happening in Shropshire on the home front 100 years ago. Leaflets were circulated and it was noted that full information was available on the website.

13 **Future Project Development**

A discussion took place regarding project development with the following being highlighted:

- Volunteering - the Volunteer Development Plan would be circulated to the Forum for comments prior to its finalisation.
- Irresistible Offa - the business plan was due for completion by the end of December 2014.
- Severn Valley Countryside Park - investigative work was ongoing to identify ways of operating the park in a more commercial manner at a zero cost to the Council; a business plan would be drafted in time.
- A new comprehensive Shropshire Outdoors digital mapping based website was being developed to amalgamate current information including walking, riding, cycling, leisure and greenspace information within the county.

14 **Potential Member (Will Chambers) - Mountain Biking Representative**

The Chairman introduced Will Chambers and reported that a representative from the cycling community was needed within the Local Access Forum to contribute to issues relating to public rights of way. Mr Chambers provided an overview of the work and his involvement in mountain biking in Shropshire. Members agreed that it was essential for both road cycling and mountain biking communities to be involved with the Forum to ensure their views were put forward in all future discussions.

Claire Fildes agreed to approach the road cycling fraternity to explain the role of the Forum and to invite any interested parties along to attend the next meeting.

15 **Feedback from other Forums and items for noting**

Minutes / Papers:

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

- (i) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum - 9 June 2014
- (ii) Shropshire Cycle Forum - 17 June 2014
- (iii) Walk Forum - 28 July 2014
- (iv) Central Shropshire Walking Forum - 16 July 2014

Future meetings:

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

- SamDev and General Planning
- Shropshire Highways - an update on the management of the unclassified county roads by rights of way
- Digitalisation of Highway Maps
- The use of towpaths

Future meeting dates:

5 February 2015
May 2015, date to be confirmed.

16 Farewell Mr Stabler

The Chairman announced that Jim Stabler, the Access Development Officer would be shortly be retiring from the Council. He paid tribute to Mr Stabler's hard work and contribution to the Forum over the years. The Chairman and Members of the Forum all wished him well for the future and a long and happy retirement.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: 5 February 2015

SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM - TELFORD & WREKIN BIKE USER'S GROUP (TBUG)

Minutes of the meeting held in Wellington Library

Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillor Miles Kenny	Chairman, Shropshire Cycle Forum
Geoff Skinner	Acting Chairman, Telford & Wrekin Bike Users Group, And Sustrans Co-Ordinator
Joerg Niehoegen	Telford & Wrekin
Claudia Niehoegen	Telford & Wrekin
Nick Jeggo	Newport Cycle Club
Jeremy Eatough	Telford & Wrekin
Trevor Davies	Telford & Wrekin
Dave Rolfe	Telford & Wrekin
Tim Nelson	Newport Town Council
Stuart Chapman	Telford & Wrekin
Jon Wellman	Telford & Wrekin
Nigel Brunton	Telford & Wrekin
Alex Grant	Shropshire
Jean Breakell	Shropshire
Bill Dorrell	Shropshire
Helen Gilmour	Shropshire
Paul Kirby	Shropshire, Sustrans Ranger

In Attendance:

Benjamin Smith, Manager, Telford Cycle Centre
Dominic Proud, Group Manager, Transport, Strategy & Road Safety, TWC
Derek Owen, Outdoor Recreation Officer, TWC
Jill Henderson, Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Officer, TWC
Emma Bullard, Promotions Manager, Sustainable Transport Project Team, SC
Ray Hughes, Project Officer, Sustainable Transport Project Team
Katrina Baker (Minute Taker)

11. Welcome & Introductions

Councillor Miles Kenny opened the meeting with a warm welcome and thanked Telford & Wrekin Council for hosting the event and particularly Jill Henderson, for making the arrangements for the agenda, venue and refreshments.

12. Apologies

The Gorge Parish Council

John Morris

Peter Mathison

Colin Pettit

Corrinna Wade

Reg Potter (ex. TBUG Chair, has now resigned from TBUG and moved to Ireland)

13. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2014 were accepted as a true record. Matters arising are included within the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

14. Telford Cycling Centre

The meeting welcomed Benjamin Smith, from Cycle Experience, Manager of the Telford Cycling Centre, who gave a short presentation on the work of the Centre, which is based in Telford Town Park. Cycle Experience work with local authorities across the UK, running around 35 contracts. CE launched the Telford Cycle Centre at the end of July 2014.

They were able to offer a diverse programme of activities over the summer, including hiring, training and servicing bikes. There were activities available for adults and children and due to the additional promotional work, sales have been good too. This will continue into the winter season, and are holding a Bike Roadshow in conjunction with T&W at October half term.

The Centre will be working with TWC into the future, ensuring that they remain sustainable with emphasis on health and fun.

The facility is currently self-funded, but they do intend to apply for grants (from government) next year. They believe it to be important to maintain the ethos and encourage family interest in all sections of what they can offer. They are working with local businesses. They have a wide range of equipment available, including carts and tandems and have adapted bikes available under flexible arrangements for sessions or individual use.

Mr Jeggo thought that there might be opportunities to link with Newport Nocturne and discussions could take place in the coming months.

15. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) presentation

The Chairman introduced Dominic Proud, Group Manager, Transport, Strategy & Road Safety at Telford & Wrekin Council who explained that The Marches LEP covers Herefordshire, Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin. Whilst there was initially little money available for this organisation, it was more of a partnership between the public and private sectors.

Whilst explaining how the partnership is managed, we heard of the LEP Board (senior business & council leaders), the Executive Board (executive and key officers) and Stakeholders representing areas such as skills, housing and transport.

Organisations, such as the Forum, can work with their relevant Local Authority as scheme promoter to consider projects for potential submission to the LEP Board for consideration of future funding.

The Marches LEP has secured £97m from EU funding over a 5 year period which will be managed by the Partnership. Along side securing £75m of Local Growth Funding. TWC has secured £17m for the Growth Point Package which will see £275,000 allocated towards cycling & sustainable transport along with securing £1m of LSTF for 2015-6. As part of this T&W are looking to develop a cycling & walking strategy, A consultation will take place between now and the end of the year and will look at considering the barriers to encouraging more people to walk & cycle and how the strategy could address these.

TBUG members will be invited to come to a meeting in December to follow up on this.

Information was available regarding road and planning schemes and how they should take into consideration cyclists within current design structures. It is essential to work towards a cycling strategy, for example to be included in the Shaping Places document, to link into the planning system as consultees.

It is good to know that more people are cycling these days, with many new cycling shops opening, encouraging cycling sports and a focus on all cycle users should feed into the strategy.

16. Shropshire Update

Emma Bullard and Ray Hughes are from the Sustainable Transport Project Team at Shropshire Council and both shared information with the meeting regarding

- Love your Bike Month (October) with leaflets about the events taking place.
- Cross-border Cycle Ride – Bridgnorth – Coalport on 19th October.

Unfortunately, Shropshire's bid for LSTF funding for 2015-6 was unsuccessful, more information should be available at the next meeting about cycle promotion after April 2015

The 2 Sustrans 'Bike It' officers will be available to assist in supporting cycling in Shropshire until July 2015

Emma has received a reply from Victoria Merrill, Area Transport Commissioner, regarding NCN45 in Bridgnorth. The plan is to build a path across the school playing fields when funds are available. Sustrans may be able to include this path in a package of measures for funding if Shropshire Council can provide some match funding and can deliver the path in 2015-6. Victoria is liaising with Henry Harbord about this.

The Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package is to include provision for non-car drivers – further information will be available at the next meeting.

17. Telford & Wrekin Cycling Update

Jill, Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Officer, TWC, presented information regarding:

- Bike Week in June, lots of activities including the virtual 'Tour de Telford', which had been very successful
- Active cycling clubs flourishing in Wellington & Newport.
- New Community Interest Company in Brookside 'Telford Bikes' – hopefully a model for the future, building up cycling interest in central Telford.
- Health Trainers – sponsored two volunteers who gained a MIAS qualification and are now leading regular fortnightly mountain bike rides in Telford Town Park
- 'Catch 'em Young' – Bikeability will work to ensure that Yr 5s and 6s in every school attain level 2, and it is hoped to be rolling out Bikeability for all Yrs 3 and 4 in early 2015. They should attain level 1
- The Bike Roadshow continues in secondary schools – Lots of workshops for year 7, including the popular 'Get You Home' – students learned how to replace an inner tube
- Participated in National Cycle To Work in September – build on business contacts
- Another successful Newport Nocturne at the end of August, organised by Nick Jeggo of Newport Cycling club
- Cycling Experience are holding half term Bike Road Shows in the Town Park
- Planned Production of a Commuter Map – showing the good links between the major industrial estates and the Silkin Way
- Southwater – well used new cycle parking facilities near Shopping Centre and Southwater One
- Planned Production high volume of cycle maps in early spring. Increased demand from new Library and Leisure Centres. Meanwhile the T&W Walking and Cycling map is also available on the website. http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/7019/walking_and_cycling_map_overview
- 55 – good news that Staffs have decided to complete the unfinished 2.5 km stretch linking them to T&W. Thanks to everyone who helped to nudge this forward, the work should be completed by February 2015.
- Finally, a thank you to all the helpers for the summer competition, there were over 500 entries.

Derek Owen, Outdoor Recreation Officer, TWC, shared the good news about the success of the new BMX Club, operating out of the new BMX Track at the Phoenix School. There had been 12,000 participants within the first 3 months. There had been more interest than anticipated and consequently more trained coaches are required.

The facility is proving to be popular with all ages, they have a 2 year old who is excellent and a 5 year old who is one of the top 5 in the country. There has been a 300% increase in the number of 5 – 11 year olds taking part.

Two events have taken place, with 500 riders coming to Shropshire for the first time for a major event, over 2000 people attended. They hope to host the Midland Regional Trials. With regards to participation rates, there had been 1500 different users from the general public not including schools or clubs. Next year, it is hoped that an invitation will go to all schools to take part (maybe as part of the curriculum).

Flood Lights are still on the agenda, a planning application will be required.

It is hoped to hold community events in 2015, such as The Strider Cup – balance bikes for all ages including adults. A championship across the country counting towards a National Championship.

Mr Jeggo explained that as there are insufficient coaches for his regular Saturday morning sessions; the numbers are growing. It would be helpful if people were channelled towards Go Ride schemes, as this would assist to find more coaches and bring opportunities for more funding.

18. Next Meeting Shropshire Forum

10th February 2015 7pm The Shirehall or The Gateway **(to be confirmed)**

Suggested item for the agenda – Tourism – route planning / CTC

Telford Bike User Group (TBUG)

Not 20th January as planned, but in December, date to be advised asap, to consult with TBUG and Local Access Forum on the Walking and Cycling strategy for T&W.

19. Any Other Business

- a) The new off-road path from Minsterley to Pontesbury has been completed. R44 (Six Castles) could now be signed this way subject to the links at each end being satisfactory – Shropshire Council will look into this.
- b) Regional Route 32 from Church Stretton to Shrewsbury is not signed. There are concerns over the junction where the route crosses the A49 at All Stretton. Henry Harbord now says it is for Shropshire Council to decide whether to sign it and the local Sustrans group would support it being signed.
- c) Route 552, crosses the A41, a traffic refuge has been installed
- d) An invitation has been received for anyone to take part in a community event on 26th October – the Pontesbury Pedal along the new path. This is part of Love Your Bike month and organised jointly with Quest 88
- e) The Community Council For Shropshire (CCS) are collecting good second hand bikes, for use on the Wheels To Work project – contact Lindsey Stirton, Wheels to Work project officer, on 01743 237883. lindsey.stirton@shropshire-rcc.org.uk
- f) Route 81 repairs – still not done. Cllr Kenny agreed to speak with the relevant Cabinet Member at SC

- g) Cycling 4 All Shropshire is an inclusive cycling group affiliated to CTC. They are now ready to bid for grants.
- h) Contacting schools, the SC Bike It Officers visit the schools in Shrewsbury and Oswestry on a regular basis. Ray Hughes has access to all other schools.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm with thanks to everyone for their important contributions.

Signed

Date.....

NOTES FROM WALK FORUM, MONDAY 27th OCTOBER 2014

Present:

Trevor Allison (*Ramblers*), Helen Beresford (*SC*), Peter Carr (*Ramblers*), Mark Cuthbert-Brown (*P3*), David Davies (*W4H*), Tony Eccleston (*Wem Walkers*), Liz Evans (*W4H*), Clare Fildes (*SC*), Ernie Heath (*Wem Walkers*), Jane Ing (*P3*), Andy Lipa (*SC*), Ian McKenzie (*P3*), Ann and Neil Moore (*P3*), Jim Stabler (*SC*), Barrie Stephens (*W4H*).

Nobody commented on the notes from July.

Walking for Health

A new walk has just started in Gobowen on a Tuesday afternoon to replace the failing Gatacre Avenue walk in Oswestry. It is hoped a new area will attract some new walkers.

The trial at the orthopaedic hospital was fairly successful. The hospital staff came for walks on a lunchtime and evening over 6 weeks. The hospital has been provided with routes so the walks can continue and hopefully this will be monitored to see what uptake this has.

A new walk has also just started from Meadowbrook bungalows next to the orthopaedic hospital. The uptake so far has been quite good and it is hoped this will continue.

Walkers are Welcome

The Oswestry Walkers are Welcome are doing an Armistice Walk on Tuesday 11th November at 11am from Cae Glas park memorial. This will be very much a Wilfred Owen based walk.

The Whitchurch Walkers are Welcome are planning next year's festival which will be Friday 15th, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May 2015.

Ludlow have just been given Walkers are Welcome status.

Walkers are Welcome have introduced a secret walker to observe how well accredited towns are doing.

Festival of Winter Walks

If anyone is doing a walk over the Christmas and New Year period, perhaps they could let Liz know so it can be promoted through the Ramblers and Walking for Health network as part of the Ramblers Festival of Winter Walks.

Bluebell/Burns Wood Walk

On Saturday 27th September there was a celebratory walk for the re-opening of this footpath near Ellesmere. 25 people attended and all agreed it was a beautiful walk. Jim was thanked for the refreshments afterwards where everyone thought this sort of walk should become an annual event. The Oswestry Ramblers are doing a national rally next year, probably Oswald's Trail, and perhaps this could be the next one.

Oswald's Trail update

The official launch of Oswald's trail took place on Saturday 6th September. It was opened by Owen Patterson and representatives from the Council, Ramblers and Ramblers Holiday Trust. The walk has been very well received and had good press coverage. The free booklets were funded by sales of walking books and the Ramblers Holiday Trust. 2,000 were printed and there are plans for another 4,000. Barry Southwell from the Ramblers Holiday Trust has recommended the walk at national level and this will hopefully bring money into Oswestry by people coming to walk it. Together with the Shropshire Way, Wat's Dyke and Offa's Dyke, there is now a really good footpath network for walking in this area.

There was a brief discussion about the importance of networking with other agencies to promote this area. It was suggested the Destination Development Partnership could be used and Sam Philips from Walkers are Welcome is very good at talking to people about how towns benefit from Walkers are Welcome.

Ploughing and cropping etc.

It was generally felt maize is the biggest problem and has been worse this year and the Council could do more, especially as they want Walkers are Welcome to promote walking. Flintshire and Cheshire send letters to landowners who do not leave a strip free along footpaths, and this does have results. Whilst not all farmers are guilty of this, all issues should be reported and there is a plan in place that a letter will be sent to the landowner who could also be charged if the Council has to do the work. If a couple of high profile cases are seen to be being done, word will get around.

WW1

For next year, there will be a walk on Saturday 29th August at Whixhall Moss. The subject is the effect of war on the fens and mosses and it will be led by 2 very good speakers.....i.e. Jim and Roger Dunshea.

There is no date for another walk to go through Oswestry town up to the museum, hill fort and Park Hall camp.

Llanyblodwell Enquiry

This is set for 10am on Tuesday December 16th at Porth-Y-Waen village hall. The enquiry is for 3 routes to be incorporated into the Rights of Way system where there are anomalies and mistakes from old maps.

To introduce herself

Helen Beresford is the new Outdoor Development Officer. Her role is to promote active volunteering and she is currently organising a volunteer taster session in Ellesmere to recruit new volunteers. The Ramblers stand was offered to help promote P3 volunteers and it was suggested Helen contacted existing P3 groups.

To introduce herself

Clare Fildes is the new Access Development Manager. Her role is to replace Jim's, but it has broader aims for volunteer development. Clare also is looking at branding for volunteers, leisure cycling, new website, developing Nesscliffe, training for volunteers etc. There is more emphasis now on health as Public Health are funding aspects of Outdoor Recreation such as Walking for Health.

Walking with Offa

Clare handed out a draft business plan that has been developed by herself and Alison Caffin, a tourism expert. The idea is to promote the area and businesses along the whole border. It will pick up on heritage aspects, accessibility, food and drink, arts and crafts, pub walks, and the health agenda. If anybody has ideas for north Shropshire please let Clare know. Andy is working on replacing stiles with gates.

AOB

Ann Moore wanted to know what 'greening measures' are. (There are 3 greening rules farmers must satisfy – crop diversification, maintaining permanent pasture land and introducing areas to be left alone, i.e. strips of land along water courses etc.)

Trevor Allison informed everyone that there is a planning application for a solar farm at Gobowen which will cover 31 hectares and will put 66,000 panels on farm land. Please refer to Planning for further information.

Next meeting

Monday 26th January, 7.30pm, Ellesmere Town Hall.

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Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2 pm, Wednesday 29th Oct 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
David Hardwick, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership david.hardwick@shropshire.gov.uk
Bob Coalbran, Wellington WaW and WfH bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com
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
Susan Daykin, Marden Walking for Health susanedaykin@gmail.com
Brian Dale-Patteson, RA & U3A rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk
Russell Collard, Condover P3 russellcollard101@hotmail.com

Apologies:

Mike Brooks
Barbara Martin

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Clare Fildes opened the meeting at 1400hrs.

2. **Feedback/Action from Previous meeting**

a. Procedure for checking planning applications involving ROWs: Mick Dunn explained to the forum that all planning applications are passed to the central validation team, any Planning application potentially affecting or near to a ROW is passed to the Outdoor Partnership Team for comments.

3. **Group Updates**

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

a. **Bob Coalbran** (Walkabout Wrekin & Wellington WaW) – Walkabout Wrekin is doing very well and is now run and organised by a volunteer committee. Wellington WaW are focusing on path maintenance and fixing reported issues. They are also looking at route 16 & 17 of the Shropshire way. Action: David Hardwick is requested to liaise with Bob and identify training opportunities which the Wellington WaW footpath group could utilise.

b. **John Newnham** (Shrewsbury Ramblers) - Daniel Kawczynski (MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham) was supposed to join the Shrewsbury Ramblers for a walk on the 6th Sep but unfortunately was unable to attend. The walk was to highlight

issues on the development of green field sites. They were joined by 3 local councillors who were able to see the great work carried out by the Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 Group. The "20 walks in and around Shrewsbury" book has recently been reprinted. Sales of the guide book have now covered the cost of printing, benches and interpretation panels. The Shrewsbury Ramblers AGM will take place on the 13th November. There will be a guest speaker from Cotswolds Outdoor in attendance.

c. **Dick Bailey** (Much Wenlock Walking for Health & WaW) – WfH in Much Wenlock continues to have excellent numbers with 60-70 walkers attending each week. The MW walking weekend held in September was very well attended. Next year's walking weekend will take place between the 4-8 Sept 2015. There was a recent recruitment drive for the P3 group which is now functioning well and the local paths are in good order. A sponsored walk was held recently and raised over £300 for the local hospice. The MW walkers will have a stand at the health promotion day in MW on the 8th November promoting walking in the local area.

d. **Trevor Allison** - Trevor has now completed over 5200km of his project.

e. **Bill Hodges** – Bill has continued to survey paths in various Parishes and raised concerns over ploughing and cropping and issues have been reported to Shona Butter. Bill also discussed the process for planning applications.

f. **Susan Daykin** (Marden Walking for Health) – The group had a recent away trip to Chester which was very well attended. Numbers for the group's regular walks remain very good.

g. **Russell Collard** (Condover P3) – Russell informed the group that most of the furniture in the Condover area is in good order. The P3 group will be concentrating their efforts to ensure paths remain walkable. Action: Mick to speak to Russell about the possibility of setting up a walking group in Condover in the New Year.

h. **David Hardwick** (Maintenance Team) – David explained that we now have some very active P3 groups in the central area. There will be a new group starting in Uffington soon. Efforts to recruit new P3 members and groups continue.

i. **Brian Dale-Patteson** (RA, U3A) – Brian explained to the forum that he walks and leads walks with a number of groups and cannot stress enough the importance of group walking to foster good relations and friendships.

4. Walking Coordinator Updates

a. Highways Act Section 31 (6) statutory declarations. The forum discussed section 31 (6) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/31>. If anyone has any issues or further questions reference Statutory declarations could they please direct them to Shona Butter shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk who will be happy to advise.

b. Policy for replacing stiles with gates: It is Outdoor Partnerships policy, where possible, to replace stiles with wicket or kissing gates. This often requires consultation with landowners who need to agree to a stile being replaced with a gate.

c. As requested by John Newnham, Mick Dunn will produce a poster/information on local walking groups to be held in the library/tourist information. Action: Mick Dunn

d. Walking for Life Routes: The WfL series of walks are being updated and will be available as downloads in the New Year. It is hoped to have a number of new routes included.

e. Emily Harrison has now taken over as the ROW officer for Oswestry and North Shropshire.

f. Outdoor Partnership User Survey – 2014/15. The annual user survey has been launched and can be found at <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/outdoor-partnerships-annual-public-survey-2014-15/> attendees are requested to circulate the details to their members. The results from the survey are very important and allow the department to identify priorities for next year.

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

a. Volunteer Development – 5 Volunteer forums have been conducted across the county resulting in the following objectives being recognised as priorities for the future:

- To increase the number of volunteers involved in existing groups.
- To increase the number of new groups, especially P3.
- To promote volunteer opportunities better and more effectively, in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.
- To increase the number of young people involved in Outdoor Partnerships volunteering.
- To increase self-supervised volunteering activity, with appropriate paperwork, training and equipment.
- To develop a number of “A teams” of volunteers who can be called on to tackle more complex jobs.
- To increase business involvement through corporate volunteering.

b. New website:

- Replace www.shropshirewalking.co.uk and www.shropshireriding.co.uk with a new map based website including this information and also to include leisure cycling (with relevant information taken from www.travelshropshire.co.uk)
- The website should also include information about Shropshire Council managed parks and greenspace sites and play areas, public RoW, walking for health and volunteering opportunities with the service.
- Link to Shropshire Hills AONB website: www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk , Healthy Shropshire www.healthyshropshire.co.uk , and Walking for Health www.walkingforhealth.org.uk
- Secure the URL www.shropshireoutdoors.co.uk
- Mapping will be provided by Shropshire Council in a similar way to the mapping on the council’s website: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/maps/default.htm> this is based on OS mapping and the council has its own licence.

c. New promotional campaign:

- Display equipment for events.
- Annual event and awards ceremony.

- Formalise paperwork and process with role descriptions.

d. Outdoor Partnership update

- Simon Brown, new development officer – Shropshire Wild Teams
- Further cuts across the service – savings in Parks and Greenspace management.
- Changes to the Mere and SVCP
- Development of contracting service.
- Helen Beresford – new development officer.
- Shropshire Walkers are welcome leaflet.

6. AOB

7. Date of next meeting:

Wed 18th Feb 2015, Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall Shrewsbury 1400-1600

Southern Walking Forum

Minutes of 9th Meeting

The Greene Room, Wistanstow Village Hall, Craven Arms

10 am – 2.30 pm Friday 16th January 2015

Attendees: Sue Jones (*Ramblers*), Helen d’Albert (*Shropshire Council*), Clare Fildes (*Shropshire Council*), Keith Pybus (*Shropshire Way Assoc.*), Chris Chillingworth (*Ludlow P3 & WFH*), Val Simpson (*Cleobury Mortimer WAW and CCL tourism*), Joy Howells (*Stiperstones and Corndon Hill County LPS*), Nigel McDonald (*Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership*), Paul Butter (*Shropshire Council*), Gill Mortimer (*South Shropshire Ramblers and WAW*), Peter James (*Walking group and Clun P3*), Mike Beazley (*WFH Ludlow and HF Holidays, and D of E*), Marion Law (*Ramblers area secretary/ Rail Rambles*), Dick Bailey (*WAW Much Wenlock*), Helen Beresford (*Shropshire Council*), Catherine Collier (*Promotions Manager Discovery Centre Craven Arms- Grow Cook Share*).

Apologies: Ted Laidlar, Michael Holland, Rick Summers, Kim Skinner, Les Lumsdon, Alison Caffyn, Charles Edwards, Colin Carson, Trish Howard, Merle Lippit, Joy Nisbet, Steve Levers.

Welcome and introductions	
Minutes of last (minuted) meeting – agreed	
<p>Joy Howells- Overview of the Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS).</p> <p>This LPS is one of over 70 areas across the country funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund because of their distinctive landscape character. It is a 5 year programme, with five members of staff based in Chirbury, and is managed by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership. The team are currently coming to the end of the 2nd year of the scheme.</p> <p>The Scheme is cross border and Joy distributed some copies of the new general leaflet, which includes a map of the area covered.</p> <p>The main LPS outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving and enhancing special landscape of area • Involving local people, • Improving access to landscape • Improving skills and learning. <p>The Scheme is delivering 15 projects under four key themes. The most applicable activities for the Walking Forum are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to better link sites, access, and interpretation. • Training to improve access for all. • Support for Bishop’s Castle Walking Festival through the 5 years of 	

the scheme, including financial support, promotion and walk leader training The Walking Festival has been extended to 3 weeks this year – from 1st May- 25th May. There are a number of themed walks within the LPS as part of the festival programme.

- Three promoted routes focused on Local businesses, Heritage and Landscape. Alison Caffyn is leading on this and is looking at the potential to include cycling, riding, and walking.
- Guided walks, for example Dawn Chorus walk.
- Circular walks around Pontesbury and Minsterley; developed with help from Shropshire Council who provided some funding for the leaflets and interpretation panels. These can be found on www.shropshirewalking.co.uk

For more information about the LPS, please go to:
<http://www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk/>

K.P. mentioned that there could be potential links between the mines and WW1 and the Battle of Waterloo.

V.S. mentioned potential links with the Wyre Forest project and distributed leaflets.

Keith Pybus – Overview of Southern Shropshire Walking Forum initiatives and successes

(Please refer to the sheet K.P. put together in appendix 1, for full details.)

The Southern Shropshire Walking Forum has been running since August 2012. The key objective was to promote walking, shifting from a county-wide forum to three area- based Fora has given a sharper focus and better local decision making.

Keith gave examples of some of the good work achieved by the group since its formation, underlining that the examples given were not the complete list. He highlighted the importance of establishing and nurturing allies to help build the facts, background and stories for the WW1 walks. These walks have fed into the National commemorations.

Clare Fildes – Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Business Plan

Clare provided an update about the team and funding situation.
(Please see Clare’s presentation – appendix 2)

Clare explained that the Public Sector funding cuts will impact on what the council can deliver in the future. The aim is for Shropshire Council to commission all services, with only 150 staff employed by the council and all departments are being asked to make significant savings. The Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Team are therefore having to focus activity to statutory delivery, including volunteer development where appropriate, and income generation. The maintenance team are continuing to grow their contracting work, which is bringing in money and enabling Shropshire to retain this team- (nationally there are many areas that have lost their Public ROW maintenance teams). The Parks and Greenspace Team are also looking at income generation and the aim for Severn Valley Country Park is to be cost neutral in the future. It is not known if the Public Health funding will continue- it is committed for the next year but not after that. In terms of the Government Agenda there is good recognition of the physical and mental health benefits of the outdoors and health and activity are high priorities nationally.

Clare is focusing on developing externally funded projects over the next few months.

What does this mean for the Forum? ... It means that there needs to be careful thought about future priorities and realism about what the Outdoor Partnerships Team can realistically achieve.

M.B. mentioned the consultation about Shropshire Council Budget proposals is on the Council website- if people wish to comment.

G.M. asked does the council recognise the importance of public ROW and the economic importance for the county. P.B. felt that the answer was no. Nigel McDonald pointed out there was an very interesting survey that was carried out by Natural England which looked at the economic benefits of the outdoors:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/378737/mene-report-june-aug-2014.pdf

Current activities:

- Volunteer development – new branding is being created which will hopefully give people a more ‘family feel’ regarding volunteering, and Clare is looking into external funding to support this.
- The Shropshire walking and riding websites are being replaced by a new website, which will include volunteer pages, walking, cycling and horse riding. It will be set up independently and have better search mechanisms and a better map based way of finding sites and routes.

Clare will send out a pro forma to help people as a starting point for writing up a case study and Hd’A will circulate to the group.

Clare Fildes highlighted the need for feedback regarding walks and footpaths and asked for case studies to show this. So she asked if anyone has nice examples to show how improvements to ROW and Countryside spaces etc. have helped their local community or local economy to please send these in to her as these will really help to show the importance and value of this work.

K.P offered to talk to the Holiday Property Bond to gain some feedback regarding guided walks and the economic benefits etc. He also mentioned that the walks he has done to the various County Homes recently and has got/ can get information that can be used to help with this, such as feedback from the property owners about the positive benefits of these recent guided walks.

P.J. – Peter mentioned the Walking in Shropshire, December 2005 : A Niche Market Report Prepared by Shropshire Tourism Research Unit, which had some useful figures on economic benefit. (appendix 3)

K.P. asked if there was a date for submissions / contributions for case studies? Anytime, although the sooner the better.

K.P. to liaise with the Solihull Path Finders- K.P. has been working with this group to help them with their plans to do a series of sections of the Shropshire way long distance footpath. The group wants to celebrate on the completion of this and this would make a good case study as has helped boost local economy e.g. hotel meal and accommodation.

K.P also highlighted case studies could be done around the media stories, e.g. the recent ones of broadcasts on Radio Shropshire, with Julia Bradbury, Countryfile.

Helen d'A mentioned that we have had two recent broadcasts on Radio Shropshire, both of have had positive results- for walkers and interest in volunteering walk leading opportunities.

C.F. said just need a few lines and a quote and figures and anecdotes and maybe a few photos would be ideal.

Other potential examples given by members of the Forum for case studies were: Spring Gathering WAW, Walking Festivals (is there some national data that would help to support this? does B.C. walking festival have a satisfaction survey?). Case studies are also a good way of recognising the value and acknowledging the work done by Volunteers.

C.F. fed back that Mark Blount is looking at getting some new People Counters- and will be testing these soon. They are based on taking a film of people's feet and can tell if it is a dog, child, adult or cat for example! And also defines how many there are going in each direction. These are going to be used in parks and other sites.

V.S. mentioned about 'Forest Pig' a Shropshire business (Wyre Forest) which was recently featured on Countryfile.

Val Simpson – **Walkers are Welcome** (WaW)

Val chairs the Shropshire Hills WaW group. This started with five WaW towns and now have a group of eight (with two other towns in Shropshire also WaW- this makes a total of ten WaW towns in the county).

Val explained they meet as a group of WAW towns to share and learn about each other and encourage promotion. They move the meetings round the county with different WaW locations hosting. At the last meeting they met at the pub to network, enjoyed a town walk and then got down to business with the formal part of the meeting and wrote a serious critique for national WaW. Val highlighted the national standards that WaW towns have to adhere to satisfy the WaW national criteria. One of the criteria that the WaW have to achieve is to maintain footpaths. Val underlined that the WaW are doing some fantastic work locally and are using volunteer resources to achieve this. Val pointed out that at today's Forum meeting there were in fact three WaW rep's present.

Val reported the Spring Gathering in Cleobury was a very successful cross border event. Many WaW towns run walking festivals or walk events. Promotional postcards are coming out at the end of January publicising the walking festivals across the Shropshire hills. Val showed the group a copy. Ironbridge has its own small advertising postcard which has just come out. Each local WaW are having a 1,000 to distribute.

WaW were asked to produce a banner – a little square to make up a quilt, showing the range of WaW towns and this was exhibited at Chepstow WaW national conference. Following the national conference- our WaW group was asked 'As you are so effective, why not put in a bid for the National Conference?' Val explained the difficulties with this is that the WAW group have no venue of a suitable size within a WAW town and do not have the resources to host it currently, or the capacity to organise this with solely the WaW members. The option of Ludlow Racecourse as a possible venue if this to be considered was raised. C.F. mentioned to the group that this could possibly be picked up as part of the Irresistible Offa project in the new programme. It could be a lovely way of promising value of walking to local businesses.

Ludlow WaW launch. V.S. reported that Ludlow WaW had approached their launch by inviting all the businesses that might benefit from WaW to attend. 50 + businesses attended and there was lots of discussion and networking as a result.

P.J. asked to what extent the WaW group meetings links had been extended to Clun WaW, and V.S. reported that Clun had been invited.

M.L. voiced that WaW is very appealing to a lot of people and other walk initiatives. She pointed out the absolute necessity by the Council of keeping footpaths open. She explained that all Ramblers are encouraged near to the elections to contact all the Council leaders to remind them of the importance

C.F / H.d'A

<p>of keeping F.P's open.</p> <p>C.Ch. commented he has emailed some comments to Hd'A (Helen to circulate these and those from other members unable to attend the meeting) relating to Charles Edwards comments which were circulated prior to the meeting as Charles unable to attend today. Chris explained that he and Michael replaced discs on Ludlow – Clee hill section. Members mentioned that there are still some old ones on there and there is no route in Ludlow itself.</p> <p>P.J. mentioned that he originally waymarked the whole of the Shropshire way where there were no waymarks. Route was recreated with Jim Stabler further to this.</p> <p>WaW accreditation – part of this is to show evidence that footpaths are being maintained.</p> <p>N.McD. Shropshire way – there are still publications out there with the old route on and there is a long time lag between OS updating and ROW definitive map computer version etc.</p> <p>K.P. asked can we have a definite date / time when the OS updated? It was mentioned by a member of the group that anyone/ members of the public can inform OS.</p> <p>Clare Fildes is putting together an updated WaW leaflet for Shropshire</p>	
<p>Peter James: Cresswell House Clun Plaque</p> <p>P.J. raised the issue of getting a Blue Plaque attached to Cresswell House in Clun to commemorate its connections with Old Bill, Captain Bruce Bainsfather (the WW1 artist) and the progress made with this. K.P. spoke with the owner of the property who was very enthusiastic, but preferred the application to come from an outsider. K.P. reported Mark to Watby to apply. It is a grade 2 listed property, which may have implications for the process.</p>	
<p>Helen d'Albert: Distribution and promotion of walking leaflets</p> <p>Helen briefly outlined the reasons for raising this and that there was not going to be the time available to discuss this important topic in the detail it requires. Therefore Helen suggested that members email Helen with ideas of how to distribute printed leaflets and we put it on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>The issue was briefly discussed: Hd'A explained that we have just undertaken a stocktake of all the walking leaflets we have in stock at Shirehall and are now looking at how to best distribute these around the county. K.P. suggested that it would be good to have leaflets available to distribute to his walkers on the guided walks. M.L. explained that the issue was raised initially as a result of concerns raised by Cheryl Johnson from the Ramblers that V.I.C's were often not up to date with programmes, and the need to therefore work out how we distribute leaflets. Hd'A understood that sometimes there are not programmes such as rail rambles available simply</p>	

<p>because they have been used up already and not had any more to replace them.</p> <p>Mention made about the cuts in V.I.C's.</p> <p>All encouraged to (as some have done today) bring any leaflets to distribute at the Forum meetings. Copies of WW1 walks left on table at the meeting along with WFH and other leaflets from Members for all to take as wished and distribute accordingly.</p> <p>K.P. mentioned the idea of potentially pooling resources and producing a collaborative walk information poster?</p>	
<p>AOB – Date of next meeting to be confirmed – but agreed a meeting required soon to follow up on the work carried out in the afternoon workshops and the results and action needed further to this. Helen to circulate meeting date in due course- anticipated being in February.</p>	

The afternoon session 12.30- 2.30pm focused on a Review of the Forums progress to date, and its future priorities.

Time	Agenda item
12.30	Welcome- Keith
	Presentation- Clare
1.00	Workshops
1.30	Change groups
1.40	Change groups
1.50	Allocate priorities
2.00	<p>Agreement of priorities. Discussion about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Forum can help deliver priorities • Forum membership • Communication
2.30	Finish

Please note due to time constraints there was not time to allocate and discuss delivery of the priorities. The top 3 priorities that the group aim to focus on were established by the group during the afternoon workshop. Details of these have been typed up by C.F. and are to be circulated with the minutes of this meeting (appendix 4).

The discussions about delivery of these priorities will be on the agenda at the next meeting which will be organised for next month- details to follow in due course.

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