

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday, 11 January 2017

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday, 19 January 2017
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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

Tim Ward
Secretary to the Forum

Members of The Forum

Name	Fields of Interest
Trevor Allison	Walking/Tourism
Stephen Bell	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Acces
Gareph Boxley	Motorised Vehicular Use/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Peter Carr	Walking/Canals
Alex Carson-Taylor	Rural Business/Land Owning/Farming/Conservation/Wildlife
Will Chambers	Cycling
Lee Chapman	Shropshire Council
Chris Chillingworth	Walking/Voluntary Activities/Community
Deb Hughes	Health/Tourism/Access
Janet Mees-Robinson	Carriage Driving/Disabled Access/Tourism
Stewart Pickering	Motorised Vehicular Use/Countryside Volunteer/Walking
Roger Plowden	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Farming
Zia Robins	Horse Riding
Jim Stabler	Tourism, Walking and Disabled Access
Stuart West	Shropshire Council
Mark Weston	Horseriding/Carriage Driving/Voluntary Activities

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer
Tel: 01743 257713
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Introductions

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Declarations of Interest

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

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

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 October 2016

5 Public Question Time

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 5.00pm on 16 January 2017.

6 Outdoor Partnerships Update of Enterprise Plan

The Outdoor Partnerships Team will give verbal updates on progress of the work outlined in the Enterprise Plan.

7 Outdoor Recreation Annual User Survey

The survey is now live:

<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/outdoor-partnerships-annual-survey-2017/>

Members are asked to discuss how to get the most effective results from this.

8 Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board (Pages 5 - 16)

To discuss and agree the Constitution, membership application process and timescales for the new Strategy Board.

9 Review of the Countryside Access Strategy and Development of the next Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Pages 17 - 18)

Members are asked to discuss the evaluation of the Countryside Access Strategy and the consultation process and timescales for producing a new Rights of Way Improvement Plan for 2018.

The current Countryside Access Strategy can be found here:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/268126/countryside-access-strategy-for-shropshire-2008-2018.pdf>

10 Access and Brexit (Pages 19 - 20)

To receive a paper from Leicestershire LAF (attached), to prompt discussion about a Shropshire LAF response to Brexit.

11 Feedback from other Forums and items for noting (Pages 21 - 40)

13.1 Items for Noting

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

- (i) Central Walking Forum
- (ii) North Walking Forum
- (iii) Shropshire Hills Walking Forum

13.3 Future Meetings

- (a) Members are asked to suggest agenda items for the next meeting.
- (b) To agree dates for forthcoming meetings of the Forum:

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Shropshire Local Access Forum

<u>Committee and Date</u>

Shropshire Local Access Forum

19 January 2017

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2016 10.00 - 11.55 AM

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Trevor Allison, Stephen Bell, Peter Carr, Alex Carson-Taylor, Chris Chillingworth, Roger Plowden and Zia Robins

26 Welcome and Introductions

26.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced David Morgan who had expressed an interest in joining the Committee. Mr Morgan informed the Committee that he was interested in walking and tourism and that he was a volunteer at Lyth Hill and with his local P3 group and also with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust

27 Apologies for Absence

26.2 Apologies for absence had been received from Gareph Boxley, Lee Chapman, Stewart Pickering, Jim Stabler, Stuart West, and Mark Weston

28 Minutes and any matters arising

28.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2016 had been circulated.

28.2 Mrs Robins referred to paragraph 15.4 and commented that she had also referred to the digitisation of the highways maps and asked for an update on this. The Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader advised her that there was no progress to date.

28.3 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Shropshire Local Access Forum held on 21 April 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

28.4 Concern was expressed that National Rail were closing routes without making the necessary changes to the definitive map. It was agreed that the Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader should write to Network Rail to remind them of their obligations.

29 Public Question Time

29.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

30 Declarations of Interest

30.1 There were no declarations of interest made.

31 Outdoor Partnerships Annual Report 2015/16, Enterprise Plan and Shropshire Council Update

31.1 Members received a presentation from The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager (copy attached to the signed minutes) which outlined the teams work and achievements over the past 12 months.

31.2 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager reminded the meeting that over the past three years the budget had decreased by half and that work was ongoing to try to increase income generating opportunities. She added that work was being carried out with colleagues from the Public Health Department to develop jointly funded projects.

31.3 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager stated that there was a need to develop the "outdoor economy" and that she was looking into obtaining some funding to enable work to be carried out to work out the value of the "outdoor economy" to Shropshire. Mr Carr commented that this may fit with a piece of work the Ramblers Association was carrying out and that he would look into this further. Mrs Robins commented that The British Horse Society had done a lot of work with respect to the contribution of horse riding to the local economy.

31.4 The Chair thanked the Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager and her team for all the work that they had done.

32 Proposal to change the LAF to the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board

32.1 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager advised Members that it was proposed to change the LAF to create the Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Board. She stated that the Strategy Board would take on the role of the LAF as well as having a wider role and that the membership would comprise of representatives of user groups, landowners and occupiers, Council representatives, other organisations with relevant interests as well as individuals with specific expertise which may be of use to the Board.

32.2 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager stated that it was proposed that there would be a number of sub groups made up of members of the Strategy Board and that these groups would be tasked to look at specific topics such as fund raising and income generation.

32.3 Several Members expressed broad support for the proposals and stated that it was an opportunity to work in a different way.

32.4 Mrs Robins expressed concern that the proposals would move the LAF away from its original aims, and suggested that the Strategy Board could work alongside the existing LAF. She also stated that legislation stated that the membership of the LAF was drawn from individuals rather than representatives of organisations as stated in the proposals.

32.5 After further discussion it was RESOLVED:

That the proposals should be progressed and a draft constitution be brought to the next meeting of LAF for approval (4 votes for the proposition and 3 abstentions)

33 Ploughing and Cropping update

33.1 Members received a presentation from the Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader (copy attached to the signed minutes) which gave an update on the ploughing and cropping campaign held in 2016.

33.2 The Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader advised members that in March letters had been sent to Landowners who had not reinstated rights of way after cropping or ploughing and that the majority of these landowners had been in the north of the County, and that these letters had resulted in approximately 50% of the paths being reinstated or partially reinstated, and that further letters had been sent out in May and June where routes were not reinstated satisfactorily. She stated that further inspections were carried out and thanked volunteers who had undertaken the inspections.

33.3 The Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader advised Members that six legal notices had been served and that in five cases immediate action was taken to resolve issues.

33.4 Members congratulated the Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader on what had been a very successful campaign.

34 Shropshire Way Main Route

34.1 Mr Carr advised the meeting that the consultation into the preferred main route for the Shropshire Way had been concluded and that the preferred route was a figure of eight with Shrewsbury at its centre.

34.2 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager informed Members that new way markers for the main route would be needed and that to avoid confusion existing way markers would need to be removed.

35 Items for Information/Update, Feedback from other Forums and Future meetings

35.1 The Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader advised that a code of good practice for shooting over rights of way had been developed and was being circulated to members of the CLA, BASC and NFU.

35.2 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager advised the meeting that a proposal was being developed to change the way the AONB was managed by setting up a Conservation Board which would work independently of the Council.

35.3 Members received and noted the following: -

The minutes of the following meetings:

- (i) Central Walking Forum
- (ii) North Walking Forum
- (iii) South Walking Forum
- (iv) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum 8 February 2016
- (v) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum 6 June 2016

35.4 Mrs Robins commented that there was no way of identifying land with higher access rights on maps. The Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader agreed to seek clarification from Natural England

35.5 Mr Carr advised Members that Telford & Wrekin Council had finally put in place funding for the production of a definitive map.

35.6 Mr Carr informed Members that the owners of Weston Wood which was the subject of a bridleway claim and a number of other issues were putting in place a woodland management plan.

35.7 Members were reminded that the next meeting would be held at 10.00am on Thursday, 19 January 2017

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board Acting as the Local Access Forum for Shropshire

Constitution

The Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board acts as the Local Access Forum for Shropshire but broadens the role of this to cover a wider remit in response to current priorities in Shropshire.

The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 were published by the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and came into force on the 19 March 2007. Local Access Forums are required (by section 94 of the CROW Act) to "have regard" to this Guidance when carrying out their functions. The constitution for the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board will incorporate these regulations as part of this constitution.

Title

1. The Forum shall be known as the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board (the Board).

Geographical Coverage

2. The area covered by the Board is the administrative county of Shropshire, although links will be made across administrative boundaries where this is felt to be advantageous.

Role and Responsibility

3. The primary purpose of the Board is to provide advice to the following bodies:
 - the appointing local authority being Shropshire Council
 - Parish and Town Councils
 - Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership
 - the Secretary of State
 - Natural England
 - Forestry Commission
 - Historic England
 - Sport England

Although these are the statutory bodies, the Board will also consider giving advice to other individuals or organisations if it was thought to be beneficial.

4. The Board will give advice to these bodies on:

- how to improve public access in Shropshire (whether on foot, horse, cycle, canoe, mechanically propelled vehicle or any lawful means) for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.
- public access in Shropshire for any other lawful purpose which includes ‘functional’ access to services and amenities (whether on foot, horse, cycle, canoe or by any means other than mechanically propelled vehicle).

The Board will also give advice on:

- Development and promotion of the Outdoor Economy in Shropshire
- Promotion of the great outdoors for health and wellbeing
- The importance of access to and within outdoor greenspace for community wellbeing and biodiversity
- The natural capital of the Rights of Way network and publically accessible greenspace

The advice from the Board will be independent, constructive, relative, inclusive, incisive and informed. The advice will take account of a broad range of balanced local interests and take account of social, economic and environmental concerns.

The Board will work to:-

- Adopt a constructive and inclusive approach to the improvement of access, outdoor economy, health and wellbeing and natural capital which reflects local circumstances and the needs of all sections of society.
- Operate within the requirements of the law and locally-set conditions of appointment.
- Provide advice on issues of principle and good practice which is consistent with national guidance.

In carrying out these functions the Board will have regard to:

- The needs of integrated land management, and of environmental, social, economic and educational interests
 - The desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the area, including flora, fauna and geological and physiological features
 - Guidance issued by the Secretary of State
 - Proper liaison with neighbouring authorities
5. As Board members are volunteers and give their expertise and experience freely it is recognised that there is a limit to the amount of time members can dedicate to the work of the Board. The Board will prioritise their time by identifying issues which are of special interest or relevance to the area in relation to access and outdoor recreation, which can then be actioned by specific action groups who are focused on these specific activities. These will include:-

- Development of recreation and access strategies which cater for a wide range of people
- Development of a more financially viable model for management of outdoor space and improvements to the Rights of Way network
- Increasing awareness of the importance of outdoor recreation for health, the local economy and the environment
- Influencing and advising other departments, organisations and local and national policy
- Community engagement and volunteering
- Strategic improvements to the rights of way network
- Implementation, management and review of the statutory right of access to the countryside

Membership of the Board

6. The role of Board members is to attend Board meetings and to contribute constructively to the role of the Board by:
 - Sharing (and developing) experience, knowledge and skills and the views of any organisation/ network they represent
 - Valuing the contribution of other members, respecting minority views, engaging in constructive debate and seeking consensus where possible
 - Adopting an inclusive approach, which reflects local circumstances and the needs of all sections of society
 - Engaging with the people that they represent (and others) to explain and promote the work of the Board, changing the operation of that organisation or network where appropriate to reflect the advice given
7. The membership will consist of no more than 22 members including:-
 - A Chair and Vice-Chair
 - A maximum of 2 elected Councillors (or a maximum of 3 if there are 17 or more other members)
8. Board members will represent:
 - Users of local rights of way or open access land (e.g. walkers, horse riders, cyclists, carriage drivers and motorised users)
 - Owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way subsist
 - Any other interests relevant to the area which could include; nature or land conservation, heritage, health and well-being, tourism and active recreation, local community or minority interests

Preference will be given to those people who represent organisations or networks that have a wide range of experience and knowledge on a cross section of local interests. Membership

of the Board will be balanced to avoid dominance by a single interest group or coalition of like interests.

9. The Board will maintain a reasonable balance between the representative groups.
10. Members of the Board will be appointed by Shropshire Council according to the selection criteria which assess whether candidates have the authority to represent organisations or networks and have sufficient relative experience to be able to make an informed and constructive contribution.
11. Before appointment members will be asked to confirm:
 - Their ability to represent the categories mentioned above, their position within any organisations/ networks they are representing and the willingness of those organisations/ networks to contribute and respond to advice from the Board
 - Their support of the positive purpose of the Board
 - Commitment to working within the constitution and to achieving the aims of the Board through constructive working with other members
 - That they are able to devote the necessary time to attend meetings, progress the outcomes of the Board meetings, attend training and to network with a wide range of interests outside meetings
12. Membership of the Board will be for a term of up to 2 years save that:
 - a) At the end of the relevant period any member can be re-appointed
 - b) Any member who does not attend for a period of 1 year without permission may be removed from the Board by the appointing authority
 - c) The Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair shall be able to recommend to the appointing authority to suspend any Member who is judged to have brought the Board into disrepute.
 - d) De-selection of any member so suspended shall only be exercised following a full vote at the next meeting.
 - e) Should a member of the Board subsequently become a member of a local authority they must inform the Secretary and will be required to step down if the quota of 2 elected councillors' has been filled.
13. The Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from within their membership who should be nominated and seconded.
 - a) If there is more than one nomination the election will take place by way of a secret ballot
 - b) Members present at the meeting will have one vote each and the candidate receiving the most votes will be appointed
 - c) The Chair and Vice-Chair will be drawn from different representative groups
 - d) The term of office for Chair and Vice-Chair should not be for more than two years subject to an annual re-appointment

- e) Members of the appointing authorities should not put themselves forward for either Chair or Vice-Chair
14. Meetings should consist of a quorum of eight Board members including at least one member from each of the representative groups. The Chair may suspend any meeting should this quorum not be reached.
15. In the event that neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair is available for a meeting then a Chair should be elected from the assembled members for that meeting only.
16. Each Member of the Board will have one vote on any issues requiring a decision, which will be by a show of hands. The Chair is to have the casting vote should the need arise.
17. Members are required to disclose any personal interest they may have in a matter to be discussed by the Board. Members with a personal interest should not necessarily be excluded from discussion or voting because such members may have a useful contribution to make to the Board's deliberations as long as the nature of the interest is made known to the Board, and recorded as such in the minutes. It will be for the Chair to decide, after consultation with members, if that personal interest is prejudicial to the Board's deliberations on that matter.

Action Groups

18. The Board may appoint members to action groups to delivery activity prioritised by the Board. These may be practical actions or to consider any issue within the Board remit. The groups shall:
- Be made up of individuals relevant to the delivery of that activity, with help from the appointing authority where appropriate and preferably a member of the Board to feedback to the Board as delivery progresses.
 - Make recommendations to the Board on specific issues.

Administration

19. Secretariat support will be provided by an officer of the appointing authority.
20. Meetings will be held at least twice a year and more frequently where necessary.
21. Meeting agendas will be agreed between the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Secretary following consultation with relevant officers where necessary.
22. Shropshire Councils normal procedure for advertising meetings will be adopted.
23. Agendas, papers and minutes of the meetings will be available to the public.
24. The Chair may invite observers to the meeting when appropriate.

25. Observers will be able to contribute to the proceedings at the discretion of the Chair.
26. Participation of the public:
- Meetings to be fully open to the public
 - Prior notice should be given by members of the public who wish to ask a question, make a statement, or present a petition in line with the Councils public question time procedure
 - Public questions will be taken at the relevant point on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair
27. The appointing authority will have the right to review the chairing and membership of the Board on an annual basis if necessary.
28. The Board shall prepare an annual report on the discharge of its functions.
29. The annual report will be published by the Board's appointing authority.
30. These rules can be amended by the Board should the need arise subject to the agreement of the appointing authority.

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board

Application Form 2017

Thank you for requesting an application form to become a member of the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board, which acts as the Local Access Forum. The information provided on this form will be used for selection purposes only and will not be passed onto any third party.

Aims

The aims of the Strategy Board are to make outdoor recreation in Shropshire:

- More financially independent and resilient
- More strategically importance across a range of sectors
- More action driven

Priorities

The Strategy Board will advise Shropshire Council on key priorities for outdoor recreation and countryside access. Over the next two years these include:

- Review of the Countryside Access Strategy 2008-2018
- Development of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028
- Delivery of the Enterprise Plan- Business Planning, fundraising and income generation, including the development of a charitable organisation and promoting of the contracting team
- Promotion and marketing
- Increasing awareness of the benefits of outdoor recreation for health, the local economy and the environment
- Influencing and advising other departments, organisations and local and national policy
- Community engagement and volunteering

Membership

Membership should fall into the following categories:

- Users of local rights of way and access land (Max 5)
- Owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way subsist (Max 5)
- Other areas of interest, for example health and wellbeing, local economy, environmental or community organisations (Max 7)
- Council Members (Portfolio Holder plus one other)

[Type text]

Selection will favour those who:

- Represent a key organisation or network which represents one or more of the interests listed in the constitution
- Be influential and able to make decisions within their organisation or network
- Have specialist knowledge about the priorities listed

Applications for the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board will be considered by the Appointing Authority, Shropshire Council, and a decision will be made based on the spread of interests required.

Membership is not expected to exceed 20 people.

Application

To help us decide on your suitability for appointment please complete all sections as accurately and fully as possible.

If you require this form in large print, Braille or audio tape please contact us. If you would like this form in another language we can translate it for you.

Personal Details

Name:

Address:

Telephone no.:

Email:

Occupation:

Category applied for (please circle)

- Users of local rights of way and access land (Max 5)
- Owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way subsist (Max 5)
- Other areas of interest, for example health and wellbeing, local economy, environmental or community organisations (Max 7)
- Council Members (Portfolio Holder plus one other)

Organisation/ network information

Please state which organisations or networks you are able to represent:

[Type text]

How many people/ organisations are involved or represented?

What is your position within those organisations or networks?

Supporting information

What are your personal interests relevant to this application?

Please briefly describe how your skills, experience, membership of organisations and achievements make you a suitable member of the Strategy Board?

What do you think are the most important issues for the Strategy Board to tackle?

How would you share the work of the Strategy Board?

Are you aware of the broad principles of Equal Opportunities?*

Yes/No

Are you aware of the broad principles of the Disability Discrimination Act?*

Yes/No

**Information for training development purposes only*

Are you an elected member of a town, parish or district council?

Yes/No

If yes please specify:

The majority of Forum meetings are held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury where there are disabled facilities however we do have some outdoor training days. Please describe any special needs or requirements that you may have.

Declaration

[Type text]

'I am applying for membership of the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board and certify that the information given on this form is correct. I have read the Constitution and if appointed, agree to undertake the duties as described and understand the criteria for selection.'

Signature:

Date:

[Type text]

**Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board
Timescales**

Activity	19-Jan	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
Present draft constitution, process and timescales to LAF					
Agreement with LAF					
Contact potential new members					
Deadline for application forms					
Selection of Strategy Board members					
First meeting of the Strategy Board					

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ROW Improvement Plan review and development

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners
Set up Working Group with representatives from LAF	Jan-17	CF	
Draft review for consultation	Jan-17	CF	OP Team
Consultation on current strategy and successes and issues from past 10 years. Future priorities. Including user and Town and Parish Council Surveys	Feb 2017 to June 2017	CF	User Forums, AONB Partnership, partner organisations
Consultation with owners and managers of land with PRow	Feb 2017 to June 2017	CF	NFU, CLA, SWT, NE, FC, NT
Formal feedback from LAF and Scrutiny Committees	Jun-17	CF	LAF and Scrutiny Committee
Publish review of 2008-18 Strategy	Jul-17	CF	
Assessment of Public Rights of Way and UCR network- Definitive Map, promoted routes, opportunities to further enhance	Jul-17	SB	
Strategic review and consideration of upcoming legislative changes and resources	Jul-17	SB	Legal Dept.
Agree new vision statement	Sep-17	CF	LAF
Publish draft plan	Sep-17	CF	
Consultation- users, businesses, landowners, Scrutiny Committee	Oct-17	CF	
Report to Cabinet	Nov-17	GC	
Publish Final ROWIP	Dec-17	CF	
Sign off by Full Council	Dec-17	GC	

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After interchanges of thoughts between Leicestershire LAF members via our googlegroup we have agreed the following

LLAF recommendations for funding access and protection of the countryside

Current support for hill farmers in particular, to maintain gates, stiles and other infrastructure on access points to the countryside should be continued after we leave the EU

Beyond this we would like to see targeted support for **permissive access** under **Stewardship/HLS schemes**. **By targeted we mean that it should only be on offer where there is a demonstrable public benefit from the access being offered with priority being given to missing links. Further we feel that such agreements should be better policed than has been the case in the past**

From the permissive access audits in Leicestershire there is been evidence that a number of routes (where payment has been provided) have not been adequately maintained nor properly signposted by the landowner. This has also apparently been the case in the neighbouring counties of Rutland, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. This has not been acted upon due to a lack of inspections and with Natural England likely to have even fewer staff in the future, it is unlikely that this will improve. In the past a number of routes were also provided which had no real value to the public and only benefitted the farmers. This was a complete waste the taxpayers money.

We certainly need to cover the missing links in the network, and take any opportunity to upgrade to higher rights creating safer off-road routes to link PRoW and routes to locations of interest. Paying for permissive access is the right thing to do, however it is important payment is made for routes that are needed and wanted by the public and that are then properly maintained by the farmer. We would also propose that any future HLS permissive access type of funding should also be directed towards smaller privately owned farms and not large corporate or institutional organisations. Bodies like the National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust or RSPB have other funding sources they could use to create accessible routes on their land.

We think that it would be good for LAFs to sign up to a letter to this effect to the Minister responsible, but getting a number of LAFs to agree a form of words usually becomes tricky. There are suggestions of starting a petition but again it is agreeing an actual form of words which is the challenge.

Here in Leicestershire we have been promoting retention of HLSS permissive access for some time. Parish Council precepts are not capped so parishes could support local routes where higher authorities have no funds and they feel local routes are of real value.

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Agenda Item 11

Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2pm, Wednesday 4th Jan 2017

The Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

Attendees:

John Newnham (Chair)	Shrewsbury Ramblers	john.newnham@btinternet.com
Bill Hodges	Shrewsbury Ramblers	vibill@phonecoop.coop
Trevor Allison	Shrewsbury ramblers	eta-06@tiscali.co.uk
Bob Coalbran	Wellington Walkers are Welcome	bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com
Paula Doherty	Telford & East Shropshire Ramblers	pauladoherty@tiscali.co.uk
Naomi Wrighton	Walk about Wrekin	info@wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk
Geoff Sproson	Marches LDWA	marches@sproson.com
Dick Bailey	Much Wenlock WaW and WfH	gdickson.bailey@virgin.net
Clare Fildes	Outdoor Partnerships	clare.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk
Mick Dunn	Outdoor Partnerships	mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk
David Hardwick	Outdoor Partnerships	david.hardwick@shropshire.gov.uk

Apologies:

Anne Suffolk
Audrey Menhinick
Phil Wadlow
Helen Beresford

1. Welcome and Introductions (JN)

John opened the meeting at 2pm

2. Feedback/Action from Previous Meeting

There was no actions from the previous meeting.

3. Lost Ways Project (JN)

Ian Barnes has attended a session at Archives with Lucy Mcfarlane and will share with other RA members who are working on the lost ways project. Trevor continues to identify issues that could become lost ways projects. Geoff suggested contacting the Shropshire Mines trust to identify potential Lost Ways in the Snailbeach area.

4. Volunteering

a. Central Shropshire Maintenance Officer (**DH**) – the P3 groups have been very busy in Central Shropshire, in particular the Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 group who have been carrying out three sessions each month (a lot out of area). Condover P3 have recently carried out a lot of maintenance around the Dorrington area.

b. P3 (**HB**) – P3 groups across the county have carried out over 7621 hours of maintenance between April and December 2016. New groups have recently been started in Pulvebatch, Cockshutt, and Marton. There are now 71 P3 groups across Shropshire. New groups will potentially be set up in Sellatyn and Gobowen.

Church Stretton P3 group now have a new coordinator, which means they will continue with tasks next year.

Helen will be asking for the running cost grant requests in February so they can be processed in April. 56 people attended the ROW training course in November, funded by the Meres and Mosses LPS. The training was held at Whixall and consisted of presentations on ROW law and practical maintenance training. There will also be a brush cutter course before March 2017.

Bod asked if another ROW law session could be arranged. **Action** Clare agreed to approach Shona Butter to see if this was possible.

Volunteers will soon be ready to survey the Southern Section of the Shropshire Way Main Route to look for defective furniture and other issues. Helen is looking for more volunteers to assist. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Helen at Helen.Beresford@Shropshire.gov.uk

- c. **Walking for Health (MD)** – The next Volunteer Walk Leader Training Courses will be held on:
Fri 03rd Feb 2017 at the Shirehall in Shrewsbury – contact mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk
Thu 02 Mar 2017 at Craven Arms – contact helen.dalbert@shropshire.gov.uk

5. **Walkers are Welcome Shrewsbury (JN)** – Unfortunately, the bid for Shrewsbury to become a Walkers are Welcome town failed. John hosted a representative from the WaW national committee but it was deemed that Shrewsbury was too large to become a WaW town. John with the help of Bob and Naomi are investigating the possibility of a cluster of smaller villages (Bayston Hill, Uffington, Pontesbury etc) forming a WaW cluster around Shrewsbury.

6. **Shropshire Way Circular Route (JN)** – The Shropshire Way main route has now been established in principle and a logo for way marking has been agreed. A funding application has been submitted to the RA Holidays trust to assist with funding to waymark and promote the route.

Volunteers will be used to help way mark the main route and carry out repairs and maintenance starting in the South.

The need to keep route changes to a minimum was reiterated. This is because the main route needs to simplify the Shropshire Way network rather than complicate things further.

7. **Outdoor Partnerships Update (CF)**

a. **Shropshire Great Outdoors Membership Scheme** - We have launched a new membership scheme in a bid to secure the future of the Shropshire Council managed Country Parks and Heritage Sites, and to help maintain ROWs above the statutory requirements. The scheme costs £3 a month (£36 a year). More details and how to join can be found at <http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/join/>
The new scheme has been devised to help address the threat to funding for Parks and Sites in particular and to secure these assets within the Council. Promotion of the scheme through partner organisations and networks would be appreciated.

b. **Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board** – it is being proposed that the Local Access Forum is restructured to make Outdoor Recreation in Shropshire:

- More financially independent and resilient
- More strategically important across a range of sectors
- More action driven

The priorities for the next two years would be:

- Delivery of the Enterprise Plan- Business Planning, fundraising and income generation, including the development of a charitable organisation and promoting of the contracting team
- Development of the Countryside Access Strategy 2018-2028
- Promotion and marketing
- Increasing awareness of the benefits of outdoor recreation for health, the local economy and the environment
- Influencing and advising other departments, organisations and local and national policy
- Community engagement and volunteering

The Strategy Board would take on the role of the Local Access Forum as well as other duties and this would be reflected in a new Constitution.

Strategy Board Membership

User Groups

The Ramblers Association
British Horse Society

Other relevant interests

Local Nature Partnership
Health and Wellbeing Board

Cycling Forum (not currently running)
 Energize- County Sports Partnership
 Disability Network
 Walking for Health
 Parish Paths Partnerships

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
 Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country LPS

Council Members
 Portfolio Holder

Owners and occupiers:

CLA
 NFU
 National Trust
 Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Individuals with specific expertise

Fundraising and income generation
 Outdoor Recreation development and strategy

Other people will be needed in sub-groups to deliver specific activity relevant to their skills and experience.

A suggestion was made for a Walkers are Welcome representative to sit on the Board. **Action- CF to suggest this in discussions.** Some representatives will fit more with specific sub-groups but this all needs to be considered.

There was some concern about the development of a group with a wider remit might distract from the Rights of Way focus of the Local Access Forum. CF reinforced the point that for the development of the Rights of Way network to be taken more seriously in the future, it needed to be perceived as more relevant to other agendas, such as the Local Enterprise Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board. The development of the Board is necessary to integrate those who can influence these agendas.

c. Countryside Access Strategy 2008-2018 Review – a review of the countryside strategy will be held in 2017. The aims are:

- Countryside Access- ‘Ensure that the access network meets the needs of Shropshire residents and visitors whilst recognising the special qualities of the landscape’
- Making Local Journeys- ‘increase peoples’ use of the Rights of Way network for local journeys to support a sustainable transport network’
- Health and Wellbeing- ‘improve people’s health by encouraging more people to be active in the countryside’
- Access for Everyone- ‘increase the opportunities for hard to reach groups to access the Shropshire Countryside’
- Visiting Shropshire’s Countryside- ‘to provide a high quality access network that supports a thriving tourism economy’

Time line TBC

Action	Timescale	Responsibility
Set up Working Group with representatives from LAF	Jan-17	CF
Draft review for consultation	Jan-17	CF
Consultation on current strategy and successes and issues from past 10 years. Future priorities. Including user and Town and Parish Council Surveys	Feb 2017 to June 2017	CF
Consultation with owners and managers of land with PRoW	Feb 2017 to June 2017	CF
Formal feedback from LAF and Scrutiny Committees	Jun-17	CF
Publish review of 2008-18 Strategy	Jul-17	CF
Assessment of Public Rights of Way and UCR network- Definitive Map, promoted routes, opportunities to further enhance	Jul-17	SB
Strategic review and consideration of upcoming legislative changes and resources	Jul-17	SB
Agree new vision statement	Sep-17	CF
Publish draft plan	Sep-17	CF
Consultation- users, businesses, landowners, Scrutiny Committee	Oct-17	CF
Report to Cabinet	Nov-17	GC
Publish Final ROWIP	Dec-17	CF
Sign off by Full Council	Dec-17	GC

It was suggested that not too much time was taken on the development of the new strategy, as it could be seen to be distracting from the 'day job'. CF agreed that there was a balance to be struck but that this was a statutory document and time would be needed to get it right.

8. Group Updates

LDWA (GS) – The Marches LDWA next challenge walk will take place on Sat 25th Feb 2017. The South Shropshire Circular is a 25 mile challenge walk starting in Norbury. This annual walk is always popular and this year's walk is full. The annual Tour de Marches (Sept 2017) and the Christmas walks will take places as normal but unfortunately the Wenlock Olympian Walk will not take places this year due to a lack of support staff. Details of the Marches LDWA and walks can be found at <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/Marches>

Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers (PD) – The definitive map for T&W is in the process of being completed. <http://shropshireramblers.org.uk/groups/telford/>

Wellington Walkers are Welcome (BH) – The paths group have been busy working on the paths in Limekiln Wood and are hopeful that heavier work will be completed in the next few months. Two people have received brush cutter training and are in the process of getting a brush cutter. We are working on a leaflet of walks to the North of the town. This is part of a longer project called Wellington 360.

The wellington Walking festival will take place in the second week of September 2017
<http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/>

Walk about Wrekin WfH (NW) – Currently struggling to recruit new walk leaders and will be concentrating efforts to provide short level one walks this year.

Much Wenlock WaW & WfH (DB) – WaW held their annual walking weekend in September with over 100 walkers taking part. This years walking weekend will take place from the 1 – 4 Sep 17. Walking for Health are seeking to recruit new walk leaders to continue to support the large number of Health walkers in Much Wenlock. The P3 group have be active maintaining the paths around the town.

Shrewsbury Ramblers (JN) – The new Shrewsbury Ramblers programme will be produced in February. Six volunteers work very hard to ensure there is a varied walk programme for the group. The AGM was held in November with guest speakers and 30+ people attending. P3 group has been very active.
<http://www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk/>

Bill Hodges – Bill is continuing to survey the footpaths in and around Shrewsbury and is planning to extend this further North.

9. AOB

(TA) – A level 2 bid has been submitted for funding for the St Winifred's pilgrimage walk. The Ramblers path watch is now up and running again.

(BH) – There was recently a national campaign by cyclist to be allowed to cycle on all public ROW. Details of which have been passed to the Ramblers for further investigation.

(MD) – All the major walking events and festivals are being added to the Shropshire Great Outdoors Events Calendar once dates have been confirmed <http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/events/> as well as being advertised on Facebook and Twitter. Please pass on the details of any events we don't have details of. (List attached)

I have recently put 70 walking routes onto the View Ranger smart phone app.
<http://www.viewranger.com/en-GB>

10. Date of Next Meeting

TBC

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2017 Shropshire Walking Festivals/Challenge Walks/ Charity Walks/Events

Walking Festivals

29 April – 07 May 2017. Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival.

<http://www.discovertelford.co.uk/ironbridgewalkingfestival>

13 – 17 May 2017. Bishops Castle Walking Festival. www.walkingfestival.co.uk

May 2017. Whitchurch Walking Festival. <http://www.whitchurchwalkers.co.uk/festival.htm>

22 – 25 June 2017. Church Stretton Walking Festival.

<http://www.churchstrettonwalkingfestival.co.uk/>

1 – 4 Sep 2017. Much Wenlock Walking Weekend.

Sep 2017. Wellington Walking Festival. **TBC**

Challenge Walks

25 Feb 2017 - South Shropshire Circular (25 mile) <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/marches>

May 2017 – Clun Valley Challenge Walk <http://clunvalleychallenge.com/> **TBC**

May 2017 – Bridgnorth Walk (22 miles & 7 mile Junior event)

<http://www.bridgnorthwalk.org/index.html> **TBC**

June 2017 – Six Shropshire Summits (36 miles) **TBC**

10 June 2017 – Oswestry Round <http://www.oswestryround.co.uk/>

15 – 16 July 2017 (TBC) Wenlock Olympian Walk (WOW) <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/marches>
Cancelled

Sep 2017 – Tour de Marches (26, 18 or 12miles) <http://wistanstowwalk.blogspot.co.uk/>

7 – 8 Oct 2017 – Long Mynd Hike (50 miles) <http://www.longmyndhike.org.uk/>

Charity Walks

11 March 2017 – Pontesbury Potter (13 miles) <https://www.severnospice.org.uk/support-us/events/severn-hospice-events/?ee=292>

8 April 2017 - Cinderella Midnight Walk – Shrewsbury (9km)

<https://www.severnospice.org.uk/support-us/events/severn-hospice-events/?ee=300>

May 2017 – Bishops Castle Round and about Walk **TBC**

14 May 2017 - Cinderella Midnight Walk – Telford (9km)

<https://www.severnospice.org.uk/support-us/events/severn-hospice-events/?ee=301>

Sep 2017 – Seven Wonders of the Shropshire Hills **TBC**

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NOTES FROM NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM

MONDAY 24th OCTOBER 2016

Present: Peter Carr (Os Ramblers), Colin Chandler(Os P3), Peter Downley(Os Ramblers), Tony Eccleston(Wem Walkers), Liz Evans(SC), Barry Fewster(Whitchurch Walkers), Ann Moore(Whitchurch Walkers), Neil Moore(Whitchurch Walkers), Harvey Morgan(SC), Shirley Pemberton(Hadnall W4H), Barrie Stephens(Os W4H).

Apologies: Trevor Allison, Mark Cuthbert-Brown, Clare Fildes, Kevin Ikin, Jane Ing, Ian McKenzie.

From the last meeting – no issues raised

Ploughing and cropping

Peter explained the process that has been happening this year. He felt the Ramblers thought it had been a worthwhile campaign. The Whitchurch Walkers had noticed improvements this year too.

Emily has provided the following information since the meeting as Peter could not recall exact numbers:

Letter 1s = 83

Complied/Completed/No crop after Letter 1/2/2As = 63

Letter 2As no response = 7

Not resolved but complications = 10

Complied after serving notice = 3

Tony said he had an issue with late crops and was advised to report them to Emily.

Peter said Trevor will be starting to plan next year's campaign in January. Ann suggested having the meeting for this around the next walk forum to prevent having to go to 2 meetings. To this end, Liz has booked the room from 1pm so this could happen before the walk forum at 2pm.

Jane had asked the state of the local footpaths around Baschurch and Weston Lullingfields to be mentioned. She is doing a report for the local footpath group although no one was sure how active it was at the moment. She asked for furniture to be supplied which local groups could then put in place.

Liz mentioned that, on this subject, the Goff walk 5 had been removed from the website and wondered if P3 groups knew of any other walks that are on the website but are not walkable.

Ann suggested Simon Brown's Wild Teams could help with this. Liz has asked him following the meeting and he is happy to clear footpaths and erect stiles if people identify specifics. Please do not contact Simon directly as Harvey would be best

placed to co-ordinate this. Liz will identify exact location of footpaths in West Felton that need work for Simon's team. The Wild Teams are booked up until the end of the year, so it will not be until January they could start on anything.

It was also suggested that perhaps Helen could contact parish councils to see if they could help in the recruitment of local P3 volunteers, and especially the co-ordinators who are even harder to recruit.

Promotion of volunteering

Volunteer Day

Everyone agreed this had been an enjoyable and worthwhile day. Liz wanted to especially thank Mark for arranging the walk around the army camp.

Walking for Health

Liz reported this is continuing to improve in north Shropshire. The new group in Higher Heath is especially pleasing and at the last walk leader training, there were 5 new volunteer walk leaders which is a 6 year high!

Oswestry and Wem remain low in numbers. Liz has a stand at the town hall in Wem on Thursday to try to raise awareness in the town.

P3

Report from Helen :

Current P3 hours (quarters 1 & 2) – 4776 hours which represents an equivalent contractor cost of £30,657.50

We have 68 groups at present with new groups establishing in Hinstock, Pulverbatch and Hanwood and a potential group in Cockshutt.

The Volunteer celebration was very successful, thank you to all the volunteers who took the time to come along on the day.

For information on some of the latest P3 activity see the last volunteer supplement at <https://lnks.gd/2/28LVHx> next edition will go out before Christmas so please get any photos and articles to me in the meantime.

Development and promotion of routes and economic value of walking

Walkers are welcome

Liz has met the deputy town clerk in Oswestry, Arren Roberts, to discuss issues over the lack of awareness of walking in Oswestry. He was very supportive although did not come up with any suggestions on how to progress. Peter is going to contact the town councillors to put the case for walking helping to support the town's economic strategy. The Ramblers may also ask for help with the Travis Perkins path by the cemetery.

Attached are the details for the last walk of this year and next year's programme.

Whitchurch Walkers have had their first planning meeting about the festival next year, so ideas are now up and running. Neil said there was now a map in the bullring centre of town showing walks that can be done from there.

Shropshire Way update

Following the survey, a figure of 8 with Shrewsbury in the middle and going up to Whitchurch has been decided upon. The route needs defining and anomalies sorted. There is also a rethink on the way marking. Funding has been requested from the Ramblers holiday trust. A Shropshire Way committee group is to be set up.

Gobowen to Everest

Dave Andrews, author of The Oswestry Round, has a new book about his travels, but maybe not walking, from Gobowen to Everest. Poster and flyer attached.

More action required

Peter stated that the walking forums were a sub group of the Local Access Forums. There is a move to make the LAF more pro-active and influential and motivating. All forums take up a lot of officer time. Consequently there is an idea to have walking ambassadors. Barry said the Shropshire Wildlife Trust has tried this idea which was initially successful, but activity for ambassadors has dwindled in the last couple of years.

Everyone thought the forum was useful as it was a good way to meet other people who are interested in walking so an individual does not feel so isolated. It is a good way to share ideas and gain support. Action has come from the forum such as the ploughing and cropping campaign.

Presentation update

Liz presented an update of the current state of the parks and countryside strategy that Clare Fildes had prepared. This is also attached. If you have any queries about anything specific in its contents, please contact Liz who will try to clarify anything.

Next meeting:

Monday 30th January, town hall, Ellesmere, 2pm.

Hall has been booked from 1pm if Trevor wants to meet before to discuss ploughing and cropping campaign.

Shropshire Hills Walking Forum- Meeting notes

Education room, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms.

10 am – 12 noon, Friday 14th October 2016

Attendees: Helen d'Albert, Clare Fildes, Nigel McDonald, Shona Butter, Glyn Roberts, Steve Levers, Mike Beazley, Michael Holland, Charles Edwards, Chris Chillingworth.

Apologies: Ted Laidlar, Peter James, Dick Bailey, Catherine Collier, Alison Caffyn, Val Simpson, David Hardwick, Helen Beresford, Joy Nisbit, Susan Jones, Patrick Edwards, Keith Pybus, Rick Summers, Marion Law.

Welcome and Introductions	Action
<p>Feedback focusing on the 3 priorities identified by members:</p> <p><u>Promoted routes:</u></p> <p>Shropshire Way <i>Clare Fildes</i></p> <p>Public survey completed. 329 responses. 89% agreed main route should be developed. Appears that people were not entirely clear and thought, incorrectly that the plan is to start from fresh with an entirely new route. Most comments mentioned wish to showcase Shropshire across route. Figure of 8 route received most support as promoted main route, so has gone ahead as proposal by Shropshire Way Association (SWA). Details will be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>Issues raised by members at meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about lack of resources and time takes to re-waymark routes, and confusion this may cause. CF reported SWA has taken the mantle to ensure the old WM are taken down and the new ones replaced as timely as possible with P3 help. SW is on the electronic version of the OS mapping system- this route will not be wrong, nor will paper maps and the main linear route will be marked with new markers on the ground.• 'Has OS got the capacity to recognise and differentiate between the old and new routes?' CF- no. We will need to decide whether OS should have the one main route or the SW network.• Need for companion leaflet suggested to help inform tourists to the area about the route and changes. <p>War Walks – feedback and plans.</p>	

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Funding application submitted to Big Lottery for 2 years funding cover. CC reported War walk to be held in May.

MH- path near Stanton Lacy badly overgrown, (Stanton Lacy to Onibury route – no. 10, part of the Ludlow Country Walks leaflets); P3 spent a long time clearing, but it has regrown again. P3 approached Plymouth Estate to ask if they are happy for weed killer to be used, but no response received. MH- reported to OP Maintenance team several months ago as also involves some bridge replacement and culvert work. SB- whole team involved in major resurfacing work elsewhere, she will find out update. MH- concerned not seen a council officer in Ludlow area for months. CF- unfortunately there are smaller numbers in the team to cover the county, but they do the best to come out when they can. Bishop's Castle P3 area thanked officers and Wild Team for their recent help. CF thanked MH for his work together with Ludlow P3 with the Ludlow Country walks leaflets.

SB / MH

Volunteering updates:

SC Volunteer Celebration event: CF- The event was held at Nesscliffe this year, 80 volunteers attended and despite wet weather it was a very enjoyable event, with walks, activities and a folklore talk.

P3 – see update sent out with meeting notes.

Wild Team – Project generally going well across the county groups. There were 14 in the Craven Arms group until recently, but number has dropped to 5, however this is primarily due to positive outcomes as some have moved into work or moved town, and one or two have said they are going to college. Ludlow CMHT and the Foyer send a staff member each. Life Goals have said they will begin to refer people.

Walking for Health (*Helen d'Albert*): see update sent out with meeting notes.

National Trust: PE unable to attend today, but sent update to go out with these notes.

MB- mentioned the national organisation 'Association of Countryside volunteers'. Organisation largely unknown to Forum members.

<http://www.countrysidevolunteers.org.uk/j/>

The aim of the Association is to promote effective and enjoyable work by

Shropshire Hills Walking Forum- Meeting notes

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<p>volunteers throughout the countryside. The Association also aims to complement the work of the countryside volunteer's own "service" by bringing together those of similar interests, enabling information and experience to be shared, and by co-operating with the Authorities in promoting high standards within countryside services. It has reps from all the National Parks, some AONBs (but not the Shropshire Hills), the Woodland Trust, and various wildlife trusts and CVSs.</p> <p>MB is a member and aware there is no representative in South Shropshire – MB happy to put himself forward to represent the area, Forum in agreement.</p> <p>CF- 'Landau', organisation looks at alternatives to day services post school regarding mental and physical health initiatives and working with long term unemployed. They are looking for job coaches; particularly those involved with practical tasks outdoors (paid role £9.60 per hour). CF/HB to email the details to all P3.</p> <p>http://www.landau.co.uk/</p> <p><u>SHDC development as a walking hub - (Charles Edwards):</u></p> <p>2 successful bids EAED – 1. accessible path to Kingfisher corner (work taking place over the winter) 2. wild play area.</p> <p>Development as a walking hub is already in place, it is a gradual and evolving process. KP has led various themed walks. Still exploring funding options for refreshing and reprinting leaflets. CF recommended putting in another funding application to Tesco's plastic bag scheme.</p> <p>CE- school visits going well.</p> <p>GR – would like to explore options for encouraging younger people to enjoy playing in the outdoors in BC area – funding? CF- HB could help investigate funding options.</p> <p>Hd'A- mentioned new pilot project 'Healthy Outdoors for Schools'. Working with three schools, work commenced with Bridgnorth and Clun, supporting with initiatives including setting up the 'Daily Mile' and encouraging families to engage in activities / walks in their local community. Making links with P3, WFH, Parks and sites within this project.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>CF / HB</p> <p>GR / HB</p>
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Shropshire Hills Walking Forum- Meeting notes

Education room, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms.

10 am – 12 noon, Friday 14th October 2016

Other topics:

'Don't lose your way' (*Shona Butter ROW, Mapping and Enforcement Team Manager*):

SL had raised questions about routes that may get lost under the Deregulations Act 2015. Over 5600 km of paths in total. Presentation given by SB – (sent out with meeting notes) and Q&A session.

SB confirmed that the Formal application register is available on the Shropshire Council website under ROW which details where there are already claims for routes.

Concerns raised by Forum - how realistic is it for her team to process and reinstate all these routes? All agree it is not possible with the limited staff and resources. SL – could volunteers assist with the admin? SB – do have some volunteers from RA and horse riders.

MB – are FP's at risk of becoming bridleways and therefore used by bicycles? SB -to have FP's upgraded to Bridleways would need historical /user evidence to support this. FP's can be used by cyclists, but only with the landowner's permission; Long Mynd given as an example.

SL- ORPA's (Other Routes with Public Access) SB explained that in Shropshire these were mainly recorded as Unclassified County roads. There is a layer for County roads on SGO and Council websites. Highways are ultimately responsible for these. CF- wants to put an agreement together to work with Highways for our maintenance team to maintain the unsurfaced routes, with the transfer of funds for this, as feel our staff have the expertise to best achieve this.

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Membership scheme (*Clare Fildes*):

CF- SGO membership scheme is about to be launched. £3 a month. For people who would like to support the work we do with the Parks and sites and ROW outside of the statutory. Plan to set up a charitable organisation. Membership benefits – one of these is free car parking. Charges to be set up at sites that do not already have this in place.

CF- Bringing in funding is a major priority. The income from this is ring fenced for our service.

CE- Who and how will it be decided how the monies generated will be

Shropshire Hills Walking Forum- Meeting notes

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spent and how are the priorities to be set? The priorities for the funding could be set by a restructured LAF. There are discussions underway for the LAF to become the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board to make it a more strategic body and link better with other agendas such as health and the economy. The exact responsibilities of the new Board have yet to be agreed. CE- idea of feeding back periodically what the membership funding has funded over a period of time, demonstrating what has been achieved.

Promotion of Walking Festivals (*Glyn Roberts*):

BC walking festival in 17th year – would like help to promote the festivals for benefit of local walkers, visitors, local community - but does not want to encroach on the toes of other festivals in the county. Local businesses support some Walking Festivals, but BC does not have this opportunity as businesses already provide great support to plenty of other causes and the many other festivals in the local area.

NMcD- Council in process of applying to Defa for funding (£50,000) for a promotion and marketing programme for tourism, (walking festivals are within this theme). Bid due in this month and will run from next year if successful. NMcD explained the process. This will help us to showcase walking in general in Shropshire. GR since extending the duration of the WF, numbers have increase and thus the benefits to local businesses, but evidencing how this has resulted in an increase in jobs would be difficult to show.

Forum asked question: could WAW help coordinate the festivals?
Shropshire Great Outdoors site – could there be a section on WF's?

NMcD reports met recently with VS, and they are trying to keep the momentum built up over the last few years with Shropshire Hills WAW, but finding this difficult. SGO – looking at developing a business network. Useful mechanism as could be linked up with this potentially to help support the WF's etc?

NMcD- there are lots of ways that we can link networks in to help support WF's etc. – websites / Facebook etc. need to be linked in some way. At present each is limited as they are reliant on local festivals sending items to all the websites. Recommended SGO / Virtual Shropshire and Shropshire Hills Tourism are the primary ones to promote WF through. NMcD would like to see people come together from all the walking

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festivals across the county to help provide mutual support.

CF- to speak to Mick Dunn about arranging a meeting with all those involved in WF's in the county to discuss issues and ideas. Idea suggested of having a Shropshire Walking Festival, as a whole with these taking place on different dates across the county?

CF/ MD

AONB: *(Nigel McDonald)*

Independence of becoming a conservation board is in process- it has been put forward and they have been told that the outcome will be positive but they are awaiting ratification. Discussions to take place with Defra as to how this will work. Case to be put to Defra at the end of November, then if positive response from Defra the legal process will then commence. N.B since the meeting NMcD reported T&W approved AONB Conservation Board unanimously on 13.10.16 and case was to go to SC cabinet the following week.

AOB & reminder of next forum meeting date:

SB – Annual ploughing and cropping campaign –persistent offenders and landowners/occupiers who have had reports of cropping or ploughing within the last year receive a letter. Results of the 2016 campaign revealed that the majority were in the North of the county. Out of over 120 initial letters, 89 were in the north of the county and following additional correspondence this resulted in 63 landowners complying and reinstating their Public Rights of Way. Overall this has been a successful campaign. Land ownership information found to not be wholly up to date- working on this for next year-so hoping to build on this success next year. The landowner guidance leaflet has been sent out with these letters to help reinforce landowner's responsibilities. To report a complaint- do as normal either via the outdoor rec generic email address or via the Council's website.

GR- 'Countryfile - Children in Need' walk 2 hour walk this Sunday in BC- 20 people came with wide age range - £115 raised through donations. Can we promote this as a county next year?

CF- Department's strategic documents are now on the SGO website for all to look at what the Outdoor Partnerships Service have been doing:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-recreation/strategic-documents-for-outdoor-recreation/>

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NMcD- requested shuttle buses and Carding Mill valley are put on next meeting's agenda.

Date for next meeting agreed as 3rd Feb. 2017; venue TBC.

Hd'A

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