

Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2pm, Friday 19th August 2016

The Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

Attendees:

John Newnham (Chair)	Shrewsbury Ramblers	john.newnham@btinternet.com
Audrey Menhinick	Shrewsbury Ramblers	audreymenhinick@yahoo.co.uk
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
Mick Dunn	Outdoor Partnerships	mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk
David Hardwick	Outdoor Partnerships	david.hardwick@shropshire.gov.uk

Apologies:

Helen Beresford
Clare Fildes
Dick Bailey

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)

7 people have attended the Discovering Lost Ways training. The training was very worthwhile but it is not going to be an easy task. A lot of research and time will be required. JN will lead with taking the project forward.

4. Volunteering

a. P3 (HB) – Volunteer hours currently stand at 2477 for the year so far which is £16,650 in equivalent contractor costs. New groups are being started in Tilstock and Hinstock. Shropshire Way main route consultation has been launched. Everyone is encouraged to fill it in. the deadline is Sunday 16th Sep 2016. This year's Volunteer Celebration takes place on Monday 26th September at Nesscliffe. If you would like to attend could you please let Helen Beresford know on Helen.beresford@shropshire.gov.uk

c. Walking for Health - (MD) 18 new Volunteer Walk leaders were trained in July. The next Volunteer Walk leaders course will take place on Fr 07th Oct 2016. We have also trained 6 people as sighted guides to assist blind or sight impaired walkers. Another course will take place in Oct. The Ramblers "Walk About" festival will take place between the 3rd & 11th Sep 2016. <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/walkabout.aspx>

5. Ploughing and Cropping (MD) – In March over 120 letters were sent out to landowners where P&C issues had been identified in the past.

The breakdown of letters by area were:

Oswestry/N Shropshire	= 61%
South Shropshire & Bridgnorth (N&E)	= 20%
Shrews & Atcham & Bridgnorth (S)	= 18%

Results from first letters, following land owner feedback and/or inspections:

Routes not cropped in 2016	= 18%
Routes Cleared and reinstated	= 21%
Routes partially or inadequately reinstated	= 11%
Routes not Reinstated	= 45%

In May further letters sent to those who had failed in their obligations and were followed up by inspections in June/July. Legal notice has been served on 6 landowners. Immediate remedial action was taken by 5 landowners. The campaign is ongoing and it is anticipated that further legal notices will need to be served.

6. **Shropshire Way Circular Route (AM)** – The Shropshire Way Association is now a constituted body. They are looking to raise £2000 through donations for way marking the new route and also looking a potential funding from HF Holidays and Meres and Mosses LPC. A public consultation is now open (closes 18th Sep) <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/shropshire-way/> looking at the 4 possible routes.

7. Other Updates

- a. Urban Green spaces have now been taken over by Environmental Maintenance – some handover going on. Town and Parish Councils are being approached to see if they would like to take on their Green Spaces.
- b. Shropshire Outdoor Contracting and Consulting – web pages/promotional literature are being produced.
- c. Ongoing development of the Big Lottery bid for Healthy Shropshire Outdoors. Piloting work with schools, workplaces and probation service.
- d. Severn Way development – bid to EU being considered. Expression of interest is due in September. Another meeting is to be arranged soon.
- e. Shropshire Great Outdoors membership scheme due to be launched in September.
- f. Public Health report is attached.

8. Group Updates

- a. **(BC)** Wellington Walkers are Welcome & Walkabout Wrekin – Very busy promoting the Wellington Walking festival <http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html> 12th - 18th Sep including a display in the Princes Royal Hospital promoting the festival and Walk About Wrekin. Path maintenance work continues concentrating on clearing overgrowth at the moment. Project being developed to improve the paths in Lime Kiln wood. A working group is being set up by the LAF.
- b. **(JN)** Shrewsbury Ramblers – WaW status for Shrewsbury is progressing slowly and being led by Shrewsbury Tourism. Mike Connor filling in Draft Application, **(BC)** has offered advise based on experience of wellington WaW application. Shrewsbury RA are putting up a display in the library advertising the festival of walks 3-11 Sep <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/walkabout.aspx> . Shrewsbury Ramblers will be having two weeks away next year in May and October which will be organised by a subcommittee.

9. AOB

MD – Much Wenlock Walking weekend taking place 9th – 12 Sep <http://www.muchwenlockwalkers.org.uk>
DH – Severn Wonders of the Shropshire hills walk takes place in Minsterley on Sun 4th Sep.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Fri 18th November 2016. 2pm – 4pm. Shirehall Shrewsbury