

NOTES FROM NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM

MONDAY 25th JULY 2016

Present: Trevor Allison(Ramblers), Peter Carr (Ramblers), Mark Cuthbert-Brown(Kinnerley P3), Tony Eccleston (Wem Walkers), Liz Evans(W4H), Jane Ing (Myddle P3), Ian McKenzie (Kinnerley P3), Ann Moore (Whitchurch Walkers), Neil Moore (Whitchurch Walkers), Harvey Morgan (ROW maintenance), Barrie Stephens (W4H Oswestry), Kevin Sutherland (Hinstock P3).

Apologies

Shirley Pemberton, Clare Fildes.

From the last meeting

No issues raised.

Ploughing and cropping

Cropping Campaign

Trevor reported that 90 sections have been looked in north Shropshire, and almost half are now walkable, although this does not mean in good condition. Main problem is maize and oil seed rape.

90 identified landowners received 1st letters to remind them of their responsibilities.

40 identified landowners required 2nd letters with slightly stronger wording

The number of people receiving 3rd letters giving notification of action is still to be determined.

Paths that have been unavailable in the past are now walkable.

Whilst carrying out this exercise, new problems have been found and will be targeted next year.

This has felt to be a partial success overall and he hopes next year will be better.

There was a brief discussion about a new type of electric fence being used to keep rabbits out, but no conclusion to this.

Neil said he had noticed isolated cases of improvements in local footpaths.

Peter said if people report footpath issues this year, they will be highlighted in next year's campaign.

He added that if volunteers are trained to report issues properly with precise locations and pictures etc, officers will only need to go out to inspect regarding the 3rd letter.

Promotion of volunteering

Volunteer Day

This year's volunteer day is on Monday 26th September at Nescliffe village hall.

If anyone has ideas for activities please let Liz or Helen Beresford know.

Mark is going to contact the army camp to see if they will do a guided walk for us, or even provide an activity.

Liz is going to contact Brisbourne geese farm to see if they will allow us access to Nesscliffe from the village hall.

Walking for Health

The next volunteer walk leader's course is on Friday 7th October in Shirehall. Please contact Liz if you would like to come.

The walks in north Shropshire continue to do well with the exception of Oswestry.

P3

Peter was pleased to report that he re-visited a kissing gate he had recently installed, and found a man who was very happy as he had not been able to access the field for years as he could not negotiate the stile.

Walkers are Welcome

Peter reported Oswald's Trail has 700 downloads per month.

Liz to contact the town clerk to arrange a meeting to try to find support for walking in Oswestry.

Neil said the walking festival will be 12th to 14 May next year. A new venue is required as the Cock and Greyhound do not wish to host it again. He also mentioned they have more members now as a result of the festival.

Everyone agreed it would be good to get more businesses on board, but not sure how to do this.

Peter said there is a national walking festival in September, details here:

<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/walkabout>

Oswestry Ramblers will incorporate their usual walks into this.

Development and promotion of routes and economic value of walking

Shropshire Way update

This now has a constitution and steering committee, including a Chair, Treasurer etc. and is formally in existence. There are 4 possible routes which are going out to consultation.

A budget of £11,800 has been established, with a gift of £2,000 already. Peter is liaising with Ramblers Holidays and the Meres and Mosses for funding. This budget includes £3,000 for new furniture, £600 for interpretation boards, website updates and a handbook. The next meeting is September 20th.

Henry V Pilgrimage update

Trevor and Jane reported this was a lovely occasion and went well, and Henry V seems to have been forgiven following him removing his outer garments and dipping into the Holy Well.

Trevor said the only issue along this route was a very boggy area around Montford Bridge. Once it was established this was not the river, he and Harvey will have future discussions as to what can be done.

AOB

None

Date of next meeting – Monday 24th October, 2pm, Ellesmere Town Hall.