

# NOTES FROM NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM

## MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> January, town hall, Ellesmere, 2pm.

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

