

Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2 pm, Wednesday 16th July 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
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
David Morgan David Morgan, Longden P3 davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk
Susan Daykin, Marden Walking for Health susanedaykin@gmail.com
Jerry Lawson, Ramblers gerald12@tiscali.co.uk

Apologies:

Mike Brooks
Jim Stabler
Bob Coalbran

1. Welcome & Introductions

Clare Fildes opened the meeting. Clare introduced herself to the forum and explained that she will soon be taking over from Jim Stabler as Outdoor Partnership Development Team Leader.

2. Feedback/Action from Previous meeting

- a. Information Panel at Upper Lyth Hill car Park: David Morgan informed the group that due to negative feedback from local residents the idea for installing an information panel at Upper Lyth Hill car park has been put on hold and will not happen in the near future.
- b. Map Reading Training for Shrewsbury Ramblers: Mick Dunn organised map reading training for Members of the Shrewsbury Ramblers. 15 Ramblers took part in the training. John Newnham thanked Mick on behalf of the Shrewsbury Ramblers and stated that the training had been very well received.
- c. Establishing a Stiperstones P3 Group: David Hardwick and Geoff Sproson were not in attendance. If not already done David is requested to contact Geoff to discuss the matter.
- d. Stiperstones memorial walk: Mick Dunn is organising a meeting with Geoff to assist in taking the project forward.
- e. Get Walking Week Posters: Mick Dunn produced "Get Walking Week" posters advertising the Shrewsbury Ramblers and Walking for Health walks taking place during get walking week.
- f. Presidents Award – "20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury": John Newnham informed the Group that Shrewsbury Ramblers had won the "Best Team Achievement" award in recognition for the groups hard work in producing the "20

Walks in and around Shrewsbury” guide book, Waymarking and maintaining the walks. John also informed the forum that sales of the guide had been extremely successful and another 1500 copies are being printed.

3. Group Updates

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

- a. *Bob Coalbran* – Wellington walkers are welcome & Walk about Wrekin: Unfortunately Bob could not attend the meeting but provided the following update. The Wrekin Spring Gathering Thursday 20th March 2014 - Representatives from all local Walkers are Welcome towns, and from towns and villages planning to join the network or to organise a walking festival attended this day. The day combined workshops and a walk plus an optional evening meal. Most of the day was at the Buckatree Hall hotel, with tea in the King Street Cafe in Wellington. The day was very successful.
- b. *John Newnham* – Shrewsbury Ramblers: John updated the group on the following points:
 - i. John and Audrey Menhinick led the first of the “War Walks on the Home Front” on 26th June. Despite being a wet day the walk entitled “Boots Blessed with Gold” was well attended. An interpretation panel depicting the walk was also unveiled.
 - ii. Hillary Proctor and Steve Lowe who organised the Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 group and were regular attendees of the walking forum are shortly leaving the county. A new volunteer has been identified to continue the work of the P3 group. The walking forum would like to pass on their thanks to Steve and Hilary for all their hard work over the years and wish them our best wishes for their future adventures.
 - iii. Get Walking Week. Daniel Kawczynski MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham joined the Shrewsbury Ramblers for a walk on Sat 3rd May to launch Get Walking Week 2014. The walks were very well attended but mainly by existing Ramblers members.
 - iv. Shrewsbury Music Festival. John Jones who is lead singer of the Oyster Band and president of the Powys area Ramblers will be playing at this year’s Shrewsbury Folk Festival www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk John has established a custom of walking between gigs with fellow band members and those wishing to tag along. This year’s walk, known as the Patrons walk, will start from his home in Presiteigne through the beautiful border landscape to the Shrewsbury Festival. The walk takes place over 3 days (20th, 21st and 22nd August) full details of the walk and how to join can be found at: <http://j-rr.org/shrewsbury-festival-the-patrons-walk/>
 - v. 20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury. Due to stocks running low another 1500 copies of the popular 20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury have been printed bringing the total copies to 4,000. Copies of the book can be purchased for £4.99 from the TIC or online at: <http://shropshireramblers.org.uk/shropshire/shrewsbury/index.php>

- c. *Dick Bailey* – Much Wenlock Walkers are Welcome & Walking for Health:
 - i. Walking for Health is continues to do well in Much Wenlock with 78 walkers attending Mondays walk (14th July). *Clare spoke on the economic impact from walking on local communities and business in regards to LEADER funding.
 - ii. Planning and organisation has begun for the Much Wenlock Walking weekend which will take place from the 5th – 8th Sep 2014. Details of the walking weekend can be found at: <http://www.muchwenlockguide.info/news/much-wenlock-walking-weekend.shtml>
 - iii. There will be a WW1 walk taking place in Much Wenlock commemorating the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
 - iv. Organising a sponsored walk for the local hospice on 5th October 2014.
 - v. Has joined “The Walking Partnership”. Members of which can claim funding for their group each time a member books a holiday with Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. <http://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/page/thewalkingpartnership>
 - vi. Dick thanked the local P3 group for their continued hard work in clearing and maintaining the paths around Much Wenlock.
- d. *Trevor Allison* – Ramblers Association:
 - i. Trevor is nearing the end of his project and has covered over 4900 miles and has noticed that overgrowth is particularly bad this year resulting in a number of paths being obstructed which would normally be ok.
 - ii. Trevor continues to assist Shropshire Council sifting through planning applications which may affect PROWs. *Bill Hodges asked about the current procedure for checking planning applications. Action – Mick Dunn to feed back at next meeting
- e. *Bill Hodges* – Ramblers Association: Bill spoke about the Ramblers Rail Rambles group. Details of which can be found at: <http://www.railrambles.com/>
- f. *David Morgan* – Longden P3: The group have been quiet lately with only 2 or 3 jobs done (Gate installation and strimming)
- g. *Susan Daykin* – Marden Walking for Health: The Marden Walking for Health group continue to do well and now have 2 people trained as Dementia Friends.
- h. *Jerry Lawson* – Ramblers: Jerry has been away for a while and has lost touch with who in Outdoor Partnerships are responsible for which areas. Action – Mick Dunn to provide updated lists of the new team Structure

4. Walking Coordinator Updates

- a. Get Walking Week – The Walking for Health led walks during Get Walking week were well attended however most people attending were already walking with the wfh scheme.
- b. Walking Festivals

- i. Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival May **14** - Over 460 walkers attended another very successful festival which clocked up over 4600 miles of walking. www.visitironbridge.co.uk/walkingfestival
- ii. Wellington Walking Festival – Bob Coalbran reported that the Wellington Walking Festival was very successful although no figures will be available until after the next festival meeting. www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html
- c. Pontesford Hill Inquiry – A public inquiry to add two footpaths on Pontesford Hill is to be held at Pontesbury Village Hall on Tuesday 11 Nov 2014 at 10.00am. the two paths in question are:
 - i. From car park, over Lower Camp then climbing through the forest following line of old larches, over Pontesford Hill to stile boundary with Nature Reserve.
 - ii. From car park following forestry track past lower camp and along the western flank of the hill.

Anyone may submit a statement/representation to the Planning Inspectorate the deadline for which is 28th August 2014. If any individual would like to submit evidence of use it must be pre 1990.

Footpath 0431/UN11/1 and 0431/UN12/1 on Earls Hill were added to the definitive map in March 2014
- d. Wrekin ROW – Applications to upgrade footpaths 0442/18Z/1 and 0442/18/1 to bridleways have been submitted. There have also been applications made to claim routes from Spot Lane Plantation to Spout Lane Farm and from Spout Lane Plantation through May Plantation to the Road.
- e. Dates for Diaries:
 - i. Carding Mill Valley and Shropshire Hills National Trust guided walks: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carding-mill-valley-and-shropshire-hills/things-to-see-and-do/events/
 A walk through the heather – 19th August 2014
 Long Mynd skyline – 10th October 2014
 Over the Edge – 19th October 2014
 - ii. Wenlock Olympian Walk 19th July 2014: www.marchesgroupdwa.eu/wow/
 - iii. Stomp the Stiperstones 9th Aug 2014: stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk
 - iv. Bishops Castle Challenge Walk 16th Aug 2014: www.bcchallengewalk.co.uk
 - v. Much Wenlock Walking Weekend 5th-8th Sep 2014: www.muchwenlockguide.info/news/much-wenlock-walking-weekend.shtml
 - vi. Seven Wonders of the Oswestry Hills 7th Sep 2014: www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2014/07/03/seven-wonders-oswestry-hills?instance=0
 - vii. Telford Trail 11-14th Sep 2014: www.madeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/home/

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

- a. Walking With Offa and the Irresistible Offa
<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/things-to-do/walking/walking-with-offa/>
- b. Landscape Partnership Schemes
 Meres and Mosses LPS <http://www.themeressandmosses.co.uk/>
 Stiperstones and Corndon Hill LPS <http://www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk/>

- c. Pontesbury Walk Leaflets: The pontesbury walk leaflets are nearly finished and will soon be at the printers.
- d. Volunteer Focus Groups. Clare spoke about forming Volunteer Focus groups to identify the needs and better ways of working with Volunteers and Volunteer Groups.
- e. WW1 Walks. An update on the WW1 walks will be attached to the notes of the meeting.
- f. LEADER funding: Clare explained that LEADER is a locally delivered European funding programme for rural development. The purpose of which is to improve the economic wellbeing of the area through sustainable development, drawing on the area's environment and cultural assets and qualities. More information about leader and examples of projects can be found at:
<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/leader/>

7. AOB

8. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 29th October. Community Hall 1.
The Lantern, Meadow Farm Dr, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 4NG

Attachments – The following have been attached to these notes.

- a. Results of the 2013/14 Outdoor Recreation on line survey
- b. Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Service Structure May 2014 *
- c. Map of Maintenance Officers Areas
- d. Map of Mapping and Enforcement Officers Areas *
- e. WW1 walks update

* Please note that Mat Stephens has now left the Council. His work load is currently being picked up by the remaining Mapping and Enforcement Officers