



Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2 pm, Wednesday 29th Oct 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
David Hardwick, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership david.hardwick@shropshire.gov.uk
Bob Coalbran, Wellington WaW and WfH bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com
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
Susan Daykin, Marden Walking for Health susanedaykin@gmail.com
Brian Dale-Patteson, RA & U3A rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk
Russell Collard, Condover P3 russellcollard101@hotmail.com

Apologies:

Mike Brooks
Barbara Martin

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Clare Fildes opened the meeting at 1400hrs.

2. **Feedback/Action from Previous meeting**

a. Procedure for checking planning applications involving ROWs: Mick Dunn explained to the forum that all planning applications are passed to the central validation team, any Planning application potentially affecting or near to a ROW is passed to the Outdoor Partnership Team for comments.

3. **Group Updates**

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

a. **Bob Coalbran** (Walkabout Wrekin & Wellington WaW) – Walkabout Wrekin is doing very well and is now run and organised by a volunteer committee. Wellington WaW are focusing on path maintenance and fixing reported issues. They are also looking at route 16 & 17 of the Shropshire way. Action: David Hardwick is requested to liaise with Bob and identify training opportunities which the Wellington WaW footpath group could utilise.

b. **John Newnham** (Shrewsbury Ramblers) - Daniel Kawczynski (MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham) was supposed to join the Shrewsbury Ramblers for a walk on the 6th Sep but unfortunately was unable to attend. The walk was to highlight

issues on the development of green field sites. They were joined by 3 local councillors who were able to see the great work carried out by the Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 Group. The "20 walks in and around Shrewsbury" book has recently been reprinted. Sales of the guide book have now covered the cost of printing, benches and interpretation panels. The Shrewsbury Ramblers AGM will take place on the 13th November. There will be a guest speaker from Cotswolds Outdoor in attendance.

c. **Dick Bailey** (Much Wenlock Walking for Health & WaW) – WfH in Much Wenlock continues to have excellent numbers with 60-70 walkers attending each week. The MW walking weekend held in September was very well attended. Next year's walking weekend will take place between the 4-8 Sept 2015. There was a recent recruitment drive for the P3 group which is now functioning well and the local paths are in good order. A sponsored walk was held recently and raised over £300 for the local hospice. The MW walkers will have a stand at the health promotion day in MW on the 8th November promoting walking in the local area.

d. **Trevor Allison** - Trevor has now completed over 5200km of his project.

e. **Bill Hodges** – Bill has continued to survey paths in various Parishes and raised concerns over ploughing and cropping and issues have been reported to Shona Butter. Bill also discussed the process for planning applications.

f. **Susan Daykin** (Marden Walking for Health) – The group had a recent away trip to Chester which was very well attended. Numbers for the group's regular walks remain very good.

g. **Russell Collard** (Condover P3) – Russell informed the group that most of the furniture in the Condover area is in good order. The P3 group will be concentrating their efforts to ensure paths remain walkable. Action: Mick to speak to Russell about the possibility of setting up a walking group in Condover in the New Year.

h. **David Hardwick** (Maintenance Team) – David explained that we now have some very active P3 groups in the central area. There will be a new group starting in Uffington soon. Efforts to recruit new P3 members and groups continue.

i. **Brian Dale-Patteson** (RA, U3A) – Brian explained to the forum that he walks and leads walks with a number of groups and cannot stress enough the importance of group walking to foster good relations and friendships.

4. Walking Coordinator Updates

a. Highways Act Section 31 (6) statutory declarations. The forum discussed section 31 (6) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/31>. If anyone has any issues or further questions reference Statutory declarations could they please direct them to Shona Butter shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk who will be happy to advise.

b. Policy for replacing stiles with gates: It is Outdoor Partnerships policy, where possible, to replace stiles with wicket or kissing gates. This often requires consultation with landowners who need to agree to a stile being replaced with a gate.

c. As requested by John Newnham, Mick Dunn will produce a poster/information on local walking groups to be held in the library/tourist information. Action: Mick Dunn

d. Walking for Life Routes: The WfL series of walks are being updated and will be available as downloads in the New Year. It is hoped to have a number of new routes included.

e. Emily Harrison has now taken over as the ROW officer for Oswestry and North Shropshire.

f. Outdoor Partnership User Survey – 2014/15. The annual user survey has been launched and can be found at <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/outdoor-partnerships-annual-public-survey-2014-15/> attendees are requested to circulate the details to their members. The results from the survey are very important and allow the department to identify priorities for next year.

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

a. Volunteer Development – 5 Volunteer forums have been conducted across the county resulting in the following objectives being recognised as priorities for the future:

- To increase the number of volunteers involved in existing groups.
- To increase the number of new groups, especially P3.
- To promote volunteer opportunities better and more effectively, in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.
- To increase the number of young people involved in Outdoor Partnerships volunteering.
- To increase self-supervised volunteering activity, with appropriate paperwork, training and equipment.
- To develop a number of “A teams” of volunteers who can be called on to tackle more complex jobs.
- To increase business involvement through corporate volunteering.

b. New website:

- Replace www.shropshirewalking.co.uk and www.shropshireriding.co.uk with a new map based website including this information and also to include leisure cycling (with relevant information taken from www.travelshropshire.co.uk)
- The website should also include information about Shropshire Council managed parks and greenspace sites and play areas, public RoW, walking for health and volunteering opportunities with the service.
- Link to Shropshire Hills AONB website: www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk , Healthy Shropshire www.healthyshropshire.co.uk , and Walking for Health www.walkingforhealth.org.uk
- Secure the URL www.shropshireoutdoors.co.uk
- Mapping will be provided by Shropshire Council in a similar way to the mapping on the council’s website: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/maps/default.htm> this is based on OS mapping and the council has its own licence.

c. New promotional campaign:

- Display equipment for events.
- Annual event and awards ceremony.

- Formalise paperwork and process with role descriptions.
- d. Outdoor Partnership update
- Simon Brown, new development officer – Shropshire Wild Teams
 - Further cuts across the service – savings in Parks and Greenspace management.
 - Changes to the Mere and SVCP
 - Development of contracting service.
 - Helen Beresford – new development officer.
 - Shropshire Walkers are welcome leaflet.

6. AOB

7. Date of next meeting:

Wed 18th Feb 2015, Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall Shrewsbury 1400-1600