



# **Central Shropshire Walking Forum**

## **Workshop on local priorities**

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

# Central Shropshire Walking Forum

- Background
- Context:
  - Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships
  - Countryside Access Strategy
  - Shrewsbury Tourism Strategy
- Summary of challenges
- Proposals for development
- Workshops



# Background- Walking Forum Terms of Reference

## VISION:

Develop and improve the walking infrastructure and opportunities in the Shropshire countryside

## AIMS:

1. To represent and improve all forms of walking for everyone
2. To support the legally-protected Rights of Way network and help to make sure it is well maintained
3. To develop and promote walking
4. To support and encourage walking for the promotion of health and wellbeing within the county
5. To reduce car use
6. To provide feedback to the LAF (Local Access Forum)

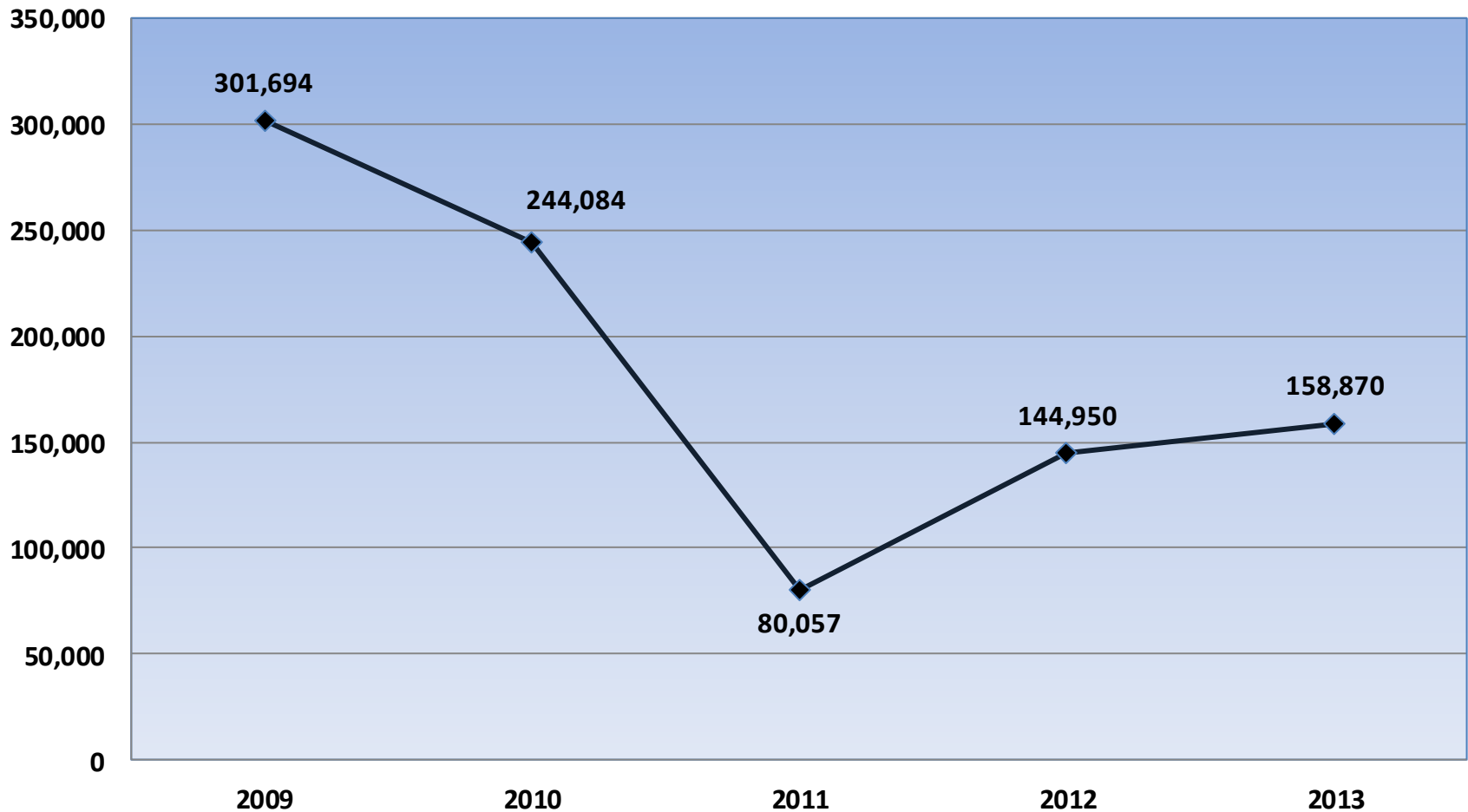


# Context

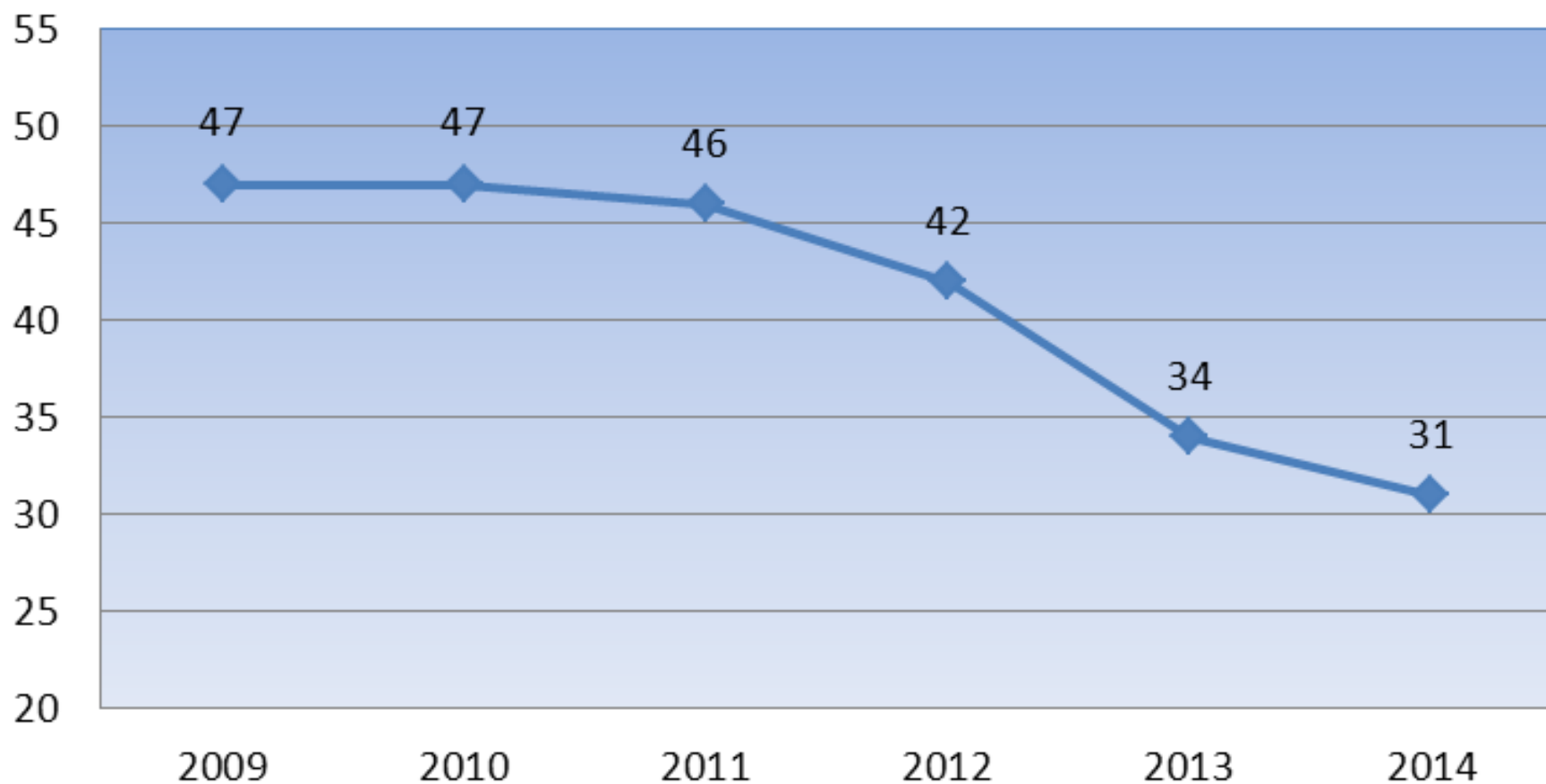
- Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships:
  - RoW
  - Mapping and enforcement
  - Parks and greenspaces
  - Development- Shropshire Wild Teams, P3, Volunteer Rangers
  - Hosts the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
- Government Policy
  - Public sector cuts
  - Focus on economic regeneration
  - Localism agenda



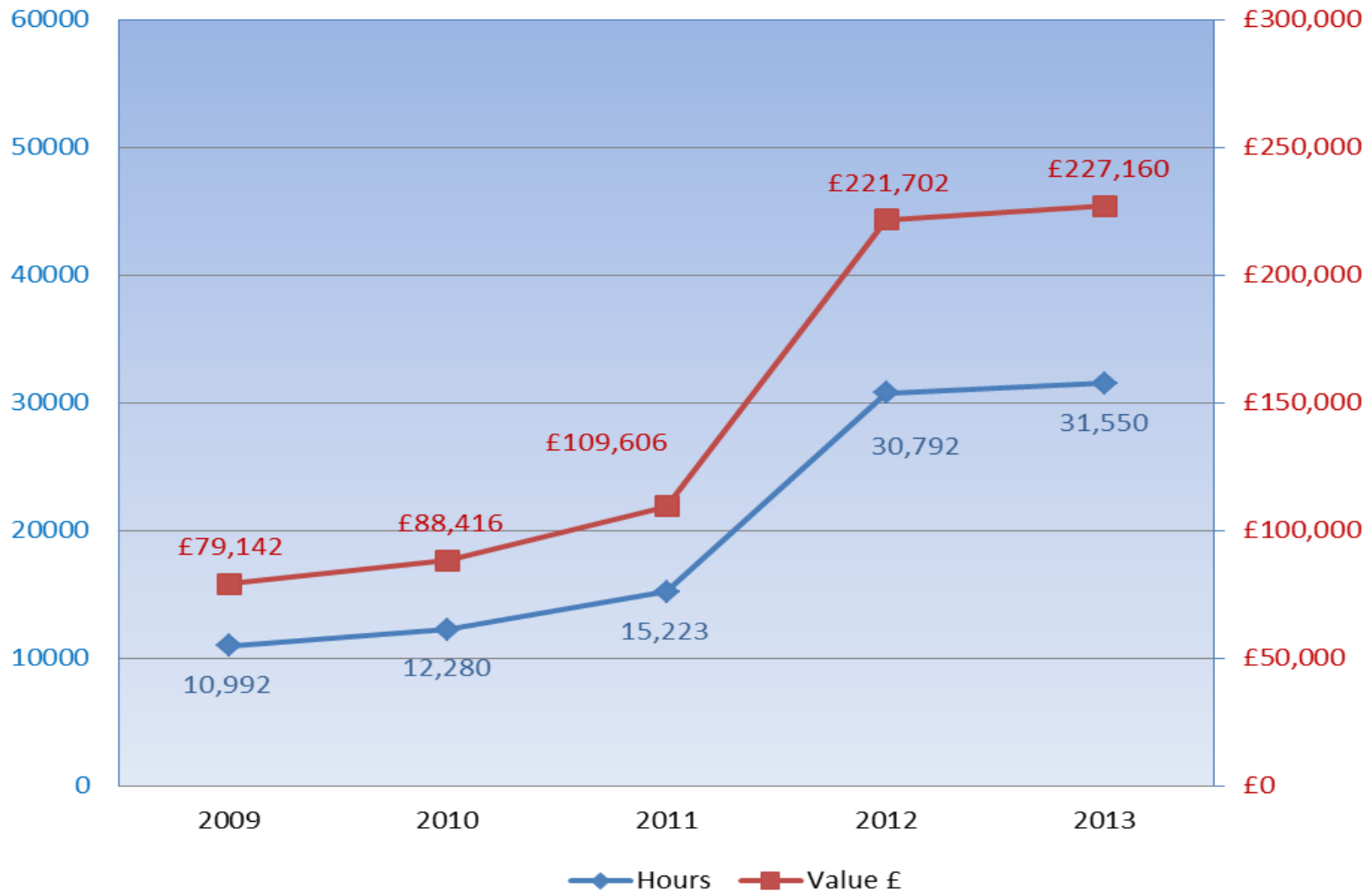
## Funding available for RoW maintenance and improvements



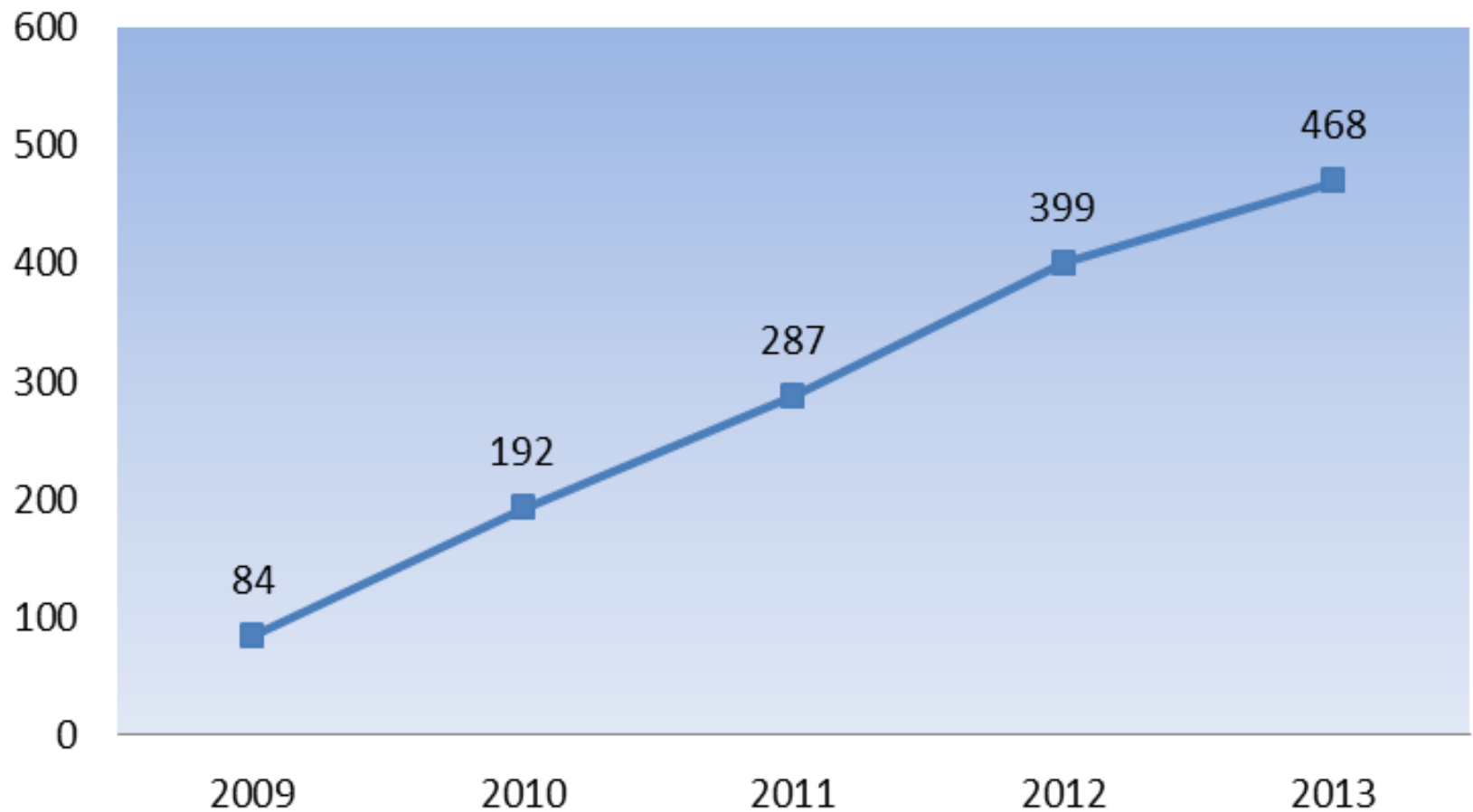
## Manpower levels in Outdoor Recreation



## Total hours worked by Volunteers and the Value of the Work



### Accumulative number of stiles being replaced by gates





# **Countryside Access Strategy Review. Priorities for 2014-18**

- User Forums
- Establish local RoW priorities
- Work in partnership
- Support new and existing P3
- Increase active volunteering, including corporate
- Activities for young people e.g. John Muir Award, Youth Rangers
- Shropshire Wild Teams
- Improve accessibility for all
- Promote walking as a way of getting around
- Shropshire's Great Outdoors website
- Walkers Are Welcome

# Shrewsbury Visitor Economy Strategy

- Expand upon and deliver our unique visitor experience- historic town, boutique retailing, river loop, in the heart of Shropshire
- Increase income to Shrewsbury from the visitor economy
- Develop Shrewsbury as a quintessentially English historic town that is nationally recognised as a visitor destination

## Other initiatives

- Walkers Are Welcome- Much Wenlock, Wellington, Ironbridge
- Walking Festivals and events
- Walking for Health
- Big Pathwatch
- Volunteer Rangers
- Heritage Open Days
- Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country LPS
- Pontesford Hill
- Shropshire Wild Teams
- Montgomeryshire Canal
- Neighbourhood Planning
- John Muir Award
- Youth Rangers



# Challenges

- Declining resources
- Communication locally and countywide
- Setting local priorities in a coherent geography
- Enjoyment of outdoors generally
- Making sure it is worthwhile
- Effective delivery of priorities
- Easy to focus on what can't be done



# Proposals for development

- Co-ordinated approach with partners
- Development of volunteering
- Better communication
- Agreed local priorities
- Walking plus
- Focus on 2-3 positive, achievable actions
- Economic benefits



# Workshop

2 groups considering local priorities for action:

- Listed on flip chart paper
- Everyone has 3 coloured dots to allocate to top three priorities

