

## Central Shropshire Walking Forum

### Notes of Meeting

2.00pm, Wednesday 21<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

#### Attendees:

Bob Coalbran, Wellington Walkers are Welcome [bywrekin-bob@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bywrekin-bob@yahoo.co.uk)  
Mick Dunn, Walking Coordinator [mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk)  
Mike Brooks, Shrewsbury U3A [mbrooks38@btinternet.com](mailto:mbrooks38@btinternet.com)  
Shona Butter, Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader [shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk)  
Dick Bailey, Much Wenlock WaW & Walking for Health [gdickson.bailey@virgin.net](mailto:gdickson.bailey@virgin.net)  
Bill Hodges, Shrewsbury Ramblers [vibill@phonecoop.coop](mailto:vibill@phonecoop.coop)  
John Newnham, Shrewsbury Ramblers [john.newnham@btinternet.com](mailto:john.newnham@btinternet.com)  
Brian Dale-Patterson, Shrewsbury Ramblers [rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk)  
Hilary Proctor, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 [hilandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:hilandsteve@gmail.com)  
Steve Lowe, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 [hilandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:hilandsteve@gmail.com)  
Susan Daykin, Marden Walking for Health [susanedaykin@gmail.com](mailto:susanedaykin@gmail.com)  
Trevor Allison, Ramblers [eta-06@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eta-06@tiscali.co.uk)  
Tim Simmons, Outdoor Recreation [tim.simmons@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.simmons@shropshire.gov.uk)

#### Apologies:

Jim Stabler  
Tony Wrighton  
Les Orrin  
Barbara Martin  
Rob Sharrock  
Tim Parker

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mick Dunn opened the meeting and thanked all those who were able to attend. MD also introduced Tim Simmonds who has recently taken the position of Countryside Recreation Officer replacing Pete Atkinson.

#### **2. Feedback from Previous meeting**

No other points raised.

#### **3. Group Updates**

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

*John Newnham – Shrewsbury Ramblers:* Work is continuing to waymark the walks featured in the walking guide “20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury” which has been produced by Shrewsbury Ramblers. Thanks were expressed to Hilary & Steve and the Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 group as well as David Hardwick for their work improving furniture on the routes. Shrewsbury Ramblers have a list of volunteers who have “adopted” a route and will walk it at least twice a year and report any problems. Mick Dunn also reported that a number ladies from the WfH scheme in Shrewsbury had purchased the walking guide and had found it excellently written and had given them the confidence to explore new walks.

*Mike Brooks – Shrewsbury U3A:* Shrewsbury U3A now have 6 walking groups of varying length. Walks are fairly widespread across the county and are proving very popular and sometimes oversubscribed. Hoping to organise navigation training in October with MD.

Action – Mick Dunn to liaise with Mike and fix a date for Nav training in Oct

*Steve Lowe – Shrewsbury Ramblers P3:* The group have been busy replacing stiles and installing bridges (for the first time). 90% of the paths in the 5 Parishes they look after have been walked. The group are looking to pick up work outside their area with David Hardwick.

*Dick Bailey – Much Wenlock WfH & Walkers are Welcome:* Much Wenlock WfH group continues to flourish. There is a hard-core of regular walkers and a steady stream of newcomers. Much Wenlock WaW continues to work with the other WaW towns especially those in the Shropshire Hills AONB. The Much Wenlock Walking weekend is taking place during the 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Sep 2013. Flyers were available at the meeting.

*Bob Coalbran – Wellington Walkers are Welcome & Walkabout Wrekin:* Wellington Walking Festival in July went very well, with lots of positive feedback. Planning another walking festival for next year. Wellington Walkers are Welcome had a stall in the Market place and at the Wellington Festival promoting local walks and walking opportunity's. The future of the Walkabout Wrekin (WfH scheme) looks more promising. Telford Senior Citizens Forum and Age UK have taken on the administration of Walkabout Wrekin until Jan 2014. Bids for financial support have been submitted to secure the future of Walkabout Wrekin.

*Susan Daykin – Marden Walking for Health:* The Marden WfH group is regularly attracting new walkers. The work done on the footpath down to the Reabrook has been well received by walkers and is now much easier to navigate, however there is a problem with "run off" after heavy rain which is washing away parts of the surface.

Action – Tim Simmons to feedback to Paul Butter ref the above issue and the concrete between the bridges.

Susan is also hoping to start a new regular health walk at Attingham Park. Details and Times TBC. Mick Dunn also added the Age UK are hoping to start a new health walk in Shrewsbury in Oct and 2 of their staff are attending the next Volunteer Walk Leader Training course.

*Trevor Allison – Ramblers Association:* No updates as yet but Trevor informed the forum he has 4 Parishes to complete in the Shrewsbury and Atcham area.

*Tim Simmons – Outdoor Recreation:* Tim gave a general introduction and explained his new role giving a quick update on P3, annual maintenances clearance and the work being carried out at Eardington Quarry to provide extra access and conservation.

Tim has also earmarked a potential paths warden for Bridgnorth.

*Tim Parker – Condoover P3:* The P3 group have had a technical blip recently (trimmer blew up) They now have a new one ! Path next to Bomere lahe was cleared 2 weeks ago & paths near Smethcott done this week. Paths to the rear of Lyth hill planned to be done before the end of September. The P3 group are also hosting some Parish Walks and all are welcome to attend.

#### 4. **Permissive Paths**

Shona Butter spoke to the forum about permissive paths; the following main points were discussed:

- a. Many of our permissive paths are on long distance promoted routes such as Shropshire Way, Jack Myton Way and Ride UK routes.
- b. Maintenance and signage responsibilities on permissive paths.
- c. Landowners can give notice to remove permissive paths
- d. There is no easily accessible definitive list of Permissive Paths in Shropshire which can be accessed by the public. Only the Permissive Paths we know about are on the Council GIS system.
- e. There is no list of permissive paths which are no longer active.

Action – MD to liaise with Shona Butters team to see if permissive access can be better advertised

#### 5. **Outdoor Recreation Updates:** In Jims absence Shona gave the following updates:

- a. World War 1 walks: Planning is continuing to produce 4 walks in each region to commemorate WW1. Outline plan was distributed for all to comment.  
Action – All attendees  
Bob Coalbran asked if this could be extended to include Telford & Wrekin  
Action – JS to speak to BC
- b. Meres & Mosses: Much work has been on going in the North based on the Meres and Mosses project with 3 new trails on the Moss and a planned series of 12 walks around Whixall.
- c. Trying to finalise Minsterly/Pontesbury walking guide book. Waymarking of the new walks are on-going by the Pontesbury P3 group.

#### 6. **Get Walking Week 2014**

Get Walking Week is the Ramblers Associations National Short Walks Festival and will take place during the 03-10 May 2014. The aim of Get Walking Week is to encourage new people to take up walking and could be an excellent opportunity to recruit more walkers, regardless of ability and to raise the profile of walking in Central Shropshire. Mick Dunn requested the all attendees look at how they or their organisation could support Get Walking Week 2014. A further discussion will take place at November's meeting. Further information about Get Walking Week can be found at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer-zone/volunteer-toolkits/festivals-and-events.aspx>

Action - All

#### 7. **The Big Green Shropshire Gathering**

The Big Green Shropshire Gathering is being held at Shropshire Wildlife Trust on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013. MD will be attending with a stand promoting walking as sustainable transport. If anyone would like MD to promote their organisation or events could they please forward and posters flyers etc by the end of October.

#### 8. **Diary Dates**

MD provided details and flyers for the forthcoming walking events:

- a. Much Wenlock Walking Weekend 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Sep
- b. Seven Wonders of the Oswestry Hills 8<sup>th</sup> Sep
- c. Oswestry Walking Festival 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Sep

- d. Wistanstow Challenge Walk 14<sup>th</sup> Sep
- e. Telford Trail 10 15<sup>th</sup> Sep
- f. The Longmynd Hike 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Oct
- g. In this Place – Taking place throughout September from the Bog Visitor Centre

**9. Guidance Notes for Walks/Festival/Events**

MD is going to produce some guidance notes for the organisers of long-distance walks, charity walks, festivals and events. Forum members are requested to proof read the draft and provide any feedback. Draft will be ready for the next meeting.

Action – Mick Dunn

**10. AOB**

*Steve Howe* asked for an update on ploughing and cropping and if the guidance notes required updating to include specific crops. SB informed the forum that there had been positive feedback from many landowners however persistent offenders will be followed up.

Action – SB to investigate whether Guidance notes need updating to include specific crops.

*Trevor Allison* asked whether SSMCC motor cycle events should be authorised. SB assured the forum that they should be.

*Bill Hodges* informed the forum that National Trails had formally objected to diversions on Glyndŵr's Way in Powys

**11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Friday 29 November 2013 in the Wenlock room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury 14:00 – 16:00

**How to report problems:** You can telephone Customer Services on 0345 678 9000, email us at [outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk) or submit an online form by following the 'Outdoor Recreation Feedback' link from our web pages at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf) Please include your contact details and as much information as possible about what the problem is and where it occurs. It would be helpful if you could quote the path reference number.

**How to find the path reference:** You can view public rights of way online via the Council website ([www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)). If you scroll down to the bottom of this page, you can click on a button labelled 'Maps'. This will open a new window. In the bottom left corner if you click 'Map layers' you can put a tick in the box to display rights of way. You can then search the map by entering a street or postcode. You are able to navigate around the map by holding down the left mouse button and dragging the map, and you can also zoom in and out. If you click on the line of a public right of way, a box will open which displays further information about the route including its individual route code reference and status.