

## Central Shropshire Walking Forum

### Notes of Meeting

2.30pm, Wednesday 22<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

#### Attendees:

Bob Coalbran, Wellington Walkers are Welcome [bywrekin-bob@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bywrekin-bob@yahoo.co.uk)  
 David Morgan, Longden P3 [davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Jim Stabler, SC Access Development Officer [jim.stabler@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:jim.stabler@shropshire.gov.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)  
 Rob Sharrock, Much Wenlock P3 & Walkers are Welcome [rob.sharrock@gmail.com](mailto:rob.sharrock@gmail.com)  
 Shona Butter, Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader [shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 Tim Parker, Condover/Dorrington P3 [tim.parker@nhs.net](mailto:tim.parker@nhs.net)  
 Barbara Kay, Marden Walking for Health  
 Paula Oliver, Marden Walking for Health [paulalatham2@aol.com](mailto:paulalatham2@aol.com)  
 Gerry Lawson, Bayston Hill ramblers Assosiation [geraldl2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geraldl2@tiscali.co.uk)  
 Dick Bailey, Much Wenlock WaW & Walking for Health [gdickson.bailey@virgin.net](mailto:gdickson.bailey@virgin.net)  
 Barbara Martin, Pontesbury Walking for Health [b.martin1959@btinternet.com](mailto:b.martin1959@btinternet.com)  
 David Hardwick, Countryside Recreation Officer [david.hardwick@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.hardwick@shropshire.gov.uk)

#### Apologies:

Les Orrin  
 John Newman  
 Hilary Procter  
 Steve Low  
 Bill Hodges  
 Susan Daykin

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

JS opened the meeting and all attendees introduced themselves.

#### **2. Feedback from previous meeting and Action Points**

JS went through the action points from the previous meeting

*Action – David Morgan to email walk instructions to Mick Dunn*

2 walk leaflets have now been produced for Longdon Parish and will be published soon.

*Action – Mick Dunn to email parking list*

Mick has completed some work on this project and will email the spread sheet to Forum members next week

*Action – Dog Fouling, Shona Butter to pass on her Environmental Maintenance contact to mick.*

Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance are currently carrying out a public consultation on proposed changes to simplify the current system of dog control

relating to dog fouling, dogs on leads and the exclusion of dogs from specified land. More details will be available after the consultation process.

*Action – Mick to produce pdf version of some of the Albrighton walk maps. Not yet completed but will hopefully be done over the summer months.*

*Action – Bod Coalbran & Jim Stabler to discuss signing the Shropshire Way in the Wellington area. On-going.*

### 3. **“Once a Highway always a Highway”**

Shona Butter spoke to the Forum about the origin of the Definitive Map and the procedure to claim a route as a Public Right of Way with the Highway Authority. All claims have to be supported by either historic and/or user evidence and are subject to a Formal Application procedure. Shona also explained that it was often easier and quicker to encourage a landowner to “dedicate” a route, removing the need for a formal process which is often lengthy.

Guidance on how to claim a ROW can be found at:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf/open/1D22603B6648350280257117005BB6B4> guidance notes 12, 15 & 16 explain the procedures.

Examples of current applications can be found at the Formal Application Register:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf/open/1EAF41603697AF60802579CE0031A960>

Action: Tim Parker to email details of a permissive Bridleway to Shona.

### 4. **Outdoor Recreation ROW user survey results 2013**

Jim Stabler gave a presentation on the results of the recent Outdoor Recreation ROW user survey. Jim will try and publish the results on line once the Council Website has been upgraded.

A number of points were highlighted by the group during the presentation.

- a. A need for better waymarking particularly in areas where it is difficult to identify the line of the path.
- b. A need to review some of the questions and how to better target those who respond to get a truer cross section of the Shropshire public.

Action: Jim Stabler to email Bob Coalbran a copy of the ROW survey results and publish results on line if possible.

### 5. **Group Updates**

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

*David Morgan, Longdon P3:* Only minor maintenance carried out in recent months due to bad weather.

*Paula Oliver & Barbara Kay, Marden WfH:* The Marden group continue to do well and hold regular well attended walks. The Group would like to be able to go further afield but are restricted by transport issues. The group recently hosted a contingent from Finland who were in the UK visiting and sharing best practice with the PPG.

Action: Mick Dunn to liaise with the group and organise some “away” walks for the group.

*Mike Brooks, Shrewsbury U3A:* Membership of the Shrewsbury U3A continues to grow. They have over 100 walkers who enjoy the 5 walks currently offered. Some members of the groups would like map reading training.

Action: Mick Dunn to liaise with Mike to organise some map reading in September.

*Gerry Lawson, Ramblers Association:* Informed the group that the Ramblers "20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury" is selling well and will be reprinted. Most of the routes have now been way marked.

*Tim Parker, Condover/Dorrington P3:* Only minor work and strimming has been carried out due to weather. Group has produced a walk booklet with 12 local walks. Booklet is being sold locally for £1 which covers printing costs.

*Rob Sharrock, Much Wenlock P3 & Walkers are Welcome:* Only minor work carried out because of weather. Broken finger post recently replaced and kissing gate installed at Bradley Farm.

*Dick Bailey, WaW and Walking for Health:* Much Wenlock now have a U3A walking group with regular local and further afield walks. Walkers are Welcome are finding their feet. A new booklet of walks in Much Wenlock has been produced. The Much Wenlock Walking weekend will take place from the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013:

<http://www.muchwenlockguide.info/news/much-wenlock-walking-weekend.shtml>

Walkers are Welcome towns are working well together with regular meetings taking place. Walking for Health continues to go well. Regularly attracting 60-70 people each week for the walks (have had up to 98). The group will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

*Bob Coalbran, Wellington Walkers are Welcome:* A new Wellington Walk map has been produced. The Wellington Walking festival takes place 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July 2013 <http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html> Wellington WaW will have a display at the Library for the duration of the Festival. If anyone has walk information they would like displayed could they pass it on to Bob.

*Barbara Martin, Pontesbury Walking for Health:* The group is a sociable walking group who meet every Friday at 1030 at the Pontesbury Medical Practice (everyone welcome) They recently hosted a contingent of health professionals from Finland. And have held exchange walks with the Bishops Castle walking group. P3 has been a key to the success of the walking group by providing fantastic well maintained ROW around Pontesbury

## **6. Parish Pathways Partnership Update**

David Hardwick gave the Forum a P3 update.

2012/13 P3 recorded hours for Shropshire 5249.75, estimated value of works carried out on ROW £55,000 if carried out by contractors.

Total recorded hours in Central area 2,446 hours, 63% above target of 1500 hours. In the central area we have 2 particularly active groups Pontesbury 776 hours and Shrewsbury Ramblers 742 hours. It is quite likely that some of these figures are

under recorded as we still struggle to get our volunteers to record all their work and time spent.

Other busy P3 groups have been Shifnal 414 hours, Much Wenlock 304 hours, Conover 208 hours. Montford/Shrawardine recorded 168 hours all done by Carl Stanton over 80 years old.

The figures for 2012/13 have been reduced to what they might have been due to a very wet year and cold winter.

P3 and Parish Path Wardens cover just 50% or so of Shropshire parishes, we are trying to expand this.

Recently we have started new P3 groups at Ford and Gt and Little Ness. New Parish Path Wardens have been appointed at Bomere Heath, Worthen with Shelve (North), Edgton, Clungunford, Clunton and Hopton Castle.

In the last year 20 volunteers have received brushcutter training to assist with path vegetation clearance.

10 volunteers have received training in Rights of Way law and waymarking.

Staff have also worked with groups to show them how to build steps and bridges.

A Volunteer Celebration Event was held at Ellesmere on the 9th May 2013 more than 100 people came from the P3, Walking for Health and Countryside Sites. This was an opportunity to award long service awards to 4 volunteers who have given 20 or more years.

Where countryside sites occur close to active P3 groups they are starting to also get involved in this site management, in particular at Poles Coppice, Snailbeach, Lyth Hill and Rectory Wood.

Another challenge is to resurrect volunteer groups where the original members have aged and cannot carry on, so looking for new blood in for example at Bayston Hill is a priority.

Some of the areas of Shropshire where there is no active volunteering are going to be target areas for new groups this year notably Wentnor and Ratlinghope.

## 7. **Outdoor Recreation Update**

Jim Stabler provided an update on Outdoor Recreation:

*Local Access Forum:* Due to time restraints Jim didn't give detailed feedback from the LAF. Minutes of the LAF meetings can be found at:

[http://shropsdemserv.web.coop/live/dynamic/DemServMeetingsArchived.asp?group\\_id=E0CF1E5D-AAA5-4B56-BD8B-6F6AC07A9810](http://shropsdemserv.web.coop/live/dynamic/DemServMeetingsArchived.asp?group_id=E0CF1E5D-AAA5-4B56-BD8B-6F6AC07A9810)

*Shropshire Way:* Work on the Shropshire Way North is almost completed and planning has now started on the Shropshire Way Central along with bus friendly walks from Shrewsbury.

*Pilgrimage Walk:* The proposed route of the pilgrimage walk between Shrewsbury and Holywell has been plotted. King Henry V is reportedly to have walked the route, barefoot, from Holywell to Shrewsbury. When the project is more developed the forum will be asked to help with research and writing of the guides and advice on routing.

*World War 1 Centenary Walks:* 2014 will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War. Jim is developing a series of walks (guided and self-guided) commemorating Shropshire's military connections and history during WW1. Anyone one who would like to help/contribute should contact Jim to help with the production of the walks

*Manpower:* Jim informed the group that there was currently a manpower shortage within the maintenance team as three staff members had recently left the council.

**11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21 August 2013 in the Wilfred Owen 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.