

Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2.00pm, Friday 29th Nov 2013

Wenlock Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

Attendees:

Mick Dunn, Outdoor Recreation mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk
Jim Stabler, Outdoor Recreation jim.stabler@shropshire.gov.uk
David Hardwick, Outdoor Recreation david.harwick@shropshire.gov.uk
Shona Butter, Outdoor Recreation shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk
Bill Hodges, Shrewsbury Ramblers
Tony Carswell, Shrewsbury U3A
Susan Daykin, Marden Walking for Health
Rebecca Guitierrez, Telford & Wrekin
Trevor Allison, Ramblers
John Newnham, Shrewsbury Ramblers
Hilary Proctor, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3
Steve Lowe, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3
Bob Coalbran, Wellington Walkers are Welcome
Dick Bailey, Much Wenlock WaW & Walking for Health

Apologies:

Mike Brooks
Tim Parker
Brian Dale-Paterson
Russell Collard
Barbara Martin

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jim Stabler opened the meeting and thanked all those who were able to attend. Jim also introduced Rebecca Guitierrez (Telford and Wrekin Council) and Tony Carswell (Shrewsbury U3A).

2. Feedback from Previous meeting

- a. Map reading training – A map reading training session was organised by Mick Dunn on the 31st October for members of the Shrewsbury U3A.
- b. Problem with footpath in the Reabrook – Tim Simmons informed Paul Butter of the problem. Work has now been carried out to rectify the ‘run off’ problem.
- c. Permissive Walks - There was a discussion on the inclusion of Natural England permissive walks on the Shropshire Walking website. Jim said that they did change frequently and we removed them from the website in view of the updating required. A link was put on the website to the NE website which is regularly updated. Jim would see what could be done to improve the link.

3. Group Updates

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

Bob Coalbran – Wellington Walkers are Welcome:

- a. Wellington Walkers are Welcome have produced a new leaflet highlighting

walking opportunity's in Wellington and the Wrekin Forest.

b. Walkabout Wrekin have a new committee in place and are awaiting news of a funding application.

c. The Wrekin Spring Gathering – Wellington Walkers are Welcome are organising a Spring Gathering, supported by the Walking with Offa project, on Thursday 20th March 2014 at the Buckatree Hall Hotel, Wellington. The aim of the gathering is to bring together Shropshire WAW towns and walking festival organisers to discuss ways to improve the walking offer in Shropshire. (Details attached)

Dick Bailey – Much Wenlock Walkers are Welcome & Walking for Health:

a. Much Wenlock Walking for Health celebrated their 10th anniversary on the 4th of November. 98 walkers and walk leaders attended the birthday walk. A lunch was held after the walk for walk leader.

b. The Wenlock Walking Weekend in September had disappointing attendances for some of the walks. A number of walkers had paid for walks but failed to show up. This could have been due to a particularly bad weather forecast.

c. Walkers are welcome assisted with the Hospice Support Walk.

d. Walkers are Welcome in Much Wenlock cooperate with other WAW towns with regular meetings and some members attended WAW annual conference in Swaffham and the Walking with Offa event in Knighton.

e. There are a number of on-going footpath issues in Much Wenlock.

Action – Dick to liaise with Shona who will provide an update.

Action – Jim Stabler to follow up with Highways ref signing for the footpath/road junction at Harley Bank

Steve Lowe – Shrewsbury Ramblers P3:

In the 3 months since the last meeting 11 of the 14 volunteers had been active.

There have been 11 work days with between 3 and 5 volunteers on each.

9 stiles have been replaced and 5 more repaired. 3 gates, 3 sleeper bridges and 6 marker posts have been installed and 3 overgrown paths cleared.

The work has been carried out in 8 separate Parishes.

John Newnham – Shrewsbury Ramblers:

a. Shrewsbury Ramblers have installed a large bench at Sharpstone Quarry (near the fossilised tree stumps).

b. Shrewsbury Ramblers now have their own website which can be found at

www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk and can also now be found on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyAndMidShropshireRamblers

c. Phil Burns has now replaced Bill Hodges as footpath secretary.

Trevor Allison – Ramblers:

a. Trevor is 2 km short of 4050 km of paths surveyed. Has finished Minsterly Parish today and is passing on a list of problems to Lucy for entering on CAMS as well as maintaining his own data base.

b. Trevor informed the forum that an article entitled "Walking the Shropshire Way" was being published in the winter edition of Walk Magazine.

<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/walk-magazine/current-issue/2013/november/winter-2013/walking-the-shropshire-way.aspx>

Rebecca Guitierrez – Telford & Wrekin:

Rebecca informed the forum that she has been approached by numerous groups asking for more information about walking in Shropshire to be available on the Visit Ironbridge web site <http://www.visitironbridge.co.uk> The website also promotes events in Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock.

Susan Dakin – Marden Walking for Health:

- a. The Marden Walking for Health group is still going strong. The Walk is now being advertised on the TV loop in the practice.
- b. Marden WfH are not doing a set programme over the winter months. The walks will all start from the practice. The route will depend on the weather.
- c. The evening walks at Attingham park were not hugely successful, which may have been due to starting late in the year. Will try again in 2014.

Tony Carswell – Shrewsbury U3A:

- a. The Shrewsbury U3A now has over 500 members and over 70 activities. Walking is very popular with over 150 walkers each week between the short, medium and long walks.
- b. The map reading course held on the 31 Oct was very well received by those attending.

4. Cycling on Public ROW

The forum discussed the issue, raised by Hilary proctor, of cyclists using Public Rights of Way. In particular the problems of cyclists using footpaths and not giving way to equestrians and walkers whilst on Bridleways. It was felt that the best way to resolve this problem was through education.

Action – Mick Dunn to discuss the issue with Cycle Shrewsbury, Forestry Commission & National Trust and feedback at next meeting

5. Obstructing ROW

John Newnham expressed concerns that not enough follow up work was being done to rectify the problem of repeated obstructions to the ROW network. Shona explained that plans have been submitted for the new structure of the Outdoor Recreation Services which, if agreed, should result in allowing more time for officers to deal with obstructions. Shona confirmed that more legal orders have been served on landowners this year particularly in the North of the county. Shona will continue to update the forum on the progress of this issue.

6. Parish Paths Partnership Update – David Hardwick

- a. All groups continue to provide very valuable man hours.
- b. First aid training to be carried out next year.
- c. Groups have been asked to provide training needs for next year.
- d. Work with the probation service continues especially in the country parks. David is keen to get them more involved in rural maintenance work such as the Darnford Way and the Severn Way between Frankwell and Shelton.
- e. Shropshire Young Ramblers are keen to get involved in maintenance work and are liaising with David.
- f. David gave an update on the long distance bridleway, the Humphrey Kynaston Way.

7. Get Walking Week 3 – 10 May 2014

Mick reminded the forum that Get Walking week will take place from the 3 – 10 May 2014. Get Walking Week is the Ramblers national short walking festival and is designed to encourage more people to become active and take up regular walking. Shropshire Ramblers and Shropshire walking for Health groups will be providing a series of short walks throughout the week. John Newnham informed the forum that it was hoped that Daniel Kawczynski (MP for Shrewsbury & Atcham) would launch this year's festival.

Action – Mick to speak to John in February 2014 ref programme and publicity for Get Walking Week 2014

8. Outdoor Recreation Updates: Jim Stabler gave the following updates:

- a. Humphrey Kynaston Way: is a new long distance bridleway funded by Paths for Communities. Currently awaiting permission from the Highways Authority.
- b. Minsterly/Pontesbury circular walks: Work is ongoing producing 6 guided walks and guide books.
- c. ERDF project: 5 year project upgrading the Severn Way through Shropshire. This will include promotion, circular walks and a guide book.
- d. WW1 Centenary Walks: Jim updated the group on the progress of the WW1 Centenary Walks. Jim is working closely with Keith Pybus to produce a minimum of 4 walks per year over 5 years. Any ideas for walks should be given to Jim.

9. Any Other Business

Steve Lowe asked if it was possible to give people, who have reported problems on the ROW network, feedback once work is completed.

Action – Mick to speak to Shona Butter and Richard Knight and report back at next meeting.

Bill Hodges raised his concerns over the sale of Meole Brace golf club and the potential loss of green space and ROW

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19 February 2014 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 or submit an online form by following the 'Outdoor Recreation Feedback' link from our web pages at 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). 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.

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