

NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM NOTES

MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2013

Present

Peter Carr, Liz Evans, Jane Ing, Alison Parker, Barrie Stephens.

1. Walking Festivals update LE

Whitchurch walkers are welcome feel that theirs had been a success so shall be repeating it next year. Plans are being made for events at the moment. Dates are Friday 16th to Sunday 18th May 2014.

Welshampton and Ellesmere with Meres and Mosses also want to build on the success of last year and are planning a repeat, date to be agreed.

Oswestry walkers are welcome are not going to have a festival next year, but 4 seasonal walks with themes. This is still being arranged.

2. Walking for Health update LE

Numbers remain static, and it remains difficult to recruit both walkers and volunteer walk leaders in north Shropshire. Information is sent to individual staff in health centres, libraries, W.I. groups, U3A groups, local Macmillan groups etc. If anyone has an idea of a different place to target, please inform Liz Evans. The Ramblers would like to pilot a scheme in Oswestry for transition walks.

The latest north Shropshire walk programme is attached.

3. Llanyblodwell ?new permissive route PC

Peter Carr outlined a proposal for an unmade road to become a bridleway to prevent motor bikes in particular churning the path, making it difficult for walkers. Grid reference 256224 up to 251229. Also, to create a permissive path next to a main road to connect this road to a footpath, grid reference 251229 to 251225.

Liz to speak to Jim Stabler and Shona Butter to identify any potential legal or financial problems. The Ramblers will liaise with Powys council on areas that are over the border. (having checked, this proposal is all in Shropshire).

4. Effects of council cuts update JI

Shona could not be present but was asked to update and states as follows:

Most people will be aware from the press etc that Shropshire Council has to make significant cuts. At present we are unable to qualify what this will mean for the Outdoor Recreation Team as discussions are still ongoing however savings will need to be found. Some savings have been found through non recruitment and some staff requesting VR however all options are being looked at. When we are able to clarify the exact extent and result of these savings we will do so.

5. Recent footpath activity HM

Harvey could not be present, but supplied the following information:

Over the summer months the team have been concentrating the larger part of their time on the **annual clearance program** across the county, I won't list these with reference to the north. Other works specific to the north –

Melverley FP 8 gated route completed

Hengoed (footpath creation and diversion - City Lane) A gated route

Hengoed - further work on Hengoed cluster (FP 6,7) (diversion work still to be undertaken)

St Martins village – gated route (FP41)

Also a number of individual gates, stiles, signposts have also been installed or repaired across the north – I won't list these.

Also a number of maintenance jobs on parks and sites have been undertaken – I won't list these.

A large amount of clearance and furniture work has also been carried out by P3 groups.

It is hoped that by moving the time back to an evening, perhaps more people will be able to attend next time.

Next walk forum Monday 27th January 2014, Ellesmere Town Hall, 7.30pm.