

# Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday, 3 February 2016

## Shropshire Local Access Forum

**Date:** Thursday, 11 February 2016  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting.  
The Agenda is attached

Linda Jeavons  
Secretary to the Forum

### Members of The Forum

<b>Name</b>	<b>Fields of Interest</b>
Trevor Allison	Walking/Tourism
Stephen Bell	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Acces
Gareph Boxley	Motorised Vehicular Use/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Peter Carr	Walking/Canals
Alex Carson-Taylor	Rural Business/Land Owning/Farming/Conservation/Wildlife
Will Chambers	Cycling
Lee Chapman	Shropshire Council
Chris Chillingworth	Walking/Voluntary Activities/Community
Pauline Dee	Scouts and Brownies
Janet Mees-Robinson	Carriage Driving/Disabled Access/Tourism
Stewart Pickering	Motorised Vehicular Use/Countryside Volunteer/Walking
Roger Plowden	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Farming
Zia Robins	Horse Riding
Stuart West	Shropshire Council
Mark Weston	Horseriding/Carriage Driving/Voluntary Activities

Your Committee Officer is:

**Linda Jeavons** Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257716

Email: [linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk)

# AGENDA

**1 Welcome and Introductions**

**2 Apologies for Absence**

**3 Minutes and any matters arising (Pages 1 - 6)**

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 October 2015.

**4 Public Question Time**

To receive any questions, statements or petitions of which notice has been received from members

**5 Declarations of Interest**

**6 Rail Crossings - Presentation by Network Rail**

**7 Southern Shropshire LEADER Programme**

Presentation by Pete Banford, Shropshire Hills LEADER Co-ordinator.

**8 Parish Paths Partnership Update**

Helen Beresford, Shropshire Outdoors Development Officer, Shropshire Council will be in attendance.

**9 Bridges/Large Structures on the Network**

Richard Knight, Rights of Way Team Leader, Shropshire Council will be in attendance.

**10 Landowner Leaflet**

Shona Butter, Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader, Shropshire Outdoors Partnerships to present.

## 11 Feedback from other Forums and items for noting (Pages 7 - 26)

### 13.1 Items for Noting

- LAF National Conferences 2016

Mark Weston will be attending the National Conference (South) on behalf of Shropshire LAF on Tuesday, 23 February 2016; and

Janet Mees-Robinson (a member on both the Shropshire LAF and Telford & Wrekin LAF) will be attending the National Conference (North) on behalf of Telford & Wrekin LAF on Tuesday, 1 March 2016.

### 13.2 The following minutes/papers are provided as updates for members:

- (a) Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Meeting – 25 June 2015
- (b) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 5 October 2015 (TO FOLLOW)
- (c) South Walking Forum – 9 October 2015
- (d) North Walking Forum – 19 October 2015
- (e) Central Walking Forum – 27 November 2015

### 13.3 Future Meetings

- (a) Members are asked to suggest agenda items for the next meeting.
- (b) Future dates for 2014/15 starting at 10.00 a.m. are as follows:

Thursday, 30 June 2016  
Thursday, 20 October 2016  
Thursday, 19 January 2017

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## Shropshire Local Access Forum

<b><u>Committee and Date</u></b>
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Shropshire Local Access Forum
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11 February 2016
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### **MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2015 10.00 AM - 12.23 PM**

**Responsible Officer:** Linda Jeavons  
Email: linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk    Tel: 01743 257716

#### **Present**

Trevor Allison, Stephen Bell, Gareph Boxley, Peter Carr, Alex Carson-Taylor, Janet Mees-Robinson, Roger Plowden, Zia Robins, Mark Weston and Leslie Winwood.

#### **1 Elect a Chairman**

##### **RESOLVED:**

That Mr Roger Plowden be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

#### **2 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **3 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Lee Chapman, Chris Chillingworth and Stewart Pickering.

#### **4 Appoint a Vice Chairman**

##### **RESOLVED:**

That Mr Mark Weston be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

#### **5 Minutes and any matters arising**

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 2 July 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### Matters Arising

- With reference to Minute No. 42, Trevor Allison provided an update on The Big Pathwatch survey, which was ongoing and would conclude in 10 weeks' time. To date, nearly 49,000 1 km squares had been surveyed in England and Wales and overall over 30,000 positive comments and over 36,000 negative comments had been made. Out of 3,000 sq. kilometres in Shropshire 815 sq. km had been surveyed, with 680 positive comments and 1,250 negative comments submitted.

During a discussion the following points were noted:

- One member expressed the view that the survey was being undertaken from a walker's perspective so any outcomes on higher status routes would only be of benefit to walkers; and
- The results would be of use to the voluntary sector and would identify issues and areas where partnerships could work with councils.
- With reference to Minute No. 39, final paragraph, a member reiterated her concerns with regard to the high number of errors on the OS ITN mapping layer currently available on the Shropshire Council local view Outdoor Recreation map layer; as many minor public roads are shown as private any errors on the maps could lead to Sat-nav errors; and Shropshire Council had not digitised all maps and it was important that a copy of all maps should be made and kept secure. Shropshire Council had still not digitised the older highway maps and it was important that a copy of all maps were made and held secure.

All members of the Forum reiterated their concerns with regard to the potential that information could be 'lost' if transferred to other organisations, ie Mouchel, and requested that a copy should be made of all highway maps that were transferred out-of-house.

In response to comments, Shona Butter, Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader, explained that:

- The Integrated Transport Network mapping layer was a resource which provided information on the location of public and private roads. It was not clear whether the mapping could be used in a public capacity. She agreed to identify the purpose of the mapping and any safeguarding implications;
- The National Street Gazetteer was essentially smaller but more accurate; however, there were errors with the data and insufficient resources to provide an accurate picture at this time; and
- Some material, ie historic mapping, had transferred to Mouchel but she reiterated that historic mapping had been and would continue to be held secure. She agreed to raise the concerns of this Forum and explore the costings to copy a full set of maps.

## **6 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions, statements or petitions received.

## **7 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **8 Canals and River Trust**

Wendy Capelle, Waterway Manager, and Ani Sutton, Development and Engagement Manager, Canal & River Trust (CART) were in attendance and provided an overview

of the work of CART to protect, manage and improve the nation's canals and river navigations. A copy of the presentation could be viewed on the Shropshire Council website and would be appended to the signed minutes. A question and answer session followed, during which CART reiterated their willingness to work with all groups and communities in order to ensure waterways and access both on and off towpaths were made and continued to remain accessible and user-friendly to as many users as possible. In response to concerns raised regarding horse riding access, Mark Weston offered to act as the point of contact.

The Chairman thanked them for their attendance and excellent presentation.

(At this juncture, Councillor Les Winwood left the meeting and did not return.)

## 9 **Lost Ways / Deregulation Bill**

At this juncture and with reference to Minute No. 33 of the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015 (Public QuestionTime – “A plea for the Lost Ways of Shropshire”), Shona Butter, Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader, drew attention to the question and response as attached at pages 11 – 13 of the report.

SB and Mark Weston provided an update on the position to date with regard to Discovering Lost Ways & The Deregulation Act 2015. A copy of the presentation could be viewed on the Shropshire Council website and would be appended to the signed minutes. The basis of the Deregulation Act was to try at the outset to get applications submitted of sufficient quality so as not to waste a local authority's time and hence a Basic Evidential Test would be introduced. When an application was received a local authority would examine it and decide whether to make an Order and would notify and enter into dialogue with the landowner to find out whether they would accept the evidence or would prefer an alternative route; an applicant would have the right of appeal; applications would be able to be transferred from one person to another; a local authority would be able to draft Orders; as a cost saving, there would no longer be a requirement to advertise the diversion in the press; and certain routes, ie those routes on the List of Streets, Gazeteer etc., would be exempt from the cut-off provision.

In response to questions from the floor, SB commented:

- That, to date, details of the Basic Evidential Test were unknown but this Forum would be appraised as soon as more information became available;
- If the local authority had initially consulted with landowners who then had suggested an alternative route, then ramblers could appeal but the local authority had the ability to disregard irrelevant objections/comments and determine the matter;
- There was already the ability for a group to submit a Definitive Map Order;
- SB agreed to check if there was a disc available listing all the Lost Ways and, if so, what information could be released;
- When changes to routes were advertised grid references were already included; and
- Evidence of historic and continual use, consultation/agreement with the landowner and claims submitted by a local authority would be used to protect

routes in use prior to cut-off and also those routes linked to rights of way with no status.

## 10 **Shropshire Great Outdoors Website - Launch**

Clare Fildes, Outdoor Partnerships Development Team Leader, was in attendance and via a live link drew attention to the new Shropshire's Great Outdoors website, which could be found at [www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk). This was a "work-in-progress" project, with a possible launch date of spring 2016. She welcomed any feedback, comments, suggestions for links etc. and she could be contacted on 01743 255067 and/or email [clare.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk).

A member reported that the Shropshire Great Outdoors website had an interactive map which now had the facility to show rights of way and UCRs separately or altogether so that omissions and gaps could be identified for lost ways.

Members of the Forum congratulated CF on a superb site and welcomed the inclusion of the interactive map.

## 11 **Corporate Sponsorship**

Alex Carson-Taylor provided an update on the developments that had taken place with regard to corporate sponsorship. A copy of the presentation could be viewed on the Shropshire Council website and would be appended to the signed minutes.

The meeting noted that Severn Valley Country Park had been identified as the pilot site with one of their aspiration's being the development of the visitor centre. In the ensuing debate, members of the Forum commented that the public transport links to the site were not good but noted that the site was accessible by other means and questioned if corporate sponsorship could be used to improve this aspect.

## 12 **Feedback from other Forums and items for noting**

### **Items for Noting**

There were no items for noting.

### **Minutes / Papers:**

The following minutes / papers, which were circulated with the agenda for information, were noted:

- (i) North Shropshire Walk Forum – 26 January 2015
- (ii) North Shropshire Walk Forum – 27 April 2015
- (iii) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 8 June 2015
- (iv) North Shropshire Walk Forum – 20 July 2015
- (v) Central Shropshire Walking Forum – 26 August 2015

**Future meetings:**

The following agenda items were suggested for consideration at a future meeting:

- (a) Ploughing & Cropping – SB reported that a booklet on the responsibilities of landowners was currently being developed in consultation with the NFU;
- (b) Shooting over Rights of Way;
- (c) New LEADER Programme;
- (d) Update on Parish Path Partnerships;
- (e) Level Crossings – update on the Network Rail project to close level crossings in the future.

Following a discussion it was suggested that all members should give some consideration to the future membership of this Forum with an aspiration to provide input from a wide variety of backgrounds, skills and interests. Suggestions for future membership and representation/input included CART, Local Enterprise Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Board, cycling, public health, tourism and Shropshire Councillors; liaison with cross-border LAFs; and the importance of raising the public awareness of the work of LAF was also raised.

Future meeting dates:

- Thursday, 11 February 2016
- Thursday, 30 June 2016
- Thursday, 20 October 2016
- Thursday, 19 January 2017

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....

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Shropshire Hills  
AONB Partnership

25 June 2015

9.30 am

Item  
?

Public

## MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2015 9.30 - 11.15 AM

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward  
Email: [tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01743 257713

### Present

Councillor George Chancellor (Chair)  
Councillors Tim Barker (Vice Chairman), James Williamson (Vice Chairman),  
Cecilia Motley, David Turner, Chris Turley, Alison Caffyn, Dr Keith Bartlett, Gillian Binks,  
Veronica Cossons, Ian Dormor, Sue Jones, Jo Jury, Sue Lee, Hazel MacDowell,  
Ronald Repath, David C. Smith and Ms Donna Tavenor

### 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

1.1 The Chair welcomed Jo Jury (DEFRA), Rhona Goddard (Butterfly Conservation),  
Donna Tavernor (Forestry Commission), Andy Evans (Head of Economic Growth &  
Prosperity, Shropshire Council) and Alison Jones (Clun Catchment Officer AONB  
Partnership) to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Caroline Bedell (CLA), Pete Carty (National Trust), Sarah Bury (CPRE), Harriet  
Carty (Individual Member), Lee Chapman (South Shropshire Tourism), Hilary  
Claytonsmith (Town/Parish Council Representative), Carol Griffiths (NFU), Geoff  
Grimes (Shropshire Tourism), Gill Hamer (Marches LEP), Deb Hughes (Shropshire  
Council), Cllr. Heather Kidd (Shropshire Council), Bill Klemperer (English Heritage),  
Marc Liebrecht (ICF), Fiona Pidduck (Individual Member), Leo Smith (Upper Onny  
Wildlife Group / Shropshire Ornithological Society), Elizabeth Thomas (Individual  
Member).

### 2 Note of the last meeting

2.1 The note of the last meeting held on 17 March 2015 had been circulated.

2.2 **RESOLVED:-**

That the note of the last meeting be confirmed as a correct record.

### 3 AONB Partnership Activity Update

- 3.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided an update of recent activity.
- 3.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised members that 14 grants totalling £25,300 had been awarded from the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund, and drew their attention to the appendix to the report which listed the projects. He reminded the meeting that funding for the scheme was made up from the subscriptions to the Friends of the Shropshire Hills AONB, together with contributions from the Jean Jackson Charitable Trust and the Millichope Foundation.
- 3.3 The AONB Partnership Manager advised members that a consultation was in progress regarding changes to streamline the administration of the Sustainable Business Scheme, to include a two year membership and pledge rather than annual renewal.
- 3.4 The AONB Partnership Manager informed members that the Partnership Team were currently working with partners to develop potential new projects including:
  - Involvement in feasibility work for a landscape-scale conservation project focused on the Long Mynd and Stiperstones area.
  - Input into proposals by the Foundation for Common Land for a possible national project on upland commons, with activity in the Shropshire Hills AONB and four other areas.
  - Discussions with Woodland Trust and other partners about the possible development of new woodland project work, e.g. supporting woodland social enterprises, and encouraging management of PAWS (Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites).
- 3.5 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that further discussions had taken place regarding the possible relocation of the office to Church Stretton. Shropshire Council was continuing with proposals for relocating the library, though this was now subject to a legal challenge. In the event of the AONB Partnership team being able to relocate to the library premises, the team were also developing a proposal for the AONB Partnership to manage the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in the same building, on a commissioned basis with financial support from Shropshire Council, and using volunteers to assist in staffing the facility. Dr Dormor enquired whether the VIC would occupy the same area as currently. The AONB Partnership Manager said that the current space would be used, and commented that an advantage of this proposal was that the VIC would be able to operate in situ with minimal set-up costs, rather than alternatives of relocating the VIC.

#### **4 LEADER 2015 - 20**

- 4.1 Members received a report which outlined the proposed changes in governance arrangements for the 2015-20 Natural Growth LEADER programme.
- 4.2 The Chair commented that the proposals comprised a fundamental change in the governance of the LEADER programme, and asked the AONB Partnership Manager to give a little more background.

- 4.3 The AONB Partnership Manager briefly outlined discussions held during the transition year in 2014, which after much deliberation, had led to the bid submitted in September 2014 based on the benefits of integrating AONB and LEADER functions, and with the Partnership again acting as the LEADER Local Action Group (LAG). This bid had received formal support from Shropshire Council as accountable body and from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). In November 2014 a letter had been received from Defra indicating that the bid had been successful, subject to confirmation by contract. A competing bid for the area based on the AONB Partnership not being the LAG had been rejected.
- 4.4 The AONB Partnership Manager went on to say that at the end of April 2015, local Defra officers had first raised issues regarding proposed governance arrangements for the southern Shropshire programme, and indicating that key aspects of the proposals as set out in the bid would no longer be acceptable. For example, the AONB Partnership was now considered to be an 'interest group', and since the grant decision making panel could not comprise of more than 49% from any single interest group, that the proposed structure where members of the Approvals Panel would become members of the AONB Partnership would not now conform to this rule. While Defra would allow an option where the Partnership remained as the LAG, the Panel must be independent of it. Partnership representatives felt that in this scenario the Partnership would not be truly acting as a LAG in the manner intended, and would lay itself open to risk from decisions made in its name over which it had little control. Further, Defra's guidance that the AONB Partnership's conservation remit could now be considered a 'conflict of interest' made the Partnership's role potentially much more difficult, especially since clear written guidance on this topic was not forthcoming. The second option, to separate the governance of the LEADER and AONB functions and make the new Panel into the LAG was therefore, with reluctance, favoured. The subsequent decision of Shropshire Council to take the LEADER Programme Manager in-house had not been expected.
- 4.5 Ms Jury advised the meeting that the LDS submission had been robust and good, but a recent interpretation around conflicts of interest had required changes. There was an issue of perception and a need for consistency over the whole of the country. She added that other Local Action Groups were having to address the same issues.
- 4.6 The Chair then asked the Head of Economic Growth and Prosperity to inform the Partnership about the Council's proposed change to the staffing arrangements. The Head of Economic Growth and Prosperity said that the AONB's Partnership work and role in securing the LEADER programme was recognised, but since the recent guidance from Defra, the Council felt that the LEADER programme sat better within Shropshire Council than with the AONB Partnership team. This would strengthen the accountable body role and enable better links with the LEP and other funding programmes.
- 4.7 The Chair commented that there was need to make a decision swiftly, since a Delivery Plan had to be submitted to Defra by the end of July. He added that during discussions with Shropshire Council he had received assurances that the Council would find ways for the AONB Partnership to replace the loss of earned income from hosting the LEADER programme, such that the Partnership would not be financially disadvantaged by the Council's decision.

4.8 A number of comments and queries from members were discussed in considerable depth, including: -

- How could the AONB Partnership be considered as an 'interest group' when it is made up of a large number of different organisations?
- How could the aims of the AONB Partnership be protected when LEADER grant decisions were made under the new arrangement?
- The ground had shifted under our feet and it wasn't clear in this case why Defra had supported the Partnership's bid to deliver the programme.
- How would the new Panel be made up and how would members be recruited to it?
- How would the new LAG avoid conflicts of interest itself?
- Would there not be some negative perceptions about the location of the Programme Manager at Shirehall, outside the LEADER area?

4.9 The AONB Partnership Manager said that the two elements of the Partnership being the LAG and the team hosting the Programme Manger were the essence of the lead organisation role, and the loss of these was very disappointing, as well as leaving implications for loss of earned income to the Partnership. He advised the meeting that there would need to be dialogue between the Partnership and Shropshire Council over the recruitment of the Panel as the new LAG.

4.10 The Chair commented that it was important that the Partnership maintained as much influence as possible and that members of the Partnership may wish to apply to be members of the LAG to ensure this.

4.11 The Chair proposed the resolution that *'The Approvals Panel should be reconstituted as the LAG for the Natural Growth LEADER Programme under the direct organisation of Shropshire Council with the proviso that the AONB Partnership will not lose out financially through these changes.'*

4.12 Ms Caffyn proposed that the following amendment be made *'that the AONB should retain involvement and influence in the programme'*. This was agreed.

4.13 Following a vote, and with great regret and disappointment on the part of all concerned, it was Resolved that: -

The Approvals Panel should be reconstituted as the LAG for the Natural Growth LEADER Programme under the direct organisation of Shropshire Council with the proviso that the AONB Partnership will not lose out financially through these changes and retains involvement and influence in the programme.

## 5 AONB Partnership Biennial Membership Review

5.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided them with information about the biennial membership review.

5.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised members that the Partnership's Terms of Reference provided for a biennial review of membership, which included appointments to the Individual Member seats and a review of the organisational

seats. He reminded members that it had been agreed that the current review would also include direct applications for the Town & Parish Council seats rather than SALC appointing the representatives.

- 5.3 It was agreed that the number of seats in the various categories should remain the same, and that the three non-statutory organisations with the lowest attendance should be invited to reapply for their seats on the Partnership.

**6 Proposed Charitable Organisation**

- 6.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided an update on progress to establish the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund as a charity.
- 6.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that a draft Constitution had been prepared and that it was proposed that the initial charity trustees be recruited to enable them to be involved in developing the final version of the Constitution. He added that it was proposed that four or five trustees would be initially recruited with the additional seats filled once the charity was established and registered with the Charity Commission. He then outlined the required skills and aptitudes for trustees and asked that if anyone was interested in volunteering to be a Trustee to let him know by email by 10 July 2015.

**7 River Clun Recovery Project**

- 7.1 It was agreed that due to lack of time the presentation would be deferred to a future meeting.

**8 Date of next meeting**

- 8.1 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded members that the next meeting of the Partnership would be held on Tuesday 17 November 2015.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date:

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# Shropshire Hills Forum

Notes from 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms

10 am – 12.00 noon Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Attendees:** Sue Jones ( *Ramblers*), Helen d’Albert ( *Shropshire Council*), Clare Fildes ( *Shropshire Council*), Keith Pybus ( *Shropshire Way Assoc. & Chair of Shropshire Hills Forum*), Chris Chillingworth ( *Ludlow / Wheathill P3*), Val Simpson ( *Cleobury Mortimer WAW and CCL tourism*), Nigel McDonald ( *Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership*), Michael Holland ( *Ludlow P3*), Marion Law ( *Ramblers area secretary/ Rail Rambles*), Dick Bailey ( *WAW Much Wenlock*), Helen Beresford ( *Shropshire Council*), Charles Edwards ( *P3, Vice Chair G.C.L.*), Gill Steed ( *Ramblers*), Colin Carson ( *HF holidays*), Rick Summers ( *Ludlow P3 / Whitcliffe Common*), Steve Levers ( *WaW / Walking Festival B. Castle*), Jacqueline Wigglesworth and Peter Wigglesworth ( *Clun Shamblers*), Peter James ( *Clun P3*), Paul Butter ( *Maintenance team S.C.*), Patrick Edwards ( *N.T. Ranger Long Mynd*), Catherine Collier ( *Promotions and Marketing manager GCL*), Janet Radford ( *C.E. for G.C.L.*).

**Apologies:** Mike Beazley, Ted Laidlar, Gill Mortimer, Mandy Smith.

Notes of Meeting	Action
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> See list of attendees. Helen thanked everyone for coming and commented how wonderful it was to have such a large turnout for the meeting.</p> <p><b>Feedback focused on the 3 priorities identified by members:</b> The new Shropshire’s Great Outdoors Website and branding (Clare Fildes)</p> <p>Overview of the new website: <a href="http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk">www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk</a> Use, features and plans for future developments.</p> <p>Website is a recreational resource for the general public to find out about the outdoor facilities and opportunities in the county. It includes walking, cycling, horse riding, play areas, parks and sites information and volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>The website is still under development, with certain features, such as ‘<i>Top Outdoor Experiences</i>’ (to prompt people to get outdoors), not yet operational.</p> <p>At this stage concentrating on getting foundation and information of the website correct. Aim is to develop and link with partners such as the National Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust etc.</p> <p>Communication methods discussed. Website not interactive, as do not have sufficient staffing resources. Facebook is current interactive mechanism used. Information goes out via the newsletters – sign up to these is available through the website.</p>	<p><b>H.B. / C.F.</b></p>

**Feedback welcomed. All encouraged to look at the website and contact Hd'A & H.B. with feedback – Hd'A and HB will then collate comments and together with CF address accordingly.**

**All /  
C.F. / Hd'A /  
H.B.**

**Any relevant news / events you have coming up and would like advertised via the website – please provide in WORD format to C.F.**

**All / C.F.**

**Promoted routes:** (Clare Fildes)

Interactive map on new Shropshire's Great Outdoors website shows a selection of current promoted routes in county.

V.S. raised issue of cross border routes, and advised of a new cross border route ( Bewdley area)

**Can everyone please look at their area and see what promoted routes are on the map. Identify which are priority routes and if any key promoted routes are missing advise C.F. accordingly. Limited resources mean that new promoted routes will only be considered where there is a proven need.**

**All / C.F.**

**Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre (SHDC) as a Walking Hub:**

Janet Radford CE & Charles Edwards (Vice Chair) presented vision and plans for SHDC as a walking hub– see the copy of power point presentation circulated with the meeting notes.

Catchment area for walks identified as those starting from SHDC or within a 10 min drive.

Rail rambles suggested by group as another possible idea.

**Please refer to the final slide of the presentation for Action points by our group. Contact Catherine Collier to provide feedback and if you would like to participate in helping them with further discussions/ ideas session to support their excellent work.**

**C.C / All who  
are interested  
in  
participating  
in ideas /  
planning  
session**

**Volunteering Updates:**

**P3:** (Helen Beresford)

**At present:** 63 P3 Groups and 21 PPWs. Approximately 297 P3 Volunteers across the county

**2015/16 so far.....**

Volunteer hours – 3941

- 206 individual improvements
- 1289 hours of vegetation clearance
- 72 hours of surfacing works

- 454 hours of surveying paths
- Total value of P3 volunteering - £27,587

### **Priority areas within Shropshire Hills area 2015/16**

- Worthen & Shelve
- Rushbury
- Cardington
- Mainstone (BC interested)

### **New groups establishing in south**

- Worthen & Shelve – Tentatively starting
- Farlow (footpaths group) – Installed first kissing gate with them, they have a number of jobs in pipeline and are due to install a bridge shortly. All work full time but very keen to fit in works when they can. Susan Sharp has expressed interest in helping support them through the CMFA

### **Other news**

- Contact List – about half the co-ordinators have responded positively
- Bushmoor to Marshbrook Bridleway Work Day with Shropshire Housing Volunteers. Wed 14th October. Hope is to clear whole route and install some gates.

### **Walking for Health: (Helen d'Albert)**

Overall the 14 walks going well. Difficulty recruiting more volunteer walk leaders, despite extensive & varied promotion. 8<sup>th</sup> Oct: 8 volunteers attended training. Further 3 have expressed interest.

Feedback about priority areas – Craven Arms walks commenced 1<sup>st</sup> July. Numbers building. 3 volunteers trained in Oct.

Despite concerted promotion one of Ludlow's walks has been discontinued due to poor attendance. Focusing instead on providing 2 tiers within popular Monday walk (one slower and one slightly longer and quicker walk) to meet walker's needs. Requires double up of leaders available.

Numbers have increased in Church Stretton Grade 1 walk after further promotion.

Clun now has 2 walk leaders, work focusing on increasing walker numbers.

Bishop's Castle now has 5 walk leaders and numbers still modest but gradually building.

New posters being produced for all groups, using photos of local walkers to give local context. Focusing on social aspect- as surveys show this is main draw for people attending walks.

### **Wild Team: ( Hd'A for Simon Brown)**

Shropshire Wild Teams is a Public Health funded project focused on increasing physical activity levels within inactive population groups through outdoor activities in the natural environment.

Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnerships Service co-ordinates initiative via Outdoor Development Officer (Simon Brown).

There are currently two teams. One based in Shrewsbury and one in/around Craven Arms. While numbers are relatively low, both groups have regular volunteers.

Groups started ten months ago and began with clearance work and gate installation via various council, National Trust and Stiperstones and Corndon Hill partnership projects sites. Other activities since, have included hedgelaying & brush cutter training and wildlife surveys for various organisations.

The Craven Arms based team is now ready to work independently. Simon, has arranged regular work for them with Discovery Centre, National Trust on the Long Mynd; and Rectory Wood via David Hardwick, Area Officer.

**Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre:** ( [Catherine Collier](#))

Lots of areas to maintain. Focusing on enhancing visitor experience. Using a core of a few volunteers working to support staff to provide better interpretation of the outdoors. Practical meadows work continues, with activities such as Himalayan Balsam clearance. Catherine working with Partnership organisations and groups for help with these activities. Exploring corporate social responsibility opportunities with local organisations such as Shropshire Housing Group.

Expressed need to get the message out as a priority that the facility is run by Grow Cook Learn (GCL) highlighting that they are a charity. Suggestion made of flyers to alert those parking at the centre.

'*Ramblers Holidays Charity Trust*' suggested as possible funding source for GCL to access.

**National Trust:** ( [Patrick Edwards- new Ranger at Long Mynd](#))

Lots of volunteering opportunities - Heather moorland conservation work, tearoom, shop, recruiting, parking help, meeting with public: 5,000 acres site. Rely heavily on practical volunteer help. Brought newsletter leaflets to share with group. National Trust hand out information as people park to advise of the volunteering opportunities and walk routes.

**AONB – update –** ( [Nigel McDonald](#)):

AONB has just moved offices to Drovers House Craven Arms.

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Drovers House, The Auction Yard, CRAVEN ARMS, SY7 9BZ

[www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk) [www.twitter.com/ShropHillsAONB](https://www.twitter.com/ShropHillsAONB)

Given swift move to new premises mobile numbers or emails are best used till communication systems are fully sorted.

[nigel.mcdonald@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.mcdonald@shropshire.gov.uk) 07990 086383

- Shuttle buses – a good year. Numbers up. Full review being done. Some funding from Natural England has been withdrawn, which is worrying. Still have funding from National Trust. Buses to continue next year. Looking at Ludlow route, a lot of effort put into promotion this year. Excellent feedback received from all over Europe about customer experiences.
- Working with Shropshire Hills Tourism Association to update Discovery Map- self-funding though advertising.
- Focusing on what people do when they get to the area
- Relunched business scheme – Shropshire Hills Business Network – feedback good
- All led walks run this year were well attended. Now reviewing what to do with future walking plans and these ideas link in well with the development of the Discovery Centre as a walking hub.
- Caer Caradoc- would like to run a project to look at the hill; erosion is a concern. Good relationships with landowners. Aim: to look at wayfinding issues, erosion and interpretation of hillfort and locality.
- In their move, a folder has been located with a wealth of hard copies of (printed) walks in the area, in various formats. These routes may no longer be actively promoted but could provide ideas for new walks. Contact Nigel to access folder or to add other routes.
- Public transport links with Shuttle buses raised as a problem, issue discussed, difficulties acknowledged and limitations as to what further can be done were outlined. N.Mc. explained Arriva are considering promoting walker friendly links.

#### **Big Path Watch: ( Marion Law and Sue Jones)**

- Current flagship campaign of the Ramblers. Involves walking every kilometre square of the county and reporting about these. Anyone from general public can participate. Routes available via Ramblers website- 'The Big Path Watch'.
- An easy to use system and there are plenty of squares still to do in the Shropshire Hills. It can be done via the website, or a phone app. You can take printed information out to the walk site, then enter your findings via the internet on your return.
- There are a few priority squares in Shropshire Hills but all need to be completed. The results will be reported electronically to the council. It is hoped that it will not all be negative feedback. It is important for the council to know which footpaths are open and those that are not. M.L. pointed out the need to be realistic that the council will not be able to do anything about some of the footpath issues.

**Update on OS mapping of Shropshire Way: (Hd'A for Mapping &**

**All**

### Enforcement Team)

- Confirmation received from OS they have processed the changes to the Shropshire Way using the up to date details sent to them by the Council's Enforcement team and OS mapping liaison officer. It will appear on the electronic OS maps and on the printed versions when these are next produced by OS.
- N.B. if any other amendments made in future please advise team, so layers can be updated and OS informed to ensure it is kept up to date.
- Question raised "has Open Source mapping been informed?"
- Issues have been raised about the new Shropshire Way routes. Some confusion between the linear and circular routes in terms of waymarking. The path is now more of a network of paths across the county and there is a need to define one route that is the 'Shropshire Way' for those wanting to complete a long distance route.
- There has been a complaint about the Shropshire Way around Church Stretton by a self-guided holiday company. **Need P3 groups to look at the routes and let Right of Way Maintenance team know if there are particular issues.**
- OS printed maps kept and used by many for years and become out of date- no easy solution to this.
- Ludlow P3 have done a lot of work on southern part of Shropshire Way – Titterstone Cleve – Stokesay. Latest plan is to remove stiles and replace with gates ( ½ dozen in total)

**Hd'A to ask Enforcement team**

**P3 Church Stretton, David Hardwick ( Maintenance team) and Lucy McFarlane ( Enforcement team)**

### Mayflower Voyage 400 year anniversary 2020: (Keith Pybus)

- K.P had been asked to seek the Forum's views on the benefits of a Mayflower promotion. The Forum was in favour.
- Walk held as part of Wenlock Walking Weekend this year - passes from Brockton via Larden to Shipton. The story of the four 'More' children from Larden Hall who were on the Mayflower. Will need to be turned into a circular walk. Shipton Hall are aware of and support proposed plans.
- Need the help of the Much Wenlock P3's. HB also trying to contact Corvedale P3.
- The development of a Mayflower Trail could be a focus for work, with the opportunity to bring people and thus revenue to the area. 12 million Americans claim to be descendants from the Mayflower. Other areas of Britain already planning events.
- Other ideas discussed to celebrate the anniversary locally: children's events, history, and evening events – Discovery Centre / AONB. This would widen appeal- needs careful planning.
- Suggestion made that P3 and AONB apply for grant funding to pay for it to be done properly, especially if promoted across world, to maximise the opportunity.
- C.F. recommended a smaller focus group comes together to explore the broader picture and events ideas.

**KP will look at a return leg**

**HB / DB to contact once KP has completed**

**War walks on the Home Front:** (Keith Pybus)

- 2015 has been a big success. Key features – pleased to see a significant number of women on walks, and to have a lively level of interest and participation on both walks.
- Date for diary: walk to take place in Ludlow [amended subsequent to meeting] 28th May 2016: Joint leaders Clive Richardson, author, and KP.
- Shropshire VCs – Hopesay to Sibdon Castle – links with the family which designed and still makes the VC.
- Simon Evan’s Way – Simon Evans a postman, who was badly injured in the war.
- War Walk on the Home Front no. 5 was created from his story. V.S. reported on the great success of the walk and the positive future implications. Brought a locally made clay bust to show the group, specially created for the Cleobury Mortimer Walking weekend.
- Excellent feedback received about the weekend events. Val explained having started out with a story and a walk, things snowballed – from a 4 day event, to producing a calendar and now an annual S.E. festival is likely to be created as a result. Val to document this and write a case study to demonstrate what can be achieved.
- In a similar way, although not promoted as one of the War Walks, the SHAONB had taken the paintings of Bruce Bairnsfather of Stokesay Castle, Downton and Clun to launch a walk from the Stokesay Inn [Old Bill mural] to Stokesay church and the “Old Bill” war memorial.
- Idea put forward – should we be looking at themed walking festivals- maybe location based are not necessarily the way forward?
- Names and contact details of walks participants are very hard won by all individual groups and events. Thoughts of collating names and contacts and sharing with partners with view to alerting them of similar events of interest were discussed, but data protection issues would need to be investigated.

**Dates for next meetings set as follows:**

*Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 venue to be confirmed*

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 venue to be confirmed.*

**Please note all agreed action points are highlighted in bold print.**

**K.P.**

**V.S. / C.F.**

**KP will look at the market**

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# NOTES FROM NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM

## MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015

**Present:** Trevor Allison(Ramblers), Mike Bossen (W4H,West Felton), Peter Carr (Ramblers), Mark Cuthbert-Brown(Kinnerley P3), Liz Evans(W4H), Ian McKenzie (Kinnerley P3), Pat Middleton (Kinnerley P3), Ann Moore (Whitchurch Walkers), Neil Moore (Whitchurch Walkers).

### **Walking for Health**

The next volunteer walk leader's training is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at The Lantern in Sundorne, Shrewsbury. If you know anyone who is interested please contact Liz Evans ([Liz.Evans@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Evans@shropshire.gov.uk)).

Walking for Health in the north remains quite static in numbers, but most groups are doing well with the exception of Oswestry and Wem.

There is a new group in Harmer Hill on a Thursday morning which is being trialled for 6 weeks.

Peter Carr and Liz to visit Dave Preston from Oswestry Town Council, to see what opportunities there are for promoting walking for health.

### **Walkers are Welcome**

The national committee are holding their annual general meeting in Whitchurch on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Peter suggested inviting town councillors from Ellesmere and Market Drayton in addition to Whitchurch ones.

Next year's Whitchurch walking festival is from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016.

Oswestry has its last walk of the year on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10am from Cae Glas park. It concerns the people from Oswestry who were in the war.

### **WW1 walks**

The next walk is in Oswestry on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10am at Cae Glas park. See attached poster.

### **Walk Leader Training, Meres and Mosses**

The Meres and Mosses are arranging for a 3 day training to promote the special qualities of the Meres and Mosses by creating a small group of volunteer walk leaders who will lead a successful range of well interpreted, guided walks throughout the Local Partnership Scheme area. Full details to follow when available. Please let Liz know if you want to do it.

### **Big Pathwatch**

This is about 33% completed in Shropshire. Trevor has done over 600 squares.

If anyone is interested in helping the Ramblers with this, please contact Trevor Allison directly at [eta-06@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eta-06@tiscali.co.uk).

### **Shropshire Way Rationalisation**

This is difficult to promote as a long distance route due to it not connecting, parts are clearly not used – it needs a rationalisation and re-launch. Ramblers are to lead on this.

### **Promoting Walking in North Shropshire**

How do we get an enthusiasm for promoting walking?

In Whitchurch, people talk about the Sandstone way, not the Shropshire way.

Borderland tourism want to promote Oswalds trail – 600 downloads per month – people in Oswestry are not taking this on.

Sam Divine Turner from Meres and Mosses is working on viewranger. As people like technical gadgets, this may be a way forward.

It was also felt the town council could be more active in promoting walking.

### **Ploughing and Cropping 2016**

Peter succinctly outlined responsibilities of landowners and was asked to write this down and send it out to everyone.

He has formulated a plan with Shona, Rights of Way team leader, for next year. Shona will give the Ramblers a list of paths that have a history of cropping problems – the Ramblers will report on them to Shona. Shona will then send out a stronger letter explaining intent to inform the Rural Payments Agency. The Ramblers will then go back 3 weeks later and report again. Following this, the cutting machine can be sent in and a bill sent to the landowner for the work. It was felt it would only have to be done for 1 farmer and the rest would comply.

### **Next meeting**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm, small hall, Ellesmere town hall.

## Central Shropshire Walking Forum

### Notes of Meeting

2pm, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

#### Attendees:

John Newnham (Chair)	Shrewsbury Ramblers	<a href="mailto:john.newnham@btinternet.com">john.newnham@btinternet.com</a>
Bill Hodges	Shrewsbury Ramblers	<a href="mailto:vibill@phoncoop.coop">vibill@phoncoop.coop</a>
Phil Barnes	Shrewsbury Ramblers	<a href="mailto:phil@trigpoint.me.uk">phil@trigpoint.me.uk</a>
Trevor Allison	Shrewsbury ramblers	<a href="mailto:eta-06@tiscali.co.uk">eta-06@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Phil Wadlow	Much Wenlock WfH & WaW	<a href="mailto:wadlowfarming@msn.com">wadlowfarming@msn.com</a>
Anne Suffolk	Telford & East Shropshire Ramblers	<a href="mailto:annesuffolk1@gmail.com">annesuffolk1@gmail.com</a>
Naomi Wrighton	Wellington WaW, Walkabout Wrekin	<a href="mailto:info@wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk">info@wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk</a>
Clare Fildes	Outdoor Partnerships	<a href="mailto:clare.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk">clare.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk</a>
Mick Dunn	Outdoor Partnerships	<a href="mailto:mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk">mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk</a>
Shona Butter	Outdoor Partnerships	<a href="mailto:shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk">shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk</a>

#### Apologies:

Dick Bailey  
Bob Coalbran  
Audrey Menhinick  
Geoff Sproson  
David Hardwick  
Helen Beresford

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

John opened the meeting at 2pm

#### 2. Feedback/Action from Previous Meeting

There was no actions from the previous meeting

#### 3. Group Updates

##### a. Naomi Wrighton (Walk about Wrekin & Wellington Walkers are Welcome)

The Wellington WaW footpath group hold 2 path clearing sessions each month. The group also hold regular Wednesday health walks and longer Sunday walks. Details of walks can be found at [www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk) The annual Walkers are Welcome General Meeting was held at Whitchurch in November. A route linking together WaW towns in Shropshire has been discussed. ? If this is possible to link in with the Shropshire Way.

##### b. John Newnham (Shrewsbury Ramblers)

Shrewsbury Ramblers held their AGM in November where a number of "footpath topics" were discussed as well as the Shropshire Way. Deb Hughes (Outdoor Partnerships service manager) and Richard Knight (Maintenance team leader) were in attendance. [www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk](http://www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk)

##### c. Phil Wadlow (Much Wenlock Walking for Health & Walkers are Welcome)

Much Wenlock WaW held their Walking Weekend in September. The festival was another success but a few walks were undersubscribed which was potentially down to a problem with online bookings. Walking for Health continues to do well averaging over 70 walkers every Monday. The WfH group now has over 30 trained walk leaders and back markers. [www.2shrop.net/wenlock.walks](http://www.2shrop.net/wenlock.walks)

##### d. Anne Suffolk (Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers)

There have been lots of recent personnel changes in the Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers. There is a new Chair, Footpath Officer, and secretary. The Footpath group will be working closely with the WaW footpath group. The Telford & East Shropshire Ramblers are trying to liaise more closely with local walking

groups and are becoming more engaged with social media. (Note Mick will add a list of walking related FB pages in Shropshire to the end of the Notes) [www.shropshireramblers.org.uk/groups/telford.php](http://www.shropshireramblers.org.uk/groups/telford.php)

**e. Geoff Sproson (Marches LDWA & Stiperstones)**

Way markers are now in place on the Elsie Rowson walk. A plaque has been donated by the Women's Institute and will be erected outside the old post office. A guide has been produced and is awaiting printing. A website will be launched shortly.

LDWA Update

1. Wem Winter Wonderland walk (20mile walk in North Shropshire) takes place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December starting at 08.30am from the Wem Sports Centre.  
<https://www.ldwa.org.uk/Marches/E/15691/wem-winter-wonderland.html>
2. South Shropshire Circular in February is now full and entries have closed.
3. Wenlock Olympian Walk (64 mile challenge walk) takes place on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. Entries open Jan 02<sup>nd</sup> 2016 <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/Marches/E/15788/wenlock-olympian-walk.html>

**f. Helen Beresford – P3 Update** (in Helens absence Mick Dunn gave the following update)

P3 Hours since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015

Volunteer hour's whole County – 5097

Central area parishes' hours – 810

Total cost if done by contractors £43,153

David will be coming round with maps to identify all routes which the volunteers consider as priorities in their parish and to ask them to think about this beforehand. Naturally if the Shropshire Way, Severn Way, etc. go through their parish these will be automatic priorities as well as any route with a publication available for it. However, we also need to know the routes which are valued most in each parish and which also make important links to the wider area.

**g. David Hardwick – Maintenance Team Update** (David was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following update)

The biggest project has been improvement of the Severn Way at the Mount/Doctors Field, Shrewsbury. Work parties from Shrewsbury Ramblers P3, Shropshire Wild team and Shropshire Wild Trust have assisted with this. There have been delays in putting the finishing touches together because of high river levels. But the path has not shown any signs of damage after recent flooding.

A new warden in Westbury Parish has highlighted issues at Vron gate which the neighbouring P3 at Alberbury has helped with as well as Shrewsbury Ramblers P3. There is also potential for Pontesbury P3 to assist in the area.

Pontesbury P3 have been active in the Hope Valley area improving footpaths and bridleways.

All the local volunteer groups have been given parish maps to identify what they feel may be the priority paths in their areas.

**4. Shona Butter (Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader)**

**Discovering Lost Ways** - Shona gave the forum a presentation on "Discovering Lost Ways & and the Deregulation Act 2015" a copy of the presentation is attached.

**Ploughing and Cropping** - Shona provided an update on Ploughing & Cropping for Shropshire. Comparisons over recent years clearly demonstrated that cropping was by far the greater issue. See below:-

Year	Ploughing	Cropping
Apr 12 - Mar 13	9	80
Apr 13 - Mar 14	16	67
Apr 14 - Mar 15	14	75

This year's campaign had resulted in the following success rates:

% of paths clear of crops  
North Shropshire 39%

Oswestry	54%
South Shropshire	76%
Bridgnorth	54%
Shrewsbury & Atcham	59%

Future Actions:

- a. Landowners who have been sent letters in the past and are highlighted again in the following year will be sent a stronger letter, or notice will be served.
- b. Cropping with maize has been identified as a growing problem with increasing acreages grown for ensiling or energy production. This crop lengthens the cropping season and a further harvest period (Sept-November) This must now be taken into consideration in any campaign and the situation when a crop could be obstructing the path from May to November. It should be emphasised that a crop should be cleared as soon as it emerges for the advantage of both walkers and landowners.
- c. In addition, the fact that some crops lodge (fall over into the path) e.g. oilseed rape are also being looked at more closely by the enforcement team. It has come apparent that this crop can also obstruct depending on the method of harvesting. If it cut and left in swathes to ripen before combining these across the path make it impossible to negotiate.
- d. More timely inspections are required to give officers sufficient time to take action and prevent landowners using the 'imminent harvest' as an excuse not to clear the path. Volunteers to inspect routes were welcomed.
- e. Production of the landowner leaflet to help raise awareness of legal requirements to ensure routes are open and available.

**5. Shropshire Way**

Discussions have been ongoing about establishing a definitive, circular Shropshire Way route. A full update will be given at the next meeting.

**6. Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Updates – Clare gave the following updates:**

- a. **The Big Conversation.** <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/big-conversation/> Clare explained that due to further funding cuts Shropshire Council were conducting a public consultation regarding the service the Council currently provide and which services should be provided in the future. Clare encouraged all attendees to complete the survey.
- b. **The Severn Way.** Funding sources are being sought to upgrade and improve the Severn Way through Shropshire. Surveys are being carried out to establish the extent of the work needed.
- c. **Outdoor Partnership annual ROW survey.** <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/outdoor-recreation-annual-public-survey/> Clare reminded everyone that Outdoor Partnerships conduct an annual user survey for our ROW, Parks and Country Side sites. Attendees are encouraged to complete the survey and encourage members of their relevant groups to do so. Evidence collected from the survey is vital for securing future funding.

**7. The Big Path Watch**

Trevor gave the following update. The Telford and Wrekin area has been completed apart from 6 grid Squares. Shropshire is the Top area in the country at the moment for completing target squares. 46% of total Squares have now been completed in Shropshire & Telford and Wrekin. [www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/join-the-big-pathwatch.aspx](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/join-the-big-pathwatch.aspx)

**8. AOB**

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2pm – 4pm The Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury SY26ND

## Walking Facebook Pages

<https://www.facebook.com/WalkingInShropshire>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyAndMidShropshireRamblers>

<https://www.facebook.com/Telford-and-East-Shropshire-Ramblers-463941947076536>

<https://www.facebook.com/Wenlock.walks>

<https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonWalkersAreWelcome>

<https://www.facebook.com/Ironbridge-Gorge-Walking-Festival-30-Apr-08-May-2016-416628868384643>

<https://www.facebook.com/Church-Stretton-Walking-Festival-2016-757983534315681>

<https://www.facebook.com/Shropshire-Hills-Area-of-Outstanding-Natural-Beauty-103513872530>