



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Wednesday, 17 October 2018

Committee:
Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board

Date: Thursday, 25 October 2018

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Ludlow Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board

Alex Carson-Taylor (Chairman)	Cecilia Motley
Mark Weston (Vice Chairman)	Stewart Pickering
Peter Carr	Lezley Picton
Lee Chapman	Nigel Pocock
Sarah Faulkner	Ronald Repath
Ruby Hartshorne	Jack Tavernor
Chris Mansell	Andrew Wood

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

2 Public Question Time

To receive any questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Shropshire Council Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 10.00am on 24 October 2018

3 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

4 Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2018 are attached for confirmation

5 Actively Improving Lives

To receive a presentation from Chris Child, Chief Executive of Energize County Sports Partnership on their new strategy.

The strategy can be found here: <https://energizestw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Actively-Improving-Lives-full-screen-Final-March-2018.pdf>

Following the presentation Members are asked to discuss the implications of the new strategy on priorities and delivery

6 Shropshire's Economic Growth Strategy

To receive a presentation from Matt Potts, Business Growth and Investment Manager, on the Economic Growth Strategy, highlighting progress so far and priorities for the future.

The strategy can be found here: <http://www.investinshropshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Economic-Growth-Strategy-for-Shropshire-2017-2021.pdf>

Following the presentation Members are asked to discuss the implications on the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy and future priorities.

7 Agriculture Bill

To receive an update from the Chairman

Members are asked to feedback their observations on the draft bill and decide whether further action is needed

8 ADEPT National meeting feedback

The Mapping and Enforcement Manager will update members on the recent national meeting of the PROW group of ADEPT

9 Updates from Members

To receive short updates from Members on key activities/priorities/issues

10 Other Items (Pages 5 - 24)

Wild Teams/Walking for Health

A verbal update will be given.

Rights of Way User Leaflet

The latest version of the leaflet is attached for information.

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

- Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum

11 Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Members are asked to discuss key priorities for future meetings

12 Date of Next Meeting

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 February 2018 at 10.00am

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Committee and Date

Shropshire's Great Outdoors
Strategy Board

25 October 2018

SHROPSHIRE'S GREAT OUTDOORS STRATEGY BOARD

**Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2018 in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall,
Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND
10.00 - 11.50 am**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Alex Carson-Taylor (Chairman), Peter Carr, Stewart Pickering, Lezley Picton,
Ronald Repath, Jack Tavernor and Andrew Wood

37 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

- 37.1 The Chair welcomed John Dodwell, Chair of the Montgomery Canal Partnership and Marc Rue and Debi Stopforth from All Terrain UK to the meeting.
- 37.2 Apologies for absence had been received from Lee Chapman, Sarah Faulkner, Ruby Hartshorne, Nigel Pocock and Mark Weston
- 37.3 Mr Carr updated members on a visit by the Chief Executive of the Ramblers Association. He advised that she had visited a P3 group and had been very impressed with the work that was being carried out, and that she would be using Shropshire as an example of best practice in a request to the Secretary of State for funding to establish P3's nationwide.

38 Public Question Time

- 38.1 There were no public questions

39 Declarations of Interest

- 39.1 There were no declarations of interest made

40 Minutes of the Last Meeting

- 40.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 had been circulated
- 40.2 Resolved:

That the minute of the meeting of the Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Board held on 19 March 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

41 Montgomery Canal

- 41.1 Members received a presentation from John Dodwell, Chair – Montgomery Canal Trust which updated them on the work that the Trust was carrying out. He informed the meeting that the trust relied on volunteers for a lot of their work and that they relied on gifts and legacies to fund their work as well as applying for funding from the usual agencies.
- 41.2 In response to a question Mr Dodwell confirmed that there was a 10 year plan in place to extend the canal from Llanymynech to Welshpool but that this was dependant on gaining the necessary funding. He informed members that an application was being made to gain funds from the Mid Wales Growth Fund.
- 41.3 Mr Carr commented that there was a direct economic benefit from the Canal
- 41.4 Ms Picton commented that there may be money available from the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 41.5 The Outdoor Partnerships Manager commented that her team would give the Trust as much support as it could.

42 Shropshire Way

- 42.1 The meeting received a presentation from the Active Volunteering Co-ordinator which updated them on work carried out to update the Shropshire Way. She confirmed that the main route had now been defined and that the southern section had been launched in September 2017, and that it was hoped to launch the northern section soon in September 2018 but that there was still work to be carried out in marking the route and some other issues to be resolved. In closing the Active Volunteering Co-ordinator advised that the Shropshire Way Association had developed a new website.

43 All Terrain UK

- 43.1 Marc Rue and Debi Stopforth from All Terrain UK gave a short presentation on the work of their organisation which represented all motorised users of byways. They stated that All Terrain UK promoted the safe and considerate use of byways by motorised users and would like to work with the Council on this and other matters.

44 Outdoor Partnerships Revised Policies for Rights of Way, Country Parks and Heritage Sites

- 44.1 Details of revised policies for Rights of Way, Country Parks and Heritage Sites had been circulated.
- 44.2 The Outdoors Partnership Manager advised the meeting that new policies had been developed covering Public Rights of Way Enforcement, and Providing Easier Access and that many of the existing policies had been updated.

44.3 Members welcomed the policies and made the following comments: -

- The first paragraph on the Drone and Model Aircraft policy was unenforceable and should be amended to say that they cannot be operated from Shropshire Council sites without specific permission
- With regard to the ploughing and cropping campaign this should be done in conjunction with partner agencies

44.4 The Outdoor Partnerships Manager thanked members for their comments and asked that if they had any further comments they should feed them back to her as soon as possible.

45 Shropshire Council Update

45.1 Members received the following updates: -

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy consultation

The Outdoor Partnerships Manager confirmed that the Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy had been published for consultation and to date 32 responses had been received

Walking Forums- proposed changes to the forums

The Outdoor Partnerships Manager informed the meeting that Liz Evans had left the Council and that Helen Foxall was now acting as Walking for Heath Co-Ordinator for the whole of the County and was working to make groups more self-sufficient. She added that there was no capacity within her team to organise the walking forums and that she was looking for volunteers to help.

Wild Teams and Walking for Health- no funding from April 2019

The Outdoor Partnerships Manager reminded the meeting that currently these schemes were funded with money from the Public Health Budget but that from 2019 there would be no money from this source and that she was currently exploring other methods of funding the schemes. Members expressed concern regarding the future of these two important schemes and it was agreed that the Chair should write to the Portfolio Holder and the Director of Public Health expressing the Board's concerns.

Planning Policy- update on progress with Open Space Needs Assessment and proposals for new Supplementary Planning Guidance for green space

The Outdoor Partnerships Manager advised the meeting that work on these documents was progressing.

Nesscliffe Country Park- conflicts between users

The Outdoor Partnerships Manager advised members that the Nesscliffe Advisory Group were meeting to look at the issues raised. She added that a new Management Plan was being developed for the area,

46 Updates from Members

- 46.1 Mr Carr advised the meeting that the launch of the new Telford T50 trail would take place on 16 June 2018.

47 Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- 47.1 The following items were suggested for consideration as future agenda items: -
Economic Growth Strategy

48 Dates of Future Meetings

- 48.1 Members were advised that future meeting of the Board would be held on: -
4 October 2018
7 February 2019 and
6 June 2019

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



Shropshire's **GREAT OUTDOORS**

Public Rights of Way

A guide for users





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1. Introduction

Shropshire has over 5,600km of Public Rights of Way. This is more than the distance between Shrewsbury and New York!

Shropshire Council works closely with both landowners and local communities to keep these routes open.

This leaflet is a guide to assist users with some of the most common issues and queries relating to Public Rights of Way and the legislation that governs them.

More detailed Public Guidance Notes (PGN) are available on many subject areas. To view these please visit the Council's webpages at <https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/guidance-notes/> Relevant PGNs are listed within this document.





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2. Public Rights of Way (PROW)

There are four categories of Public Rights of Way:

- **Public Footpath (FP)** – for use by the public on foot only.



- **Public Bridleway (BW)** – for use by the public on foot, horseback, leading a horse and on a bicycle.



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- **Restricted Byway (RB)** – for use by the public on foot, on horseback, leading a horse, on a bicycle and in a non-motorised vehicle i.e. by horse drawn vehicle.



- **Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT)** – for use by the public on foot, horseback, leading a horse, on a bicycle, in a motorised or non-motorised vehicle and driving animals.



All the above are public highways and as such are protected by law under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980.

It should be noted that private rights can often coexist with Public Rights and certain people may have private rights to use motorised vehicles on Public Rights of Way. The Council has no powers to deal with disputes relating to private rights.

3. Other Routes with Public Access

Unclassified County Roads (UCRs) – An unclassified road is simply a public road which does not have an A, B or C road classification. Most unclassified roads are normal tarmac motor roads but there are also a small number which are unsurfaced lanes. These are often referred to as UCRs (Unclassified County Roads).

All unclassified roads (tarmac or otherwise) are recorded on a document known as the List of Streets. This is the official record of all highways that are maintained at public expense and every highway authority should have one. These are managed by the Highways Department.

It is important to understand that the inclusion of a route on the List of Streets does not provide conclusive evidence as to its status.

Other Routes with Public Access (ORPAs) – These are depicted on Ordnance Survey Maps, including the OS Explorer Map 1: 25,000 Scale (Green Dots) and OS Landranger Map 1:50 000 Scale (Red Dots).

The Ordnance Survey describe them as: “These are routes that are rights of way; however, the exact nature of the routes is unclear and is based on the best information that Ordnance Survey has to hand. Prior to setting out on one of these routes, you may want to contact the local highway authority to see if they can advise on any restrictions that there may be.”

In Shropshire, ORPAs tend to be Unclassified County Roads.

4. Additional Types of Access

As well as the formal categories of Public Rights of Way and routes with public access detailed above, there are other routes which can also be used.

Permissive Paths – These are not legally recorded Public Rights of Way but the public can use them with the permission of the landowner. They are usually waymarked with a Permissive symbol. The permission may extend just to certain types of user, e.g. walkers. The permission (which may be a written agreement or just verbal) may be withdrawn by the landowner.

Promoted Routes – These are routes which have a significance in the area and are popular with visitors. They typically consist of a mix of different types of Public Rights of Way, minor roads and permissive paths. The Shropshire Way is a long-distance footpath which is promoted in Shropshire, and there are also other promoted routes for other users e.g. horseriders such as the Jack Mytton Way and Humphrey Kynaston Way. Most of these promoted routes will have their own distinct waymarking.



For more details on promoted routes in Shropshire visit the Shropshire's Great Outdoors website at <http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk>

Here you can also find out about the top outdoor experiences, volunteering, activities and events at our parks and sites and an interactive map.

Green lanes – This term has no legal meaning but is often used to describe certain routes which have no sealed surface. A green lane may also be a Public Right of Way, or it might be entirely private.

White roads – These routes are so called because they are minor roads shown on Ordnance Survey maps (but not coloured in), and are often unsurfaced. They may be unclassified county roads, or carry other (unrecorded) public rights of access, or else they might be private. The Ordnance Survey now show these routes which are known to carry public rights of some sort as 'ORPAs'

Footway or pavement – A footway is a path set out for pedestrians beside a vehicular highway. It is a part of that highway. The footway may not be used by either cyclists or horse riders, unless a part of it has been specifically set out for their use – in which case it will be signed and may be surfaced with a different coloured tarmac. Cyclists and horse riders can of course cross a footway to reach a route which leads off the road.

Cycle tracks, cycle lanes and cycle paths – A cycle lane is a part of a carriageway set apart for the use of cyclists. It may be either advisory (dashed white line) or mandatory (a solid white line). A cycle track or path is a route physically separate from a road and which has been constructed for cyclists, although they can normally be used by walkers too.



The National Cycle Network (developed by Sustrans in partnership with local authorities and others) is the national cycling route network of the United Kingdom. It was established to encourage cycling throughout Britain, and for bicycle touring. It includes sections of cycle path and cycle lane, as well as other routes. There are several routes within Shropshire. For more information visit their website at

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/national-cycle-network>

National Trails – Formerly known as "Long Distance Paths", there are several such routes promoted for walkers or riders by Natural England. Offa's Dyke Path, which follows the English/Welsh border for 177 miles, alongside the 8th Century Offa's Dyke, runs through Shropshire.

<https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/offas-dyke-path>

Canal Towpaths – The Canal and River Trust (CART) looks after the country's canal towpaths. They state: "Our canals and rivers provide year-round opportunities for people to get out and about in the fresh air. We want as many people as possible to experience the benefits of spending time by the water, so we've been gathering information on our towpaths and their access points to make it that bit easier for everyone to discover their local waterway." This mainly relates to walking but they do encourage access for all. For more information visit their website at:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>

Open Access Land – This is land you can walk across and includes mountains, moors, heaths and downs, that are privately owned. It also includes common land registered with the Council and some land around the England Coast Path.

You can use open access land at any time for walking, running, climbing, bird watching or picnicking, except when local restrictions are in place. Your right to access this land is called the 'right to roam' or 'freedom to roam' and came into effect following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

To find out more visit the website below:

<https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam>

Country Parks, Heritage Sites and other open spaces – They often allow access, and in some instances this is for specific users such as Mountain Bikers and Horseriders.





As well as the Public Rights of Way network, Shropshire Council also manages two Country Parks and 23 Heritage Sites. Access is provided for users via the Public Rights of Way network and other routes across these sites. For more information on our sites please visit the page below:

<http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/parks-and-sites>

Shropshire Wildlife Trust manages 40 nature reserves across the county. These include heathlands, meadows, ancient woodlands and moorland and everyone is encouraged to explore them.

<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk>

The Forestry Commission provide access to their land. The Marches Forest Area extends from just north of Shrewsbury south to Leominster and across to the Welsh border. The undulating landscape of this area is punctuated with woodland sites many of which have historical significance. They have walking trails, cycling and mountain bike trails and horseriding routes. For specific details visit their website at:

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/marches>

The National Trust have many special places in Shropshire to visit, from open countryside to magnificent houses.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/shropshire>

5. Definitive Map

The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) is the legal record of Public Rights of Way. If a route is shown on this map then it is conclusive evidence of the existence of that route, even though there may not be any visible evidence on the ground that a public right of way exists. There is a legal duty on the Council to ensure that the DMS is kept up to date and accurate. There are provisions for unrecorded routes to be legally recorded and errors corrected where there is sufficient evidence.

Routes used by the public were legally defined under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Parish Councils were asked to mark on maps and describe in schedules where they believed public routes to exist within their parishes. In Shropshire, this took place in the 1950s.

The Definitive Map for Shropshire is a paper record that is available for viewing by the public. This is recorded on old base maps, so it may be beneficial to check the electronic working copy online instead which is current information. The link to the website is detailed below.

You can view the electronic working copy of the Definitive Map online at:

<https://shropshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=00a0e03e79ee453ab6b787961ab192ec>

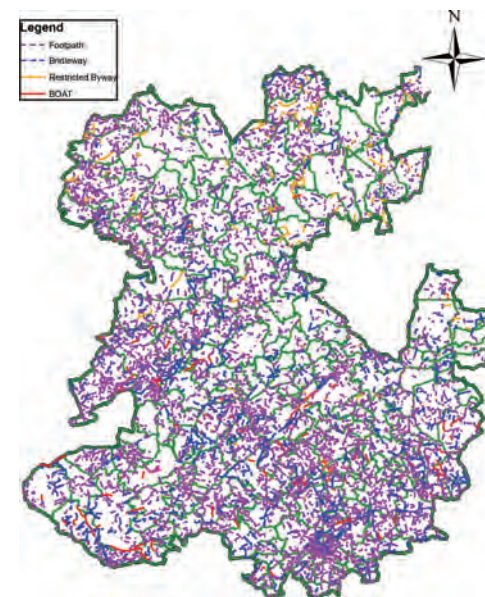
If a public right of way is shown on the Map it can only be altered by way of a legal order. Lack of usage does not result in a public right of way being legally closed.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/the-definitive-map/>

If there is evidence of an error on the Definitive Map anyone can make a claim to have the Map corrected. This may be to add a route, delete a route, amend the line of a route or change the status of a route (upgrade or downgrade). Evidence to support these types of changes can be in the form of user or historical evidence (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).

Routes can also be diverted, extinguished or created. These are normally preferential changes requested by the landowner or can be made in the interests of the public (Highways Act 1980).

See PGN 08 and PGN 12 for more information



6. Temporary and Permanent Closures

Public Rights of Way can be temporarily closed. This is normally to allow works to be undertaken during development or for maintenance to ensure a route is safe for public use. Notices are erected on site to notify users.

See PGN 21

In addition, there are a few permanent closures on the network in Shropshire. These mainly relate to Byways Open to all Traffic which have had orders to restrict vehicular usage.

To check if a route has been temporarily or permanently closed please visit the Council's webpages at:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/temporary-closures-of-public-rights-of-way/>

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/permanent-traffic-regulation-orders>



7. How do I know where to go?

All Public Rights of Way are shown on the Ordnance Survey (OS) Explorer and Landranger Series.

Probably the best and most comprehensive maps are the Explorer maps at a scale of 1:25 000. These are divided into sheets covering the whole of Great Britain.

In addition to the Public Rights of Way information, they also show areas of Open Access Land, long-distance trails and off-road cycle ways.

The Landranger maps are at a scale of 1:50 000 and are less detailed than the Explorer maps but they cover a larger area.

OS maps are available via the OS website and at most good bookshops, visitor information centres and some local newsagents and garages.

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/>

Please note that whilst all legal changes to the Public Rights of Way network are sent to Ordnance Survey by Highway Authorities, there is often some delay in those changes being updated on the paper maps.

The Maps from the Explorer series which cover Shropshire are numbers, 201, 203, 216-218, 240, 241-243 and 257.

The Shropshire's Great Outdoors website has an interactive map showing public rights of way which, along with the electronic working copy of the Definitive Map is updated daily.



8. The Council's Responsibilities

Shropshire Council, as the Highway Authority, has a legal duty to protect and assert the Public Rights of Way network and is also responsible for the maintenance of those routes that are maintainable at public expense. In addition, we have a duty to ensure that the Definitive Map is kept under continuous review.

Specifically, the Council's responsibilities regarding Public Rights of Way are to:

- Keep the surface in good repair
- Maintain most bridges
- Signpost routes where they leave County Roads
- Provide additional signage and waymarking where considered necessary
- Protect the public's rights to use the network
- Enforce the network e.g. removal of obstructions, ensuring routes are reinstated during ploughing or cropping, removal of misleading signs etc
- Ensure landowners maintain stiles and gates on the network and to contribute 25% towards such structures

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9. Landowners' Responsibilities

Owners and occupiers of land crossed by public rights of way must:

- Maintain stiles and gates on a path in a safe condition as they could be potentially liable for injuries caused to path users if furniture is not adequately maintained
- Cut back any overhanging vegetation or growth alongside the highway
- Ensure that they do not obstruct the highway
- Reinststate paths within the prescribed timescales following cultivation
- Not keep a bull over ten months old of a recognised dairy breed on land crossed by Public Rights of Way or other bulls over ten months old unless accompanied by cows or heifers
- Not keep any other animal, which is known to be aggressive on land crossed by Public Rights of Way
- Not erect electric fencing on a right of way unless it is adequately insulated and signed
- Not encroach on the width of the highway
- Not erect misleading or intimidating signage on the Public Rights of Way network

Please see Shropshire's booklet 'Public Rights of Way A guide for landowners and farmers' which details these responsibilities more fully.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/6351/public-rights-of-way-a-guide-for-landowners-and-farmers.pdf>

10. Users' Responsibilities

Follow the Countryside Code (Respect, Protect and Enjoy)

- Be safe and plan ahead
- Follow advice and any local signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701188/countryside-code.pdf



11. The Parish Council

Parish Councils have specific rights and powers in respect of Public Rights of Way. They can:

- Maintain routes in their area.
- Erect lighting on routes.
- Create routes by agreement with the landowner if it is satisfied that the creation will benefit all or part of the parish or community.
- Sign and waymark routes on behalf of the Highway Authority.
- Provide seats and shelters at the side of public routes.

12. Volunteers

Shropshire has a thriving volunteering community who undertake work on both our Public Rights of Way and our Country Parks and Heritage Sites.

Shropshire works closely with Parish Councils and many have a Parish Path Partnership group (P3) associated with the Parish, which often consists of parishioners who help to maintain and look after their local Public Rights of Way network. The scope of their activities ranges from simple waymarking to vegetation clearance and furniture installation.

We also work closely with individual volunteers and user groups.

If you are interested in volunteering or want more information please visit:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/volunteering-opportunities>



13. Overhanging Vegetation and Fallen Trees

The landowner is responsible for any vegetation overhanging a Public Right of Way, unless it is growing from the surface of the highway. For example, trees from a private residence that overhang the highway are the owner's responsibility, whereas trees growing from the surface of the highway are the Council's responsibility.

Hedges adjacent to the Public Right of Way are also the responsibility of the landowner and need to be kept cut back, to ensure that they do not encroach onto the highway.

Trees that fall across a route are also the responsibility of the landowner and the Council will normally contact owners when notified of fallen trees, to get them removed. The Council has the right to remove as much of the tree as obstructs the route. If the route is a bridleway the recommended headroom from overgrowth is 3 metres.

14. Bulls & Dangerous Animals

It is illegal to allow a bull over 10 months old and on its own to be at large in a field or enclosure crossed by a public right of way. A bull can be present in a field or enclosure crossed by a public right of way if it is not of a recognised dairy breed and is accompanied by cows or heifers.

The recognised dairy breeds are Ayrshire, British Friesian, British Holstein, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey and Kerry

If there is any question about a bull's temperament or any other animal's temperament which is known to the keeper of that animal, it should not be allowed in a field where a public right of way passes. If injury occurs to a member of the public using the route then an offence may have been committed and the occupier could be liable.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 59 Animals Act 1971 Section 2



15. Dogs

A dog is classed as a 'usual accompaniment' on a Public Right of Way and is therefore allowed to be present with users.

Does my dog have to be on a lead?

No, but it does have to be under close control and it is not entitled to roam away from the path. If it does so, the owner could be guilty of committing trespass against the landowner. If signage is present requesting that dogs are kept on leads, it is advisable to do so. The one exception to this rule is if you are in a field with cattle, especially with calves. Cows may feel threatened and become aggressive towards you and your dog. If this happens stay calm and let your dog off the lead.

What if I cannot get my dog over a stile?

The Highways Act makes provision for landowners to fit stiles and gates on rights of way in the interests of containing livestock. On a public footpath, a landowner has a legal duty to provide access for walkers but the duty does not extend to dogs. Some popular dog walking routes may have dog friendly stiles fitted but these are not standard and are usually negotiated with individual landowners.

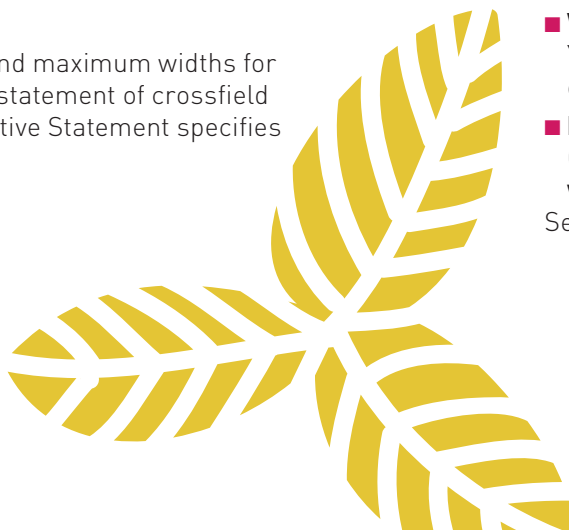
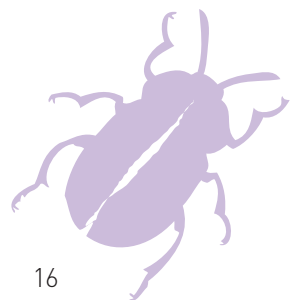
Threatening dogs on the network

If a dog is present on a route and prevents the public being able to use that route then this constitutes a public nuisance. Any instances should be reported to the Council and the police.

See PGN 03

16. Ploughing and Cropping on Public Rights of Way

The Rights of Way Act 1990 specifies minimum and maximum widths for headland paths over arable land and for the reinstatement of crossfield paths following cultivation. However, if the Definitive Statement specifies a width, this is what has to be restored.



17. FAQs

- **Is shooting allowed on a Public Right of Way?** Landowners and farmers can shoot on their land but must not endanger the public using Public Rights of Way, as they have a right to pass and repass at all times.
- **What is the width of a Public Right of Way?** The width of a public right of way will depend on the circumstances of that individual route. It can be set out within the Definitive Statement, or in an historical document. It can vary between the width between two boundaries, such as hedges or fences, or it can be that which has been habitually used.
- **Can you take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair on a Public Right of Way?** Yes, but many routes will not be suitable due to the terrain or the furniture on the route (e.g. stiles).
- **Can I ride a bicycle on a footpath?** No, you do not have the right to ride or push a bicycle along a public footpath.
- **What do I do if the route is obstructed?** Legally you can take a short alternative route around an illegal obstruction. If this is not possible report the issue to the Council.
- **Can I remove an obstruction myself or clear vegetation on a route?** It is considered reasonable to remove only as much is necessary to get through. For example, overgrown vegetation around a stile. If you can get around the obstruction then you should do so and then report the issue to the Highway Authority.
- **Can a Public Right of Way be lost if it is not used?** No, lack of use has no effect on the legal existence of a Public Right of Way.
- **Where can I ride my mountain bike?** On any public bridleways, restricted byways and Byways Open to all Traffic and where it is actively permitted.
- **What do I do if there is a crop across the Public Right of Way?** If you are confident that you are on the correct line you are legally entitled to walk that route through the crop.
- **Will I encounter horses and livestock when using Public Rights of Way?** Yes, it is normal to encounter horses and livestock on routes. Restrictions only apply to certain bulls and animals known to be dangerous.
- **How do I find out about easy access routes?** Visit Shropshire's Great Outdoors Website <http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/walking/search/?keywords=easy%20access>

See PGN01



18. How do I report a problem on a Public Right of Way?

There are several ways to report issues that you encounter on the Public Rights of Way network.

To ensure that issues are effectively recorded and can be tracked, it is preferable if they are either:

emailed directly to **outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk**

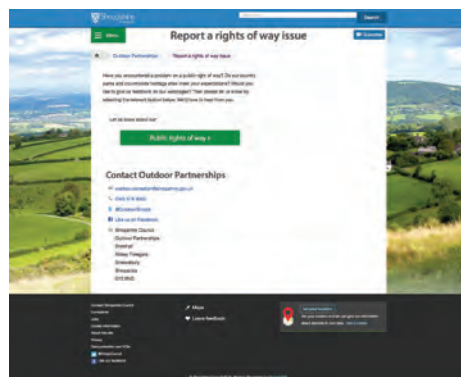
or Reported via the Council's Webpage: **<https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/report-a-rights-of-way-issue/>**

This ensures that they are recorded on our letter log and, if necessary, on our database, with the appropriate dates and details of which member of the team they have been allocated to.

Please note that unless you have specifically requested a reply we will not contact you further unless we require additional information.

Issues can also be reported via the Council's General Enquiries and these also get logged appropriately. Tel: **0345 6789000**.

Unfortunately, due to the sheer volume of issues reported and the resources available, issues have to be prioritised. Therefore, some issues may not get dealt with for a considerable time, whilst others must be dealt with urgently, particularly if they present a health and safety risk.



19. About the Team

The Outdoor Partnerships Team is responsible for all matters relating to the Public Rights of Way within Shropshire. We also manage two Country Parks and 23 Countryside Sites. We work very closely with Parish Paths Partnerships; groups of local volunteers who come together to maintain, improve and promote local Public Rights of Way. They identify local priorities and work to keep routes accessible for everyone to enjoy.

For any queries or further advice on Public Rights of Way in Shropshire please contact us:

E-mail: **outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk**

Telephone: **0345 6789000**

In writing: Outdoor Partnerships Team, Infrastructure and Communities Place Directorate, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND.

www.shropshire.gov.uk

<http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk>





Shropshire's **GREAT OUTDOORS**



For any queries, further advice or for assistance with any issues on Public Rights of Way please contact us:

E-mail: **outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk**

Telephone: **0345 6789000**

In writing:

Outdoor Partnerships Team
Infrastructure and Communities
Shropshire Council
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

www.shropshire.gov.uk
shropshiregreatoutdoors.co.uk



www.walkingforhealth.org.uk



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SHROPSHIRE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING FORUM (SRCDF)

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11th June 2018, at 5.30pm, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

1. Attendance:

Angela Williams, BHS CABO & Ellesmere, Chairman. Zia Robins, Shrewsbury & District RC A&BWO, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Linda Russell, South West Shrewsbury BW P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Ann Durnell, Bridgnorth BWA. Elaine Newton, Broseley BWA. Jan Mees Robinson, Telford Bridleways. Shona Butter, Shropshire Council.

Apologies:

Pam Yuille, Underton, Bridgnorth. Andrew Kelly, Vyrnwy & Dist. BWA. Mark Weston, BHS.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th February 2018 (paper A) were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising**(a) Helicopters**

Squadron Leader Kim Leach, the Corporate Engagement Relations Officer at RAF Shawbury, has reported that the annual Landowners' and 4th Horse Rider Awareness Day on 17th May went well, and was well attended by about 28 riders, including safety reps from the BHS and Pony Club. She is aiming her campaign this year at Pony Clubs to give them hi viz, and hopes to talk to some of them over the summer. She briefed all the aircrew at Shawbury last week on rider awareness as part of their internal engagement, and it was well received. She asked that members note her new email address kim.leach347@mod.gov.uk. Elaine Newton, from our Forum, attended and reported having an excellent day. They had a talk, then were taken up in a helicopter and had to spot two cyclists in high viz on the ground. They recommended wearing high viz whilst turning out horses. The Shropshire Star had a photo and report on 28th May.

(b) Cycling – Mountain Biking (MTB' s)

Shona reported that they have had issues reported at Nesscliffe Countryside Heritage Park. Mountain Bikers are making their own routes and riding off Rights of Way. The Police have been involved. Picnic Benches have been broken and digging taken place to make jumps, and there is concern over bikers using the ramparts of the Hill Fort for down hill runs. There has been an incident of glass on The Cliffe, in an area used by the bikers, but as they ride off their legal bridleway routes, this may have been old glass from when there were squatters cottages, as broken glass and metal has been dumped there over the ages and is often exposed by the weather. The Shropshire Star carried rather sensational reports. Zia reported a lot of old broken glass etc. having to be cleared when the new bridleway was put through the Shrubbs Common on Hopton Hill. Downhill cycling is also causing run-off, bringing debris down onto the bridleways. Cycling sites state that cyclists have a right to ride on Bridleways, but there is lack of information on the requirement by law for cyclists to give way to walkers and horse riders. Cycle Racing is also not permitted by law on Public Bridleways. It has been suggested in the news that cycling laws should be brought in line with driving, following incidents of people being killed and injured by dangerous cycling.

(c) Outdoor Partnerships Annual User Survey 2018

Noted - The 2018 Annual User Survey Results - Summary sent out to members on 4th June.

There was a lot of input by equestrians to the 2018 User Survey, a lot more than in previous years. It is very important that equestrians continue to respond to this Annual Survey.

(d) Any other matters arising not on the Agenda

Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Project

Lucy McFarlane is working with Powys on cross border routes including the unregistered section of old lane to the west of Corndon Hill. East of Corndon Hill there is an old road, Poker Lane, shown as an Unclassified County Road (UCR) in Shropshire, which has now been gated at the Powys County boundary. There was an Ale House there. This is an important link to Bridleways to the east. Zia has photos of riding it before it was gated. Zia is concerned over the lost opportunity with the Project to look at gaps in the riding network such as the Unclassified County Road from Rorrington link route up to the ridge Byway on Stapeley Common Shona advised Zia to speak to Lucy McFarlane with regard to routes.

Drones

Zia said that a Shropshire Star Report raised concerns over use of Drones. A lot of surveying is now done by Drones, including a recent one of Nesscliffe Hill Fort. RAF Shawbury's website advised that a drone should not be flown higher than 400 feet, must be kept in line of sight at all times, not flown within 150 feet of people or property, or within 500 feet of crowds or built up areas. It also states that if you spot anyone doing this, report it to the Police on 101.

There are no other matters arising

4. Shropshire Council

(a) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships

Noted - that the Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Volunteers Newsletters are available on www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk website on the Home page under 'Useful Links' – 'News'.

Noted – the updated 'Access Mapping and Enforcement Team Areas' Map (sent with Agenda).

Zia reported that Clare has written an email on Reporting Issues on the Public Rights of Way network. There are on average 976 incidents annually, so individual feedback is not always possible. To make sure that they are effectively recorded, and can then be tracked, it is preferable that they are emailed directly to outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk. Shona said that Cara then logs them and forwards them to the appropriate person, so it is very important that the position of the problem being reported is **clearly** identified with the Route Code or accurate grid reference. An automated response will be sent, and if people want an update they must then state this. Zia will forward the email to Forum members. (This was forwarded on 12th June 2018) Shona also reported that Helen Foxhall only does 1 day a week with her department so cannot deal with general inquiries, so Emily will be dealing with these issues for Helen's area.

(b) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Implementation Team

Noted – The updated 'Area Officers Areas Map' (sent out with the Agenda).

Richard Knight has reported that they are two maintenance Officers short at the moment, but have interviewed for replacements, so are struggling for staff to carry out the annual topping etc. at this critical time of the year.

Sansaw BW 0210/31 Richard does not have any update on the works to be done. This was being dealt with by Harvey Morgan.

Adcote Mill Bridge BW 0202/54 linking BW0202/UN3 & BW 0425/54 and opening up of adjoining Ford 0202/UN3. – They are working with WSP (formerly Mouchel) to get things in motion. Shona reported that this is a complex matter with access issues for replacing the bridge, but they hope to have things in place to do the work in the late summer.

BW 0419/25B Nesselcliffe – Shona reported that a date was set for her and Richard to meet with the Landowner, to deal with the problem of the dug away definitive BW line, but then cancelled.
BW 0432/6 Acton Burnell, from the bend East of Langley Chapel via BW0414/1, to the Kenley to Acton Burnell Road. Richard reports that they are trying to find the time to replace this bridge with a timber one.

Melverley RB1 - drainage. This is another one waiting for the staff to deal with it.

Hopton Shrubbs Common BW 0419/UN14 to BW to Pine Car Park – The damage done by a works vehicle getting stuck on the bridleway will be attended to when they do the scraping on the section of the Shrubbs to Shruggs BW at the other end, adjacent to where they have done track improvements works on the bridleway paid for by the landowner.

Acton Round - Shirlett RB 0101/UN1 – Shona reported that she did a statement on the history of incidents there. The Police are now dealing with this following a recorded incident on the route and follow up by Shona. She asked for any further information to be sent to her. Elaine reported an incident of a gate being locked across the route between the two estates.

Shawbury RB 0225/1 - We are still awaiting confirmation of the completion of works there.

(c) Shropshire Council Planning

Gypsy Lane, Gledrid - Zia reported that Kate Nore has responded on behalf of SC ROW to the Planning Application 18/00056/FUL, which they were again not consulted on, for the Caravan Park at Gledrid which will impact on the UCR and **BW0309/UN1/10 – Gypsy Lane**, which leads under the A5, and is the only safe crossing for equestrians of the A5 for some distance.

Nordley, Aston Abbotts BW 6R - Ann Durnell reported that there are plans to demolish a 2 bed cottage to build a new 5 bed house, and to put in 2 new access points onto BW6R. Application 18/01952/FUL. She is concerned over the safety aspect. They have already ripped out a hedge. Shona will check this with Kate Nore who now deals with Planning Issues. Ann was advised to check it and report this. It is important if access for a Planning Application is onto, or up a Public Bridleway or Restricted Byway, that it is checked if the applicant has prescriptive rights to drive up the BW or RB. Private rights can be acquired by long usage.

Shona confirmed that they do not get notification of, or consulted on agricultural planning applications for permitted development. They have had about 3 Environmental Impact Assessments which impact on ROW, but which they don't get consulted on as they don't have to, but planning do inform Parish Councils, so they have said that they want to be notified on these so they can check any impact on ROW..

There have been more Applications to extend Chicken Farms, including ones at Little Minsterley, and at Upton Magna. Shona confirmed that again they had not been consulted on the latter.

Baschurch Railway Yard 17/02174/REM - The new plans now show the proposed bridleway route

through the site, but the last section is through the middle of a proposed car park.

Mortimer Forest – A Planning applications for 68 Forest Chalets has received lots of objections. These Chalets could impact on the Forestry tracks which are open to horse riders in Shropshire. Horse riders do not need a permit in Shropshire Forestry, following the Concordat reached some years ago by the British Horse Society.

Flax Mill - Maltings – Zia raised concern over the proposed outlet for the Greenfields BW 0443/UN52/2, as Angela has been sent a Stopping up order confirmed on 25th May 18 for the UCR from the railway bridge, with the proposed new vehicle route to be alongside the railway line. The proposed non-motorised link through is only shown as a 'Proposed cycle route'. This needs to be a Public Bridleway on the Definitive Map and not just a Cycle Path.

Nesselcliffe Countryside Heritage Park – Following the concern over the impact by new development on the Park, and the linking routes between the Hills, Clare is looking into ways of protecting the Heritage Park and is looking into NNR status.

New housing Estate alongside the north of the A5 Oswestry Bypass - Zia raised the plans for this. There are proposals for a cycle way link over the A5. This should be a multi- user crossing point, and not just a cycle and footway.

Shona confirmed that they are looking at Green Space and Planning. When more than 10 houses are planned the developer has to provide Green Space. They want co-ordination with this Green Space requirement, where there is a lot of development planned in an area, creating useable areas of green space, and inclusion of linking multi-user routes.

NOTED - Kate Nore, kate.nore@shropshire.gov.uk deals with all the Searches and Planning Applications, so one person sees it all through. She consults with the area ROW Officers. Applications can be viewed on <http://planningpa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications>

(d) Shropshire Council Highways

Richard Knight has reported that, following the UCR funding being removed last year, there has been no decision yet on this year. He suggests that we report any UCR problems direct to Highways as his department now have no budget for this work. He reports that, with the help of a contractor, they did manage to finish off the Hill Houses BOAT work that the Clee Hills BW Group was so patient in waiting for.

Chapel Lane, Yorton. UCR U2527/10 - No change on the incorrect signing of this UCR.

Old Moors Lane UCR U1019/20 St. Martins – Shona has had a query on the status from local residents. She has informed them that it is a UCR.

Polemere to Hinton, UCR U4941/10 dual registered as BOAT 0431/UN7– Richard reports that this is occasionally wet, but not a priority. The landowner has cut back a lot of trees recently which should help.

Dyas Lane also written as Dyers Lane UCR U1763/10 Baschurch – 25 houses are being built down the first section of this old green lane UCR, the part which the Coffin Path followed, and it has been surfaced and renamed ‘All Saints Way cul de sac’ This is a through lane and part of the Humphrey Kynaston Way route. This has been reported to Highways and the PC.

North West Relief Road – Shona has not had any update on this. Angela has been looking into the link by Hencote vineyard on railway plans. This was an old through road. Ramblers are looking at the change in line of this Hencote route.

Oxon Link Road Bickton – Zia reported that it is planned to cut off Shepherds Way and Calcott Lane, with no link across the new road for equestrians. The Planning Application is now awaited. Shona has not heard any more on this. Shepherds Way is needed to link to Angela’s ¼ sessions claim over the overbridge of the A5 to Onslow. New Green areas/routes provided by development in this area could provide valuable multi user links.

Potholes – Concern was raised over the condition of roads with deep potholes not being repaired. Shona confirmed that there are more than 5,000 potholes this year needing repair.

Noted: Enforcement on UCR’s is still the responsibility of Highways.

5. Public Inquiries and Definitive Map Issues

Frodesley Lodge BW4 – Letters will be going out on this giving notice that it will be opened up on the Inspector’s decision line, unless there is agreement by all to a diversion to where the field gate was, and then along the field edge. They will be given 14 days to respond. It was agreed by Forum Members that it was a good decision to put forward this diversion..

Bentley Ford Farm BW 7R outlet – The outlet is open and useable, but Shona said that they are looking at getting a safe route by the farm area for the existing obstructed section of the bridleway from Frodesley. She confirmed that it would not be diverted through the farmyard.

Hanwood Railway crossing – Shona reported that there has been no advance on the correct recording of the definitive status of the railway crossing.

Old Coalport to Bridgnorth Railway Line and Link – There is a short section currently registered as a footpath, that swings round and goes under the railway bridge. This needs to be

dedicated as bridleway. Mick Baldwin was dealing with it. Shona thought that Lucy knows about this. This is **Sweyney Bridge**. It is the Shropshire Way. The Railway line is only permissive and also needs to be dedicated as a Definitive Bridleway.

Stiperstones Higher Access Route – the showing of the higher status of this route to the public has still not been resolved.

Oaks Wood BW claim – no further progress.

Drumbles BW outlet to Platt Bridge claim – Shona confirmed that this is next on her list.

Weston Woods BW claims – Shona reported that the owners, who are objecting to the Orders, have put the land up for sale. Emily has written her statements and these will be sent off soon.

Sutton Mill – This is still ongoing. It is a very complex issue which Lucy is working on the Statements for. The Order was published for a Public Footpath which got rejected, they asked for BW which was rejected, and they appealed which was rejected. New evidence was discovered for this, and for Dog Kennel Lane, and they put in new Orders which were objected to, so they now have to send it off to the Inspectorate to determine.

Hilton BW claim – No change. Unlikely to be dealt with for some time due to work pressures.

Market Drayton BW 9 diversion – Shona confirmed that this is now nearly completed. They are waiting for the grass strip to be marked out for the BW parallel to the cycle path.

Richards Castle BW addition Mitnell Lane – the Inspector's modifications following the PI in November were advertised. The people threatened to go to the High Court and the deadline for this was the 7th June, but they have not heard anything on this. If all is ok, they will open it up.

Bishops Castle, Banks Head, RB Addition – Shona confirmed that they are now publishing the Orders for the sections in Shropshire and Powys for the Restricted Byway addition. The parallel green lane needs evidence of use, and claiming. It is understood that it is used as a circular route. There used to be a Racecourse to the South of these routes.

Adderley – This is ready to be published

Taddymoor Lane, Hopesay nr Craven Arms – Lucy is working on this. It is a clearly defined track with footpaths exiting onto it that has not been recorded. Evidence is needed for this route.

Linley Estate northern outlet for UCR URS U5999/10 – It was asked if any approach had been made to the new owners of the Estate on the missing outlet for this long UCR. Shona said that this was one to raise with Lucy.

6. Claiming Lost Ways

Angela reported that she had been contacted by a Mike Crawshaw, the Community Engagement Officer for the EU and Heritage Lottery funded Bog Life Project based at Whixall.. He is looking into the opportunity to discuss horse riders' access to the Marches Mosses. There was a meeting in April with 2 members from the NE Wales Team, as Whixall Moss is in Shropshire and Wales, and they divided the area into four to look at. They have a meeting tomorrow. Angela said she has explored the area she was given, and also on Lost Ways CD's, and there are 4 unrecorded strong Public FP's and five unrecorded strong Public carriageways. One is a RUPP which ends in a BW past a closed scrapyard. It is fenced across. She cycled and photographed the routes and will present this at the meeting with Mike and the other two tomorrow. She will need to know how these strong Lost Ways claims will be progressed and asked Shona about this. Shona said the research has been done, but that it would need funding, and to be tied up with a bigger package. Angela said that Lord Kenyon owns the Railway Line, which is ridden, and that they are trying to get permissive, but she thinks that he should be approached to dedicate this route. Elaine reported that she rode this route when she worked there. Andrew Kelly found an enclosure award for the Wales end of Moss. The Lost Ways have put un-surfaced ways as FP's but these could hold higher rights. Shona confirmed that the RUPPS will all be Restricted Byways now. Zia reported that Jim Stabler had a file on all the white roads in that area; that John Gibson put in information on carriage driving routes; and that Natural England looked at Higher Access routes there, but could not progress these as they were cross border and Wales was not in the scheme. Angela will forward the information to Zia.

Colebatch – BOAT claim – This Order was made prior to CROW and it should be a Restricted Byway. They may have to send this to the Inspectorate to determine.

Buildwas – The gate is locked on this old route.

Baschurch Routes - Zia is looking at claims in this area. We need to get the section of BW from the Baschurch Station Yard Planning Site ¼ Sessions Diversion south to the Eyton Lane.

It is agreed that we should ask LMBWA to report on what they are doing on Lost Ways so as not to duplicate.

TO NOTE - Highways and Landowners Statements and Declarations, Formal Applications & Public Path Orders are available through 'Useful Links' on the home page of www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk click on 'Access & Rights of Way' and then the link to the new website. Go to 'Countryside Access and Public Rights of Way'.

7. Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Consultation

Only 34 people have fed back in on this Consultation. Natural England has stated that it is a really good document. Zia found that Network Rail has been omitted as a body to consult. Cross Border liaison is also to be added. She is on the working party for this.

It is very important that members check the documents for any omissions on equestrian or other matters.

Noted - The Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Draft revised Policies Appendix 5.

Under 'Surfacing Policy' Jan put forward the rubber NU-PHALT which is used up north, and was used for the National Cycle network. She got information on this from the National Federation of Bridleways. Shona said that it would be good to see an example.

Angela mentioned some new porous surfacing used by Kew Gardens. Linda mentioned Hippo Tiles which are produced locally and used for stables and other applications.

8. Minutes and Feedback from SGOSB and other Forums

The Minutes of the Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Board held on 30th January 2018 and 19th March 2018 are noted and that a meeting was held at 10am this morning, the 11th June.

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board Minutes - The Board covered funding for P3 groups, volunteers etc., Brexit and opportunities to improve access, and the Strategy Working Group consultations and workshop.

Concern was raised, at the meeting, that where a Public FP is converted to a cycleway under 1984 Cycle Act it is deleted from the Definitive Map

We do not now have a member to report from the Strategy Board meetings to our Forum. Mark Weston, the Equestrian representative has not been able to attend the last two meetings.

Shona reported that there was a misunderstanding at today's meeting with the All Terrain UK representatives who thought they were to be attending as members of the Strategy Board, and not just to do a presentation.

For Strategy Board papers and list of the members so far appointed go to.

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=727>

Previous LAF Meeting papers are available with ctrl+click on: - [Local Access Forum](#).

Noted - Minutes of the Central Walking Forum held on 18th May 2018

- Minutes of the Northern Walking Forum held on 23rd April 2018

- Minutes of the Shropshire Hills Forum Meeting held on 16th February 2018.

Central Walking Forum – Members discussed items in the minutes including that the Insurance is now back in place for volunteers. Rob Purcell is now very busy as he is covering a massive area. Helen now does 4 days with Walking for Health so is unable to administer these forums. David Hardwick has been working with the Long Mynd & District BA at Pennerley. Zia reported that Norbury P3 helped clear two local through bridleways. Shona's team have been following up on Ploughing and Cropping offenders, including inadequate width provided for a headland bridleway. Shona confirmed that she is looking at one at Montford tomorrow. Shona is going to produce a User Guide.

Northern Walking Forum – Some items mentioned above were raised.

The Montgomery Canal Partnership has made suggestions for development of walking, and cycling/horse riding routes. – (see minutes for details). These include dedication of BW rights along Llanymynech & Pant FP197 to give a possible circular route. Angela's claim by Decoy Cottages for FP49 part and the route over Keepers Bridge to Rednal, and possible dedication of BW rights along FP14 West Felton. Shona reported that Emily has done research on more routes.

Shropshire Hills Walking Forum – notes the popularity of off-road cycling in Mortimer Forest; that off route cyclists don't seem keen to volunteer to maintain paths, and the need for bells on bikes to warn other users.

9. Any Other Business or items to Note

Linda reported that Zia had attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party last week. She received her invitation for her Access work.

Out of Control Dogs - There are still ongoing problems with Dogs not on a lead or under close control, in Nesscliffe Countryside Heritage Park. A dog walker recently had 6 dogs off leads running around on The Cliffe. There is concern over a published book 'Shropshire - A Dog Walker's Guide'. It states in the Introduction that each route has been chosen so that most of the time you will be able to let your dog run free. For the Nesscliffe Hills routes it states 'and the free-running expanse of heathland along the ridge of the Cliffe' and 'What's more, in the whole 5 mile ramble he won't be on a lead for more than a few yards' There are two short linking lane sections in the routes. Other Shropshire routes have similar statements. Under Advice for Dog Walkers it does states that the dog need not be on a lead, although it should not stray from the line of the path. There is no advice about meeting horse riders on the higher status routes such as around Nesscliffe, and the The Cliffe. Loose dogs have caused horse rider accidents there.

Oswestry Heritage Comic Strip - Zia reported that she had contributed to an Oswestry Heritage Comic strip piece by John Blogger on Protecting Ancient Routeways, for the 24th April edition of the Border and Counties Advertiser. She emphasised the importance of getting routes correctly recorded on the Definitive Map.

Listing of Historic Routes - Zia put forward that there should be a listing system, like for listed buildings and Heritage sites, for the protection of important historic routes such as sunken ways, drove routes, etc. Rights of Way law only protects a line, and not the setting.

There is no other business or items to note.

10. Dates of the Next Meetings

The date of the next meeting, to be held at the Shirehall at **5.00pm for a prompt start at 5.30-7.30pm**, is agreed for **Monday 15th October 2018**.

The 4th February 2019 is confirmed for the date of the following meeting.

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