

## Central Shropshire Walking Forum

### Notes of Meeting

2pm, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017

The Lantern, Shrewsbury.

#### Attendees:

Bill Hodges	Shrewsbury Ramblers
Trevor Allison	Shrewsbury ramblers
Bob Coalbran	Wellington Walkers are Welcome
John Newnham	Shrewsbury Ramblers
Liz Evans	Outdoor Partnerships Walking Co-Ordinator
Clare Fildes	Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager
David Hardwick	Maintenance Officer
Dick Bailey	WAW/W4H, Much Wenlock

#### Apologies:

Paula Doherty, Naomi Wrighton, Ann Suffolk

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

John welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming

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

None

#### 3. Shropshire Way

The majority of the way marking has now been done in the South; Condover parish is still to be completed but Helen has volunteers for this.

The Shropshire Way Association is moving forward well with the SW website <http://shropshireway.org.uk/> please take a look at this page, comments are all welcome and can be sent to Helen Beresford to pass on to the chair of the SWA (Audrey Menhinick), the more people search for it through search engines the higher it will come up in the results page.

The next stage will be to repeat the Southern process in the North, Waymarking will start on the section from Whitchurch south towards Shrewsbury and P3 groups will be contacted to see if they wish to be involved with the surveying and waymarking process.

The Shropshire Way Association AGM will be held at Craven Arms on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 in the Discovery Centre at Craven Arms. Please contact Helen should you wish to attend and she will forward details to Audrey Menhinick. In the morning, prior to the meeting, John Newnham will lead a 4.5 mile walk along the main route of the S Way from Onibury to the Discovery Centre. As the outward travel to Onibury will be on a 435 Ludlow bound bus leaving Craven Arms at 10.30, participants should firstly meet up with John in the Discovery Centre car park at 10.15.

Thanks to all who have helped with the project so far, we could not have made the progress we have without the help of all our volunteers.

#### 4. Volunteering

##### P3 maintenance update from David Hardwick

Most work has been done in the Shropshire Hills, ie Nipstone rock.

Recently in Plaish and Craven Arms, Newington Farm, gates and stiles replaced.

Eaton under Haywood parish asked for work to be done near Eaton Manor which was done.

Pontesbury P3 have been helping out in a nearby parish.

Training given to Long Mynd Bridleway group.

Gates put in near Norbury – site of next year's volunteer event.

Hopesay has new P3 group – a volunteer paid for an oak gate in Hopesay common.

Regden area – waymarking and repairs needed

NFU reported having problems with D of E participants wandering so have asked for clearer waymarking.

Poles Coppice – Landscape partnership has had a lot of improvements, sculpture in picnic area, local schoolchildren involved, easy access route and bat house, wild flowers seeded, coppicing and clearing.

#### P3 volunteer update from Helen

Thanks to everyone who attended the volunteer celebration. Apologies to those who we were unable to accommodate due to numbers in the village hall; we have learned lessons from this and will ensure all future venues are large enough to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend.

Volunteer hours so far this year 6619. Request for quarter 3 reports have been sent out and they are starting to come in for the end of November. New groups in Bridgnorth, they have had their first workday and have another one planned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Interest from Ellesmere in forming a new P3 group, at present we only

#### Walking for Health update from Liz

The next volunteer walk leader training is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Lantern. Please let Liz know if anybody else wants to come.

Following on from the workshops, there is now a Walking for Health Forum to find way of maintaining and growing the groups. As it stands at the moment, the much reduced Public Health funding will be able to sustain Walking for Health for another year, but staff time is having to be diverted to other projects such as supporting schools to achieve their daily mile targets, which is why volunteers are being asked to do more.

Bob to send details of contacts of Walking 4 Health Telford as they have been self-supporting for some time.

Naomi sent this report from Walkabout Wrekin – our news is that, at our AGM in September, we resolved to change the name from Walkabout Wrekin and adopt the national logo as our name and logo sometimes gave the impression that our walks were up or around the Wrekin and required walking boots. The new website at <https://walkingforhealthtelfordandwrekin.org.uk/> is up and running, as is Facebook and Twitter. We are aiming for a formal launch in January. The new leaflet has been published.

#### WW1 update from Dick Bailey

WW1 leaflet is ready to go to Mike Ashton, so should be able to reach the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

### **5. Council Update from Clare**

#### **Shropshire's Great Outdoor Strategy progress:**

- Clare has been having initial discussions with partners- National Trust, Historic England, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Shropshire Hills AONB, Ramblers, British Horse Society, Canal and River Trust, Cycling UK, GLAS (4x4s) to identify partners' priorities.
- Research and evidence is being gathered.
- Workshop with key partners in January.
- Draft for public consultation published in April 2018 for 3 month consultation period.

**Could do a workshop session on this at the next Forum meeting.**

#### **Public Health funding cutbacks**

The future funding of the Outdoor Partnerships Team by the Public Health department will cease in 2019/20 if the current situation doesn't change. This currently funds Walking for Health, Shropshire Wild Teams and the active volunteering support.

- There have been meetings with a number of key partners to look for alternative sources of funding- including with Adult Social Care colleagues.

- A new Walking for Health Forum has been formed to help reduce the support needed to Walking for Health groups and focus staff time on more vulnerable groups.
- Healthy Shropshire for Schools offer is being tested and will be launched in January. Schools will be asked to fund staff time to set up Daily Mile or walking clubs. Similar offer will be developed for businesses.

## **My Shrewsbury**

Had meeting with editor of My Shrewsbury Magazine, who will be featuring walking and other outdoor activities in the bi-monthly editions. Ideas welcome.

**Shropshire's Great Outdoors Membership** update- New Joint and Family memberships.

10% Discounts at:

- The Boathouse, Ellesmere
- SVCP Café
- Dave Mellor Cycles
- High Sports, Shrewsbury
- Long Mountain Centre (pony trekking)
- The Bungalow at the Mere

Events at parks and sites will be free for members next year

New promotional campaign before Christmas.

## **Other:**

**Shropshire Hills Sustainable Tourism Strategy** is being reviewed- working with the Shropshire Hills Destination Partnership.

Working with the **Montgomery Canal Partnership** on the development of the canal.

**Cultural Strategy** being developed- 3 consultation events

Tuesday Nov 28TH      Ludlow Assembly Rooms      4.00 – 6.00

Wednesday Nov 29th      Qube, Oswestry 2.00 – 4.00

Tuesday Dec 12th      University Centre Shrewsbury      4.00 – 6.00

**South** – [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shropshire-cultural-strategy-stakeholder-workshop-south-tickets-39548208757?utm\\_term=eventurl\\_text](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shropshire-cultural-strategy-stakeholder-workshop-south-tickets-39548208757?utm_term=eventurl_text)

**North** – [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-shropshire-cultural-strategy-stakeholder-workshop-north-tickets-39548604942?utm\\_term=eventurl\\_text](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-shropshire-cultural-strategy-stakeholder-workshop-north-tickets-39548604942?utm_term=eventurl_text)

**Centre** – [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-copy-of-shropshire-cultural-strategy-stakeholder-workshop-centre-tickets-39548700227?utm\\_term=eventurl\\_text](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-copy-of-shropshire-cultural-strategy-stakeholder-workshop-centre-tickets-39548700227?utm_term=eventurl_text)

## **6. Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Board**

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board meeting Sept 2017 (Trevor was at this meeting)

Election of a Chair and Vice Chair- Alex Carson Taylor (CLA) Chair and Mark Weston (BHS) Vice Chair

Countryside Access Improvement Plan- Decision taken to broaden the planned Improvement Plan to a Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy, focusing on RoW network and green space, pulling together priorities from a range of partners across Shropshire.

Summary of relevant planning documents and the review of the Local Plan

Discussion about public health funding cutbacks

Discussion about British Standard for Gaps Gates and Stiles BS5709:2006- Consultation.

Agreed to recommend the new standard is not adopted as it would increase costs and be very difficult to enforce as the standards are not legally enforceable.

John said Ramblers have a website called Connected Communities – will pass on details to Clare.

Trevor said the Ironbridge development is still in consultation – he should contact Gemma Davies if he has any queries – [Gemma.Davies@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Gemma.Davies@shropshire.gov.uk)

## **7. Group Updates**

Clare - Promoted walks – There is a Mayflower celebration in 2019, and as Shropshire has a connection via 4 Muslow children, people may want to devise a walk around this. Walks need to be registered if they want funding.

The Ramblers are trying to do family walks which is a good idea and it may be better to have themed days with activities as well. They are generally not well attended at the moment, the most popular was in 2012 when it was attached to the Olympic event in Much Wenlock.

The Discovery Centre are doing a 50 mile walk in March, on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bill - continues to investigate the footpaths in Shrewsbury town centre. He was pleased that the 70 steps are cleaner at the moment. The steps on English bridge are long and steep on one side, so advised it was better to use the other side to access the river path.

Bob - The 2016 Wellington Walking Festival won the Community Event category in this year's Active Lifestyle Awards whilst the Wellington 360 leaflets were runners up in the Healthy Spaces category. The new Walking Information Noticeboard on Wellington Station finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place within the Small Projects category in the National ACORP awards. This year's Wellington Walking Festival was very successful with the number of walkers participating increasing from 350 in 2016 to 450, with an additional 80 people attending to watch a walking-related film (of Bill Bryson's book 'A Walk in the Woods').

The brushcutter has been used to good effect.

There is a group now called Wellington Friends of Shropshire Way who do litter picking. The idea is people will adopt a certain length of the path and keep it tidy. On 12<sup>th</sup> December there will be a blitz in Forest Glen.

Wellington Walks leaflet – to go on the SGO website, separate maps will need to be done for each. Bob to send individual walk details to Liz so they can be done piece meal.

Dick - There is now a volunteer to input the walk registers for Walking for Health to help out Helen Foxall. The walking festival went well. It is hard to determine the economic value to the town, but it would be interesting to see who comes – more thought will go into this.

Trevor – is planning 2 rail rambles – if he lets Naomi know about them she can help promote them.

## **8. Date of next Meeting**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2-4pm, The Lantern, Sundorne, Shrewsbury, ground floor meeting room.

