

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area

Access, Countryside and Rights of Way

10th June, 2013. Scout HQ, Trippet Lane, Sheffield S1 4EL

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), David Woodhead, Cath MacKay, Philip Ryder, Basil Merry, Phil Wells, Terry Howard

Apologies: Les Seaman, John Newrick, Ken Whetter

Minutes of the meeting 11th February 2012

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

It was established that the Rotherham Group's threat to issue a notice to the local authority re Kimberworth 17 had prompted action from the authority.

Terms of Reference for clarification/approval

It was agreed that the the following would be placed before Area Council for approval:

- 1 The powers of the ACROW sub-committee will be directed by Area Council.
- 2 There will be a report on ACROW to Area Council after every meeting.

'Lost Ways' project

CM explained that the project was set up in response to the CROW Act of 2000. Old routes need to be identified by 2026 and submitted to local authorities to be processed. However, although 50% of the time allowed has gone, very little has happened. It was suggested that Groups contact their Local Access Forums (LAFs) to establish working groups to research and identify old routes from enclosure maps etc. DG would contact Ramblers central office to establish what Ramblers was doing regarding the Lost Ways project.

Review of Access matters

TH said that the mapping review period had been extended from 10 years to 15 years, i.e. to 2019, to the satisfaction of walkers and landowners. It was suggested that Groups look at their own area to find out if there is any contested land. An example of a problem is land owned by the Fitzwilliam Estate, near Bradfield, where previous forest land has been cleared, but has since been fenced off, keeping walkers out off what should be open access land.

Review of Countryside matters

The HS2 project appears to be moving further into the distance, with the Birmingham-Leeds section not due for completion until 2033. However, Groups need to be aware of the plans.

Review of Rights of Way matters

The specific issue of problems to RoW associated by growing oil-seed rape was raised, with the growing crop making using paths through the crop virtually impassable and even the harvested crop leaving dangerously sharp stalks. In addition, the problem is relatively short-lived and local authorities may well respond to problems by saying that the problem will be over by the time they can do anything.

It was pointed out that it is the duty of highways authorities to ask landowners to keep RoW open. It was agreed that the secretary would draft a letter for Groups, suggesting that sent it to their highway authority, adding specific examples of problems in their area.

BM raised the issue of Eckington 34, a problem similar to Kimberworth 17 in that attempts to get the RoW open have been ongoing for several years without success. The committee agreed to refer the issue to Area Council for approval.

There is a consultation on the establishment of a traffic regulation order (TRO) on Chapel Gate, due to close on 28th June. Area Council agreed to support the matter, after liaising with the host Ramblers Group.

AOB

None