

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area

Access, Countryside and Rights of Way

26th November, 2018

Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield, S1 2EW

Present

Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Les Seaman (Access), Terry Howard (MWPF), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Jez Jenyon (Sheffield 40s).

Apologies

Cath MacKay (MWPF), Philip Lee (Dearne Valley).

Minutes of the meeting of 3rd September.

Agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

TH said that there had been no progress in the Wharnccliffe Woods situation, but, through the Local Access Forum, liaison will continue. More positively, the path over the iron bridge and alongside the river is now a RoW so access to Wharnccliffe Side is now improved. However two waymarks signs have been pulled down.

Re the Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement (BAWI) project a significant portion of the funding needed has been guaranteed, with SYNED's £4k, Sheffield City Council's £4k and £2k from Walkers are Welcome all being in place. The results of a bid from the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership is pending. Meanwhile one section of an ancient paved way has already been cleared, and another section due to be cleared very soon. Also, there is a meeting of representatives of several of the maintenance teams involved on 27th November to discuss how to proceed.

Rights of Way

A bike track has been proposed in woodland at Redmires. This is being supported by the British Mountaineering Council and aims to encourage cyclists to use specific areas, such as happens in the Lady Canning Plantation. A consultation closed this week.

The Ride Sheffield organisation, whose representative spoke at the 2017 SYNED AGM, is very keen to maintain good relationships with Ramblers.

Countryside

There is a consultation under way on Parkwood Springs, which Sheffield CC hopes to make into an urban country park. This is the site around the previous Sheffield ski slope. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-45953853> for more information. We agreed that the first draft of the plans should be supported. There is the possibility of linking through to Greno Woods, thus creating a green area for walking, cycling and riding close to the city.

Regarding the removal of the overhead electricity cables, pylons and sub-stations in the Dunford Bridge area, there is an update consultation on the situation pre the planning application. See: peakdistricteast.nationalgrid.co.uk/project/ for more information.

Rights of Way

JK raised the subject of snow paths along Hurst Clough Lane, and whether they should be maintained. It was felt that they were unnecessary.

JK mentioned that a local authority was declining to sort out a RoW problem 'because HS2 will be going through there'.

The Peak and Northern Footpath Society is looking to solid documentary and photographic evidence, over several years, of a non-reinstated RoW following cropping. PNFS hope to bring a test case against a landowner.

It was discussed that planning applications are not always showing RoW at all, or only partially, and although the Planning Department should check it may not do so. It is therefore vital that Ramblers check planning applications.

AOB

TH said that many Countryside Stewardship schemes are finishing, with some concessionary routes at risk. We need to be aware of the possibility of losing these routes.