

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area

Access, Countryside and Rights of Way

3rd June 2019

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

Present

Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Terry Howard (MWPF), Wayne Grounsell (Sheffield 40s), Les Seaman (Access), Philip Lee (Dearne Valley), Christine Whittaker (Information).

Apologies

C McKay (MWPF), J Kenyon (Sheffield 40s).

Minutes of the meeting of 25th February 2019

Agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

A response had been received from central office re our request for an up-date on the Deregulation Bill. 'We continue to press the government to implement the provisions of the Deregulation Act – however we understand that this has been delayed by Brexit and the amount of time that Defra have had to concentrate on the post-Brexit planning and the replacement for the Common Agricultural Policy. On the wider issue we have written to Michael Gove calling for the postponement of the 2026 cut-off date by five years and we successfully responded to a recent House of Lords debate on this question. Our position on this (and parliamentary briefing) can be found on the website.

We acknowledge that volunteers and organisations are having to step up to make claims where central government previously promised they would. Our Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) project is focused on supporting volunteers with this including the development of resources (including digital capacity) which will make the process easier for all volunteers in this area.

Where there have been issues with specific threats we would be interested in knowing more about this, please contact Jack Cornish: DLYW@ramblers.org.uk. Jack is our programme officer for DLYW and would also be happy to talk about any of this more widely – just drop him an email at the address mentioned above and he will answer any questions, or can arrange a phone call.

Oliver Hicks-Pattison

Senior Campaigns and Engagement Officer'

Access Matters

LS said that a planning application had been received re a small piece of access land at Stannington to be used as a burial ground. There would be a car park for 20 cars. One footpath would be fenced off. Bradfield Parish Council and others were objecting on the grounds that it would be unsuitable and that there would be access problems.

Also, notification had been received for the renewal of a gun shop shooting range, which is very rarely used. The range is at West Nab, High Bradfield. There is an access path on the bottom edge of the range which must be kept open. There are unlikely to be any objections to the renewal of the licence.

TH said that the Hollindale Plantation, off the Strines Road, had been cleared by the landowner. A promise had been made several years ago to allow access when this had happened. However the landowner is procrastinating but the Local Access Forum intend to pursue the matter.

Countryside Matters

No issues.

Rights of Way Matters

TH said that the Sheffield Groups were establishing a footpath monitoring system. The Sheffield Groups felt that the Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvements (BAWI) project was proving to be extremely successful, with the Bradfield Parish Council being delighted with the whole project.

JK informed the committee that the BAWI project was well under way. Tools have been purchased and used successfully on several occasions. All the timber for posts etc had been bought and was being stored at Spitewater Farm, courtesy of Jean Bond. There have been four volunteers sessions so far, including one today. Four handrails have been installed, some stonework re-built to improve steps and a section of stone path largely uncovered. Unfortunately the stone path is somewhat difficult to walk on, as it is very narrow and quite uneven, but it is still interesting to see. Sheffield RoW have also done some jobs, including the handrail from the very tall ladder stile down to the lane from High Bradfield to Low Bradfield and putting in a new gate and another handrail. Sheffield RoW will be organising the contracted out work over the summer, which includes installing about ten gates of various kinds instead of the current stiles.

CW said that the Sheffield Group is making a second RoW claim. This is in the Moscar area.

AOB

None.