

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire

Area Council Meeting

Monday, 12 September 2011

Scout HQ, Trippet Lane, Sheffield

Officers Present: Lee Farmery (Chair), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Cath McKay (MWPF), Carol Wilkie (Publicity), Les Seaman (Access), Allen Pestell (Countryside), Terry Howard (MWPF).

Group Reps Present: Ruth Thomas, Julia Evison (Sheffield 20-30s), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Russell Matthews, Laura Proctor (Chesterfield Young Ramblers).

Apologies: David Gadd (Secretary), Neill Schofield (Area Newsletter), Cynthia Ashton (Sheffield Co-op), Eric Andrews (Sheffield VI), Diane Parkin (Dearne Valley), Wendy Atkinson (Doncaster), Rita Reed (Bolsover).

- 1 Minutes of the meeting of 13 June 2011
Terry Howard proposed and Allen Pestell seconded that the minutes be approved.

- 2 Matters Arising
None.

- 3 Group Reports
Barnsley and Penistone.
LF reported that the Group were supporting the 'Walk in the Woods' week.

Bolsover
No report.

Chesterfield
The Group's footpath work continues. Their winter programme is now available; some leaders have dropped out but the programme has been filled. The Chairman, Barry Cutts, is not seeking re-election. The Group has weekly publicity in the Derbyshire Times. A motion calling for the Group to seek transfer to the Derbyshire Area will be debated at the Group's AGM. It was agreed that Area Council Chair should attend and join the discussion on behalf of AC.

Chesterfield 20-30s
The Group has a full programme of walks. Wednesday evening walks took place in the summer. During the winter months there will be some Saturday morning walks, aimed at attracting new members. Two weekends away have taken place.

Co-operative Ramblers
No report.

Dearne Valley
No report.

Doncaster
No report.

Rotherham Metro
Walk attendance continues to be good, although the average is slightly down on last year. The 2012 Walks Programme is being prepared. We are attempting to improve communication for car sharing. Information for Walk in the Woods Week came too late for the programme. Membership is 296, slightly up on last year. Twenty-two members attended a walk and talk on the new Waverley site with Richard Pett of Rotherham MBC. There is a visit and walk to Abbeydale Hamlet on 21 September and the Group's AGM is on 9 November. There are issues with regard to footpaths not being taken into consideration at planning stage. There are also issues with regard to the Definitive Map Review due to staff reductions at RMBC RoW Dept. Various other footpath issues are ongoing. A Countryside Officer is still needed on the committee. Progress in publishing the up-dated R'ham Ring Route leaflets can now be actioned, a priority for 2012. The Group has made contact with the SY Ambulance service re using Grid Refs to locate incidents.

Sheffield
The Group are supporting both the Walk in the Woods Week and the Festival of Winter Walks. The Walking

Out Project continues to go from strength to strength; in 10 months participation figures have doubled compared with the previous full year, reaching 700+. The Get Walking, Keep Walking project may be ending. Discussions about keeping the initiative alive are taking place. This includes an examination of the Flexigroup concept which may merge GWKW with Walking Out. Operational details have yet to be clarified, but it is likely to attract central office funding. LF has already registered SYNED as a possible pilot Area for Flexigroup trial. A local Alzheimer's group has attended many walks and has set up its own venturer ramblers; the Sheffield Group is assisting. On 4 October there is a GWKW presentation at the Quaker Meeting House in Sheffield.

Sheffield 20s-30s

On 21 September from 6.30pm at the Foothills shop there is a discount night, with members able to get a 20% discount on production of their membership card. The group have two walks in Walk in the Woods Week. The Group's AGM is on 13 October, when it is envisaged that a number of officers will not be seeking re-election, due to work commitments.

Sheffield 40s

The Group has a new website and a Facebook account. They had a successful weekend in Edale with other 40s Groups. They will be supporting Walk in the Woods Week. Family walks have been slow to get going, they have one per month. It is difficult to know where to publicise them, although the Group will persist.

Sheffield Visually Impaired Group

No report.

4

Area Officer's Reports

Chair

The Ramblers Business Plan 2011-12 has been circulated; LF has responded. The membership system is an ongoing issue. Groups were asked to send their AGM dates to the Secretary.

Secretary

In DG's absence LF said that we were receiving details of the next stage in the Local Transport Sustainable Fund Bid, organised by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive. He asked for a volunteer to attend a consultation meeting on 28 September in Sheffield Town Hall.

He also asked if anyone could attend a Trans Pennine Trail meeting on 29 September.

TH asked if the Area Council minutes are being archived and offered to take them if it was inconvenient for DG.

Treasurer

GJ presented the financial report, dated 12 September 2011.

The Sheffield Group's request for money to replace the 10 linear country walks with circular walks had been met from the Herbert Proctor legacy.

The draft budget for the Area for 2011/12 was approved electronically by the Chair and Secretary to meet the 26 August deadline.

TH raised the issue of £1612 from the GBH Ward legacy being given to the Five Weirs Walk. It was agreed that we request that this money be returned if it had not been spent.

Area Council still needs an auditor to replace Eric Copley.

The request for the 2010/11 annual accounts has been received from central office. Groups should provide their accounts to GJ by 21 October.

Access

LS said that most current issues are of a national nature – planning, and towns and village greens. He is endeavouring to input into proposals for a new bridleway around the fringes of the Eastern Moors and continues to try to secure access to fenced off land at the High Riggs Road at Stannington.

Countryside

AP referred to the A57 Todwick to the M1, proposal to convert this stretch of the road into a dual carriageway, costing £12m. He hoped Rotherham would object so a Public Inquiry would be called. The government planning proposals to establish a 'presumption in favour' of development is a matter for serious concern, especially with regard to Green Belts and the Peak District National Park. Members are encouraged to look for opportunities to lodge objections. Re the forestry debate, the 'Our Forests' pressure group has been set up to try and influence the outcome. Re the HS2 rail proposal both Barnsley and Huddersfield want the line to pass through their towns, seeing themselves as the hub of the NW and NE links. Proposals may link the Penistone

line as a loop in the scheme.

Newsletter

NS requested submissions for the Annual Reports edition by 17 October.

Publicity

CW is making an online presentation in response to a talk by Ramblers Chief Executive Tom Franklin. She has attended three fairs, but with poor responses which has led her to conclude that they are not cost effective. 'Join Us' leaflets, detailing contacts for our Groups, are available for distribution. She has visited the Get Walking team and sent leaflets of family walks to every school in Sheffield. TH suggested considering a Family Rambling Day.

IT

Area Council and Groups were encouraged to submit items for the website.

Membership

LF reported that Area membership is 5% lower than last year. Three groups bucked the trend and showed an increase, namely Sheffield 40s, Chesterfield Young Ramblers and the Barnsley and Penistone Group.

Area AGM

The venue is the Assembly Rooms, Hilltop, Bolsover, grid ref SK473705. The meeting will start at 2pm. It was agreed to invite a speaker from central office and Mel Jones, a woodland historian from Sheffield University.

At the end of the 3-year term of office of David Hey, it was agreed that an internal Ramblers member might be sought. LF requested suggestions in time for the 28 November meeting.

Membership Drive

Due to lack of time it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

2012 Kinder Anniversary

The launch will be on Tuesday, 24 April at the Edale Moorland Centre. There will be displays of the area. There will be a series of walks during the following week, led by Rangers from the National Trust, the National Park Authority and Derbyshire CC. The Moorland Memories podscroll should be ready. There will possibly be a ceilidh in Sheffield. It is hoped to provide a re-written and revised history of the Trespass. It was agreed that SYNED donate £141 to towards the cost of the event (this would close down the Ivy Cowan legacy). Proposed GJ, seconded LF.

Among the speakers will be Dame Fiona Reynolds, director general of the National Trust, and Kate Ashbrook of the Open Spaces Society.

AOB

There is a 'Walk 4 Life' event on 25 September at Firth Park. Members are encouraged to distribute leaflets and support the event.

Next Area Council meeting: 28 November 2011

AGM: 28 January 2012

Area website: www.synedramblers.org.uk

Ramblers website: www.ramblers.org.uk