

SOUTH YORKSHIRE & NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE AREA MEETINGS AND YOU

Below is a little guidance as to how the Groups and Area relate to one another:

THE SYNED AREA

Every Ramblers Group belongs to an Area. In total there are 57 Areas across England, Scotland and Wales. In England, the Areas correspond broadly to county boundaries. The role of Area is primarily to support and oversee the work being carried out by the Groups in that region. Areas therefore have a wider perspective on the work of the Ramblers. Areas are also usually the first point of contact for the Ramblers for both the numerous Groups within the Area as well as outside organisations, Local Authorities and District Councils.

Each Area is responsible for its Groups

Below is a list of some of the responsibilities that the Area holds over their Groups

1. approves the constitutions of its Groups
2. authorises the establishment of a new Group
3. can recommend the closure of an existing Group
4. co-ordinates the funds available to Groups
5. makes decisions in any disputed interpretations of Ramblers policy
6. organises occasional events to raise the profile of the Ramblers
7. will assist Groups should a Group be in difficulty
8. ensures Group activities are within the Ramblers charitable objectives.

The Area is a representation of all the local Groups together. This relationship demands a certain accountability of Groups to their Area.

A Ramblers Area is governed by an Area Council (i.e. Area meeting). This body is made up predominantly of representatives from each Group and the Area Executive Committee. The structure is such, therefore, that the management of the Area is in the hands of the constituent Groups. The Area Council is held approximately quarterly and Groups have a duty to their members to attend and ensure that their members are represented.

Every year the Area is required to hold an AGM open to all members. It is here that the committee members are elected and an account is given of the Area activities that year.

GROUPS

There are nearly 500 Groups across Britain. When a member joins they are allocated a Group according to their postcode. Each Group is run by a voluntary committee who co-ordinate the work carried out by that Group. All Groups publish a programme of led walks, many run local campaigns and some do practical footpath work. **Groups communicate with the rest of the Ramblers by sending a delegate to Area Committee meetings.** This ensures that Groups are represented at Area level and Areas are aware of the work being carried out by all the Groups in that region.

What is requested from Groups:

At meetings:

1. Attendance of up to two Group representatives (each individual is entitled to a vote)
2. To report on outstanding matters.
3. To raise any concerns, apply for funding for specific projects or share ideas.

Generally:

1. Regular copies of the Group meeting minutes and AGM minutes to be forwarded to the Area Secretary
2. A copy of any publications (walks programmes, leaflets etc) to be forwarded to the Area Secretary.
3. Annual accounts and budget application to be sent to the Area Treasurer.
4. Annual report summarising group activities to be forwarded to the Area News editor.
5. Implement or take part in decisions made at Area Council.

What is requested from Group Representatives

1. You should be aware of committee decisions and activities of your Group.
2. Be able to act on full authority of your Group
3. Report back to your committee promptly about decisions taken or ideas obtained from other groups.

Remember: Communication is a two way affair; you are the link between your Group and the Area.

GENERAL COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ramblers policy is decided annually at General Council. Areas send delegates to vote on the issues being debated, which in turn will shape the direction of the organisation for the forthcoming year. General Council is also where members are elected to the Board of Trustees. The trustees are responsible for ensuring that decisions made at General Council are implemented effectively.

It is this structure: Group – Area – General Council – Board of Trustees that makes the Ramblers democratic and membership-driven throughout. And everyone actively involved in a Group, an Area, at General Council or right up to governance level on the Board of Trustees is a volunteer, giving their time to further the charitable aims of the Ramblers.

AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Allen Pestell (01226 765042)

Allen identifies and promotes opportunities for the Area to contribute and make a difference to the local walking environment. Ensures that the committee has a clear sense of direction & purpose and these coincide with the Ramblers strategy.

Secretary

David Gadd (01302 745611)

David is the central point of contact for the Area with Ramblers central office and plays a key role in disseminating information and ensures the committee keeps running effectively through good administration.

Treasurer

Gavin Johns

Gavin oversees the finances of the Area and its Groups. Completes the annual budgeting process and carries out ongoing accounting, feeding in to the Area AGM and annual return to central office.

Footpath Officer

Role unfilled

The Footpath Officer contributes to the development of the opportunities and facilities for walking in the Area by working to protect and improve the local rights of way network.

Access Officer

Les Seaman

Les promotes and protects open access to the countryside as a way of enabling all people to come to a greater knowledge, love and appreciation of the countryside.

Membership Secretary

Jennifer Matkin

Jenny acts as a point of contact for membership and also analyses the membership figures and plays an active part in recruiting new members.

Countryside Officer

Allen Pestell

Allen contributes to the Rambler's work in preserving and enhancing the beauty of the countryside for the benefit of the public.

Promotions and Publicity Officer

Diane Parkin (01226 757399)

Diane ensures that the charitable work of the Ramblers is given a high profile in the Area. It is a role which focuses on non-members. Through this work the Ramblers will become more effective by winning over more support from the public, either through great awareness or through increased membership.

Area News Editor

Role unfilled

The Editor communicates and promotes the work of the Ramblers in the Area to all the Area membership. By doing this, the aim is to inform members of the concerns facing walkers locally and valuable work of the Area to address them. The newsletter can be therefore be used as a tool to strengthen the Area, encouraging members to see the relevance of the Area, to retain members of the Ramblers and to increase the likelihood of their active involvement. The Newsletter is also a valuable tool for communicating with the public and raising the profile of walking and our work.

Website Officer

Christine Whittaker

Christine communicates and promotes the work of the Ramblers in the Area using the internet to the Group membership and beyond to the wider public. By doing this, the aim is to inform people of the concerns facing walkers locally and the valuable work of the Area to address them.

The website is also a tool to strengthen the Area, encouraging members and the public to see the relevance of the Area, to join the Ramblers and to encourage more active involvement in pursue of the Ramblers aims.

