

## South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire

### Area Council Meeting

Monday, 27 February, 2012

Scout HQ, Trippet Lane, Sheffield.

Officers Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Terry Howard (MWPF and Area President), Christine Whittaker (Website Officer).

Group Reps Present: Ruth Thomas (Sheffield 20-30s), Basil Merry, John Newrick (Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire), Nicola Farmery (Barnsley and Penistone), Paul Cairns (Chesterfield 20-40s).

Apologies: Les Seaman (Access), Cynthia Ashton (Co-op Ramblers), Eric Andrews (Sheffield VI Group), Philip Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Diane Parkin (Dearne Valley), Cath MacKay (MWPF), Laura Proctor (Chesterfield 20-40s).

- 1 Minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2011.  
Allen Pestell proposed and Terry Howard seconded that the minutes be approved.
- 2 Matters Arising from those minutes.  
Regarding Access, two workshops were being held re the Eastern Moors Partnership and the Sheffield Moors Partnership.
- 3 Draft minutes of the AGM of 28 January 2012 for comment and action re unfilled positions.  
The minutes were agreed as being accurate, to be approved at the 2013 AGM.  
Diane Parkin had volunteered to take over the role of Publicity Officer. This was agreed.  
It was agreed to change the IT Officer's title to Website Officer.
- 4 Group Reports  
Barnsley and Penistone  
Nicola Farmery said that 9 new members had joined in January, giving them 230+. The 20-40s had enjoyed a weekend in Bellingham. The Group walks twice weekly, with 15-20 members walking. They have monthly social evenings with speakers.  
  
Bolsover  
Rita Reed reported that the Group were very pleased to have hosted the 2012 AGM. Membership has dropped to 38, but the Group are still able to maintain a Sunday walks programme and a functioning committee.  
  
Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire  
Basil Merry informed the meeting that Wally Tagg has stood down as AC delegate, being replaced by John Newrick. Their Winter programme of over 150 walks is coming to an end, with good attendances. Regular footpath work takes place around NE Derbyshire, realigning routes, replacing stiles with wicket gates, digging drainage ditches, installing steps, etc. A meeting was held with the Derbyshire CC Head of RoW to chivvy him up, receive updates on the Charter, RoWIP reports, digital maps, etc. Progress is being made on the East Chesterfield Way, Chesterfield to Bolsover. The route is largely determined but there is an issue re ProW in the Arkwright area being formally handed back to DCC by Yorkshire Coal.  
  
Chesterfield 20-40s  
Paul Cairns said that the Group have changed their name from 20-30s to 20-40s. Their AGM

is on 30<sup>th</sup> March. The Chair resigned prematurely recently and the Group is in a state of flux. He raised the issue of joining members, living near Chesterfield but having a Sheffield postcode, being referred to the Sheffield Group by central office.

Co-operative Ramblers  
No report.

Dearne Valley  
No report

Doncaster  
DG said that maintenance sessions with the DMBC RoW Dept were currently fortnightly and that monitoring the footpaths was about 80% complete for the year. The Group has six walks in DMBC's Festival of walks for the January – March programme.

Rotherham Metro  
Philip Ryder reported that the Group had 23/24 on most walks. There was a good level of interest from potential new members, who were more interested in walking than the political issues of Ramblers.

Sheffield  
TH said that the Group had celebrated the anniversary of the Peak District NP with a leaflet describing a largely urban walk from the Town Hall to the Peak District. The Group was attempting to up-date its communications, agreeing that its current paper Newsletter was out-of-date when it was printed, its website needs improving, with walks being submitted to Ramblers Walkfinder. They had agreed to have a Facebook presence. The Group were impressed by Chesterfield's Newsletter. 20 leaders had attended a meeting at the Edale MRT HQ to see their equipment, how best to prepare when an incident occurs, etc. The Walking Out project walks were now being split, because of huge numbers, into 'Striders' and 'Strollers'. This was proving very successful.

Sheffield 20-30s  
Ruth Thomas said that the Group had welcomed 16 new members in January. Training courses for leaders were being planned. 7/8<sup>th</sup> July marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Group and a weekend in Edale, with many walks, is being planned.

Sheffield 40s  
No report.

Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group  
Eric Andrews reported that the Group is taking part in the Ben Nevis Challenge on 16<sup>th</sup> June. This is a charity event to raise funds for the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind and for the SVIWG. Tickets are on sale, with participants estimating the time it will take for the VI walkers to reach the summit. The average time is about 7 hours. This group, in addition to being visually impaired, are mostly retired but hope to achieve a respectable time. A website has been set-up: [www.justgiving.com/SVIWGsBenNevisChallenge](http://www.justgiving.com/SVIWGsBenNevisChallenge). Tickets are £2 each or 3 for £5. They can be bought from [jane.furness@srsb.org.uk](mailto:jane.furness@srsb.org.uk).

5 Area Officer's Reports  
Chair

AP confirmed that Tony Whistow has been replaced by Nicola Farmery as the representative for the B&P and B&P 20-30s Groups.

#### Secretary

The Correspondence list had been circulated.

#### Treasurer

GJ had written to the Five Weirs Trust re unspent money given to them to replace information boards. They said that action would be taken soon. GJ said he would keep us informed.

#### Area President

TH said that there was no real role for the honorary Area President but it was an opportunity to represent Ramblers in the wider sphere.

He said he would like us to consider the role of Area, where is Area going and what we need to do. He said he thought Groups should introduce a short walks programme, similar to Get Walking Keep Walking, and that such a programme was more likely to be successful if it was built into a special project.

#### Access

There would be intermittent closure to open access on Wharncliffe Crag in the period 2 April-8 May, although footpaths would remain open.

#### Countryside

AP had nothing further to report from the AGM.

#### Publicity

DG to contact Carol Wilkie re publicity materials she has.

#### Website

Christine Whittaker asked Groups to pass information on to her for the Area website.

#### Membership

No report

#### Peak District Green Lanes Alliance

John Newrick said that at the last meeting of the PDGLA it had been agreed not to ask for subscriptions, but to ask for donations instead. All members are asked to write to Derbyshire County Council re their consultation on off-roading in the Peak District. JN said that this is vitally important because the off-roaders are very well organised in their efforts to continue to use the PDNP for their sport.

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#### The Role of Area

A lengthy discussion took place.

It was accepted that members have a greater affinity with their Groups rather than Area. However, Area Council presents an opportunity for Group reps to discuss issues at Area level. Also, Area Council exists to support Groups when necessary.

Area also assists in the establishment of new Groups and projects. The increase in the number of new Groups means that AC meetings are taking longer, with little or no time to discuss significant matters. Accordingly, it was agreed that:

At Area Council meetings Groups would only report on significant matters, of importance to other Groups and to Area Council, or to ask for help.

The Area, Countryside and Rights of Way Committee would be re-formed.

The latter would deal with all 'technical' issues, removing the need for separate reports from

