

SYNED ACROW & Area Council Meetings**Monday August 15th 2022 at the Showroom Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX****ACROW AGENDA**

AC.2022.08.15/01a: PRESENT: Allen Pestell (B&P); Les Seaman (Access); Terry Howard (VP); Allen Hudson (S40,FP); Helen Barker (DVR); Isobel McCormick (CNED); Cynthia Ashton (CoOp); Gavin Johns (CNED, Treas); Cath Hillier (S20's); Judy Gathercole (Sheff) and Malcolm Dixon (Sheff, Sec)

AC.2022.08.15/01b: APOLOGIES: Cath MacKay (VP); Roly Smith (VP); Kate Frizzell (DVR); Johnathan Revell (DVR, website) Christine Parrott (RMR, FP) David Gadd (Donc) and Jeremy Kenyon (Sheff40)

AC.2022.08.15/02a: CHAIR, Allen Pestell, welcomed everyone to the Meeting

AC.2022.08.15/02b: Minutes of the meeting of May 16th 2022 had been distributed previously. And were accepted. (LS, TH)

AC.2022.08.15/03: Matters Arising

a) Lost Paths/DLYW Project

TH reported that the SCC PROW Team were not prioritizing these claims but just processing them as they came in, so major ones could wait until relatively minor ones had been dealt with. Process was likely to take a long time, so no incentive to get things done, especially now the 2026 deadline had been lifted.

Not helped by the fact that the CO Team had not been in touch with local volunteers.

b) BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects – TH didn't know of any progress since a site visit to identify stiles (esp ladder stiles) that needed replacing. Peak Park Rangers now involved and offering to do some of the work and we had to assume they had the manpower to do the work and would negotiate with landowners, etc.

AH reported that Rangers hoped to start work in September and had their own pot of money & didn't need SYNED's. Maybe an impact if Yorks Water withdrew from partnership agreement as they part fund the Ranger's wages.

c) SYNED River Walks Project TH&LS had met with Simon Ogden. Drafted a document together which is to be passed onto graphic designers and now waiting for their response and possible examples and an estimate of likely costs. Would be covering an area of some 900 sq miles, including all the rivers in our area. Intend to have a design that works as an online website with downloadable leaflets, but which could also be printed and distributed separately.

d) Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme – started just before Covid, went dormant during Covid restrictions and is still dormant and waiting for someone to come forward to organize a meeting of all the members who originally came forward back in 2019, to see if they are still interested and recruit more people to replace them if necessary and start the ball rolling again.

Most of the reports that had been made to JK's reporting website (<https://www.jez.cc/paths/index.php5>) had been by members of the Sheffield 40's Group, and we were hoping that it would be someone from that Group who might take the initiative and take over as coordinator. There had been some 200 reports so far - all of which got passed on to the SCC PROW Unit for action.

AH reported that all the Reports came to him and he filtered them to either Sheffield or Derbyshire PROW Departments. He would prefer that walkers sent in their own reports directly to these Departments and only used this reporting tool if no action was forthcoming. We should also encourage walkers to always take secateurs with them.

AC.2022.08.15/04: Access Matters

LS reported that this year's moorland closures had been published. Most had been during May & June. Shooting had started on the 12th. There had been Fire Risk Assessments but no closures. Fire Notices everywhere especially related to started fires, using instant BBQs or discarding cigarettes.

Had previously said that there would be no bird shooting this year due to prevalence of bird flu, but it seems grouse had been exempted due to them being 'wild' birds (but aren't all birds 'wild?').

Will still affect pheasants & partridges which are mostly imported from France where initial outbreaks had been.

AC.2022.08.15/05: Countryside Matters – 61/62 Bradfield buses - Stagecoach had taken them over from Powells but would only be Mon-Sat, with no Sunday service – despite the obvious need/demand for one. Shortage of drivers was blamed.

AC.2022.08.15/06: Rights of Way Matters – Development at Sugworth Hall. Footpath moved. Work had been done and a path (and signpost) diverted further up without getting prior permission. SCC PROW now involved. Footpath at Holly Hall in Deepcar – been an application to upgrade from a Footpath to a Bridleway. But we hadn't made any objection to this.

AC.2022.08.15/07: Any Other ACROW Business – Stainborough Hall aka Wentworth Castle and/or Northern College.
a) National Trust had taken it over from Barnsley Council and were now charging people to go into the grounds and have closed all the access points apart from the main gates. People trying to get in were met by "Do Not Enter" signs. Car Parking was Free but it costs £5 to walk on the grass! (£2-50 for a child)
b) All Members should have received email from CO about online webinars on "Rights of Way Law For Beginners" Two dates – August 24th or Sept 21st both starting at 18:30. Need to book a place in advance if interested.
c) TH had suggested we review the ACROW part of the business and possibly incorporate it into the general Area Council business. Possibly see this as a first stage of a wider review of how the Area Council was functioning and how we dealt with Area business. Start discussion at November's Area Council.
d) Informal discussion on proposals to put in pedestrian crossings on Abbey Lane between the different Ecclesall Woods using access to countryside funds (rather than road safety funds), narrowing the road slightly and putting in central refuges, some signage but no lights. Follows a local campaign & petitions. Still to be signed off.

AC.2022.08.15/08a: CHAIR, Allen Pestell, welcomed everyone to the AC Meeting

b) The Minutes of May 16th 2022 Area Council at the Showroom had been distributed and accepted as a 'True Record' (once date had been amended).

AC.2022.08.15/09: Any Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)

a) Not been contacted by CO or anyone else about what was happening in the Derbyshire Area now they had no Area Officers (although all Groups were understood to be still functioning)

b) 2023 Area AGM Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road, S18 3AX – Sat Jan 28th 2023 – Hall booked.

i) Guest Speaker – will get a speaker from Trustees. Could also invite the Area Support Officer, Diane Simcoe.

ii) Nominations for Area Positions now open iii) Any proposed Motions for 2023 General Council?

iv) Area Annual Report – Group and Officer Reports now required (or by end of October).

Sec would try and get it ready for November AC if everything was submitted in time.

c) Sheffield 20's Group - 20th Anniversary Celebration – July 9th and was considered a success. CH reported there was a good turnout especially for the Picnic in Millhouses Park. Lots of people there who hadn't been seen out on walks for some time. So plenty of opportunity to catch up. About 40 people turned up for the evening party. Probably didn't cover all their costs, so would be using some area money to help pay for the event. MB to liaise with GJ.

d) Insurance & PAT Testing of Area Equipment – GJ had done research but most insurance cover was for company's IT equipment, rather than what we had. Costs would be much too high for what we wanted. The same was true for PAT testing where a minimum of 20 items was usually required for a fixed sum. GJ suggested we continued current situation ie doing without and hoping they didn't cause any fires. Shame CO didn't provide any cover. Might get equipment PAT tested during SCBF46.

e) First Aid Training – back in Sept 2017 CO organized First Aid training in various locations. That Certification needed renewing every 3 years. CO agree there is a need for it but it wasn't something they were thinking of doing or were able to provide at the moment. Had no objection to using Group/Area funds to provide our own local training. St John Ambulance still provide training but not a specific course for walkers or when outdoors. Heavily slanted towards industrial or sporting usage. They would charge c£1,855 (inc VAT) for a group of 15 people (c£124pp). Probably offering more than we needed – just need CPR training, recovery position & some bandaging. The Canal Trust at Chesterfield had a person who could offer training & certification at £60 per person. CJ would see if we could get this price reduced slightly, given that we had plenty of people across the Area who were interested. Edale Mountain Rescue also organized courses.

With First Aid - the thinking now was often about knowing what NOT to do as much as what to do. Having a phone and dialling 999 was often the best course of action unless you were really out in the wilds. Try not to move the casualty, just make them comfortable, keep them warm and arrange to get help asap.

AC.2022.08.15/10: Officers Reports (as available)

a) Chair - nothing to report

b) Secretary – emails received:-

1. Had an enquiry about stress and burn out due to our activities.

2. The replacement to GWEM called 'Walks Manager' was yet again on the horizon and out for use and testing by a small set of Groups but early reports were not enthusiastic and still critical of modifications made so far.

But CO don't have a good record on listening to and taking on board feedback from members and groups especially when they deem it too critical.

c) **Treasurer**

Items Actioned since last AC Meeting :-	Cancelled CO Q4 Payment to Area
1 General Account	£
Opening Balance	1737
Funds Received	0
We had Paid Out the following:-	
Dearne Valley – Q4 Area Funding	285
Chesterfield – Q4 Area Funding	500
Showroom – Comm Room Hire	78
TOTAL	863
Current Balance (Aug 15 th)	874
2 Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement Project	£
Opening Balance	9989
Funds Received	0
Funds Paid Out	0
Current Balance (Aug 15 th)	9989
3 Ivy Cowen (Deceased) Trust Project	£
Opening Balance	15767
Funds received	0
Funds Paid Out	0
Current Balance (Aug 15 th)	15767
Allocated Money:-	
Lost Ways - £1000	
GHB Ward Walk - £1000	
Sheffield Country Walk Reprint - £500	Not sure if needed anymore

Sheff 20's 20 th Anniversary Events - £1500	Still waiting to get final accounts
4 Clarion Call Account	£
Opening Balance	4813
Funds received	0
Funds Paid Out	0
Current Balance (Aug 15 th)	4813
5 Bank Account	
The Current Bank Balance (Aug 15 th)	£31,443

Other Business

Budgets for Groups and Area for 2022 – 2023 financial year had been submitted to CO.

TH thought he had found a new distributor for the Clarion Call books so new sales may be forthcoming.

TH asked for some money for the Riverside Walks Project. Still waiting to hear back from graphic designers but could be quite a few thousand. GJ would initially put c£8K aside from Ivy Cowen Fund.

GJ was also asked to put some money aside for First Aid Training which he was agreeable to - £3-4K.

d) Area Membership update

		CNED	Donc	SHEFF	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	Not allocated	SYNED		National
		SYNED AREA MEMBERSHIP											
01/01/2016		473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230	n/a	2329		106,452
01/01/2017		439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233	n/a	2284		105,234
01/01/2018		424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240	n/a	2196		104,617
01/02/2019		410	236	564	251	154	147	225	250	n/a	2237		102,023
01/10/2019		371	224	522	238	144	151	210	239	73	2172		102151
2020													
Sept		353	228	507	229	135	150	167	251	44	2064		98717
2021													
Sept		363	231	505	212	143	142	157	268	52	2073		101130
Oct		367	228	500	210	148	144	156	277	52	2083		101173
Nov		373	229	500	213	149	142	158	279	52	2095		102281
Dec		377	232	504	213	152	144	163	280	65	2130		103409
2022													
Jan		374	229	499	210	149	138	173	275	61	2108		102091
Feb		373	224	500	210	145	132	183	279	61	2107		102484
Mar		379	229	499	210	146	132	187	278	64	2124		102528
Apr		372	226	496	208	147	132	185	275	64	2105		102231
May		367	225	494	206	145	132	189	274	66	2098		101761
June		364	224	490	205	149	131	194	274	65	2096		101611
July		359	223	494	205	152	138	194	272	66	2103		101817
Aug		361	227	492	205	152	135	191	277	67	2107		101939
Sept		368	222	490	203	152	132	199	282	70	2118		102144

JG – had been asked to supply more information on Groups split between Male & Female and Age bands.

Offered to provide them say once a year eg at the end of each year.

e) Webmaster / Publicity / Newsletter / Social Media - no reports

AC.2022.08.15/11: Group Reports (as available)

- a) Chesterfield – had produced a half year schedule of walks. Some Walks Organisers had dropped out and walk leaders were having to offer more walks to cover gaps.
 - b) Sheffield – had hosted a group from the Hampstead Ramblers who were having a week;s walking holiday in the Peak District and on the Tuesday had an urban diversion from the Sheffieldd Canal Basin, up through Parkwood Springs, Pitsmoor, Wincobank Hill and down to Meadowhall for the tram back to the City Centre.
 - c) From Dearne Valley Ramblers query regarding the 28p per mile expenses allowance that can be claimed for recce's and other activities. The understanding was this was only advisory and obviously costs had gone up since it was brought in (HMRC rate was now 45p per mile).
- GJ considered it was upto Groups to decide what was fair but it had to budgeted for and shown in Group Treasurer's statements. Could be claimed and then be donated back.
- Sheffield mostly used public transport for walks and recce's and most of the regular walkers had the Pensioner Pass, also used senior rail passes, but younger members were more reliant on using (and sharing) cars.
- Sheff 20's – walk leaders knew they could claim but most did not.

AC.2022.08.15/12: AOB :

- a) Renewal (or not) of Zoom Pro Licence by October 13th 2022

Still being used by Area and some Groups but not as much as in person meetings became the norm and technical issues put people off using it. But thought we should renew the Licence for another 12 months and monitor its usage. Noted that Zoom was clamping down on usage by people other than the licence holder, but we can get round that.

- b) TH suggested that we needed to review how the Area Council carried out its business in relation to the Area Constitution and wanted all Groups to be involved in the consultation. Needed to look at how we had Area Council meetings and when we had them – during the week or at the weekends. And what time was best for everybody? Which venue – here or at the showroom or rotate around the different Group locations? Could we include a walk as part of the meeting? Should they be in-person, hybrid or totally online meetings. How often – quarterly or more or less frequently? And who represents the Group? Why do some Groups never send anyone?
- GJ suggested that we compile an outline document of what we consider the Area Council should be doing and send it round the Groups to see if they agreed and how they could help make it work.
- Problems over recruiting people to take over as officers at both Group and Area level.
- TH suggested that initially he got together with the Sec to draw up such a document.
- Try to provide some focus and offer some pointers.
- Needed to work within the Constitutional guidelines, although with some flexibility to keep the organization going.

Meeting closed at 20:00.

Chair thanked everybody for attending and for their contributions.

Next meetings: November 21st at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sheffield S1 2BX starting at 18:30
Area Secretary: Malcolm Dixon, 27 Longford Drive, Sheffield S17 4LN _ or 0784-253-0128

SYNED Area website: www.synedramblers.org.uk **National website:** www.ramblers.org.uk

Please Note: This SYNED Meeting Was Recorded

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