



Re-arranged SYNED ACROW & Area Council Meetings
Monday March 7th 2022 Quaker Meeting House, Sheffield and via Zoom

ACROW

CHAIR: Allen Pestell

ACROW.2022.03.07/01 PRESENT: Allen Pestell, Terry Howard, Cath MacKay, Gavin Johns, David Gadd, Cynthia Ashton, Judy Gathercole and Malcolm Dixon in the room
Matt Byford, Helen Barker, Les Seaman, Phil Ryder and Johnathan Revell joined us on Zoom
- but there were various technical issues and the connection was lost on a number of occasions.
APOLOGIES received from: David Blunkett, Mike Pye, Phil Lee & Jeremy Kenyon.

Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting re-arranged from Feb 21st due to that weekend's adverse weather which was still affecting travel. He apologised that the decision had been taken much later than he would have liked and for any inconvenience it had caused.

ACROW.2022.03.07.02 Minutes of the meeting of November 22nd 2021 had been distributed.

ACROW.2022.03.07/03 Matters Arising:-

a) Lost Paths/DLYW Project –

i) TH outlined a couple of cases he and CW had taken forward. One, at Parson's Piece on Moscar, had been successful. A second path across Moorland between Strines Lane End to Eepy Lane in the Parish of Hathersage was claimed on the grounds of "Once a Highway, Always a Highway". They had been unable to find any evidence that it had been extinguished in the interim (although it had been walled off by the landowner). It looked like their evidence was sufficient for the claim to be accepted but it had gone out for comments by April 7th.

ii) CM commented on the announcement that 2026 Deadline for registering Rights of Way would no longer be enforced, although the legalities still had to be completed. Quid Pro Quo seemed to be offering to make it easier to extinguish other paths hopefully only those deemed: 'no longer used'. But we would have to keep an eye on this and see whatever new legislation was introduced or used to allow this to go through. We still had to continue finding and registering "Lost paths" whatever.

iii) Still waiting to hear from CO on when new paths could be added to their interactive DLYW maps. Had been promised that we could suggest additional paths that hadn't been included on that map but didn't know when this was going to happen. Important to know if there was a deadline. SJOB (Sheff FPO) chasing London on this. DG also concerned that he could only 'see' what he had done but couldn't see what other Groups had done. Didn't want to be either missing stuff or duplicating effort. Had heard that CO would prioritise routes that many groups had put forward but how were you to know what other Groups were doing? CM commented that paths could still be claimed in the normal way in the interim.

b) BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects

TH reported there had meant to be a site meeting at Bradfield the previous week but he was the only one who showed. Still waiting to hear from JK on this, but hoped that things were moving forward.

Understood they were looking at replacing most of the steep ladder stiles around Bradfield as a joint project with other agencies.

c) SYNED River Walks Project – JK was contacting S.Ogden about the Rother Valley route.

TH had talked to SO after the Area AGM outlining our thoughts and plans and where they could fit in with his own. Brief discussion on likely costs. But hadn't heard of any progress since. Maybe JK had?

d) Sheffield Groups Footpaths Officers update – none present tonight. Didn't know if they had met or discussed any issues since an initial meeting facilitated by Area Sec.

e) Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme – really needed to have a follow-up meeting to see how things stood. Had just been set up with someone covering each of an allocated area within Sheffield boundary when Covid hit and stopped most activities. It was possible that some may have carried on individually but there hadn't been a chance to meet-up and review progress and possibly replace any warden who had dropped out. JK's path reporting website (<https://www.jez.cc/paths/index.php5>) was still up and running, although some of the reports there may be out-of-date by now. It was linked to Sheffield PROW Dept. JH of P&NFS also made a point of reporting any footpath problem directly to the Sheffield PROW Dept.

ACROW.2022.03.07/04 Other Access Matters

LS reported there was nothing other than the ending of the 2026 deadline to report on access.

P&N FS had arranged a number of evening Zoom webinars on Footpath & Access issues. Next was on 21st.

ACROW.2022.03.07/05 Other Countryside Matters - Nothing to report.

ACROW.2022.03.07/06 Other Rights of Way Matters – TH had 3 maps for Rotherham group.

ACROW.2022.03.07/07 Any Other ACROW Business – None.

AREA COUNCIL

CHAIR: Allen Pestell – once again welcomed everyone to this re-arranged AC Meeting, with apologies for cancelling it back in February but felt it was best thing to do at the time.

AC.2022.03.07/01 Minutes of November 22nd 2021 AC had been distributed

1) Any Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)

CJ had been away & hadn't had chance to look into the Question over Insurance of Area's equipment (laptop, projector, screen & speakers). They also need to be PAT tested which still needed to be arranged.

a) Jan 29th Area AGM – what had been decided, what hadn't?

i) We hadn't been able to elect an Area Footpath Officer. Judy Gathercole had taken over as Area Membership Sec. We still had no one to cover the Area Social Media and Publicity posts.

David Blunkett had been re-elected for another year as Area President and was willing to be available to attend Group events if it was helpful.

ii) Also despite big efforts to email and/or post the Area AGM notice & Annual Report to everyone listed as a member, there was still a very disappointingly low turnout with only just over 20 in the Hall (Crookes Social Club) and about 12 on Zoom, which experienced technical problems throughout.

Both BoT Speaker, Mark Chung, and Simon Ogden gave good and informative talks which were appreciated. PDF versions of their PowerPoint presentations were available for distribution.

iii) Noted draft Area AGM Minutes were not available yet

b) Date, Venue & Host of 2023 Area AGM

GJ reported on behalf of the Chesterfield & NED Group that they had provisionally booked the Coal Aston Village Hall for the afternoon of January 21st 2023.

Still subject to David Blunkett's availability. Secretary to check and report back.

AC.2022.03.07/02 Officers Reports (as available)

a) Chair – nothing to report.

b) Secretary l) Area Membership update

	SD01 CNED	SD02 Donc	SD03 SHEFF	SD04 RothM	SD05 B&P	SD07 DVR	SD50 Sheff 20	SD52 Sheff 40	not allocatd	SD SYNED	National
01/01/2016	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230	0	2329	106,452
01/01/2017	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233	0	2284	105,234
01/01/2018	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240	0	2196	104,617
01/02/2019	410	236	564	251	154	147	225	250	0	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											
February - Leavers: 151; Joiners: 29; Renewals; 2.											

ii) Emails Received - Notice of three online conversations in March involving Board of Trustee members. Places limited to 300 and had to be booked through Eventbrite and only lasting an hour.

First was on building an inclusive, diverse and democratic Ramblers. Second was on recruiting, retaining supporting volunteers in the Ramblers and third would be on walk leading and developing leaders.

lii) Notice about forthcoming R4 'Ramblings' about Ethel Haythornthwaite. Would be available as a downloadable podcast on BBC Sounds thereafter. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00154h6>)

iv) Govt Consultation on Use of Green Lanes by Off Road Biking and 4x4's

Secretary asked to respond on behalf of Area membership c2000 members.

v) Notice of a display of plans for Parkwood Springs Country Park development on March 19th.

c) Treasurer's Report – 21 Feb 2022

Action items from last meeting: None

1. General Account

	£
Opening Balance	1,075

We have received the following

Q2 Area Funding	1,400
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TOTAL	2,475
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We have paid out the following	£
M. Dixon – Area Annual Report - Postage	358
Sheffield – Area Funding	200
A&R Tradeprint – Area annual Report - printing	236
Crookes Social Club – Area AGM Venue Hire	100
Sheffield QMR – Meeting room Hire	197
G. Johns – treasurer’s expenses	6
TOTAL	1097

The current balance (Feb 21st) **1378**

2. Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement Project	£
Opening Balance	9989
We have received:-	0
We have paid out:-	0

The current balance (Feb 21st) **9989**

3. Ivy Cowen (Deceased) Trust Project

	£
Opening Balance	16767
We have received the following: Total	0
We have paid the following:	
PD – Access Fund Total	1000

The current balance (21 Feb) **15767**

Allocated Money:

Lost Ways £1000
GHB Ward Walk - £1000
Sheffield Country Walk Reprint - £500

4. Clarion Call Account	£
Opening Balance	4813
We have received the following: Total	0
We have paid the following: Total	0

5. Bank Account

The current Bank balance (21 Feb) £ 31,947

Other Business:- None. Although we still had to decide if we wished to draw down Q3 Area Funding from CO. GJ would be in favour of this, but he thought we wouldn't require Q4 funding given the amounts we still had. Especially what was still in the Ivy Cowan Fund. Groups were asked to suggest projects they could spend the money on.

Re the PD Access Fund - TH reported that he had met Sue Smith and she said the money would be spent on replacing old ladder stiles on Agden and White Lane Moors as part of their Gateway Project to improve access for all in that area.

d) Webmaster - JR not present (at time) New Website was up and running, including a link to GWEM. Groups asked to suggest improvements and additions. It was up to us to publicise and use it.

e) Publicity / Newsletter / other Social Media - still requiring a volunteer to look after these & promote the Ramblers at Area level. Some Groups had found this a useful tool in their publicity armoury

AC.2022.03.07/03 Group Reports

- 1) Doncaster – DG reported that they needed a new Secretary. Had found a volunteer but she only stayed for one or two meetings as she had then had to resign on health reasons. Had a possible replacement lined up. Group had planned to restart having a basic b/w 4 month long walks programme but only one person had put in any walks, so had decided not to. Trying to keep 2 months ahead and provide some variety.
- 2) Sheffield reported similar problems with putting a programme together. Walks were going very late and often only because they would be a gap otherwise.
- 3) Chesterfield had continued with their A4 b/w 6 months long printed programme. People had committed to putting the walks in and was going well.

AC.2022.03.07/04 Any Other Business :

- 1) Sheffield Adventure Film Festival (ShAFF) @ The Showroom March 18th - 20th 2022

Sheffield Group were intending to have a stall there and were looking for volunteers from the other Groups to help staff it and possibly contribute to its design and contents. All help welcome. Had already collected a number of small films and photos from Sheff 20's and own group that could be displayed to bring people into the stall for a chat. (see Photo below)

- 2) Venues for next meetings: May 16th; August 15th & November 21st

Continuing concerns over the QMR's WiFi connection and bandwidth and the technical issues which rose from that, including interrupting the start and flow of the meeting. Following discussion it was decided we would hold our next AC/ACROW meetings at the Showroom Room 5, 5 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1. Sheffield group had already booked in for two meetings there and it was suggested that if they were happy with the way it went that we should try having an Area Meeting there as well. It was hoped everyone would now attend our meetings in person wherever possible but a Zoom link would still be provided for those who couldn't. Noted: Showroom promised better WiFi and facilities and was slightly cheaper to hire.

It's location was nearer the bus and train stations, but wasn't so central and there might be parking issues. Secretary asked to go ahead with booking for May 16th – assuming Sheffield meetings went ahead OK.

3) Sheffield 20's Group - 20th Anniversary Celebration fell this year with July 7th being the actual date of their founding in 2002. MB outlined their plans so far – still looking for a suitable venue and intention was to invite any original members who were still around as well as present members to a whole day celebratory event, put on some catering and invite as many members old and new along. Show what people got for their money and that they could be part of a long term community of friends with more continuity than many online groups had. They also wanted to say “Thank-You” to everyone that had been involved with the Group over the years and helped it prosper and keep going. Possibly upto 1,800 people over the years. Hoped to hold it in the first or second week in July depending on availability of the venue. Would aim for a Saturday if possible. Hope some or all could be held outdoors or under a marquee.

GJ thought there was still a surplus of around £1,000 in Group's Social Fund - used as a float for trips etc – would be charging a reasonable entry ticket price of between £5 - £10. He suggested that Area could guarantee upto £2,000 to cover any outstanding costs for the event that the Group's funds and ticket revenue couldn't cover. Group would run the event and decide on what happened there and what to charge for it. Area's money could be used in advance to get stuff but would have to be covered by expected revenue. Possible venues they were looking at were the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow, Abbeydale, Whirlow Hall Farm. Asked to provide a provisional budget by the May 16th Area Council if possible.

JR suggested that they looked for a venue that might waive the hire fee if there was a guaranteed bar spend which there should be with upto 100 guests. Dearne Valley had had a similar event for their 25th and had asked members to bring food to share and this had worked very well.

Meeting closed at 20:00.

Everyone thanked for attending and their contributions, especially those on Zoom for their additional patience and forbearance, given the technical issues we had at the QMR.

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



(New Banner used at ShAff
cost £44 from
AR Tradeprint, Sheffield)

Please Note: This SYNED Meeting Was Recorded

“The Ramblers’ Association is a registered charity (England and Wales no: 1093577, Scotland no: SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales no: 4458492.

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