



SYNED ACROW & Area Council Meetings Monday May 16th 2022
in Showroom 5, Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX and on Zoom:-

ACROW AGENDA

SYNED.2022.05.16/01a PRESENT: Allen Pestell; Cath MacKay; Terry Howard; Les Seaman;

Judy Gathercole; Cynthia Ashton; Gavin Johns and Malcolm Dixon.

And on Zoom: Allen Hudson; David Gadd; Catherine Hillier; Matt Byford; Isobel McCormick; Helen Barker.

SYNED.2022.05.16/01b APOLOGIES : Jez Kenyon; Christine Parrott; Phil Lee; Phil Ryder.

(The start of the Meeting was delayed due to technical issues connecting my laptop to the Showroom's A/V equipment which took three other laptops and a different HDMI cable to sort out. Later found out to be that the equipment had been left using Apple Ipad settings rather than Windows. Our apologies.)

SYNED.2022.05.16/02a: CHAIR: Allen Pestell Welcomed everyone to the Meeting in a new venue for us and apologised for the delayed start.

SYNED.2022.05.16/02b: Minutes of the meeting of March 7th 2022 at the QMR had been distributed prior to the Meeting. Found a "True Record"

SYNED.2022.05.16/03: Matters Arising

a) Lost Paths/DLYW Project – no real progress to report.

b) BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects – JK had reported that following site visit, number of stiles had been identified for replacement. Also a number of bench locations, near High Bradfield overlooking Damflask reservoir, but had not progressed that yet. After that, there were another 10 or so improvements in the Bradfield area, with at least another dozen fairly nearby that could be included - it just needed time for people to put the info together.

JK had now become too busy with other commitments to continue coordinating this work on behalf of SYNED and we really needed to find someone (or two) to take over pushing this project through.

The voluntary labour for the BAWI stiles was being provided by Peak Park Rangers - they had just picked it up and ran with it. It really seemed to be the case that our main role was to find and suggest improvements, as that was the bottleneck.

c) SYNED River Walks Project – TH & LS had met with SO about this project and what they thought was required to cover having both information available online and as an A2 foldable leaflet, with each river having its own information box. Would now meet with potential designers and get an idea of costs for both the design & online work and for printing costs on top. Probably needed to budget for between £5k-£10k (max). But could look at getting additional sponsorship from other sympathetic organisations.

SO had never got back to JK about River Rother project he was interested in despite being emailed from multiple different email addresses.

d) Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme – been dormant during Covid, although Reports continue to be posted – mostly by Sheff 40's members. Like BAWI Scheme really needed someone to take over coordinating this. A Meeting was now needed to review who was still involved and interested and possibly consider re-launching the scheme. In terms of reports, four people in Sheffield 40s had generated almost all the reports that were sent in - over 200 of them - so may look to them to see if someone there would be inter-

ested and then extend it to involving the other two Sheffield groups.
What was really needed was a vaguely technical person with some time on their hands!

SYNED.2022.05.16/04: Other Access Matters Latest moorland restrictions had been published – all in May & June – presumably for nesting birds but would include the Bank Holidays.

SYNED.2022.05.16/05: Other Countryside Matters – nothing to report.

SYNED.2022.05.16/06: Other Rights of Way Matters – nothing to report

SYNED.2022.05.16/07: Any Other ACROW Business – none

AREA COUNCIL AGENDA

CHAIR: Allen Pestell Welcomed everyone to the Meeting in a new venue for us and apologised for the delayed start. Attendees and Apologies - as above

SYNED.2022.05.16/09: Minutes of March 7th 2022 at the QMR (previously distributed)

SYNED.2022.05.16/010: Any Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)

a) Date, Venue & Host of 2023 Area AGM was confirmed as Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road, S18 3AX at 2pm on Saturday January 28th 2023. Area President David Blunkett hoped to be in attendance. The C&NED Group would host and also organise a short morning walk.

b) Sheffield 20's Group - 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Group Chair Matt Byford presented the following paper:-

“This July marks the 20th Anniversary of the Sheffield 20s & 30s Ramblers group. Myself and the committee want to commemorate the occasion and encourage members to stay in the group/in Ramblers for many more years to come. Here's an overview of our plans (and their costs) to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 20s & 30s Sheffield Walking Group.

The premise

Our concept for the event is to have a 2002 themed party for past and present members where we celebrate what the group gives to us:- blisters, windswept hair and a thorough knowledge of the best cafes in the Peaks are just a few things worth a mention. Over the years the group has grown into a diverse and inclusive community with the making of many friendships (even marriages and the birth of SWG babies).

The importance of these social connections has really been underlined during the past two years with members mental health awareness high on our agenda.

On the night and in the lead up to the party we'll be encouraging members to share their stories with us, we'd be happy to submit a piece for the Rambler's magazine along these lines.

When I consider the rise of free Instagram/meet-up walking groups and the pandemic lockdowns it'll be nice to raise a glass to the group simply surviving.

20 mile Edale Skyline walk (date tbc). This will involve several walk leaders and allow members the option to drop down at earlier intervals. We'll run this at zero cost.

Picnic in the park (date tbc likely to be 9th July). Family friendly afternoon in Endcliffe Park with games.

Party – **9th July** at Vodka Revolution in the city. Ticket price £5-10 – aiming to get 60-80 people.

Plus a banner @ c£40 and balloons @10.99 x 5 = £54.95

Venue would cost £1,000 and included buffet and drinks vouchers.

Total spend circa £1,100. Venue spend may increase depending on ticket sales.

In conclusion

In conclusion we'd like to host a party for 70-100 Ramblers members. Our research was showing a likely cost of £1,000 to £1,500. Most members of our group typically were happy to pay a small amount for a ticket to a social event but if the SYNED Area had the capacity to help cover the costs of the celebrations that would really help us on this special occasion.

One of the great things about the Sheff 20's group was it's diversity. We attracted a wonderful mix of hikers from all sorts of cultural, financial and social backgrounds. It was common for new members to say they joined: because "they wanted to meet people, to make friends while exploring the beauty of the Peak District."

Target date for the Event was Saturday July 9th, with a 20 mile walk (with 12 & 15 mile alternatives); a Party in the Park, then another evening Do at a City Centre location with a £5-£10 admission price.

Total budget between £1,100 and £1,500.

Area asked to cover any shortfall and possibly provide some of this up front if required.

AGREED

c) Area Equipment – Insurance Cover & PAT Testing

Sec reported that although stored at his home, his insurers didn't consider the equipment covered by his contents insurance as they weren't 'legally' his. Although he was happy to continue to store them we would need to find a different insurer to cover them when they were taken out and being used at other venues or being loaned out by other Groups, etc.. GJ would investigate alternative policies.

Although required by most insurance policies, PAT testing was expensive for the three things we needed to have checked. Sec would use his involvement in the SCBF to get them done then.

SYNED.2022.05.16/011: Officers Reports (as available)

a) Chair – AP had been an Area Delegate at the April 9th General Council at the NEC. He was very unhappy with the way business had been concentrated into a two hour period which hadn't allowed much time for debate and they still hadn't managed to get through the Agenda with some Motions (including one about the format of future GCs) being remitted to the Trustees.

Four Motions had been passed including two which were critical of the introduction of Risk Assessments. However there was no guarantee they would be enacted as the Board could ignore them if they thought that was "in the best interests of the Ramblers". They didn't have a definition of this, but hopefully it would include the continuing loss of walk leaders and members.

There hadn't been time to discuss members concerns over the centralising and controlling aspects of much that was coming out of Central Office. In AP's opinion they seemed to forget we were a bottom-up voluntary organisation that relied on local members and their involvement and enthusiasm to make it work on a day-to-day basis.

AP's views were backed up by CM who had also attended the GC. Like many others she was unhappy at the way the RA was going with issues over centralising of governance and decision making. Prepared to make allowance given the last two years but wasn't happy with the introduction of the Assemble database and the splitting of members and volunteers. We needed to be more diverse and inclusive not divisive.

We needed to be more welcoming to everyone, all ages, backgrounds and languages.

We also couldn't just assume everyone had IT skills and equipment or knew how or wanted to use them.

Thought things may come to a head at next year's GC, although she hoped it would resume being its usual 2 day affair giving time for discussion and networking. The alternative would be more people opting to leave and the organisation continuing to decline.

b) Secretary (inc: Emails Received) – nothing reported.

c) **Treasurer Report – 16 May 2022**

Action items from last meeting: **None**

1. General Account

	£
Opening Balance	1378

We have **received** the following:

Q3 Area Funding	1400
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Total	1400
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We have **paid** the following:

OSS - Subscription	45
Sheffield – Q3 Area Funding	200
Dearne Valley – Q2 & Q3 Area Funding	550
Sheff 20's & 30's – Q3 Area Funding	246

Total	1041
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The current balance (16 May)	1737
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2. Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement Project

£

Opening Balance	9989
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We have received the following:	Total	0
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We have paid the following:	Total	0
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The current balance (16 May)	9989
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3. Ivy Cowen (Deceased) Trust Project

£

Opening Balance	15767
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We have received the following:	Total	0
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We have paid the following:	Total	0
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The current balance (16 May)	15767
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Allocated Money

Lost Ways £1000
 GHB Ward Walk - £1000
 Sheffield Country Walk Reprint - £500
 Sheff 20's & 30's Party - £2000

4. Clarion Call Account

£

Opening Balance	4813
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We have received the following:	Total	0
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We have **paid** the following: Total 0

The current balance (16 May) **4813**

5. Bank Account

The current Bank bal (16 May) **32306**

Other Business Given our current bank balance GJ felt that the Q4 Area Funding would not be required – CO to be advised. Gavin Johns thanked for his comprehensive report

d) Area Membership update

	CNED	Donc	SHEFF	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	Not Allocatd	SYNED	National
	SYNED AREA MEMBERSHIP										
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	379	229	499	210	146	132	187	278	64	2124	102528
Apr	372	226	496	208	147	132	185	275	64	2105	102231
May											

Judy Gathercole reported that she was still having problems accessing the Insight Hub and had only managed it with help from CO staff. Hoped to be able to send out Reports more expeditiously in future.

e) Webmaster / Publicity / Newsletter / Social Media Either not available or not covered by an Officer

SYNED.2022.05.16/012: Group Reports

- a) Sheffield – had launched a fresh looking website and had adopted GWEM for its walk programme. Both had been well received and had gone through with less problems than had been expected
- b) Doncaster – Continued to look for a new Group Sec. Short walks programme.
- c) Chesterfield – Chesterfield Walking Festival now taking place (May 14th - 22nd) but run by Council www.visitchesterfield.info/walking generally well attended.

SYNED.2022.05.16/013: Any Other Business:

- a) General Council 2022 – Report back from Area Reps – see above
- b) Kinder Trespass 90th Anniversary Weekend Events Report

Attended by CM & TH amongst many others. Very successful. The hotel room, where the speakers were, was “rammed” – 60 seated and as many standing, and had to be streamed to a screen in an outside marquee. Also received very good and sympathetic media coverage, amid calls for a natural health service and greater access to the countryside for all - effectively re-launching a new access campaign :-
(see: https://www.manchester-ramblers.org.uk/kinder_trespass_90.php).

Many walks had been organised over the weekend by different groups, inc Sheff 20's, Red Rope and Kinder In Colour, and had all been well attended.

- c) First Aid Training – there had been requests for this to be arranged as many had had original training in September 2019 and Certification ran out in September 2022.

Secretary would contact Area Support Team and Central Office as they had organised it previously.

- d) Derbyshire Area of the Ramblers - it had been reported that they had not been able to recruit and elect any Officers this year. It was hoped that the local Groups would continue to function but the Area's Accounts would be wound up in the interim.

It's possible we may be asked to expand slightly and take some of the Groups into our own Area.

- e) Next meetings: August 15th - agreed that it would be held at the Showroom again, but we would see how that went before booking the venue for the November 21st and future SYNED Meetings there.

Meeting closed at 20:20.

Minutes taken and compiled by MSD (sec)

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: It hadn't been possible to make either an audio or zoom recording of this SYNED Meeting

“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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