



**South Yorks &
N.E. Derbyshire**

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 14th August 2023

Quaker Meeting Rooms, St James Street Sheffield S1 2EW and via Zoom

Present: Malcolm Dixon (Area Sec), Jez Kenyon (VCh), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Cynthia Ashton (CoOp), Les Seaman (Access), Terry Howard (VP Member without portfolio), Michael Stainer (Chesterfield), Lucia Contrino (S40's), Nikki Speakman (B&P), Judy Gathercole (Area MSec), Philip Ryder (RMR), Sarah Whitby (S20s&30s) Richard Mills

Via Zoom: Helen Barker (DVR), Lizzie Cousins (S20's&30's), Liz Sharp (S40's),

Apologies: Allen Pestell (Area Chair), Cath MacKay, Roly Smith (VP), Johnathan Revell (Web, DVR), Kate Frizzell (DVR), David Gadd (Doncaster), Helen Jackson.

1. **CHAIR:** VCh JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. JK and MD provided an update on Allen's recent ill health, we all wish him well.
2. **MINUTES** of May 15th 2023, SYNED Area Council meeting, approved. Noted that Peak & Northern newsletter not yet sent out.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

- a) **Lost Paths/DLYW Project:** Richard Mills spoke – he did training for the project recently. Noted variable situations across the country with progress. Noted that there are actually only a few lost paths in the Sheffield region. Has met with Terry and clarified what areas are worth looking at, around 6 are worth further investigation. Highlighted lengthy delays in local authorities actually looking at the evidence due to backlog, but he and Terry are looking at archive evidence and noted that BHS are also heavily involved in bridleway recognition. Feels that for our area, emphasis needs to be more maintaining access to existing footpaths and sharing knowledge between groups. TH noted we do have funds available to support research into paths. Noted that we cover a wider area than just Sheffield and RM and TH expertise would be welcome in supporting other areas to carry out research. DG has previously said he's done research in his area. Maybe set up a WhatsApp group for those interested to discuss, maybe a call out to all groups to ask for interest.
- b) **BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects:** no progress – currently stuck between Peak Park and Steel Valley for funding.
- c) **SYNED River Walks Project:** this has stalled somewhat. TH & LS struggling to make further progress to develop the map despite having funding and feel it's now time

to drop it. Some discussion around what's still needed and how we could support. A few suggestions made and support offered.

d) Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme: no real progress in trying to reboot this post covid, only 4 out of 20 people previously involved responded to JKs email. We need to put a new call out to wider membership. We need the info from path checkers to make a case for more money for repairs etc. JK to action further.

e) Memorial Plaque: TH provided update and clarification of proposal (not really a memorial, more an information plaque on the history of the Clarion Ramblers) TH also suggest contributing to repair works on Kinder Scout as a good use of the funds made by sales of Clarion Call. Some discussion around plaque wording – any suggestions? Agreed to contribute £3500 to the Kinder Fund and keep £1300 for the costs of plaque/info board.

f) Leading Safe Walks: online training offered by Ramblers. Lack of awareness of training and Assemble amongst walk leaders. Some discussion around risk assessment, incident reporting and Assemble, increased bureaucracy. What is Ramblers rationale? Suggested that we should all book on a session and send thoughts on content to Malcolm.

4. Other Access Matters: Les S.

Access land closure dates no changes other than some dates being moved from Spring to Autumn, but these dates already communicated. A trap for birds of prey was found recently on Moscar, but RSPB and Birdwatch dealing with it.

Ughill Farm: LS still trying to arrange a visit with the Wildlife Trust but no success as yet. Doesn't appear that there will be further restrictions to open access, no major plans, it will just be made secure and safer. LS would like to get better access to currently inaccessible areas. Funding seems to be well on the way.

5. Other Countryside Matters: Upper Derwent Reservoir proposals - plans looking at potential for flooding Howden/Derwent have been shelved.

6. Other Rights of Way matters: Footpath forums – LC has attended these and has circulated information from them. Encourages others to sign up, they are interesting and useful. Rights of way training is offered by Ramblers if groups are interested. The Ramblers own footpath reporting system is to be retired, direct reporting is encouraged instead. Lucia will forward regular updates to circulate.

7. Officers reports:

Chair: none received

Secretary: nothing to report that hasn't already been discussed.

Treasurer's Report:

GJ clarified re the last meetings questions re Q3 & Q4 funding and budgets. Q4 funding was cancelled as per the discussion at previous meeting. Area and group budgets have been agreed, similar to previous years. Updated us on current allocations of funding and accounts.

Dearne Valley have requested funding of £985 from the Ivy Cowan funds to provide First Aid training and first aid booklets for members. HB provided full details; funding agreed. For those interested, this link has full details of the most

appropriate course – there is a substantial discount on the website prices for booking a group session for up to 12 people, and training can be provided at any suitable venue of choice. <https://www.redcrossfirstaidtraining.co.uk/courses/public-first-aid-courses/first-aid-for-adult/> enquiries can be made online with their central booking office in Salford. For info, they can only run it on weekdays as the training team don't work weekends.

Renewal of Zoom licence – area and DVR use it regularly – noted that it is there for all and its encouraged any groups to use (under Malcom's name). around £119, renewal due in October – renewal approved.

Area Membership Report: Report attached. Clarified that we do include payment pending figures for consistency and the report is just the number of members on the day the report is run. Feeling is that attendance on walks is good and rising and that newer members do join in order to walk.

Webmaster / Newsletter / Social Media: none received.

Publicity Sarah looking at putting on a stall at the Sheffield film festival next March again. Cost is £150, help will be needed to man it. Also noted Malcolm has the new Ramblers publicity pack for loan – banner, cloth, leaflets etc. Nicki S mentioned it would be good for groups to get involved with putting on walks for next years Sheffield Walking Festival.

8. **Group Reports:** feedback from one group about their activities. Would be good to hear from more groups.
9. **Review of the Future Composition and Role of the Area Council** - this can now be dropped.
10. **SYNED Area AGM Arrangements**
 - Saturday January 20th 2024 – walk details tbc, meeting will start at 2pm.
 - Rowms Lane Social Club, Rowms Lane (A6022), Swinton S64 8AE
 - Guest Speaker – tbc – a few names suggested to approach; Trustee Speaker - Central office will book someone in.
 - Area Annual Report; Election of Area President and other Area Officers – roles are all up for election every year, maybe circulate Ramblers 'job' specs and what's involved to encourage people to stand? Area footpath Sec is vacant at present.

12. AOB

- **DWP Community Volunteers** – had offered help – unclear with what.
- EGM called by Ramblers– to discuss Ramblers new strategy. Those who attended general Council invited to attend. Looking at making walking more accessible and inclusive.
- Bus service changes from September.

Dates of next AC Meetings:

November 20th 2023 venue tbc (Quakers no longer available)

January 20th 2024 (AGM) Rowms Lane Social Club, Swinton

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

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.

Registered office: The Ramblers, Third Floor, 1 Clink Street, London SE1 9DG

Appendix 1 – Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report – 14 August 2023

Action items from last meeting: Q4 Area Funding from CO cancelled.
Area & Group budgets agreed and sent to CO.

1. General Account

	£
Opening Balance	1576

We have **received** the following:

0

Sub Total	0
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We have **paid** the following:

G Johns – Treasurer's expenses	26
Sheff Quakers – Hall Hire	80
Sheffield 40's – Q4 Area Funding	200
Dearne Valley – Q4 Area Funding	290
Chesterfield – Q4 Area Funding	500

Sub Total	1096
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The current balance (4 Aug)	480
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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 (15 May)	9989
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3. Ivy Cowen (Deceased) Trust Project

£

Opening Balance	14781
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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 (15 May)	14781
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Allocated Money

Lost Ways	£1000
GHB Ward Walk	- £1000
Riverside Walks	- £3 – 5, 000
First Aid Training	- £3 – 5,000
Sheffield Walk Festival – Hi viz	- £250
Sheff Walking Forum	- £100

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
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The current balance (14 Aug)	4813
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5. Bank Account

The current Bank bal (14 Aug)	30063
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Other Business

Dearne Valley Group have requested support from the Area for First Aid in an Emergency booklets and Red Cross First Aid course costs, totalling £990.

Appendix 2 – Membership

	CNED	Donc	Sheff	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	NOT allocated	SYNED Total	National Total
01/01/2016	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230	0	2329	106452
01/01/2017	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233	0	2284	105234
01/01/2018	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240	0	2196	104617
01/02/2019	410	236	564	251	154	147	225	250	0	2237	102023
01/10/2020	371	224	522	238	144	151	210	239	73	2172	102151
30/09/2020	353	228	507	229	135	150	167	251	44	2064	98717
30/09/2021	363	231	505	212	143	142	157	268	52	2073	101130
30/09/2022	368	222	490	203	152	132	199	282	70	2118	102144
2023											
Jan	373	229	493	203	154	140	207	296	74	2169	104183
Feb	369	228	493	207	156	142	208	294	82	2179	104314
Mar	374	232	495	210	157	143	208	298	83	2200	104484
Apr	371	231	494	211	159	144	204	300	85	2199	104039
May	371	231	491	213	161	145	195	305	81	2193	103587
Jun	369	232	484	211	157	148	192	312	79	2184	103456
Jul	367	228	475	215	158	148	198	316	77	2182	104041
Aug	372	231	477	213	159	147	194	313	80	2186	104144
Sept											