



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 15th May 2023

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

Present: Malcolm Dixon (Area Sec), Jez Kenyon (VCh), Cynthia Ashton (CoOp), David Gadd (Doncaster), Cath MacKay (VP, Member without portfolio), Les Seaman (Access), Terry Howard (VP Member without portfolio),

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

Apologies: Allen Pestell (Area Chair), Roly Smith (VP), Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Johnathan Revell (Web, DVR), Kate Frizzell (DVR), Michael Stainer (Chesterfield), Lucia Contrino (S40's), Judy Gathercole (Area MSec), Philip Ryder (RMR), and Nikki Speakman (B&P)

1. CHAIR: VCh JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone

1b. JK reported the recent sad death of Area Vice President Mike Pye (1937-2023). CM said a few words about Mike in tribute. The funeral will be on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 1.15 pm at Hutcliffe Wood Crematorium. A tribute will also be added to the Area AGM agenda in January.

2. MINUTES of Feb 20th 2023, SYNED Area Council meeting, approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

a) Lost Paths/DLYW Project: no progress from Sheffield side, nothing received from central office. Cut-off date is now 2031. DG has pursued issues in Tickhill with the council. Project overall seems disjointed and hard to get volunteers, unsure where is already covered. Noted that the British Horse Society are also looking at which footpaths could be upgraded to bridleways. Noted that the DLYW map online shows patchy cover. JK suggested doing an audit across our area to see what is happening in groups to see where we are at and who is involved. HB was involved in the mapping campaign in 2020 and felt impression from emails she received since asking for volunteers was that it was being co-ordinated nationally? Not clear at all. Some public info here <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/dont-lose-your-way-2026.aspx> and there are adverts on Assemble for volunteers in all geographical areas, job spec attached in appendices.

MD to contact CO for an update and clarification.

b) BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects: no progress. TH has tried to contact lead person but not had any response. JK pointed out that funding was available, but responsibility has been passed around with no progress noted. Difficult to obtain contact details. Website for Steel Valley Project is <https://steelvalleyproject.org>

c) SYNED River Walks Project: TH & Les S meeting this week with a graphic designer/publisher to discuss production of an online leaflet for the river walks with links to individual walk details. Can be printed off at will. Cost is less than originally budgeted for, all looking positive, aim is to fill in gaps to improve access to the riverside and encourage people to explore the areas on their doorsteps. **Please can all groups let TH/LS have any leaflets, route maps, online links etc for river walks in their areas so that they can be included in the base map.** Liz S mentioned River Rangers and that they might be a useful tool to get members interested and involved via their daily walks.

d) Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme: no progress. Discussion around reporting footpath issues – can be done online by individuals. Ramblers have an online web-based system and Peak & Northern Footpath Society have launched an app. The more reports that are made on an issue, the more likely that the local authority will act on it.
<https://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/report.php>
<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/pathwatch-report-path-features-and-problems.aspx>

e) First Aid Training: Area had not got anywhere with this sadly. Decision made to encourage groups to arrange own training if desired and Area will fund this as we have already put money aside for this. If a group arranges it and can't fill all the places, to encourage opening to other groups as a joint session.

4. Other Access Matters: Les S.

Access land closure dates took effect from last week – a list was circulated by email. Please ensure your groups and walk leaders are aware as some dates have changed season from previous years due to ownership changes.

Ughill Farm: an area of land between Dunworth and Moscar Cross that went up for sale and sold for £1.25 million. The S&R Wildlife Trust have been given 12 months to raise the funds for this purchase- £1million still needs to be raised. 25% of area is open access land, plus several public rights of way. We would like to see increased public access, Wildlife Trust is possibly more focused on protecting the breeding bird population and wildlife by not allowing access. Les feels we should be liaising with them and Peak Park and discussing potential access to the land for the mutual benefit of walkers and wildlife. More details of the appeal at <https://www.wildsheffield.com/ughill/> if the WT don't manage to raise funds, there is potential that a local purchaser might buy and use the land for other purposes.

5. Other Countryside Matters:

Upper Derwent Reservoir proposals raised by AP. A potential proposal to flood the valley above Howden reservoir to create a new reservoir. No further details yet, Peak Advisory Committee have contacted Severn Trent/YW who have stated that it is just one of many measures being considered, including fixing leaky taps. Various bodies are involved in discussions. <https://www.severntrent.com/about-us/our-plans/strategic-resource-options/upper-derwent-valley-reservoir-expansion/>

6. Other Rights of Way matters: nothing raised

7. Officers reports:

Chair: none received

Secretary: Annual report and accounts received from the Peak & Northern Footpath Society. MD to send a pdf copy around. We have been invited to their AGM which the following week in Stockport, contact MD if interested in attending. JK noted that perhaps we need to be working with them more closely, though we do have members on their mailing list. (see previous item re their well thought out path reporting app)

From last meeting, the Wyming Brook Drive has now reopened.

Derbyshire County Council have secured funding to improve bus provision in Peak District. Cycling UK also have a grant programme in place.

Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM) are asking us to report any issues with green lanes (e.g., motorbikes, 4x4's) to them.

Email from Helen Jackson asking for support with a new pedestrian crossing where the country way crosses the main road at Greno Woods. Agreed we will reply that we fully support, and to send to groups asking them also to support the campaign. MD will cascade further info.

Treasurer's Report: Report attached. Some confusion over figures though, unsure why we are being asked not to take Q4 funding based on figures in report as we appear to have issued more money this quarter than the Q3 funding we were allocated to groups. Treasurer has sent apologies for tonight's meeting, so to clarify further before deciding. Perhaps take Q4 while we clarify and can decline the following one if necessary. (NB while writing up the minutes I noticed one subtotal error on the original report which I think was cause of the confusion, I have corrected and highlighted on attached table. Does not affect overall totals. Helen.)

Other funds – perhaps look at supporting wildlife trust with some of the Ivy Cowan funds if we can agree access with them. Those present happy to support this. JK clarified sources and potential uses of our various funding pots. Always open to suggestions from groups, especially in relation to improving footpaths.

Area Membership Report: Report attached. Slight drop nationally. JK asked if groups felt they were getting enough members attending walks. Most felt yes. Some mixed, depends on walk.

Webmaster / Publicity / Newsletter / Social Media: none received. JK raised that we all have websites and are all slightly separate – are we missing a trick? Could we have a newsfeed from the area website that could then be added to group websites to pass on updates via SYNED etc? Noted that area website is not up to date at moment. Need to discuss with webmaster if it's possible and how to implement.

8. **Group Reports:** none received.

9. **Report from the 2023 General Council by AP, CM & MD**

MD & CM fed back. 29 areas were represented, and meeting well managed. New President, Amar Latif, now in post. New trustees elected. Our motion re lobbying government was passed. Some motions passed; others will be discussed at future General Councils. Some discussion ensued around the direction Ramblers is taking these days and the role of General Council. Full details of this year's GC can be found here: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/about-us/how-we-are-run/about-general-council.aspx>

10. **Review of the Future Composition and Role of the Area Council** feedback received from 3 groups. Agreed to postpone discussion to next SYNED meeting.
11. **Transition from GWEM to Walks Manager** has been delayed again – now due to go live 31/5/23. Still a lot of issues to iron out.

12. AOB

Proposal to place a Memorial Plaque to Sheffield Clarion Ramblers on Sheffield Station. Proposed text attached. TH explained background, would use funds raised from Clarion Call sales. Several options for using these funds were discussed at a previous meeting. Station manager is interested, and foundries sourced, just a suggestion for discussion. Unknown what foundry cost would be. Some discussion around design and around whether we need more plaques, would it be better to spend money on encouraging people to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Could we combine both? Outdoor City etc. recreating the original train journey/walk and encouraging people to use it? There had also been a proposal to improve the Longshaw garden that had been previously funded. To be discussed further, please think of ideas, and send to MD.

Assemble lists DG raised issue of volunteer lists on Assemble having unknown names on.

Dates of next AC Meetings:

August 14th 2023 Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sheffield

November 20th 2023 Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sheffield

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 – 15 May 2023

Action items from last meeting:

I was too late to advise CO that we did not require the Q3 Funding, so will cancel Q4 instead – requires Committee approval. – action postponed

1. General Account

	£
Opening Balance	1867

We have **received** the following:

Q3 Area Funding	1875
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Sub Total	3742
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We have **paid** the following:

G Johns – Treasurer's expenses	8
I McCormick – AGM expenses	17
Sheff Quakers – Hall Hire	95
Sheffield 40's – Q3 Area Funding	300
Sheffield – Q3 Area Funding	618
Sheffield 20/30's – Q3 Area Funding	318
Dearne Valley – Q3 Area Funding	300
B & P – Q3 Area Funding	150
Rotherham Metro – Q3 Area Funding	315
OSS - Subscription	45

Sub Total	2166
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The current balance (15 May)	1576
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2. Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement Project

	£
Opening Balance	9989

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**

We have **received** the following:

Total 0

We have **paid** the following:

Total 0

The current balance (15 May) **14781**

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**

We have **received** the following:

Total 0

We have **paid** the following:

Total 0

The current balance (15 May) **4813**

5. Bank Account

The current Bank bal (15 May) **31159**

Other Business

None

Appendix 2 – Membership

	CNE D	Donc	Sheff	Roth M	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	NOT allocate d	SYNE D 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											
Jun											
Jul											
Aug											
Sept											

Appendix 3 – text for proposed plaque

WELCOME TO THE OUTDOOR CITY

From this station on a Sunday morning in September 1900, local resident, G. H.B. Ward (1876 - 1957), caught a train to Edale with ten male and three female ramblers. The opening of the line to passengers in 1894 enabled them to do a 20-mile circular walk round Kinder Scout, before returning to Sheffield the same evening.

This was the first meeting of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers, who pioneered several other rambling groups and outdoor organisations, and helped to encourage city dwellers to enjoy the health-giving benefits of the countryside on their doorstep.

Appendix 4 – Volunteer job spec for DLYW

Volunteer Role Profile

Volunteer Role	Don't Lose Your Way Researcher
Volunteer Manager	Team Coordinator
Where you will be based	Community

Why we want you.

Help us save historic rights of way. Over 140,000 miles of public rights of way crisscross England and Wales, but many of these are unrecorded. This means that they are vulnerable to obstructions, closures, or being lost to the passing of time. Don't Lose Your Way researchers help us research, apply for, and save these paths to ensure our right to access them is protected for generations to come.

As a researcher, you'll get involved in your local team to help with researching, applying for, and saving lost paths. This could involve finding documents in historical archives, conducting desk-based research, writing effective evidence statements, or doing administrative tasks to help other researchers in your team.

What you will be doing

Finding evidence for paths using archival and/or desk-based research
Writing and proofreading applications for paths to be registered, which are then submitted to the local authority
Digitising, collating and organising evidence.

Working independently and as part of a team to make sure that the paths in your area are researched in a strategic way.

The skills you need.

Enjoy working on your own but also able to work as part of a team
Excellent writing skills and able to present an argument

Able to understand, or willing to learn about, complex rights of way and legal issues

Methodical with good attention to detail

Basic computer literacy, including using internet searches and storing files.

What's in it for you.

Develop knowledge about your local area and public rights of way

A flexible volunteer role that fits around your life and commitments
Working with a small group of fellow volunteers who are passionate about protecting access to the outdoors

Opportunity to have a key role in delivering a major Ramblers campaign and expanding our path network.

