



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 12th August 2024

In person in the Cafe Bar Room, the Showroom, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX and via Zoom

Present: Jez Kenyon (Area Chair, S40's), Malcolm Dixon (Area Sec, Sheffield), Lucia Contrino (S40's), Cath MacKay (SYNED Vice President) Richard Mills (Sheffield DLYW) and Phil Ryder (Rotherham Metro)

Via Zoom: Helen Barker (Area membership/DVR); Les Seaman (Area Access/Sheff); Peter C (Sheff 20's); Sara Whitby (Area Publicity/Sheff 20's)

Apologies: Liz Sharp (S40's), Gavin Johns (Area Treasurer, C&NED), Michael Stainer (C&NED), David Gadd (Doncaster) and Nicola Speakman (Barnsley & Penistone).

1. **CHAIR:** Ch JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. **MINUTES** of 13th May 2024, SYNED Area Council meeting approved.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - a) **Lost Paths/DLYW Project:** no further updates, to be taken off the standing agenda.
 - b) **BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects:** JK - Phase 2 complete. £9K left for phase 3 – currently being planned with Steel Valley Partnership. Sheffield ROW are involved a little. Funding needs to be spent by next March. Agreed to continue the allocated Ivy Cowan funding for this project. Some discussion around using funding and receiving ideas for other pathways improvement across SYNED area.
 - c) **Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme:** no progress.
 - d) **Memorial Plaque:** see circulated emails for progress. Looks promising, there may be space to add more info **ACTION:** to touch base with Terry for an update.
 - e) **Area walk:** cancelled.
 - f) **Proposal to crowd-fund and launch a replacement path fault reporting system:** update from JK for this. Positive response received from some areas. Discussion around current, previous and proposed systems. How to get people involved? Systems need to be as easy as possible for people to want to use them. JK described how it would work on a mobile and how issues would be recorded. JK to circulate info on how to use the app. Noted by LC who would deal with results – time consuming. JK acknowledged that it does take work to check and report issues to ROW teams at the councils.
4. **Other Access Matters:** LC - Local access forum discontinued by council as unable to form a quorum. Unclear if this is a statutory body under the CROW act. Trying to get others involved, not just walkers. Eg climbers, landowners, wild swimmers, people with

access needs. LS feels LAF are ambivalent, needs council to take on board to broaden to other activities. Some discussion around roles and responsibilities of various groups and how the CROW Act was meant to promote goodwill and joint working. LS reports the inquiry into the plastic matting on Midhope Moor went back to appeal, report due in Autumn.

5. Other Countryside Matters:

a) Loxley Valley Housing Development: ROWs assurances are now in place that all ROWs will remain in current positions. Perhaps we need to keep an eye on final plans. CM summarised the last meeting she attended – noted that Cath does not wish to be our representative on this. Extensive discussion around our remit as a Ramblers area on this type of development. Please see appendix for more detail forwarded from Cath.

6. Other Rights of Way matters:

Sheffield Country Walk – needs new way markers – funds agreed. Booklets were sold at £2 each, groups that sell them to keep the proceeds. 2nd edition out and has already self-funded. **Action** – give some to Millenium Gallery. Noted 2 errata that need an addendum slip including in all copies.

7. Officers reports:

Chair: nothing to report.

Secretary: emails shared. Sheaf and Porter Rivers Trust offering sewer trips. Assemble has now gone – all documents on it are now available by logging into the main Ramblers website which has a dedicated section for volunteers. Also has online training available – PC expressed concerns around this. **ACTION** – to get a flavour from our groups by the next meeting of if online training has affected the number of walk leaders, how many do groups have?

Treasurer's Report: to be circulated (Gavin is away). Nothing to report from treasurer. Noted that the funds assigned for 1st Aid training are slowly being spent. Suggestions of first aid kits being provided, emergency tents. Several groups have done or are arranging training. Chesterfield requested funds to update boards on Ward Walk – agreed but the group haven't reported back. Sheffield festival had requested Hi Viz vests last year which we agreed to fund but they then decided not to. Unclear why this is still on the treasurers report.

Area Membership Report: Report attached as Appendix. Numbers remain stable. HB noted she has been sending welcome emails to new members who aren't assigned to a specific group – seem well received. Noted that some people just prefer to be area members rather than be attached to a group.

Webmaster / Newsletter / Social Media: none received. Sara is now involved in updating website. Noted that some issues will need Jonathan to resolve.

Publicity: nothing new to report.

8. Group Reports:

Rotherham – reprinting Rotherham walks booklets.

Sheffield – coach rambles popular but struggling to cover normal weekly walks, struggling to recruit leaders. Sundays run as WhatsApp group which means if not in group you don't know about them. Committee has no chair. Malcolm will be

resigning as group secretary at the next AGM in November. Executive looking at splitting roles/job sharing. Another alternative might be to merge with Sheffield 40s if they were agreeable. Might be a good way to get a good mix of walks. No path maintenance volunteers coming forward. People say they'd like to be involved but don't then come forward. Lots to think about and discuss. May become a non-functioning group if no one steps up at the AGM for committee positions of chair and secretary.

S40's – LC reports discussion around name of group as age profile has changed really. Also needs further discussion with membership at AGM. Mixed responses from members. Noted that age orientated groups all have a similar problem! General discussion around problems and options.

9. AOB

a. Next AC :- November 18th at the Cafe Bar, Showroom, Paternoster Row, Sheffield

b. The 2025 Area AGM will be hosted by the Doncaster Group and held at Tickhill Pavillion on Sat Jan18th 2025 (TBC)

NOTE: The venue is only available in the afternoon.

We can have the same venue plus morning access on Sunday 19th.

Discussion – change to Sunday.

c. guest speaker – central office will send someone. Do we also want someone local? Perhaps the active travel commissioner? The Mayor?

d. Officer Nominations inc. someone to replace the Area Secretary – Malcolm is resigning as Area Secretary at the AGM - we need nominations sooner rather than later.

e. Articles & Reports for Area Annual Report deadline of mid October so that the reports can go out in time for group AGMs rather than wait till area AGM in January.

**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

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

Appendix 1 – Loxley Valley update from Cath MacKay

I attended a pre-application meeting with the developers "Skyhouse." This was organised by "Friends of Loxley Valley" and I was not representing the Ramblers. In all I am saying about this issue, I am keeping a rigid distinction between my roles in the two organisations. Our last EC made it clear that it was only interested in the footpaths, so I will restrict my comments to that and I hope they will be helpful to whoever handles the matter on behalf of the Ramblers. My prime interest is a former chairman of FOLV, and it would not be appropriate for me to formally speak on your behalf.

I was given a categorical assurance that all the existing rights of way would remain on their present lines. I suggest that we need to keep a check on the plans to make sure that this is the case! These may of course have to be temporarily closed for periods during the probable 3 years of construction work. The plan is to use a stone-chippings or gravel surface rather than tarmac, and for them to pass through generously open land rather than be hemmed into narrow gaps through buildings. From what I have seen and heard so far, this seems quite plausible.

They said "there would be increased opportunities for the public ", but the precise meaning of this was unclear. From the discussion thus far it could have meant paths, or other facilities such as parkland, playground and tea-shop. and I wasn't able to pursue this because of time constraints and pressure of business. Malcolm asked if there would be public access to the riverside and was told that there would not be a path following the river all the way through the site, because some of the properties would have riverside plots.

In response to a lady horse-rider, there was discussion about multi-user routes. I, and another gentleman made points about the possible danger of these, and I opposed upgrading of footpaths, but there was no clear conclusion. You may feel that this needs clarification.

This is a messy derelict site full of junk. I am doubtful that anything would be gained by holding a site visit purely to consider the footpaths. Nothing (other than the alignment of the rights of way) is likely to be the same, and these are not being altered. Comparison between existing and new is probably only possible on paper.

The application to the Council is likely to be made in the Autumn, and then there will be wider public consultation, probably with a public meeting or display of some kind. This will be an opportunity for interested members of Ramblers' to discuss and clarify any outstanding matters."

Appendix 2 – Membership Report

	CNED	Donc	Sheff	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	NOT allocated	SYNED total	National Total
1/1/16	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230	0	2329	106452
1/1/17	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233	0	2284	105234
1/1/18	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240	0	2196	104617
1/2/19	410	236	564	251	154	147	225	250	0	2237	102023
1/1/20	371	224	522	238	144	151	210	239	73	2172	102151
30/9/20	353	228	507	229	135	150	167	251	44	2064	98717
30/9/21	363	231	505	212	143	142	157	268	52	2073	101130
30/9/22	368	222	490	203	152	132	199	282	70	2118	102144
31/12/23	365	235	475	214	150	156	186	311	91	2183	103727
2024											
January	360	247	470	215	152	155	202	310	94	2205	104291
February	352	245	470	214	148	152	204	325	97	2207	104679
March	354	242	470	215	151	152	211	325	98	2218	104757
April	358	240	461	209	149	152	222	328	100	2219	104207
May	361	238	458	212	146	152	226	329	99	2221	104467
June	362	241	460	214	145	148	240	330	103	2243	104783
July	361	242	457	211	148	152	238	327	105	2241	105329
August	360	247	455	209	149	149	235	321	113	2238	105672
September	352	250	455	212	148	148	237	316	111	2229	105625
October	351	249	453	210	152	152	238	316	118	2239	105720