



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 11th August 2025

via Zoom

Present: Jez Kenyon (Area Chair/S40's), Malcolm Dixon (Area Sec/Sheffield), Liz Sharp (S40's), Richard Mills (Sheffield/DLYW), Phil Ryder (Rotherham Metro), Les Seaman (Area Access Officer/Sheffield), Sara Whitby (Area Publicity/Sheff 20's), Martin Evans (Sheff 20's), Helen Barker (Area Membership Sec/DVR), Cath Mackay (Area VP/Sheff), Sue Cresswell (Rotherham Metro), Adrian Roxan (Sheffield), Martin Bennett (FP Sec/ Derbyshire Dales), David Gadd (Doncaster), John Harker

Apologies: Gavin Johns (Treasurer); Roly Smith (Area VP), Terry Howard (Area VP), Cath Baker (Sheffield)

1. **CHAIR:** Ch JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. **Notes from** May 10th 2025, SYNED Area Council walk & talk approved.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:** none
4. **'Pimp My Stile' Peak District path reporting project:** no real update – the mapping system used by the project has been discontinued, so app will need updating. Some discussion around the app generally, how/should we take it forward, is there room for joint working e.g. with Fix My Street. Jez, Liz and Adrian to discuss further away from this meeting.

5. Consultation on Ramblers Governance Proposals:

Extensive discussion on pro's and cons of the consultation info that had been circulated. In summary, the meeting felt there were some pros such as streamlining and simplifying structures, flexibility and the proposals around finance made sense. Cons – too 'woolly', too separate, too many groups doing their own thing. Discussion about practicality of the proposals – does Ramblers need a full reset? Bit vague on detail in areas. Noted that there is a disconnect between local and national priorities.

Agreed – all to complete the form individually to reflect own views.

6. Changes to Group Walks leadership Training:

roll out discussed with mixed views – some groups have stronger views than others, annoyances expressed that it had changed and had to be redone, even if already completed recently. Generally settling down, though a couple of walk leaders have stepped down as a result. Overall, it has to be done, but there is potential to run group sessions, attend online sessions, self-certify as well as complete the e-modules.

7. Officers reports:

Chair: nothing to report.

Secretary: relevant emails circulated as per agenda. Hob Hurst discussed, agreed we will support ongoing appeal. Kinder – we need a volunteer for the advisory committee, send any suggestions to Malcolm.

Treasurer's Report: report and budget projections attached.

Area Membership Report: Report attached. Numbers overall are rising.

Webmaster / Newsletter / Social Media: Sara updated – the new version of the SYNED website is ready to go live, meeting agreed to go ahead.

8. Group Reports

Sheffield 20's – Martin is arranging further 1st Aid training, also sessions on walk leading and map reading. A Right to Roam group has started up in Sheffield.

Sheffield 40's – also doing 1st Aid and navigation/OS maps training. Any spare places will be offered to other groups.

Sheffield – noted a city centre access plan is in consultation phase, sent to Sheffield based members for comment. The September walking festival has been cancelled this year due to a lack of walk offers.

10. AOB:

Update on Clarion plaque at Sheffield Station – finished, just awaiting installation. Noted there is a celebratory walk for the Clarion Club on 31st August, from Edale station.

SYNED Zoom Account – agreed we renew it in October. Malcolm has sent out a crib sheet on how to book/access/use it.

Succession planning for area officers We need to be forward planning and encouraging folk to participate in area. Job specs are on Ramblers website. Log in and click on 'Documents Library'

ANNUAL REPORTS and AGM – Group annual reports need forwarding to Malcolm asap so that the SYNED report can be circulated before the AGM. Suggestions for speakers welcome – send to Malcolm.

Next SYNED Area Council to be on Monday November 17th 2025 via Zoom and starting at 19:00 (noted, rescheduled for to 24th November)

NOTE:- The 2026 SYNED Area AGM will be hosted by the Rotherham Metro Ramblers Group at Herringthorpe United Reformed Church, Wickersley Road, Rotherham S60 4JN on Saturday January 17th 2026 starting at 2pm (plus morning walk)

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, 13 Dirty Lane, London SE1 9PA

Appendix 1 – Membership Report

SYNED Membership

Year end	CNED	Donc	Sheff	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	NOT allocated	SYNED total	National Total
2015	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230	0	2329	106452
2016	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233	0	2284	105234
2017	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240	0	2196	104617
2018	410	236	564	251	154	147	225	250	0	2237	102023
2019	371	224	522	238	144	151	210	239	73	2172	102151
2020	353	228	507	229	135	150	167	251	44	2064	98717
2021	363	231	505	212	143	142	157	268	52	2073	101130
2022	368	222	490	203	152	132	199	282	70	2118	102144
2023	365	235	475	214	150	156	186	311	91	2183	103727
2024	354	249	453	203	155	154	243	314	129	2254	105693
2025											
January	358	247	458	201	152	152	250	320	127	2265	106253
February	348	248	457	197	148	154	258	318	124	2252	106707
March	346	249	455	198	147	153	269	323	129	2269	107266
April	336	254	447	199	150	154	290	323	136	2289	107856
May	326	249	442	198	152	158	290	319	134	2268	107804
June	321	254	442	196	151	156	297	317	131	2265	107874
July	324	258	456	228	164	159	297	318	136	2340	108270