



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 17th February 2025

via Zoom

Present: Jez Kenyon (Area Chair, S40's), Malcolm Dixon (Area Sec, Sheffield), Liz Sharp Lucia Contrino (S40's), Richard Mills (Sheffield DLYW), Phil Ryder (Rotherham Metro) Les Seaman (Area Access/Sheff); Sara Whitby (Area Publicity/Sheff 20's); Martin Evans (Sheff 20's); Helen Barker (Area Mem. Sec/DVR); Gavin Johns (Treasurer); Cath Mackay (Area VP/Sheff);

Apologies: Joan Dalton (Chesterfield); Judy Gathercole;

1. **CHAIR:** Ch JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. **MINUTES** of November 18th 2024, SYNED Area Council meeting approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:** none

4. **Matters Arising from January 19th Area AGM** - current Auditor not available next year, Gavin to find a replacement

5. **Other Rights of Way Matters:** update from Les S - Sheffield area's Local Access Forum (LAF) are recruiting – unclear is it happening, is it advertised and who/where to? LS will push further. Noted that reported footpath issues are not being acted on. LAF is a statutory body under the CROW act with a wide remit. Highlights a need for footpath wardens, council only act if an issue is a threat to life and limb. **Action:** Liz S will try and speak to local councillors. Noted that Peak LAF, Derbyshire LAF and Rotherham LAF all work well.

6. **Other Access Matters:** none

7. **Other Countryside Matters:**

a. noted that pylons and solar farms will become big issues in future. CPRE are involved but these are likely to be national decisions. Re Whitestones proposals, main issues have been the size and visual impact, however cabling will be underground. It will have a 60 year lifespan. Proposals are due to be updated, noted that is a speculative application at present, they have not acquired the land and affected farmers etc have not been consulted. The next stage will be a national consultation. **Action:** To keep a watching brief, maintain contact and sharing of information with other interested parties such as British Horse Society, wildlife trusts etc.

b. the National trust are proposing a project to fence off Derwent Moors to keep sheep out. Proposal is lacking in detail, but says access points will be provided.

8. Officers reports:

Chair: nothing to report.

Secretary: MD and CM attended east Midlands cluster meeting – reported back on discussions held. Big focus on governance issues, structure, comms and general Council. **Action:** Liz & Sara are attending GC and will feedback at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: report attached.

We currently have around £2500 in the general account – proposal to decline Q3 funding approved as we have enough to cover.

BAWI still has money available – JK updated on current requirements which might be able to be supported through our funds.

Ivy Cowan – we still have funds from this. list of monies allocated updated.

Clarion Call account – action: LS to ask Terry for an update re the railway plaque proposal.

Area Membership Report: Report attached as Appendix. Numbers remain stable.

Webmaster / Newsletter / Social Media: Sara updated – a small amount of progress.

Publicity: Sheffield heritage Fair went well, very busy. SHAF festival next month, we are not having a stall but have liaised with the organiser for some low key advertising.

9. Group Reports:

Chesterfield: summer programme complete, noticed a rop in walk leaders, some gaps. The froup are putting on several walks for the walk festival in May.

Sheffield: 100th anniversary next year so are planning a series of walks to celebrate. 4 coach rambles planned, also noted a shortage of walk leaders.

Rotherham Metro also noted issues re walk leaders and difficulties forward planning for the walk programme.

10. AOB

a. Dates and Venues for forthcoming Area Council Meetings and 2025 Area AGM

Proposed ACs for 2025

Mondays - August 11th and November 17th will be held using Zoom

Saturday May 10th – walk and talk meeting to look at stile improvements in Bradfield, Jez will lead a walk, pub lunch and informal meeting afterwards.

Ramblers General Council 2025 - Saturday April 5th at the NEC, Birmingham 10:00 - 17:00

b. Ramblers General Council 2025 – Saturday April 5th at the NEC, Birmingham 10:00 – 17:00

Liz Sharp and Sara Whitby will be our Area Delegates

Motions and other papers will be published on Feb 26th

c. Gavin noted that the Derwent water Arms and the Bridge Inn are closing.

NOTE:- The 2026 SYNED Area AGM will be hosted by the Rotherham Metro Ramblers Group

venue - 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, Third Floor, 1 Clink Street, London SE1 9DG

Appendix 1 – 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
31/12/24	354	249	453	203	155	154	243	314	129	2254	105693
2025											
January	358	247	458	201	152	152	250	320	127	2265	106253