



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 19th February 2024

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

Present: Lucia Contrino (S40's FPO); Gavin Johns (Area Treas/C&NED); Phil Ryder (RMR Rep); Jez Kenyon (Area ViceChair/S40's); Liz Sharpe (S40's); Malcolm Dixon (Area Sec/Sheff);

Via Zoom: Helen Barker (DVR); David Gadd (Area VP/Donc); David Ward (S20's)

Apologies: Judy Gathercole (Sheff); Roly Smith (Area VP); Marion C; Johnathan Revell (DVR/webmaster); Michael Stainer (C&NED); Les Seaman (Area Access/Sheff); Nikki Speakman (B&P FPO); Cath MacKay (Area VP/Sheff)

1. **CHAIR:** VCh JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. We were given the sad news that our former Chair, Allan Pestell passed away last Saturday – he had done much for Ramblers over the years.
2. **MINUTES** of November 20th, 2024, SYNED Area Council meeting approved.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - a) **Lost Paths/DLYW Project:** Sheffield has very little to claim, more a case of keeping what we have. David G reports he has no offers or interest expressed in helping, he is booked on a DLYW training day, will see how it goes. Phil R agrees it is hard to find volunteers with both time and interest. Perhaps we should focus on a few key paths? Would students be interested in assisting as a project?
Actions – to discuss further at the next meeting and write to DLYW team to request guidance in how to proceed. David will circulate any responses.
 - b) **BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects:** no progress, work identified and funding available but held up by obtaining correct documentation from the landowner – council assistance required.
Action – email landowners to introduce us.
 - c) **Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme:** still need to get people involved, build relationships with PRoW department to give us a broader approach e.g. discussion around Active Travel.
Reminded we need to be reporting any issues found on walks.
Action – monitor how Sheffield get on and then take it forward as needed.
 - d) **Memorial Plaque:** David Blunkett now involved, and talks are back on.

e) Updates on Ramblers Refreshed Strategy and Safety on Group Walks

Guidance: draft walks guidance has now been issued by CO – a new improved version should be out in Spring. It details Best Practice and is a useful starting point. Some discussion around the content. The new 10 year strategy was passed at the EGM in November 2023, 79% were in favour after good debate and discussion. Public facing version of this is due to be published at the end of Feb on the Ramblers main website. Noted we need to have all groups working together e.g. Sheffield Walking Forum, Walking Summit, Living Streets etc. discussion around the upcoming Sheffield Walking festival and how we can be more involved.

4. Other Access Matters: New documentation on woodland access due to be issued – to be forwarded when received.

5. Other Countryside Matters: Doncaster solar farm consultation has just come out – DG to look into it.

6. Other Rights of Way matters: none

7. Officers reports:

Chair: none received

Secretary: noted it's 92nd anniversary of the Kinder Scout Trespass on 27th at 1pm. Winnat's Pass closed mon-fri till March. Walk Derbyshire newsletter on website. UK Walking Summit in Sheffield on 7th March.

Noted we need to be putting things like this, AGM walks etc on our websites.

Treasurer's Report: updated on current balance and spending requests – see report.

Area Membership Report: Membership slightly up. Report attached.

Webmaster / Newsletter / Social Media: none received. Noted the website needs updating.

Publicity: Sara update on current publicity involvement eg walking festival. Any offers of help with the SYNED stand at the next event welcomed, let Sara know.

8. Group Reports: none

9. Report on the SYNED Area AGM Sat January 20th 2024 at Swinton S64 8AE

Confirmation of Officers elected. Vacancies still to be filled include Vice Chair, Footpath Officer, Countryside Officer – please offer if interested!

AGM went well – we need to be promoting the walk at future AGMs and avoid duplication of walks from groups on that date.

10. Election of Area Representatives to Ramblers General Council AGM at NEC Birmingham on Saturday April 20th 2024 between 10:30 and 17:30. Malcolm and Jez to attend.

11. AOB – please inform Area Sec asap

a) Report on Meeting with SYMCA Active Travel Team (Jan 11th 2024) – noted this is a little Sheffield centric.

b) Report on Meeting between Reps of all three Sheffield Groups (Feb 15th 2024)

Lucia Contrino reported on a meeting which took place on 15th February 2024. Representatives of the three Sheffield Ramblers groups were invited, along with Peak & Northern Footpath Society (PNFS). It was attended by:

- Lucia Contrino and Jeremy Kenyon - S40s
- Malcolm Dixon and Richard Mills - Sheffield Ramblers
- Les Seaman and Terry Howard - Sheffield Ramblers and they also represent access (Les), walking and the environment (Terry) on the Local Access Forum.
- John Harker - PNFS
- unfortunately the 20s/30s group weren't able to attend the meeting

The meeting was prompted by discussions about how we can all work together better regarding foot-path issues, especially the path warden scheme and Sheffield City Council (SCC) Public Rights of Way consultations. The following action points came out of the meeting:

1. One of our main objectives is to get the **Sheffield Path Warden scheme** up and running again. 20 people (mainly S40s) met in 2019 and each took responsibility for a "square" in SCC area, but Covid scuppered any progress.

PNFS organise training for their path checkers, so Lucia will approach them about providing training to us, as Affiliated Groups, on a Saturday morning. Location should be accessible by public transport and have wifi.

Jez offered to set up a What'sApp group for path wardens, although not everyone uses this.

2. The **Local Access Forum is meeting on 23rd February**. Malcolm is going to feedback to SCC that we would like the following issues discussed at the pre-meeting:

- How does SCC consult with Ramblers about planning applications which are within (say) 50 metres of a public right of way?
- Ramblers are invited to the pre-meeting, but PNFS aren't - can they be invited in future?

We also discussed the role of the Local Access Forum with Terry and Les.

We will meet again in a few months once we have made some progress with the path warden scheme and training.

Area walk also discussed to help group committees get to know each other – The Chair's Walk – led by Jez on Saturday 8th June, 10am in Baslow area – Gavin will sort details, it is for ALL group committee members only. Please promote to your committees.

c) AC Communications – WhatsApp and Social Media in general. Area

Newsletter WhatsApp seems useful – pros and cons discussed lets try it, Jez will set a group up.

An area newsletter would be good. 3-4 times a year, bit of a round up of what's happening across the area.

d) Dates and Venues for forthcoming Area Council Meetings and 2025 Area AGM

There has been a request/suggestion that we hold ACs on Saturdays (possibly with a walk)

Dates otherwise would be May 13th; August 12th & November 18th.

e) The 2025 Area AGM to be hosted by the Doncaster Group

and held at Tickhill Pavillion on Sat 18th – 5 ½ mile walk before it to be led by DG.

Dates of next AC Meetings: Mon 13th May 2024 In person in the Cafe Bar Room, the Showroom, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX

Or Join the Meeting via Zoom

**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