



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 13th May 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/Sheff); Cath MacKay (Area VP/Sheff); Lucia Contrino (S40's FPO); David Ward (S20's); Sara Whitby; Richard Mills;

Via Zoom: Helen Barker (Area membership/DVR); Liz Sharp (S40's); Gavin Johns (Area Treas/C&NED); David Gadd (Area VP/Donc); Les Seaman (Area Access/Sheff); Judy Gathercole (Sheff).

Apologies: Johnathan Revell (DVR/webmaster); Cynthia Ashton (CoOp); Phil Ryder (RMR);

1. **CHAIR:** Ch JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. **MINUTES** of 19th February 2024, SYNED Area Council meeting approved.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Noted that a letter had been received from Cynthia who has made the sad decision to resign as of now for age and health reasons.

Cath McKay attended Allan's funeral to represent SYNED.

- a) **Lost Paths/DLYW Project:** David Gadd – no further updates, no one interested in being involved. Richard Mills – also did the training for Sheffield. Feels this is only worth doing if there are paths in your area worth saving. It is a lot of work, but the training is interesting.
- b) **BAWI – Phase 2 & other projects:** Bradfield stiles replacement programme is now happening and has received external funding from Paek volunteers and the Steel Valley Partnership. Peak National Parks have £1 million of funding to spend by the end of the year, to be used to improve pathways and stiles inside the Peak District National Park – looking for projects such as replacing ladder stiles or similar improvements. Let JK have any suggestions asap, walk leaders would be good to ask. **ACTION: Jez & Malcolm to put together a generic email to be sent to all members.**
- c) **Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme:** Lucia fed back (please read full report attached to agenda)– remains a work in progress, interested to know if anyone has done any training. Peak & Northern have offered to do a training session. Ramblers say that

there is info on Assemble, but that seems a bit too much, we just need the basics. Gavin noted that Chesterfield had path wardens by parish, some were trained by DCC rangers on auditing and reporting on paths directly onto the council system. This was some years ago. Discussion on ordering stickers for route marking – trials appeared successful when compared to traditional markers, GJ suggested various funding options.

d) Memorial Plaque: no progress

e) Area walk: Sat 8th June meet Baslow CP for 10am Gavin to lead, open to all area and group officers. Suggested this could also be a teaching exercise for logging path issues on your phone. Confirm with Gavin if you are coming.

4. Other Access Matters:

Allan was our rep on the Kinder & High Peak Advisory Committee – we need to propose a replacement. Commitment is a quarterly meeting at NT Longshaw. **ACTION: send an email out to all committees.**

Les – mentioned there is still no progress on the replacement of plastic matting. He has not had any notice of closures for moors management yet – seems very late this year, though noted some closures have moved to Sept/October in the Peak parks. Also discussed that access in Wharnccliffe Woods is being looked at, there is a meeting this week to look at improving the current access points to the woodlands.

5. Other Countryside Matters:

a) Loxley Valley Housing Development: Cath M spoke about the new proposal for 60 houses on green belt land– currently open to consultation. Some discussion around whether this is our remit to be involved with – if commenting on the proposal we need to ensure we stick to how it affects rights of way, paths and access to the outdoors.

b) Solar Farm proposals: please see the report attached as Appendix 1.

6. Other Rights of Way matters: none

7. Officers reports:

Chair: none received

Secretary: email rec'd re Boundless membership - a public sector/civil service membership scheme that can include Ramblers membership.

Online training sessions including walk leadership available from Ramblers.

Email re 'Out There' award – aimed at getting young people involved.

Reminder that Walk Leader training is now mandatory for all new walk leaders. Liz S did this to see what was involved, it's very much aimed at new walkers and leaders, takes less than an hour and no test at the end.

Noted that Ramblers is currently in the process of transferring content from Assemble to their website (due to be completed by 15th May)

Treasurer's Report: updated on current balance and spending requests – see report attached to agenda. Discussed – subs paid to Open Spaces Society. Stamps purchased to beat price rise. £100 allocated for Sheffield Walking Forum. Question re keeping Hi-viz on the list – Gavin noted that these are spending proposals and are not set in stone.

Area Membership Report: Report attached as Appendix 2. Sheffield 20's has a good increase; Sara spoke about their successful stall at the walking festival.

Webmaster / Newsletter / Social Media: none received. Noted the website is now very out of date however Sara is now involved with Jonathan in updating it.

Publicity: Sara updated – Sheffield Festival had much better footfall now it's in the cathedral. Raised our profile, negotiated a reduction in costs. Feels we could utilise social media more effectively, eg plug area, use Instagram, share things on each others social media. Some groups are much more active than others.

8. **Group Reports:** David W (S20's) said thanks for funding 1st aid kits and training – went well. No other reports received.

9. **Report on the Ramblers General Council AGM at NEC, Birmingham April 20th 2024:**

Judith and Malcolm attended and fed back. Said it was well attended but they felt it was a top down approach, no real audience involvement. Ramblers updated those present on membership, strategies, what's happening within Ramblers etc. Malcolm to attach full report.

10. **New Business – proposal to crowdfund and launch a replacement path fault reporting system (JK):**

Jez spoke about Pathwatch being the last centralised system, this is no longer in use. Maintenance has reduced, no resources available. Jez/Sheffield group have developed a simple system aimed at path wardens – other areas and teams have varied approaches, talking to them about these. JK feels it would be good to develop V2 of an app to be used nationwide to build a picture of path network issues – this could then be used to prioritise areas and help to lobby local councils and push for funding (and discourage funding cuts for repair work). Spoke about the benefits, ease of use, data handling. Volunteers are doing most of the development work but can't do it all – needs approx. £1500 initially and estimated £3-4 thousand in total. JK answered questions from the floor. Funding discussed, suggested £800 could be donated, need to ask other Ramblers groups to contribute, Gavin suggested that Ivy Cowan funds could be used too. Some discussion and debate and we agreed to support in principle at this stage – full summary needed of the project.

11. **AOB – please inform Area Sec asap**

a) Noted that printed A5 ICE cards can be ordered centrally by all groups. A good safety initiative.

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

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

Dates :- August 12th & November 18th at the Cafe Bar, Showroom, Paternoster Row, Sheffield

The 2025 Area AGM to be hosted by the Doncaster Group and held at Tickhill Pavilion on either Sat Jan 18th 2025 (TBC) The 2026 Area AGM will be hosted by the Rotherham Metro Ramblers Group (date/venue tbc)

**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 – Fenwick Solar Farm Proposals

Fenwick Solar Project Limited (a Boom Power company) is proposing a new solar farm with energy storage facilities at Fenwick (the Scheme).

Our statutory consultation is now open and will run until 11.59pm on **31 May 2024**.

The Scheme will generate low carbon electricity from solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on land to the east of Fenwick, in the north of the City of Doncaster borough near the town of Askern and the smaller villages of Moss, Topham and Sykehouse.

PV modules will generate the electricity and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be installed allowing the storage, export and import of electricity to/from the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). Work is ongoing to determine how the Scheme will connect to the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation, whether via underground cables or by connecting directly to an overhead line that passes across the east of the Solar PV Site.

The Scheme will deliver enough carbon-free electricity to power approximately 75,000 homes, which is important at a time of increased energy insecurity, and will also contribute to the UK government's target of reaching a net-zero carbon electricity grid by 2035 and an overall net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

Our proposals to generate more renewable power in the UK will make a significant contribution towards the UK meeting its net zero targets and will deliver against Doncaster City Council's priorities around tackling climate change and generating more electricity from renewable sources.

WILL PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY BE AFFECTED?

No Public Rights of Way (PRoW) will be permanently closed up as a result of our works on the Scheme. The footpath Public Right of Way Sykehouse 29, which runs immediately south of Bunfold Shaw, will however be permanently diverted. The diversion will run approximately 50 m south of the existing PRoW, through the same field during the construction and operation and maintenance phases. The permanent diversion will follow the path that we understand residents typically use.

Consultation carried out with local residents during the previous round of consultation, as well as engagement carried out with the council, confirmed that most users of the PRoW do not currently follow the existing mapped route, and instead follow the route which is designed as the permanent diversion for the Scheme. The routes of some PRoW may be slightly altered for a short time while we install cables across these paths, however no PRoW will be permanently closed.

See: <https://www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/>

Appendix 2 – Membership Report

	CNED	Donc	Sheff	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff 20	Sheff 40	NOT allo- cated	SYNED to- tal	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	104516
May	361	238	458	212	146	152	226	329	99	2221	104467
June	362	241	460	214	145	148	240	330	103	2243	104783