



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 18th November 2024

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) iPad mystery guest?? Judy Gathercole; David Gadd (Doncaster); Martin Evans (Sheff 20's)

Apologies: Roly Smith (VP); Gavin Johns (Treasurer); Michael Stainer (CNED); Helen Barker (Area Mem. Sec/DVR)

1. **CHAIR:** Ch JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. **MINUTES** of 12th August 2024, SYNED Area Council meeting approved.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - a) **Lost Paths/DLYW Project:** DG attended meetings re this, feels better informed. No real support from other Doncaster vols and it is time consuming. RM also involved, no real need for Sheffield paths, more outside Sheffield & Peak District. They are meeting David Walsh next week to discuss. BHS still involved and active (bridleways). Sara potentially interested, could shadow and publicise to members.
 - b) **BAWI – Phase 3 & other projects:** JK – unsure if funding has been agreed yet but we need to make the most of it. Plenty of money there to use, but bottlenecks at admin and what to do levels.
 - c) **Sheffield Footpath Warden Scheme:** no progress. Discussion around joint working and linking people up and involved. Needs structure.
 - d) **Memorial Plaque:** no progress
 - e) **Update on possible replacement path fault reporting system:** nothing to update
 - f) **SCW & Clarion Call booklets:** large stock of both, do we just give them away free now. (printing costs have been covered) Agreed we can do that. Noted that how people use maps is changing, many use online mapping now over paper, lots of apps with downloadable sections e.g. Go Jauntily in Manchester. Also Ramblers Routes, Walk Derbyshire. Broad discussion around local funding pots, bids and schemes to improve environments and encourage walking and access. Get councils & councillors involved, especially push them at election times.
4. **Other Access Matters:** suspension of Sheffield LAF (Local Access Forum) – Les updated. Suspended as no quorum (9 out of 10), LS wrote to council but missed deadline. Wrote to P&C and Highways. All to say that the LAF wasn't functioning. Response received that they are actively looking for members, Les will update us on future progress.

Walkers generally willing, but hard to get landowners, farmers, cyclists etc involved. Noted that the Peak one is very active so it can work.

5. Other Countryside Matters:

Loxley Valley Development - nothing to report

Chesterfield to Willington HV Pylon Route – nothing heard yet.

White Stone Solar Farm – Phil R summarised the proposals and noted a series of public meetings happening before it goes to planning. Huge development. Link to be distributed. <https://whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk>

6. Other Rights of Way Matters –

Sheffield PROW Unit and Sheffield LAF – LAF discussed previously. PROW - 3 rangers who are amalgamated with Parks & Countryside, very active and team is working well.

Path Maintenance Work in SYNED Area – Helen Bates at Ramblers CO can help broker between LA's and Ramblers volunteers to help support. Discussion around what's happening in area re PROWs, maintenance etc

7. Officers reports:

Chair: nothing to report.

Secretary: Sheffield Heritage fair – invited to have a stall. 25/26th January. Sheffield group happy to take lead and book it and liaise with others who want to be involved. Other emails sent out as received.

Treasurer's Report: £980 allocated to Rotherham for 1st Aid training at last meeting – waiting for approval. To resend to Malcolm and Gavin to action. We agreed to pay for waymarkers for SCW from Ivy Cowan funds – been paid, but not reflected in the report? Action – to let Gavin know and update report for next meeting.

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

Webmaster / Newsletter / Social Media: update from Sara. Template for ramblers web not easy to customise. We've a copy of East Yorkshires template to give us a head start. Alternative is to use a tool/pay someone as a starting point? Limited number of vols willing to be involved with any/all vacant roles. General discussion around this.

Publicity: nothing to report.

8. Group Reports:

Sheffield – MD standing down as group secretary. Do now have 2 co-chairs and remaining committee will take on shared secretary roles. If doesn't work, will have to look at merging with another group – want to work more with the other Sheffield groups and co-ordinate activities.

Doncaster – replaced several roles recently, committee down to 9 from 12 but hoping to fill these.

Rotherham - General feeling of needing to encourage new blood, share workload or specific projects rather than sticking to strict titles. Needs good comms but works.

Sheff 20's – run differently, change committee every year rather than have standing roles carry on automatically. Working towards following ramblers policies more (eg walk registers via the app) Some discussion around 1st Aid courses – courses across groups have gone well, perhaps continue on an area level? Discussion re Sheffield groups deferred to separate meeting between them.

Sheff 40's – AGM held, discussed changing name but decided to keep it. Same issues filling posts, pull people in with projects.

Dearne Valley – Jez noted committee meetings were open to all members, bring people in?

9. AOB

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

Proposed ACs for 2025

February 17th; May 12th; August 11th and November 17h (all TBC. May – move to 10th for Walk & Talk, others to be held via zoom)

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

b. The 2025 Area AGM The 2025 Area AGM will be hosted by the Doncaster Group and held at Tickhill Pavillion, Tithes Lane, Tickhill DN11 9QN on Sun Jan19th 2025

Morning Walk at 10:30 Meeting starts at 14:00 (Refreshments from 13:00)

Please encourage people to attend, walk first, any ideas to jazz up future AGMs and encourage attendance welcome! Please add walk details and AGM to walk programmes! General discussion around agenda, format etc

c. Officer Nominations We need a webmaster and Vice Chair. We do need a secretary for Malcolm's role. Can parts of role be split/shared. If need be Malcolm might stay on, but this must be last year. Noted we MUST succession plan now, not leave till next years AGM. Action – Malcolm to list parts of role and we can look at sharing/recruiting. Also noted we need to ask JR to do a handover for webmaster stuff. Everyone else happy to carry on.

d. Area Annual Report distribution

e. Succession Planning and any Training Required

f. Review use of Zoom at AGM, Area Council, by Area Officers and local Ramblers Groups – discussion of pros and cons. Zoom works better than hybrid. Noted some can't travel and some can't zoom. Perhaps mainly zoom with occasional walk 'n' talk, pub or similar for informal in person conversations. Vary days so different people can attend this more casual approach. AGM to be in person only due to issues around Zoom/hybrid is more problematic than its worth for the few who attend via zoom. Becomes a hindrance rather than a help.

Agreed May walk n talk n lunch (perhaps Sat May 10th), rest of AC meetings 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

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
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
November	357	251	453	206	152	152	239	314	122	2246	105514
December	354	249	453	203	155	154	243	314	129	2254	105693