



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

SYNED Area Council Meeting

Monday 24th November 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), Adrian Roxan (Sheffield), Julie Sweeting, Gavin Johns (Treasurer), Mohamad Al Taha, Joan Dalton, Pat Chesney (Ch DVR)

Apologies: Terry Howard (Area VP), David Gadd (Doncaster),

- 1. CHAIR:** Ch JK chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- 2. Minutes from last meeting approved.**
- 3. Matters arising:** none
- 4. 'Pimp My Stile' Peak District path reporting project:**

Sara & Jez did a survey walk and have around 30 reports to write up. The Steel Partnership have funding so will be getting involved too. Jez summarised the project for new council members – in brief it is about improving accessibility to footpaths by replacing and improving stiles, noted that the project has been ongoing for around 10 years now. Adrian Roxan is happy to get Sheffield group involved, some discussion around the need to get landowners involved and around national initiatives. Sara will promote the project at the next heritage festival in Sheffield. Joan Dalton – attended meeting today about similar reporting issues. Ramblers HQ have said they'll engage.

Actions: 3rd survey walk due – Sara & Jez

Write up reports for walks 1 & 2 – S&J

Contact relevant MP to aid pressure on landowners – Adrian

Pitch to local disability champions, contact Steel Valley Partnership.

5. Updates on Ramblers Governance Proposals

Decision was deferred – will be discussed in depth at GC conference on 6th December. Cath (independent), Sara & Liz (SYNED reps) will be attending. Cath summarised her thoughts and concerns around the process and potential outcomes. General discussion around potential issues, concerns, benefits, with Liz offering alternative viewpoints. We will need to appoint our next GC delegates at the AGM in January.

6. Update on Clarion Plaque:

Now in situ in the foyer of Sheffield Train Station! Discussion and agreement to arrange a short walk from the station to the existing Town Hall plaque tied in with the Heritage Fair. Sara, Adrian and Malcolm to take forward.

7. Officers reports:

Chair: nothing to report.

Secretary: Recent emails summarised.

Treasurer's Report: report attached. All group reports now done, Q1 funding has been distributed, Zoom licence renewed for 12 months. The Clarion plaque was funded by CC account. See report for full financial details.

Area Membership Report: Report attached. Stable, with a slight rise noted over the year.

Webmaster: no updates

Publicity & area comms: The Film Festival has contacted us but charge for a minimum footfall, not financially worth it for us.

8. Group Reports

Malcolm needs all groups to send committee updates post group AGMs.

Sheffield 20's – the new and large committee is going well. Martin asked about 'Trespass' events, there is one at Lathkill Dale in December organised by Right to Roam - ?illegal, concerns expressed that it is not appropriate for us to get involved.

10. AOB:

Area AGM Speaker – to request a trustee from central office.

Reports and Articles for Area Annual Report please send in resumes and photos of group activities for the Annual report asap.

Succession Planning for Area Officers Chair and Secretary want to stand down, need to encourage volunteers to step up.

Reviving the Sheffield Walking Festival cancelled this year as the organiser has retired. To revive next year. Adrian summarised the benefits for Sheffield, multi group/agency involvement, not just Ramblers. Any vols offering help welcome. 20's&30's keen to be involved, other Sheffield groups also to encourage members to get involved.

Walk Leading Training and Registration groups are generally getting through it slowly.

Peak District National Park – Consultation has now finished, full details in documents sent with agenda.

NT Derwent & Howden Restoration Fence – Julie S received update today, work starts in January though some concerns sent to the National Trust. No clear details of crossing points locations. The aim is to protect restorative work from local livestock. There will be 20 gated access points at footpath crossing points plus step stiles every 100 metres approx.. No actions required by SYNED.

Next SYNED Area Council to be on Monday February 16th 2026, 7pm via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89758223153?pwd=fnThJBjagMvYDH58SiW1HYlaVFjTW5.1>

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

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