

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Wednesday, 23 April 2014

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday, 1 May 2014
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Linda Jeavons
Secretary to the Forum

Members of The Forum

Name	Fields of Interest
Stephen Bell	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Gareph Boxley	Motorised Vehicular Use/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Peter Carr	Walking/Canals
Alex Carson-Taylor	Landowner/Rural Business/Conservation
Chris Chillingworth	Walking/Voluntary Activities/Community
Richard Cotham	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Walking
David Cowell	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Tourism
Pauline Dee	Scouts and Guides
Margaret Markland	Conservation/Wildlife/Walking
Janet Mees-Robinson	
Stuart Morgan	Carriage Driving/Disabled Access/Tourism
Alison Parker	Walking/Tourism/Route Design and Application
Roger Plowden (Chairman)	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Local Community
Zia Robins	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Farming
Jennifer Spenser	Horse Riding
Dave Tremellen	Shropshire Council
Mark Weston	Horseriding/Carriage Driving/Voluntary Activities
Leslie Winwood	Shropshire Council
Paul Wynn	

Your Committee Officer is:

Linda Jeavons Committee Officer

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Email: linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Introductions

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Minutes and any matters arising (Pages 1 - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 February 2014.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions, statements or petitions of which notice has been received from members of the public.

5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

6 European Funding and the LEADER programme

Joe Bubb, Principal External Funding Officer, Shropshire Council will be in attendance.

7 LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and Local Nature Partnership

Dan Wrench, Biodiversity Officer, Shropshire Council will be in attendance.

8 Launch of the Humphrey Kynaston Way

Zia Robins to update the meeting on the launch of the Humphrey Kynaston Way.

9 Shropshire Local Access Forum - number of meetings

To discuss and consider the possibility of reducing the number of meetings of the Shropshire Local Access Forum from four to three per municipal year.

10 Volunteering

To discuss and consider how this Forum can encourage volunteers, eg litter picking.

11 Wind turbines and the proposed National Grid Power Lines and their possible impact on access and tourism and Shropshire's economy

Shona Butter, Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader, Shropshire Council will be in attendance.

12 Wind Turbine Planning Applications

Shona Butter, Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader, Shropshire Council will be in attendance.

13 Feedback from other Forums and items for noting (Pages 9 - 20)

13.1 Items for Noting

13.2 The following minutes/papers are provided as updates for members:

- (i) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 7 October 2013 (marked 'A')
- (ii) South Walking Forum – 24 January 2014 (marked 'B')

13.3 Future Meetings

(a) Members are asked to suggest agenda items for the next meeting.

(b) To agree future dates for 2014/15 starting at 10.00 a.m. as follows:

Thursday, 17 July
Thursday, 16 October
Thursday, 5 February 2015
Date in May 2015 – To be confirmed

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<u>Committee and Date</u>
Shropshire Local Access Forum
1 May 2014
10.00 am

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SHROPSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 10.00 AM IN THE SHREWSBURY
ROOM, SHIREHALL, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6ND**

10.00 am – 12.16 PM

Responsible Officer

Linda Jeavons

Email:

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PRESENT:

Stephen Bell, Gareph Boxley, Peter Carr, Alex Carson-Taylor, Chris Chillingworth, Richard Cotham, Pauline Dee, Margaret Markland, Janet Mees-Robinson, Stuart Morgan, Alison Parker, Roger Plowden, Zia Robins, Jennifer Spenser, Dave Tremellen, Mark Weston and Les Winwood.

OFFICERS:

Deb Hughes, Outdoor Recreation Manager
Shona Butter, Mapping & Enforcement Team Leader
Linda Jeavons, Committee Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:

Keith Pybus (Plans for the walks to commemorate WW1 events)

16. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Members:

David Cowell and Paul Wynn.

Officers:

Jim Stabler, Access Development Officer

18. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 October 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

ACTION

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

20. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

21. PLANS FOR THE WALKS TO COMMEMORATE WW1 EVENTS

Mr Keith Pybus was in attendance and gave a presentation on the series of walks planned to take place over five years from 2014 to 2019 to commemorate WW1 events. The walks aimed to tell the story of life on the Home Front in Shropshire during the First World War and themes would cover the role of women, volunteers and conscription, agricultural production and rationing, forest output, quarries, railways, auxiliary military hospitals, the military tribunals and conscientious objection, prisoners of war, many war memorials, individuals who served in the armed forces and civilians. Four walks were planned to take place each year (one in each of the north, central and south areas of the County plus one additional walk) and would be led by local enthusiasts. Self-guided versions would also be published. Details of planned events for 2014 along with any contact details could be found at Appendix 1 appended to the signed minutes.

LJ

Any suggestions for walks or details of any known local events should be forwarded to Jim Stabler, Shropshire Council's Access Development Officer.

ALL

22. UPDATE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION – FUTURE SERVICES PROVISION

With reference to Minute No. 10 (17 October 2013), the Outdoor Recreation Manager, Deb Hughes, provided a further update on the future of the Outdoor Recreation service. Main points as follows:

- The section had recently entered into a period of staff consultation on a proposed restructure;
- Some savings would be achieved by 1st April 2014 and had partly been due to the reorganisation of staff;
- Also looking to achieve a reduction in costs on work undertaken in relation to green space;
- Working towards increasing income particularly at Severn Valley Country Park and Mere;
- Public Health (now under the remit of Shropshire Council) had recognised the work and benefits of the OR service in terms of public health outcomes and had agreed to support OR for at least a two year period. As a consequence of this a new staffing structure had been

formulated which would enable OR to maintain the work being done to encourage active volunteering on our sites and rights of way network and to grow this over the coming years;

- Increase partnership working, eg Parish ~~Plan~~ Path Partnership schemes;
- It was proposed that the service would operate on an area basis, ie a north team and a south team, to manage recreational assets (rights of way, green spaces and country parks). A further team would manage the developmental opportunities;
- The Definitive Map and any associated documents would be maintained as well as the enforcement function; and
- As of 1 April 2014, the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership would form part of OR.

From the floor concerns were expressed that history and paperwork would get lost and/or misplaced during all the changes and it was asked if the work to copy and digitalise maps had been completed or was ongoing. It was suggested that the possibility of using internships to progress digitalisation could be explored. DH agreed to take these concerns back to highways and check on progress with the maps; and would explore the possibility of making use of the Council's internship/graduate programme and also consider the possibility of recruiting volunteer(s).

DH

In response to questions from the floor, DH explained that:

- Work with the Probation Service was ongoing and a new agreement had recently been entered into with the West Mercia Probation Trust;
- Currently, a supervised team of probationers, working four days per week, were carrying out work on our sites that would normally be contracted out;
- PPP groups were being encouraged to highlight potential areas of work for the probationers; and
- Towards the end of next year, DH aimed to reintroduce the production of the annual report which would demonstrate the benefits of such projects.

23. ANNUAL ONLINE USER SURVEY

Deb Hughes, the Outdoor Recreation Manager, provided an update. This was the annual survey which helped the OR service to steer their priorities. She encouraged all to complete the survey.

ALL

From the floor, a member commented that the survey was now more inclusive of all activities and was now not just aimed at walkers; and the OR service was congratulated for a job well done.

With regard to dog mess on sites and in response to a question asking if there were any Dog Control Orders that landowners could use to restrict access to dogs on Rights of Way, DH commented that she was not aware of any legislation but agreed to check and report back.

DH

RESOLVED: That the appendix marked '8' attached to the report be noted.

24. OSWESTRY RING UPDATE

Peter Carr provided an update and stated that after two years of hard work sufficient funding had been secured to make this project a reality. However, because they could not dedicate parts of the route as a bridleway they had been unable to obtain partnership funding. An improved route would now be constructed; a booklet would be published; work would begin in the spring; he had completed approximately two thirds of the resurvey work; it was envisaged that the launch would take place in September; and the route would be known as Oswald's ~~Way~~ Trail.

From the floor, disappointment was expressed that a section of the route would not now be designated as a bridleway.

25. HUMPHREY KYNASTON WAY WITH CIRCULAR ROUTES OFF

Zia Robins provided an update and stated that, despite setbacks, work had commenced and was now progressing well; an article on the route had been produced and included in the winter edition of the Outdoor Recreation Service Newsletter; new waymarks had been erected on the linear route; the route would link many sites and communities; to ensure funding requirements were met all work had to be completed by February; and the route was already being used. She thanked the OR team for their involvement and support.

She expressed concern and disappointment that on part of the link to Hanwood a house had been constructed on land actually designated as a bridleway. As such, at this point in time on this part of the route there was only access for walkers via a footpath located nearby but no access for horse riders and cyclists. She confirmed that enforcement was aware of this problem.

DH thanked both Peter and Zia for their involvement in both the above projects. Both these projects were fantastic examples of how working at a local level could bring in funding and projects such as these would be of great benefit to tourism in Shropshire.

26. NATIONAL AND WEST MIDLANDS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM CONFERENCES

The Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader, Shona Butter, was in attendance and in her capacity as the West Midlands Regional LAF Coordinator she reported that this year two Conferences would be held, one each in Bristol (attended by SB) and Durham. One topic discussed related to funding and, in particular, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships. Arising from this she suggested that this LAF could come up

with some ideas to enable Shropshire to get some additional funding for work on the access network. In addition, and as Shropshire Council intended to establish a European Funding Team in the near future, DH suggested that a representative from the External Funding Team be invited to the next meeting of this LAF to provide an overview of the potential and complexities of European funding, talk on the new LEADER programme, and to discuss access in the future; and also Dan Wrench, from the Natural Environment team to talk on the Local Natural Partnership.

Following debate it was **AGREED**:

- (i) That a representative from the External Funding Team and Dan Wrench from the Natural Environment team be invited to the next meeting; and the possibility of inviting someone from the Local Enterprise Partnership body be explored; and
- (ii) That feedback from the National Conference and regional meetings, particularly with regard to the control of dogs in the countryside and on rights of way, be given to a future meeting of this Forum; and
- (iii) Paperwork from the National Conference and regional meetings be circulated to all members of this Forum

DH

SB

SB

27. CLARIFICATION OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON PROPOSED DEREGULATION BILL

The Mapping and Enforcement Team Leader, Shona Butter, provided an update on the position to date with the Draft Deregulation Bill (DRB). The majority of the DRB focussed on the simplification of the process of looking after the Definitive Map. It would have to go through several stages before coming into force and it was hoped that it would be implemented before the next General Election. One possible key issue would be to give landowners the right to apply for a diversion.

Mark Weston, a member of the Stakeholder Working Group explained that the DRB had undergone its second reading and was now at the Committee stage. He advised that an explanatory memorandum had been uploaded onto the Government website and he urged anyone who was interested to read the section on rights of way. In response to requests for clarity with regard to the term 'gates' and whether this referred to a physical gate or a generic term for cattle control so consequently would a cattle grid be termed as a gate, and would gating be a way of controlling access on and off common land as opposed to a hedged byway, MW indicated that this could be discussed at the next meeting of the Stakeholder Working Group and feedback would be given at a future meeting.

MW

28. FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS AND ITEMS FOR NOTING

28.1 Items for Noting – None

Trial/Quad Bikes - At this juncture, SB explained that they had been

approached for advice in relation to a small number of alleged conflicts involving quad bikes travelling at inappropriate speed and failing to give way to pedestrians. This more likely involved non-affiliated riders who did not belong to an organized group and she asked if any member of LAF knew of any way these riders could be reached to inform them of their responsibilities and encourage good practice.

From the floor it was suggested that the Trial Bike Federation might be able to assist but it was more likely to be unaffiliated riders from the local area. If they were registered vehicles then registration numbers could be recorded and/or riders photographed and reported to the local police.

DH reminded all that there was an agreed policy regarding vehicles in the countryside and Shropshire Council would and did work with legitimate organisations and would continue to inform them of any issues. We were being asked to consider TROs which would stop everyone from using some routes but this was not fair when it was the minority who were not treating the countryside as they should do.

In response to concerns, it was suggested that representatives from the Trail Bike Federation and a dog group could be invited to contribute in some way to this Forum. DH explained that in the past there had been a forum which had focused on byways and suggested that an attempt could be made to resurrect it although she doubted that the number of people necessary to do this would be available – DH agreed to investigate.

DH

From the floor it was suggested that this was probably a case of educating people on how to respect and behave in the countryside and one that should start with children through schools and colleges. In response, DH explained that a bid for funding from the Sustainable Transport Fund was planned and, dependent on the outcome, would be used to try and encourage young people to get out walking and could include a programme of education.

28.2 Minutes / Papers

The following minutes / papers, which were circulated with the agenda for information, were noted:

- (i) Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum – 10 June 2013
- (ii) North Walking Forum - 14 October 2013
- (iii) Shropshire Cycle Forum – 16 October 2013
- (iv) Central Walking Forum – 29 November 2013
- (v) North Walking Forum – 27 January 2014

28.3 Future Meetings

DH/SB/JS

- (a) The following agenda items were suggested for consideration at a future meeting:
- To discuss and consider the possibility of reducing the number of meetings of this Shropshire Local Access Forum from four to three;
 - The Spirit of Volunteering – to consider how we can encourage volunteers, ie litter picking;
 - Wind turbines and the proposed National Grid Power Lines and their possible impact on access and tourism and Shropshire’s economy; and
 - Cumulation of wind turbine planning applications.
- (b) Future meetings for 2013/14 are as follows:

2014

Thursday, 1 May 2014

All meetings to commence at 10.00 am and held at Shirehall unless stated otherwise.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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SHROPSHIRE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING FORUM (SRCDF)

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 7th October 2013, at 7.30pm, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

1. Attendance:

John Gibson, British Driving Society, Chair. Zia Robins, Shrewsbury & District RC A&BWO, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Linda Russell, South West Shrewsbury BWG. Joint Secretary. Jan Mees Robinson, Telford Bridleways. Gaynor Evans, Jan Baldwin & Margaret Dutton, Broseley Bridleways. Judy Dickenson, Church Preen & District. Ann Durnell, Bridgnorth BWA. Sue Evans, Beckbury, Ryton & Badger BWG. Angela Williams, BHS CABO & Ellesmere. Carol Williams, Long Mynd & Dist BWA. Pam Youille, Underton, Bridgnorth. Shona Butter, Shropshire Council.

Apologies:

Anthony Francis-Jones, Telford BWA, Vice Chair. Andrew Kelly, Vrnwy & Dist. BWA. Gill Eyre, BHS South Shropshire East, South Shropshire. Rosemary Pattenden, Worthen BWA. Steve Benbow, Oswestry Riding Club. Pamela Jordan, Long Mynd BWA. Mark Weston, BHS

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th June (paper A) were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Cycling

Pontesbury to Minsterley roadside cycle path – Shona confirmed that this route, which was put in under the Tranche 2 Government funding, is only for cyclists and walkers, and is not going to be multi-user, so not open to horse riders.

ReaVan - Rea Valley Multi User Trail. – This has not moved forward. It is understood that the initial report was put out without first consulting landowners.

Zia reported that the Shropshire Cycle Forum minutes for 19th June 2013 do not have anything particularly relevant to our Group.

(b) Proposed wind turbines

The response on behalf of SRCDF to the proposed 2 wind turbines at Criddon Farm, Criddon, near Bridgnorth (Paper B) is noted. A draft was sent to local members for comments before this was submitted, and a similar response was put in on SRCDF's behalf to the proposed 1 wind turbine at The Hills, The Down, Bridgnorth 13/02194/FUL. To date, supporters and objectors have sent in a total of 804 responses for Criddon Farm, and 230 for The Hills, to SC Planning Website. The majority of the supporters are not local residents. Decisions on both are still pending. It was confirmed that Zia will respond on members' behalf to planning applications, brought to her attention, for wind turbines that do not comply with BHS guidelines.

(c) "Paths for Communities"

Zia reported that, following the approval of the 'Humphrey Kynaston Way with Circular Routes off' Project by Natural England, a report on it has appeared in the National Newsletter for P4C. The Highways Agency agreed some time ago to the section that passes over their land, at Montford Bridge, becoming a public bridleway, but have still not signed the legal document. There are ongoing problems due to regulations and procedures for working on their land that is holding the whole project up. It is hoped to resolve this soon as the Project has to be completed by the end of February or the funding is lost. The other landowners have all signed. Helen Foster has kindly offered to try out some of the routes with the maps and instructions.

This is now the only P4C Project going ahead in Shropshire. Only ¾ of the P4C funding has currently been allocated with £½ million still available, but this may be because the application process has all been so complicated, believed to be partly due to it being European funding.

(d) Helicopter Liaison Meeting

It is noted that the new RAF Shawbury Community Relations Officer is to be Squadron Leader Kim Leach. She does not take up her post until 14th October. It is agreed that the new Station Commander, Group Captain Smith and Squadron Leader Leach attend at 7pm, prior to our meeting on 17th February 2014, to introduce themselves and to address any issues. It is agreed that we keep up the liaison as RAF personnel change regularly. There is now a better understanding by pilots, and of the need not to make sudden changes in direction. Members are not aware of any recent issues. Grid references where there is a lot of horse activity can be registered with Shawbury, but they have to limit the number of avoids. It is important that equestrians wear fluorescent items.

(e) National Grid Power Lines - www.nationalgrid.com/midwalesconnection

It is noted that the proposed route for the 'Mid Wales Connection Project' has now been announced and that meetings on this are to be held in Llanymynech Community Centre from 21st - 25th Oct. and West Felton Village Hall on 29th & 30th Oct and 5th, 6th & 9th Nov, with consultation up to 29th Nov. Zia will attend one of these. Shona reported that they had received 2 very large maps of the north of the County. They have highlighted all the ROW, and what National Grid have to do if any are affected, and they will track any applications. It is understood that none of the Shropshire section is due to be put underground, so will impact on tourism. The website has up to date information.

(f) Commons – Clarity of Access

It is reported that Shropshire Council do not have a digital register of Commons and Village Greens. Paper copies are kept in 5 ring binders, which also include information on Pounds, Pinfolds, Marls, Quarries and other Wastes, and the public can make an appointment to see them. The Archives on everything on them since they were claimed, is held in the basement at the Shirehall. Natural England's surveying of them for Open Access was not thorough or complete. Tim Ward, of Shropshire Council, currently looks after these records. There is no system in place for him to report errors or omissions. There was a pilot project to review these, but this has not been rolled out across the rest of the country, and, with cost cutting, seems unlikely to happen. The entry register should include a description of the land, who has rights over it, and what those rights are, who owns it, and who owned it when first registered. Information on Commons can be obtained at <https://www.gov.uk/common-land-management-protection-and-registering-to-use>.

Shona reported that there is no overview of what access is permitted on the different sites, unless they have had to look at them for a specific reason, like at Nesscliffe and The Cliffe, and Clee Hill. It requires looking at the documents for each individual one.

Public Rights of Way can be claimed over a Common if they have been used as through routes, and not just for air and exercise. There are 86 registered sites in Shropshire.

This subject was not addressed at the last LAF as Jim Stabler was unable to attend.

(g) Chinese Lanterns

Following the huge fire caused by a Chinese Lantern, it is understood that the Government has decided not to do anything about banning them. The CLA have reported that DEFRA only regard them as a minimal danger to aircraft, and the risk they pose to livestock as low. Angela had a cow that suffered for weeks due to ingesting wire. Horses have been reported very distressed where these have landed near them. The NFU are campaigning to get them banned. It is important that people report any incidents to the BHS www.horseaccidents.org.uk website

(h) Growth & Infrastructure Act 2013

Shona reported that as at 1st October, for a fee, landowners can register for 20 years to protect themselves from any claims for Access over their land, including commons and greens, and

Shropshire Council have to keep a register that is open to the public. Information will also be available on the web.

(i) Any other Matters arising not on the Agenda

Dog Incidents – Zia reported that she has is getting more reports on problems with dogs chasing and attacking horses, and has experienced dogs out of control on Public Rights of Way and attacking ridden horses, with the owners, when they appeared, having difficulty in catching the dogs. She has also received reports on, and has experienced loose dogs on PROW going on to adjoining properties and attacking and killing chickens. Members were again reminded that any incidents with dogs should be reported to the BHS Accident Website: - www.horseaccidents.org.uk. Dogs should be kept under close control on a Public Right of Way.

4. Shropshire Council

(a) Possible cuts and reorganization within Shropshire Council

Zia attended a meeting ‘Join in the Conversation’ on the possible cuts, which was held at the Walker Theatre, and chaired by Radio Shropshire’s Eric Smith. In response to a question from the Ramblers as to what would happen if Shropshire did not meet their targets, Keith Barrow responded that the Government would just send in someone to do it, and there would be no choice. One of the main things that kept being raised were the problems of poor health and obesity, especially with regard to young children, and the importance of exercise in all age groups. Towards the end, Zia raised the point that the meeting had highlighted the problems with health, obesity and fitness, and she pointed out that the Shropshire Countryside was free to use and the importance of maintaining access and the ROW infrastructure. Also, Shropshire was only just recovering from 50 years of neglect of its ROW, and that if they did not continue to support people like the Parish Paths Groups and volunteers they could lose that important contribution to keeping the countryside open.

Tourism brings lots of money into Shropshire. In 2005 this was 561 million (Shropshire Tourism). Shona reported that £8 million has to be saved, and that how the way the department worked has been looked at. Savings have to be made. Some staff members will be leaving under the voluntary redundancy scheme. It is all very disruptive at present. A member raised the Council’s statutory obligations, and how these would be affected. If notice is served on the Council it has a legal duty to respond, but these take up staff time, which means that less gets done. Pam Youille raised problems with a number of blocked bridleways in her area. If it is just clearing, then volunteers can help. For other problems, it is important that as much information as possible, landowners etc., is provided, but pressure of work restricts how many of these can be resolved by Shropshire Council. Photos help. Reports should be sent to outdoorrecreation@shropshire.gov.uk

(b) Outdoor Recreation Implementation Team

Richard Knight has reported that the summer clearance work has been completed, and they are now doing tree clearance. A large number of their workforce have recently been involved in clearing BW UN1 Acton Round, and they now have the drainage and gates to do. Shona reported ongoing problems there with gates going missing and damage, but said that they are persevering and will complete it. Two Recreation Officers on Richard Knight’s team who have left are now, due to the cutbacks, not to be replaced. Tim Simmonds, who was one of the clearing teams, has taken on Ped Atkinson’s job. Interviews took place for the other replacements but the freeze in recruitment meant that they were not appointed. They are now two short on the groundwork team. Gareth Eggar has now left the sites team based in Ellesmere. Mark Blount still runs the sites team.

Gill Eyre has written that the Wheathill P3 Group has been formed, with local volunteers to help clear FPs and BWs in the parish.. The Secretary is Tina Ramsden, of Upper Bromdon, near Burwarton. Shona highlighted the value of volunteers and how much their contribution was appreciated. Zia’s Nesscliffe Hills P3 Bridleway Group has done a lot of clearing work on the

Nesscliffe Country Park. There is no longer a Ranger there. It is important that everyone helps in keeping the countryside open in these difficult times.

(c) Shropshire Council online Rights of Way User Survey 2013

Jim Stabler is currently off work, so the detailed analysis of the results is not yet available. There were many questions that horse riders could not answer as these questions were aimed at walkers. It is important that next year's survey is more inclusive of horse riders. The survey highlighted the many varied uses of ROW which included fell running, orienteering, and photography.

(d) Shropshire Council Planning

Shona has been investigating consultation on planning applications that affect a public right of way used by horse riders. It had been suggested that members could cover different areas. The response she eventually got today was that they receive between 5,000 and 6,000 planning applications a year, and that the British Horse Society is not a statutory consultee; she will go back to them. Zia raised the fact that the Planning Departments consult the Ramblers on planning applications affecting Bridleways but not the horse rider's representatives. On legal Orders they have to consult, but it would be more cost effective to consult on planning affecting a public riding route at an early stage to avoid any problems. It will be necessary to look at all orders as higher rights may apply. Zia used to be consulted on all the Shrewsbury & Atcham applications on behalf of the BHS, but now gets nothing. Planning applications are shown on the Council's planning website.

5. Public Inquiries and Definitive Map Issues

Definitive Map - Shona reported that the Council's legal document is dated the 1st September 1965. There have been a number of legal orders since that date, and the Definitive Map needs to be consolidated to bring it up to date. They have a working copy that is updated, a paper copy, and OS are updated when every order is confirmed, but Shropshire Council need to have an up to date legal document. She asked for the Groups support for this. Members thought that this was already done as orders were granted. **The Group fully supported this consolidation.** If members find errors on new O.S. maps, they should report these to Jean Jones at Outdoor Recreation.

Broseley – BW addition Chapel Lane to Lodge Lane. Shona reported that they are talking to the Willey Estate to try and sort the anomaly out, but that if that is not successful an Order will have to be published to resolve this.

Benthall Woods FP65 upgrade – Shona reported the excellent news that after 10 years all the landowners have now signed their agreements. A contractor will be going to put the gates in.

Badger Wood – Sue has done the formal application for this and Lucy is in contact with the new landowner. They are looking at a possible dedication there.

Oaks Wood – Shona confirmed that, as a lot of time has passed, she has re-consulted on this line amendment, and had positive results, so this is now with Jean Jones to publish an order. Linda asked to be consulted on this route, which is in her area, as there may still be issues on the line. Zia confirmed that the definitive line outlet goes through two gates, whereas the used BW gate outlet goes directly into the field.

Frodesley – The Orders still have to be sent off. A member raised the delay in dealing with these orders.

Drumbles Wood – Shona confirmed that she wants to get this old order done.

Sutton Mill - Shona confirmed that she also wants to get this done.

Brogyntyn – Mat and Richard are going out this week to check the line of the diversion.

Llanyblodwel – Lucy is checking through this again before it is sent off, due to the time taken.

Old Moors Lane – This is shown as a through road on the 1929 Handover Map. Issues like this should be resolved by Highways and not take up the Outdoor Recreation teams time. Mat has not been able to address it as yet, due to other Inquiry work.

Hilton – Shona reported that this is another issue still waiting to be resolved, but there is still the problem here with the outlet.

Market Drayton – The recent Inquiry went well with good witness representation. It is possible that this Bridleway claim may be modified to a Restricted Byway. This is another old road.

Lea Hall Quarry – Lucy is still working on the question of access there, but Bridleway access looks unlikely.

Melverley – Zia has recently inspected this RB, and reported back, and asked when the width encroachment of this Restricted Byway, which had been resolved by the Inspector, would be implemented. Shona said to push Mat to get this resolved.

Boraston – Gill Eyre has reported that thanks to Lucy McFarlane's efforts the blocked BW has been reopened by the farmer and a better permissive route instated.

Duck Lane, Little Ryton to Ryton - there is possibly going to be a claim submitted for this. This is another old road that has been ridden for years.

Jack Mytton Way – It was reported that this was blocked at Marsh Lane, Glazeley, O.S.704 886, by an electric fence. It has also been ploughed up. This is a repeat offender and has been reported.

Other bridleway issues were raised. Shona confirmed that Health and Safety issues take precedence. Also promoted routes, or if reported by a Parish Council, it gives complaints a higher priority. The enforcement team try and work together with the maintenance team to resolve issues in an area.

6. Highways

(a) **Highway Verges** – The Letter from the Chair of the LAF to Shropshire Council Highways on verge encroachment (paper D) is noted. It is reported that the obstructions on Kenley Common are still there. (NOTE:-Obstruction of the highway is dealt with in Highways Act 1980 sections 137,143,148 & 149. It is an offence to deposit anything on the full width of a highway, including footways, which “interrupts” a person using it.)

(b) Provision of a Definitive Map showing status of Shropshire Highways

Zia did a report to Shropshire Council Highways on the 1929 Handover Map road errors and omissions, but with all the staff changes it is not currently known who deals with what, so it is felt we should wait until things are more settled before following this up.

Andrew Kelly, when he gave his apologies, said that the Highway Records Working Group is still working with Defra. He also said that what is on the new Streets Works Register (See Department of Transport New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/street-works-co-ordination/cop3rdedition.pdf>) is not a record of what is maintainable at public expense. It is not a legal record, but it could be. People think it replaced the List of Streets, but it does not. He will be contacting Andy Savage with regard to the unsurfaced roads Herefordshire document. (see 6(c)) Zia pointed out that one of the points raised in the Herefordshire report is that when a public footpath runs parallel to an old road, it is pretty good evidence that it is a public road. The BW claim for the lane to Bentley Ford Farm, near Frodesley, is an example of where a parallel footpath ran alongside the lane, but is now shown on the definitive map running down the lane. Hem Lane, Westbury is another example. There should be a definitive map/statement of rights of access on all highways, and LAF's should pursue this.

(c) **Unsurfaced Roads** The report on www.hrmg.talktalk.net on how unsurfaced roads have been recorded and considering how they ought to be recorded, with reference to current legislation, and using Herefordshire records as examples, is noted.

7. Minutes and Feedback from LAFs and other Forums (not already covered)

The minutes of the Local Access Forum held on 11th April 2013 (paper E) are noted. Agenda items discussed at the LAF meeting held on 11th July 2013 included the suggestion of a 'Walking Champion' for Shropshire. LAF agreed that this was a good idea but that it should be an 'Access

Champion'. Some Agenda items were deferred as Jim Stabler was unable to attend. Also discussed were the update of Shropshire Council website, and dog control Orders. The Deregulation Bill is on the 17th October LAF Agenda. There is concern over proposals in this. Our next meeting is too late to discuss it, so it is important that members look at the Ramblers summary attached to the LAF papers.

Zia asked members for any items they felt should be raised at LAF.

The Notes from the North Shropshire Walking Forum held on 1st July 2013 (paper F) are noted.

It is noted that future LAF meetings are on the 17th October 2013, 6th February 2014 and 1st May 2014 at the Shirehall. All meetings start at 10am, and are open to the public to attend.

LAF papers are available under the 'Agenda' on <http://bit.ly/XNg7vP> Go to 'archived list of all previous meetings' click on 'Agenda' and they are attached at the bottom.

8. Items to Note

Department for Transport policy circular 02/2013 'The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development'

Information on this revised policy is on

www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-road-network-and-the-delivery-of-sustainable-development See nos 11, 12, 15, 19, & Annex A: Wind Turbines A 8-17.

Zia apologised if the document failed to open, it did before. You can find it on Google.

The BHS Access Conference 2013 is to be held at BHS HQ on Thursday 31st October. Zia and Angela are booked to attend this. A member asked if Chinese Lanterns could be raised at the Access Conference. It is felt that it would be more appropriate to raise it at the Safety Conference.

The Paralympic Legacy Access Project was launched on 25th September 2013.

9. Any Other Business

Zia reported that there had been a report in the papers that Hampshire Council has formed a Horse Posse, of 10 mounted volunteer horse riders, to patrol the lanes, bridleways and country roads, reporting on crimes. They have been provided with tabards etc.

11. Dates of the Next Meetings

The next meeting is to be on Monday 17th February 2014. The Helicopter Liaison Meeting will start at 7pm prompt, with the meeting at 7.30pm. The provisional date for the following meeting of Monday 9th June 2014, at 7.00 for 7.30pm, is confirmed. Both meetings to be held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

TO NOTE: All papers for SR&CDF meetings will be sent out by email.

Southern Walking Forum

B

Minutes of 6th Meeting

The Green Room, Wistanstow Village Hall, Craven Arms

10 am – 12 noon, Friday 24th January 2014

Present:

Keith Pybus	KP Chair	Shropshire Way Association
Jim Stabler	JS	Access Development Officer, Shrop. Council
Dick Bailey	DB	Much Wenlock WAW
Val Simpson	VS	Cleobury Mortimer WAW
Ray Hughes	RH	Shropshire Council
Michael Holland	MH	Ludlow P3 Group
Rick Summers	RS	Ludlow P3 & Whitcliffe Common
Peter James	PJ	Clun P3 Coordinator, Ramblers F.P. Secretary & Clun WAW
Chris Chillingworth	CP	Ludlow P3
Steph Hayes	SH	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
Steven Levers	SL	Bishops Castle WAW and P3
Helen Knight	HK	Macmillan Cancer Support
Helen d'Albert	Hd'A	Walking Coordinator South Shropshire, Shropshire Council

Apologies:

Trish Howard	TH	Walking for Health Church Stretton
Marion Law	ML	Rail Rambles
David Hardwick	DH	Countryside Recreation Officer, Shrop. Council
Simon Cooter	SC	Natural England
Sue Jones	SJ	Shropshire Area Ramblers

Introduction and Welcome

KP introduced and welcomed Helen d'Albert – who took over from Ian Pearmain as the South Shropshire Walking Coordinator in October 2013.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Forum Topic –

SHROPSHIRE'S WAINWRIGHT

Ian Jones Guides

Although the Forum had previously agreed to pursue the publishing, albeit in a revised form, of the Guides, some members had reservations. Was it a project that was too ambitious? Should it be given this priority? How should we avoid direct competition with recently published guides for Clun and Ludlow?

PJ explained that sales through CTN outlets may depend upon the low price charged. A more polished product would cost more and if the retail price had to be increased, these outlets might drop out.

Others still felt this was a piece of our walking culture worth preserving. If any new versions were to be test-marketed, the walks would need re-walking. To avoid direct competition with the Ludlow or Clun books and to

ACTION

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avoid the burden of re-walking as many as a dozen walks falling on the same shoulders, the Forum might have to consider an 'omnibus' publication which had not previously been attempted with, say, two or three walks from each of the main areas. KP had always felt the guides have great charm but are lacking in one important respect: they have little or no interpretative material, which would add to the work to be undertaken.

Keith approached Ian some years ago informally in connection with online walks. Ian told him 'you can have my copyright as long as you are not making any money out of it and as long as you don't bother me.'

It was agreed nothing could or should be undertaken without sounding out Ian Jones' view on any of the proposed changes to his original works. It was proposed that KP would be the best person to undertake this. He agreed.

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working on a project with Clun for Clun WAW - creating a website page but he had not seen the Clun WAW page. SH confirmed that Helen Vaughan has been leading the development of the Clun WAW page and she will chase progress of this and update JS and PJ.

SH

World War I Walks

JS congratulated the Forum on the project's success. £8,000 had been secured to run 20 walks over the next 5 years. There will be walks in the South Central and North where there are stories worth telling. Each walk will be launched as a guided walk, then a printed leaflet as a self guided walk, at the end of the 5 years. a folder will contain the whole series. Distribution yet to be finalised.

JS gave overview of the plans for WWI project over the 5 year period- as outlined on the WWI attachment which was circulated to the group with the agenda.

JS

In Southern region KP had been in touch with Ludlow History Group, Craven Arms & District Local History Group, churches in Stokesay [and Halford] and Hopesay, the owners of Downton Hall. Dates have now been finalised.

KP expressed thanks to all in the Southern Forum for pioneering this project.

KP has updated his Progress report and Hd'A to forward the new one to group following this meeting.

Hd'A

Bruce Bairnsfather

PJ wondered where we had the info about Bairnsfather staying in Creswell House, Clun. Could we get a plaque put on Creswell house during the Centenary? KP had seen it in the Clun Heritage Trail Point 11.

KP

KP was concerned about the future of the Bairnsfather mural in the Victory Club Ludlow. If the building were sold by the RBL, this will soon not be accessible to the public,

Members' Updates

Outdoor Recreation Team Shropshire Council- JS there are going to be cuts - the aim is to minimise the impact in the field. The organisation that it is hoped will be agreed will provide more support to the Volunteer groups. JS said he hopes that the physical support and funding will increase for the P3 groups. He

JS

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will report back at the Local Access Forum meeting.

AOB

Trig Walks – i.e. publications to trig points...to be discussed at another time.

Chairmanship – KP said he was happy to continue as chair if all wish this- PJ proposed motion for KP to remain as Chair of the group for the foreseeable future and VS seconded this proposal.

IWM logo- KP to send out details regarding Imperial War Museum 1914 partnership website – the Southern Forum has enlisted but he recommended that individual clubs and societies join up in their own right.

KP

Next Meeting

Date and venue agreed for next meeting –

10am -12 noon Friday 25th April 2014

at the Green Room Wistanstow Village Hall, Craven Arms.

Group to send any topics to Hd'A to go onto agenda for next meeting.

All / Hd'A

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