

## SOUTHERN WALKING FORUM February 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

### Updates from the Council (Clare Fildes)

Cabinet decisions led to £77 million of cuts by 2018 with expectation of no central government funding from 2022 - income should come from council tax and business rates. Decision to increase Council Tax by 3.99% year on year.

Prioritise **Essential** services: adult social care, children's services, highways

**Mandatory** services include rights of way in all aspects. **Discretionary** services such as swimming pools, leisure centres, parks and open space, visitor centres, community development etc. will have Council funding ended by 2018.

Request that we lobby MP's and portfolio holder: Stuart West re parks and open spaces. No cuts to the Outdoor Partnerships Team at present.

### Shropshire Way

Concerns raised by Ramblers that the circular routes along the path were confusing for those wishing to use the path as long distance route. Clare confirmed that meetings held with resolution to improve signage throughout but especially at such junctions, please advise her of any concerns about junctions you know of. Bespoke fingerposts will be priority and old markings removed.

### P3Goups (Helen Beresford)

In third quarter of the year county hours were 6755 (value £6K) with 2300 in South Shropshire. £5500 worth of grants had been applied for and expected to be met in full. New group in Farlow (set up with Susan Sharp's help) is made up of working people so their first work party will be on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> supported by Helen and Susan. Helen congratulated cmfa on its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and there was applause around the table.

### ROW Team (Paul Butter)

Maintenance team to increase role of contract wing to bring in essential income - concern that this will divert help for P3 groups but assured not as this is recognised as exemplary and will receive maximum support into the future. (accepted by Councillors as excellent volunteer support). Furniture for P3 groups to fully continue.

Enforcement and mapping is mandatory though now only 3 person f/t equivalent team. New Guide Rights of Way for Landowners to distributed throughout County.

### AONB (Nigel McDonald)

Shuttle bus continues as one service only on Long Mynd part funded by National Trust, looking for new funding for Castle Connect shuttle. Great Days out leaflet will have 25K print run and be available for half term - entirely self-funded by business ads.

Shropshire Hills Tourism now separate from Shropshire Tourism -membership £25 for all businesses including unregistered ones (Cath Evans our local member). 2016 Leaflet swop on morning of March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Discovery Centre Craven Arms. Guided walks no longer being promoted/bookings taken by AONB.

## Articles about the local area

- Camping Club Magazine with 300K circulation: Blue Remembered Shropshire Hills.
- Holiday Property Bond Magazine - what to do from Norton in the winter months.
- Country Walking magazine due in December Edition feature about Simon Evans Way
- [Mick.Dunn@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mick.Dunn@shropshire.gov.uk) will promote any walking news sent to him

## Walking News

- Ironbridge Walking Festival 30<sup>th</sup> April-8<sup>th</sup> May
- Bishops Castle Walking Festival - programme at [www.walkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.walkingfestival.co.uk) May7-15
- Much Wenlock Walking Weekend September 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>
- Wellington Walking Festival September 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>
- Festivals further afield: [www.walkingpages.co.uk/events/festivals](http://www.walkingpages.co.uk/events/festivals)
- Ludlow P3 group published 10 walks - at printers
- Brown Clee interpreted war walk - provisional date August 13<sup>th</sup>
- Simon Evans Way interpreted walk from Detton August 7<sup>th</sup>
- Mayflower 400 Anniversary - repeat of walk Brockton to Shipton including tea and tour of Shipton Hall (4 children baptised at Shipton church sent on the Mayflower in 1620, Richard More who survived lived until 1696, the longest survivor of the voyage) during Much Wenlock Walking weekend