

Festival of Walks Working Group

Notes of Meeting 1

Date & Time: 10 October 2019, 9:30am Venue: Castle Park, Frodsham

Present: Liz Kenny Sue Kellett, Peter Webley, Kath Gee

Apologies: C Ashton

1 Group Membership

The Group noted that Tony Hinkins had resigned and noted their thanks for his hard work over a number of years. Tony intends to participate in forthcoming Festivals as a walker.

The membership of the group was discussed. It was agreed to approach a number of people who have led walks in the past to ask if they would be willing to get more involved testing routes and acting as back markers/ second persons on walks in addition to leading some walks (IK, KF, LM, KP & AG).

Janet Nichols had agreed again to look after the Festival of Walks Facebook page and it was agreed that Liz would liaise closely with Janet to keep her informed and advised on what was required.

It was decided to approach two people (MM and RN) to see if they would be willing to join the Working Group.

2 Length and Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will be held on Thursdays 9.30-11.30am, with an aim of doing as much as possible by email to reduce the need for meetings.

3 Date of 2020 Festival of Walks

After discussion of the impact of the changed date of the Early Spring bank holiday from the first Monday in May to Friday 8 May to commemorate the VE Day anniversary, it was agreed that the usual timing of the Festival be put back a week and the length reduced by one day, giving dates of Saturday 2 May – Sunday 10 May 2020. This will maximise the opportunity for working people to participate as five of the nine days will a holiday or weekend.

It was agreed to publicise this change of dates through the Festival of Walks website and to inform last year's walk leaders as a courtesy.

4 Feedback/Lessons from Sandstone Ridge Walk and Ride Festival

Kath will report after the feedback meeting.

5 Walks Leaflet

The Group had been asked by FTC's Events Committee to consider using the West Cheshire Walking Festival (WCWF)'s publicity brochure to publicise the walks instead of producing our own.

There was careful discussion of the pros and cons of this but it was decided to continue to produce an independent leaflet for the following reasons:

- The WCWF only covers walks in the CWAC area. The aim of the Frodsham Festival of Walks has always been to introduce Frodsham people to new walking opportunities in the area. As Frodsham is on the north west boundary of the borough, limiting walks to West

Cheshire would rule out walks in Warrington, Halton, Cheshire East and North Wales, which have been a popular feature of previous festivals.

- The WCWF takes place throughout May. Although the 2020 FFOW will fall wholly in May, this is not normally the case (in 2019 only 6 out of 10 days fell in May).
- In 2019 3,000 WCWG leaflets were produced, of which an unknown but relatively small number were distributed in Frodsham. We could offer to contribute to the cost of a larger print run, but this would be less cost-effective than producing our own leaflets.
- Regular FFOW participants look out for our leaflets and would be disappointed if they were discontinued.

It was agreed to continue to submit FFOW walks for inclusion in the WCWF leaflet and noted that the deadline for submission of details had been brought forward this year to 3 January 2020. It was felt that this was too early and it was agreed to ask for the deadline to be extended to 10 January.

6 Issues arising from review meeting for 2019 Festival

Deferred.

7 Walk Ideas

Two Trails Walk (cancelled last year due to weather) – move to second Saturday – LM

Whitegate Way Walk (cancelled last year due to weather) – KF

Heath Walks (Tuesday and 2 routes on Wednesday)

Highlights of Frodsham (date to be agreed with AG as previously held on last Monday)

Snicketts of Helsby or Kingsley – KP

North Wales Walk – PD

Bird Walks – BM

Helsby Dog Walk

Buggy Push (PH & TH willing to run again)

Windfarm Walk – CA to approach Peel Energy

Weaver / Bluebell Walk – SK – will need to be first weekend otherwise bluebells will be over
Nordic Walking

Other ideas:

Hilbre Walk (SK to approach JC regarding tides and practicality)

Dawn Chorus Walk

Bat Walk

Foxhill – KG willing to repeat walk from Sandstone Trail Festival)

WW2 Bunkers (approach Pam Bradley to see if CWAC might allow access for a visit)

Yoga Walk

Pub Walk around Kelsall?

8 Dog Walks

Consider approaching "Paws on Parade" organisers after their sponsored fancy dress dog walk on 2 November from the Halton Haven shop in Frodsham to the Hornsmill pub in Helsby.

9 Banners

Although some of the banners are a bit scruffy, they are OK for at least one more year. SK's husband has offered to carry out any necessary running repairs.

10 Next Meeting

Thursday 31 October at 9.30am

Action List

1. Approach RN and MM to invite them to join the Group PW, CA
2. Accept JN's offer to look after Facebook page and arrange briefing session LK
3. Approach IK for additional assistance with walk planning, etc CA
4. Approach KF, LM, KP & AG for additional assistance with walk planning, etc PW
5. Put information on FOW Facebook page about the revised dates and notify last year's walk leaders as a courtesy. LK
6. Report back to next meeting on SRW&RF (see attached notes) KG
7. Contact WCWF and ask for extension of deadline for Frodsham walks LK
8. Liaise with LM & KF regarding Two Trails and Whitegate Way Walks dates PW
9. Liaise with AG re date of Highlights of Frodsham walk PW
10. Liaise with KP over date & location of Snickets walk PW
11. Approach PD & JC re N Wales and Hilbre walks – ask to contact LK to agree details SK
12. Contact BM re Marshes bird walks and JD re Dawn Chorus walk LK
13. Start planning Helsby Dog Walk and approach Peel Energy re windfarm walks CA
14. Agree date and route for buggy push with PH and Nordic Walking with Kerley LK
15. Contact Pam Bradley to enquire about access to bunker LK
16. Think about options for Yoga Walk KG/CA