

Festival of Walks Working Group

Notes of Meeting 11

Date & Time: 15 May 2019, 9:30am Venue: Castle Park, Frodsham

Present C Ashton (chair), S Kellett, K Gee, P Webley, Liz Kenny

Apologies: T Hinkins

1 General Feedback

The two walks scheduled for Saturday 27 April were cancelled for safety reasons due to high winds, and the PCSO walk was cancelled bad weather and lack of support.

A total of 656 people attended the remaining walks (with figures still outstanding from 1 walk), an average of 23.4 per walk. The highest attendance of a was at Walk 31: The Frodsham Hills Challenge Walk and the lowest (2) at Walk 10: Early Evening Meal at Oswalds. This is down on last year's recorded total of 874.

63% of walkers came from Frodsham (39%), Helsby (15%) or surrounding villages (9%). The furthest flung walker hailed from Bath.

2 Feedback on individual walks

The group reviewed detailed feedback from walk leaders and other specific feedback received.

The wind farm walks had been very educational, with good feedback, and it was hoped that Peel Energy would agree to make them a regular feature of the Festival.

Attendance on the bird walks had been lower than in previous years. The efforts of the volunteers who stood in for Bill Morton were much appreciated, but it was hoped that Bill would be available for next year's Festival.

The dog walks were popular, and it was agreed to consider having more next year.

The Treasure Trail in the Park had been very successful should be repeated.

Evening walks had been well-attended, so it was agreed to aim for more next year.

3 Thank-you letters

Liz was asked to send the Working Group's thanks to all of the walk leaders, and to those who had provided treats for the dog walks.

4 Issues to be addressed for 2020 Festival

- Develop a clear protocol/process for cancelling walks where necessary and publicising the cancellation to avoid people being disappointed and travelling unnecessarily.
- Aim to get some of the walk leaders more involved (eg joining the FOW Working Group, advance surveying of walk routes or acting as second person on additional walks).
- Review again the provision of basic first aid kits for walk leaders.
- Ensure more leaders involved in final walk of Festival due to high number of walkers.

5 Any other business

Liz reported that the Frodsham U3A Photography Group had agreed to judge the Festival of Walks photography competition and that Boots in Frodsham had donated a prize of a photo panel.

Liz was asked to report the condition of the footpath at Pickerings Lock.

6 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 October 2019 at 9.30am in Castle Park House.