

Frodsham Festival of Walks Planning Group

Meeting 4 – 8 January 2021

Held by Zoom

Present:

Cllr Caroline Ashton

Kath Gee

Sue Kellett (part)

Martin Maris

Ross Nichols

Peter Webley

Apologies: Sue Kellett (who was able to join part way through)

Admin: Liz Kenny

1. Notes of Last Meeting

Accepted with the removal of a duplication in the list of self-led walks. The corrected list is:

1. **Around the Hills** – taken from *Frodsham Parish Paths*. It takes in Overton Hill, Dunsdale Hollow, Woodhouse Hill, Crowmere, Marlpits, Frodsham Caves and the Memorial Field.
2. **1Thirty Blue Plaques** – devised by Kath Gee (see attached)
3. **Weaver Woods Walk** – kindly devised and supplied by The Woodland Trust
4. **Frodsham Woods Walk** – kindly devised and supplied by The Woodland Trust
5. **Castle Park Walk** – to be devised by Kath Gee incorporating historical and environmental aspects of the Park.
6. **Walk 8** – taken from *Walks Around Frodsham*. It includes the Swing Bridge, Aston, Dutton Lock, Catton Hall and Frodsham Bridge
7. **Helsby Hill & Woodhouse Hillfort** – a circular walk from *Cheshire Walks* kindly provided by Neil Oxley (see attached leaflet).
8. **Hob Hey Wood Walk** – to be devised by the Hob Hey Wood Friends Group.

Action: Liz to update and recirculate the notes of the December meeting.

2. Report Back on Website and Social Media

Liz reported that she had contacted FTC's web designer and he had confirmed that he would be able to develop a section of the FTC website to host information about the virtual Festival of Walks. This would utilise the structure of the existing website but could have a short and distinctive web address to enable people to access it easily. The work could be accommodated within the existing FTC website maintenance contract, so would not incur any additional costs. The content could be developed as the walk leaflets are finalised, with any distinctive design elements incorporated as required at a later date.

The plan would be to approach the designer who has produced the Festival of Walks leaflets in recent years for a quote to design the individual self-led walk leaflets in a clear and consistent style. This design would include a Festival logo (based on the walking boot motif used in previous years) and a colour palette which could also be used on Festival social media pages and web pages.

Peter drew the Group's attention to the InFrodsham website walks section <https://www.infrodsham.uk/walking-routes> which is an excellent source of local walking routes. It was **AGREED** to liaise with the owner of the InFrodsham website for assistance in publicising the Festival of Walks self-led walk routes when the planning work is more advanced. It was further **AGREED** to make use of Frodsham Nub News for publicity at the appropriate time.

Martin reported that he had taken advice and that an Instagram would be a good way of encouraging people to share photographs taken on the walks. Liz explained that she was not familiar with Instagram nor would she have the time to manage an Instagram account in addition to the FTC social media accounts, but she would look into the practicalities of setting up an account to be managed on a day-to-day basis by Martin and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Liz to contact the designer for a quote report back on this and the practicalities of setting up an Instagram account.

3. Around the Hills walk

Peter and Sue had planned to walk this route together as their daily exercise, in line with current COVID-19 guidance, but due to weather conditions they have deferred it for the time being. The Group **AGREED** that it was important not only to comply with the regulations but also to avoid walking in adverse conditions, with the potential risk of accidents which would put unnecessary strain on the emergency services. Everyone was committed to following the spirit as well as the letter of the regulations.

Action: Peter and Sue to test walk this but only when and if it is safe to do so.

4. Castle Park Walk

Kath has circulated a draft of the text of this walk which she has devised. The aim of the walk is to help people exercising in the park appreciate more about its history and interesting features. She has already incorporated feedback from several Group members and will circulate a final version when she had discovered the date that the Arts Centre gates were installed. It was **AGREED** to name the walk "Castle Park Rediscovered".

Action: Kath to circulate the final text of the Castle Park and Frodsham Blue Plaque walks.

5. Weaver Valley Walk

This walk is based on walk no 8 in the 2011 edition of the FTC "Walks Around Frodsham" booklet. Peter and Sue had walked the route and Sue had circulated a draft and received feedback from Group members, as a result of which she had incorporated several changes. Caroline asked that her photograph of Boden's Lock be included.

Action: Sue to review final comments from other Groups members and incorporate those she feels appropriate in a final version.

6. Safety Guidelines

Action: Liz will review safety information from previous years' festivals and circulate some suggestions of what might be appropriate this year for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Caroline notified the group of the sad news of the death of Joe Beswick. The Group spoke fondly of Joe and his immense local knowledge and huge input and enthusiasm for using, maintaining and encouraging others to use Frodsham footpaths.

It was **AGREED** to dedicate this series of walks to Joe's memory as a mark of appreciation of the work he has done for Frodsham.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 5 February 2021 at 9.30am by Zoom.

Action: Liz to pull together a work programme with deadlines to bring to the next meeting.