

## EAST YORKSHIRE AND DERWENT AREA COUNCIL

**21 June 2015**

The AC supporting documents can be downloaded as a zipped folder from the Events page of the website, for the information of those who are not on the area circulation list.

As I shall not be present at the group committee meeting, please feel free to email or phone me for any further information.

Key points of interest that are not detailed in the supporting documents follow.

1 East Riding working parties. The council's Access Manager, Patrick Wharam, gave a brief talk. In view of Scarborough group's involvement with the NYMNP, I felt the key points would be of interest for comparison.

ER have been running a volunteer scheme for ten years, with Beverley and York groups involved from the outset.

With the cutbacks in finances, ER have found it more economic, effective and efficient to employ outside contractors to carry out major work. Fieldside paths are being cut twice a year. (ER would welcome reports of fields that have been missed, so that they can be sure of including them in following years.)

The volunteer programme is being stepped up, with a preference for small teams of two, three or four trained people to continue to operate independently at pre-arranged sites, with travel expenses paid if required. Typical work is waymarking (parties are left largely to their own initiative with this), signposting and clearing short stretches of plant growth (typically not more than ten metres).

ER are favouring Ramblers for this work, as ER will not provide insurance cover for the volunteers, and the RA do.

It was nuanced (but not stated specifically) that although ER acknowledge that NYCC's financial cutbacks have been more severe, ER believe their response to their own reduced circumstances has been far more effective in protecting the service.

2 Finances. Area will have an unexpectedly large surplus of £11,000 at the end of the year. Figures supplied to Central Office will be accordingly adjusted, so that the area's allotment from central funds will be reduced in the coming year.

Although Driffild group closed about two years ago, one member remained registered with the non-existent group. As Central Office allots £95 per group, plus a few pence per member, to the area, £95 and change has been paid twice to area, despite the circumstances being explained. Area has now remedied this by (I believe) re-assigning the member.

3 Group reports. Pocklington are devising a new link path between the start/end of the Cleveland Way in Helmsley and the start/end of the Yorkshire Wolds Way in Filey. The last stage to be walked was to Rillington (They are walking, I believe west-east). I later noted that on Wednesday September 16, the area programme shows that they have a 12-mile linear walk on a "new regional route" from Ganton to Filey and I suppose this could be the final stage. (I see, incidentally, that this walk also appears in the Yorkshire Wolds Walking and Outdoors Festival booklet. As Filey is in Scarborough's area, and the town has clearly been included in the festival, has any thought been

given to coordinating a couple of walks between Scarborough's programme and the festival in future years? New members from Filey wouldn't come amiss.)

4 Big Pathwatch (A few points) 537 random squares in the EY&D area have been identified by the national Pathwatch team as essential ones for completion, as the area's contribution to ensuring that the national survey has a statistically sound content. These have been notified to group secretaries or footpaths officers for action in their own group areas. However, there is no need to complete "blank" squares from the samples, as these are being identified and completed by area to lessen the load.

Invitations to outside groups to participate have been centrally coordinated by groups within the East Riding area.

There is no limit to the number of people who can survey/resurvey a square, or the number of times, that a square can be resurveyed.

If you take a photograph on a smartphone (using the facilities in the app) for inclusion in the report, the photo will not be stored on your phone, so if you require one for your own purposes, you need to take a second shot.

*Personal notes:*

*As members will know, one bridleway in Seamer has been inadvertently left off the OS mapping and therefore off the survey map, but it seems sensible to include it if (as I have already done) you survey the square, particularly as it is under threat. (It does appear on the NYCC online rights of way map, so no puzzlement should occur at County Hall.)*

*In the case of the old Scarborough borough area, I have deliberately ignored the instructions to record only statutory paths, and have also included paths that arguably would be rights of way if NYCC had not been so dilatory. As the reports are being automatically sent to local authorities every fortnight from July 27, this will at least attempt to send a pointed message to NYCC, without affecting the integrity of the survey.*

*Surveying with a smartphone is a very simple operation. I haven't rechecked the count, but (for example) I believe that on the 19.07.15 walk, the route was the only right of way on six of the squares, so I was able to log all of these on the Pathwatch server during the walk. Time spent: probably two minutes for each square.*

5 Area officers Area council is seeking volunteers to act as chairman, secretary and minutes secretary.

6 Area AGM The area AGM will be held on Saturday January 23 2015. I confirmed our offer to host the meeting.

Harry Whitehouse  
22.07.15

## **Webmaster's report, Group Committee 30 July 2015**

■Traffic continues to grow steadily on the website.

■At a rough count, we now have more than 220 maps and/or gpx files of group walks on the website. I would like to devise a means of showing the start point of these walks on a map, for leaders (particularly new ones) who are seeking inspiration. As always though, I try not to add any features whose maintenance would be so time-consuming that I will be deterred from doing it promptly, so for the present this remains an ambition rather than a commitment.

■The group's Twitter account now has 127 followers.

■The email circulation list now has 111 members. Weekly circulars are sent to these subscribers, as well as to members of the group's Yahoo message board.

Harry Whitehouse