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Group officers have been invited to provide copies of their reports to the branch committee for archiving on the website, for information of members and the public. The following have been received.

Group committee meeting 19 March 2015

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Council, 24 February 2015

1 Chairman: Following the resignation of Dany Wlodarczyk as chairman, Chris Bush, a former chairman, was co-opted to the council and elected to the chair.

2 General Council: Members will have noted the consultation document about future RA governance, which will be discussed at Annual Council. (The modified proposals have been added to the national website since the Area Council meeting.) The only aspect raised at Area Council was the proposal for one-man-one-vote election of trustees, and there was concern about the likely expense of this.

3 Pathwatch: Members may have seen reports during the past few months of discussions of the national Pathwatch scheme.

This is reportedly being financed with a £300,000 donation from Ramblers' Holidays Charitable Trust and will be launched at General Council this month, to get under way in June.

By October, Central Office hopes that every right of way (and potential right of way) in the country will have been visited and its condition logged.

The intention is that areas/groups should involve other bodies and non-members if possible, with one person or team having responsibility for an individual grid square.

Logging the results will be very simple, as this can be done instantly with a smart phone app, avoiding the laborious manual re-transcription of data when it is added to the national database, although a paper-based alternative will also be available.

A full-time officer at Central Office has been holding discussions with organisations representing local authority rights-of-way officials.

Details have not been *officially* announced at the time of writing, and the above is a brief summary of information gained from the reports that have been emerging. Two Area Council representatives have been invited (and have been chosen) to attend a conference in Birmingham next month to discuss local implementation.

4 Area membership: The total on January 31 was 1686, an increase of 5 in the past 12 months. This included 26 new members who joined in January. Group numbers: Beverley 351, GYBO 104, Howden and Goole 57, Hull and Holderness 160, Pocklington 178, Ryedale 151, Scarborough 118, York 546, Unattached 19.

Although more than 700 of these members have registered email addresses, only 85 (an increase of 25 in the year) have opted for e-delivery of documents.

Harry Whitehouse

Webmaster's report, Group Committee 17 March 2015

■Traffic to the website continues to grow steadily, particularly on Sunday evenings, when walk reports are published. On two occasions during the past month, we have been close to recording 100 visits on these occasions.

Whenever possible, I am including a brief video in walk and news reports, and all 23 existing videos can be seen on the group's Youtube channel.

■I have carried news reports of the apparent conclusion to the Folkton bridleway saga. Although this is still open to appeal on procedural grounds, the fact that the landowners have removed the discouraging notice, and on our later visit, left the electric gate unsecured, seems to indicate surrender.

■Although Seggimire Lane, Ugglebarnby, is outside our group's area, we do walk there, so I have been carrying regularly updated reports of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order, which would restrict vehicular use to motorcycles. I invited, and included, input from the experts on the Ramblers-FP board.

■The group's Twitter account now has 83 followers, and major accounts such as RamblersGB often forward our Tweets to thousands of others. I have not added any contributions to our Facebook page, as I realise that I cannot consistently devote the time to do this properly, and I hope that someone will eventually be able to take this over.

■Gary Malcolm has offered to create material for the website, and I have advised him on the acquisition of the free software required. I hope that eventually Gary or another interested party will be available to step in when I am away, and take over the site if I ever fail to outrun a bull.

■We now have 96 people on the website's email circulation list, and these receive weekly notifications, in addition to members of the Yahoo group message board.

■It was agreed that rights-of-way reports from our path surveys would be published on the website, for the information of our members and the public. Although this scheme was implemented a year ago, I have not received any reports, so the "score" on the web page remains at zero.

■If officers wish to forward their reports to committee to me, I would be pleased to archive them on the website, to help build a picture of the group's activities for the information of both current members and those who follow.

■Gary Malcolm has suggested that members be invited to submit reports and photographs of their independent walks, and I would be happy to provide space for this if anyone wishes to do so.

Harry Whitehouse