

Wrekin Forest Partnership

Notes of meeting, Thursday 12th May 2016, Wellington Library

Present:

Bob Coalbran, Wellington Walkers Are Welcome
Dave de Courcy, Shropshire Geological Society
Juliet Esp, Little Wenlock Parish Council
Pat Fairclough, Wellington Town Council
Janine Hayter, Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council
Brian Herring, Wellington LA21
Phil Holden, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Manager (Chair)
John Hughes, Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Julia Owen, Landowner, Leasows Farm
Robert Saunders, Wellington LA21
Cllr Jacqui Seymour, Telford & Wrekin Council

1. Welcomes and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Dag Saunders, Walkabout Wellington and Harry Vane, Raby Estates.

2. Notes of meeting 14th April 2016

These were accepted.

3. Proposed Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) for Wrekin area

John talked through work required to complete the stage 1 submission to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) by 31st May. A Partnership Agreement was required. He said TWC were interested in rural tourism. Juliet said that we don't want more tourism until the traffic problem is sorted. Robert said presumably work would be scheduled through the life of the scheme, with promotion activity later on. Joh had been talking to TWC Highways regarding designs and planning permission. It was reported that the traffic management scheme in Eaton Constantine works well. Visitors numbers on the Wrekin were thought to be pushing from 100,000/yr towards 120,000/yr, compared with 80,000/yr 10 years ago. There was a reminder that HLF's priorities are mainly about managing heritage and involving people in that, rather than economic.

Robert queried budgets for consultants and asked if local firms would be used. Written briefs for contracted work would form part of the development phase. Letters of support were welcome. The outcome of the application should be known in October.

4. Updates from partners

AONB Partnership – restructure proposals are still being discussed.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust – Licence has been issued for mobile catering at Forest Glen, to be run in-house. For SWT this provided income and a service to people, but also an opportunity to consult people and find out what they want. Planning permission for Halfway House had gone through.

Little Wenlock PC – Management of water was raised – streams, and holding areas.

LA21 – Explore the Weald Moors had been published. A project was going on to improve the pastures on Lightmoor Nature Reserve by spreading species-rich hay.

Walkers Are Welcome – Bob highlighted Wellington Walking Festival.

5. **AOB**

None

6. **Date of next meeting** - tbc.