

BMC AREA MEETING REPORT: Mon 20 April 2015

FOR SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

AREA: YORKSHIRE

1. **Location & Attendance:** Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley. 37 attendees signed in . . ? more actually present.
2. **BMC staff & Executive member(s) present:** Dave Turnbull, Carey Davies & Deirdre Collier
3. **New postholder(s) & situations vacant:**
Situations Vacant: Climbing Wall & Youth Outdoors Representatives
4. **Key issues discussed:**

Hill Walking

Yorkshire Area has said it doesn't want a 'normal' April Area Meeting & so it was felt to be an opportunity to hold a meeting with a difference & focus just on hill walking. There was no formal meeting agenda, just presentations followed by questions/answers/discussion.

Most of meeting attendees said they were hill walkers & c 12 were attending their first Area Meeting.

Presentations.

Presentations were made by Dave & Carey, Kathryn Beardmore, Director of Park Services at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) & Paul Redding, Yorkshire Area Hill Walking Rep.

Dave & Carey talked about the position re hill walking in the BMC, progress to date, issues & the future.

Kathryn Beardmore talked about Yorkshire Dales facts & figures, what's important to visitors, Green lanes & Traffic Regulation Orders, finances, the 3 Peaks Project, educating people, CRoW & organisational priorities.

She also said that the YDNPA is considering disposing of some assets & in this context Crookrise Crag was mentioned – potentially of interest to the BMC.

Paul Redding introduced himself as the Area Hill Walking Rep & the focus for hill walking issues in Area. He asked people to contact him re any hill walking issues & said he was trying to look at opportunities for hill walkers in the Area.

Issues raised.

Mountain biking & trail riding – destructive effects & need to constantly dodge speeding riders. BMC response is that if these emerge as big issues for walkers within the BMC then the BMC will take up the matter.

Kathryn Beardmore said that she was not aware that mountain biking was causing problems in the Yorkshire Dales & that the YDNPA tried to encourage mountain biking there. A YDNPA volunteer said education was important & that when he came across cyclists on footpaths he would explain the position & that generally the response was positive.

Motor vehicles. – Comment that the BMC doesn't support the stance taken against recreational motor vehicles. BMC position is currently a neutral one re legal use of motor vehicles on byways & un-surfaced unclassified roads (green lanes).

However, In the light of the strength of feeling expressed Dave Musgrove undertook to investigate the history of the BMC position and if necessary have the issue re-examined via the Access Management Group.

Potential hill walkers. Comment that BMC should try to reach those who don't participate in hill walking. Barriers to participation noted – BME, Mental Health issues, underprivileged backgrounds etc.

Charity walks & their impact

Climbing – Threshfield Quarry. After little progress for some time & an apparent reluctance to allow rock climbing a plan is now being prepared which will co-ordinate the various interests & model where everything might go. The person co-ordinating the plan is very positive about rock climbing & so it is hope some progress may now be made.

Completed by: Deirdre Collier.