

BMC AREA MEETING REPORT: 3rd June 2020

FOR SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

MIDLANDS AREA

1. Location & Attendance:

Via ZOOM. Maximum attendance was 42, of whom 36 were present for 85% of the meeting, putting Midlands Area in top 3 for attendance! Only 3 attendees stayed for less than 50% of the meeting. 11 of the attendees (26%) were female.

2. BMC staff & Executive member/s present:

Lynn Robinson (President), Jane Thompson (Clubs & Volunteers Officer), Chris Stone (Council Nominated Director), Cressida Allwood (Chair of Equity), James McHaffie (Equity Officer).

3. Key issues discussed:

- COVID-19 restrictions and their eventual lifting, esp with regards to huts.
- What the Equity Steering Group have and are doing.
- Possibilities of getting to our Club huts soon
- Sources of information on crag access issues.
- Regional Council meetings since we last met in November.

4. Bullet points for highlighting to the National Council:

- Results of the **online meeting poll**, completed by 29 people, were as follows:-
 - 14 (48%) had never been to an Area meeting before.
 - 29 (100%) would like to have the option to attend Area Meetings online in future.
 - 17 (59%) especially liked being able to ask questions of BMC staff & volunteers.
 - 15 (52%) especially liked to hear information / discussion on local access matters
 - 23 (79%) especially liked hearing directly from BMC staff & volunteers about BMC activities/projects
 - 14 (48%) especially liked meeting / chatting with fellow BMC members
 - 10 (34%) especially liked getting an update from the ODG
 - 12 (41%) especially liked being able get information & discuss local club matters
 - 18 (62%) especially enjoyed presentations and talks from guest speakers.
- One member raised the issue of bringing dismantled or disused railway lines back into use, where practicable for walking, cycling or horseback activities, mentioning the Dowery Dell Trail, the Black Country Cycle-Walk Mudway and the Stonebridge Railway. He wondered whether the BMC might be able to offer some kind of 'support' for these efforts but we wait to hear what exactly he means by this. One of the Area reps is liaising with him to see if we can clarify this.
Completed By: John Edwards