



Peak Area Meeting

Venue: Dorrie Platts Hall, Bamford, Hope Valley S33 0DY

Time & Date: 7pm, Tuesday 26th April 2022

Minutes

Attendees: 27

If anything to be discussed on this agenda gives rise to a conflict of interest for anyone, please declare it at the start of the meeting.

Apologies: Paul Justin, Bev England, Vikki Hughes and Austin Knott

1. Welcome & Introduction – Andy Reeve at 7.29pm

Relief to be seeing everyone in person! Few changes to the agenda, transport at 2.1 and can add AOB if there is any. Quiz at the end, good prize pile. Chips too!

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th January

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?view=report&id=4313>

Any corrections? I can give people about 5 secs to read through them.

No corrections.

2.1 Sustainable transport. Louise Hawson and Cath Flitcroft

CF - Access Officer, introduced herself. Transport in protected landscape is an issue. Want to see better, requires concentration and thought. Snowdonia recent proposals- no cars. Shuttle bus service and providing more car parks. It's going to take 5-10 years to get there and in a consultation phase currently. Lakes looking at park and ride schemes. Some aspects sound good, but in the Peak there is potential for our members access to be restricted and/or made more difficult. Looking to find the balance. From a policy point of view - new environment and sustainability policy. Seeking to reduce the footprint of transport, using web conferencing when we can, can attend meetings via public transport etc. We then need to develop a sustainable transport policy - BMC need a vision and a policy. There's a random assortment of experts from around the country, helping put together the vision. They will help shape what it will look like. We want to use the local area network, like yourselves. It's a meaty topic – I'm sure Louise is very excited! I've come up with 4 questions for you to consider shortly.



LH: I'm one of the access reps in the Peak. Chair the sustainability working group. At local level, we are seeing a set of moves and initiatives towards looking at sustainable transport in the park and looking at honey pot sites - such as cars in villages, parking, not enough parking at peak times. Conversations are going on at all levels. Local initiative DFT- fund a feasibility study, what could we do in Hope Valley? Looking at what they can put into practice. They can't change roads but they can encourage organisations. Spoke about a car-free day in Stanage, now looking across the whole Hope Valley. If we do something on Stanage it might be more of a celebration. There are other areas that can be more easily closed without having the same impact on others trying to access the peaks. Curbar Gap has been mentioned- will talk about in future meetings.

Derbyshire County Council are very keen on electric bikes and electric cars. Creating hubs to charge your bike, electric car charging networks, a lot of challenges with that, the infrastructure to do it is not in place. There's a bus service improvement plan, they've got about 50% of what they asked for. Wait and see what the impact of that is. Looking at cycle routes, spine cycle route down the Hope Valley. Really interesting. Sheffield County Council are doing a lot on it but not as much on rural access. I'd love a better cycle network from Sheffield.

Comment: Cycle Sheffield do a lot of commenting on inner city plans, it might be worth linking up with them

PDNP are trying to do a lot but they are lacking staff. Really supportive when other people want to do stuff. There is a lot going on, really interesting opportunities.

CF – Question 1: Are there already areas accessible without a car in the Peak?

A: Better for walkers than it is for climbers. I have a friend who's 18 and he put together a tick list on UK Climbing for all bus times from central Sheffield.

HF: A simple suggestion that isn't new, is to extend the service to Burbage North. It has been tried before, told it can't happen before. It's a simple solution.

CF: The BMC funded the Stanage bus, whether it was useful, I don't know.

Henry Folkard: It stopped too early in the day. The National Park and Derbyshire County Council subsidised it. The driver didn't always choose the route. People need to know it's there and it needs to be consistent.

Comment: What size of bus was it?

Answer: Single decker.



Comment: If that was started could it be started as a mini bus?

Comment: You're all talking about transport in and out of Sheffield. What about London- it's the closest NP to London. I would think you're a very small percentage. It's the tip of the iceberg. It would only sort a very small problem.

Sam Harris: I live in Ashbourne. It's a 20 min drive, it's 1hr on the bus.

Comment: It depends how far people are going to walk. I've heard of people coming via train, I've picked people up who have been on the trains. It's about an hour's walk from Hathersage.

CF – Question 2: are there important areas where we should be focussing on (making car free)?

PJ: The only way to make this possible is to actually block roads.

Comment: Are there some communities that don't have cars? Student clubs etc were places where there were ways of finding access without cars. I live on this side of Dronfield: large numbers of students? Walking along the pavement. Not the nicest places in the Peak. Possibly getting trains? The other thing I notice all the time is the bus stops are heaving. Sometimes you're driving by thinking you could take them in the car and wonder if they could fit on one bus. There are loads of people using the bus.

Comment: No bus service is going to cover all places you want to go climbing in the Peak.

Comment: We've all forgotten something important, blocking cars coming in to the area. We need to consider small businesses, they rely on people coming in their cars from far afield to spend money. It's not just walkers and climbers and outdoors sport people. Other people come here and we need to consider that.

Comment: Could we encourage the NP to put on an electric bus?

LH: Hathersage Council are very keen for something like that. There's a lot of talk for using Hope Station, talk encouraging trains to allow people to take their bikes. We're not going to fix it all, trial and error.

Comment: There is a follow on from what Paul says, if those rail stations have rentable electric bikes, they could rent them, get away from stations, have their ride and then come back.



Comment: Needs to be economically/financially attractive. Most people at the end of the day, won't use public transport when it's cheaper to drive and park. I think they had to stop the bus service before because it was too expensive.

CF: The Lakes works, they reduce the fare, if they didn't break even the NP said they would cover it. The Lakes have a very different travel pattern to the Peak though, which is much more complex.

Comment: There's been a few comments about car-free zones. Yosemite works but only because very few people live there. What we really could do, with fuel prices going up, car sharing could be really popular with the increase in fuel prices. Now is the time to go to our membership and create a system within the BMC, huge numbers of people come from further away, share a car, share a cost.

CF: The BMC has a lift share site - <http://liftshare.com/uk/community/bmc>

Comment: Probably had it a while, most people aren't aware of it.

Comment: Now Covid is over, clubs need to start and try and get car shares going again. Clubs to take responsibility.

HF: Parking is one of the biggest reasons landowners get frustrated.

CF – Question 3: There has been a shift in the BMC, in terms of area meetings, do we feel that these are more accessible by public transport? Is there a sense that we are doing a bit more?

Comment: I think the problem is that you might be doing it, but you need to shout about it a bit more.

CF: Why was this venue chosen?

AR: Public access was a consideration.

CF: The environmental policy will be visible very soon and sets out our vision. There will be a sustainable transport policy. Carbon Footprint report: we are making real changes. Will be visible soon.

HF: Can we say thanks to Louise for doing all this work. It's not the only thing she does, it's great that we are being involved in the discussions. Let us know if you need more support - applause.

CF: Email me if you would like to be involved.



Comment: One question? Have you thought of getting rid of Summit magazine? Or don't promote BMC Ambassadors climbing abroad?

Paul Davies: We are going to give people a choice. Some people like the paper version. Better to ask people what they would like.

Comment: Summit is a great showcase. But the BMC website is the opposite!

CF: If you do visit the website, look on Sustainable Steps. Always adding new content and articles. Good food for thought. <https://thebmc.co.uk/sustainable-steps>

PD: the only good thing about the website is that it is indexed really well. A Google Search will always drop you at the right page.

3. Clubs Update

Paul Justin not here: Andy Reeve read statement.

BMC Peak Area Clubs Report, April 2022

Another of the Peak Area clubs network meetings was held on the 14th March. These zoom sessions provide an opportunity for clubs to discuss and share experiences around areas of common interest. They are continuing to be quite popular and the plan is to hold another 2-3 this year. These sessions run in several BMC areas. As well as providing an opportunity for clubs to talk to each other, they are a direct link for the BMC to hear what is important for clubs and their members.

At a national level, the BMC has already run three webinars for clubs in 2022 as part of the Find Your Adventure campaign to help clubs grow membership. Further webinars are planned later in the year.

Consultation is in progress for some modifications of the rules for clubs to affiliate to the BMC to be proposed at the AGM in May. The modifications are aimed to widen the opportunity to affiliate to a broader range of clubs who participate in mountaineering. Following broad approval from the Board and Members' Council, the changes were reviewed at the March BMC open forum and are now out for consultation with the clubs.

AR: If you have any questions ask Paul.

4. Hillwalking Update - Peter Judd

PJ: Hills 2 Oceans - having another Million Mile Clean-up and the BMC is seeking to do a Million Mile Mountain Clean-up 15-23rd May. For that period you can get free litter pickers and bags from the BMC. I already have litter pickers, if you would like to borrow



them you are more than welcome. Might try and organise something along Mam Tor. Keep an eye on Facebook.

Austin has been doing Staffordshire Moorland Walking Festival, taking place at the moment. I'm doing a walk to contribute, promoted as a BMC Walk, Friday 29th April, Dane Valley area. Look on <https://staffsmoorlandswalkingfestival.co.uk/>

4.1 BMC Area Walk/ Future Walk

An Area Great Ridge and Ringing Roger Walk is being considered to celebrate Mend our Mountains project funded work being completed on Great Ridge last summer and also re-visit Ringing Roger where work was completed by the first Mend our Mountains campaign some years ago too. Keep an eye out for an announcement soon.

4.12

Cairns and Stone Piles

Rock Towers:

Love or Loathe them? Most vote that they loathe them.

Shocked at how many of them are starting to appear on Back Tor (Great Ridge) recently. Rocks being gathered from cairns or walls. The wall is a legacy from a deer park division. Controversy about cairns and these rock piles. Strong feeling that these should not be encouraged. Ruining a habitat. Disturbing living creatures. If you know people or friends doing this, ask them whether it is really a good thing to do.

Water Cum Jolly - permissive path. Currently closed, damage to the footbridge. Problematic sorting the funding to get it repaired. Obstacle to get up to the Monsal Trail.

Comment: Is there more than one access point?

PJ: No, wrong bridge.

4.13

Spirit of Kinder, Hayfield

Last weekend was the 90th anniversary of the Kinder Mass Trespass. This trespass was a significant event that led to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. A "Spirit of Kinder" celebration was held at Hayfield, BMC Peak Area had some small involvement in the organisation of that with Henry and Peter attending and looking after a stall on the BMC's behalf.

Caroline Lucas the Green MP was a speaker and Kate Ashwood (Open Spaces Society), both spoke. Caroline was asking to extend the provisions of the Countryside and Rights



of Way Act to include woodland, grasslands, and the green belt. We should follow the lead given by Scotland.

Kinder in Colour

There was a trespass swim in Kinder reservoir and there were also hundreds of people of colour taken up on to Kinder to make the point that people of colour are not well represented in the outdoor community. Only 1% use national parks.

People who are not white find it difficult to access the countryside.

4.14 Kinder and High Peak Advisory Group

Henry has been appointed chair. Looking for room for improvement about footpaths/ rights of way. May be opportunity to have a substantial dialogue with National Trust.

4.2 Hiking Skills Webinars

BMC has created four hiking webinars, taking place over the next few weeks. Please point people who might benefit in their direction.

SH: where has this been advertised?

PJ: Facebook and website. Its £5 per session.

LH: Are they being recorded?

PD: They are going to be recorded. But not sure how you could access them.

PJ: Flowers

Limestone dales and the woodlands at the moment, torrent of wonderful flowers. Make sure you enjoy them.

Post Meeting Note:

Since the meeting we have discovered that anyone who signs up to a Hiking Essentials event will automatically receive access to the recording of the session, so even if you cannot attend at the time of the live broadcast you will still be able to view the entire session afterwards!

4 Access Update - Henry Folkard

4.1. General update

HF: Spirit of Kinder event very successful. 1k people there. Everything went off the BMC stand. People found out something new about the BMC. We could talk to Kate and Caroline, I told Caroline that she should join our parliamentary group. I'm



sending her a brief of points I made to her. She spoke well. At the event the new book on the Mass Trespass was launched, it's quite interesting. There are a few interesting points, the front cover is a picture of Bleaklow, not Kinder! It's the margins of meetings, not the meetings that are more important. The conversation we had with Craig Best was very constructive indeed, spoke a lot about Grouse. Will be reviewing their vision for the High Peak. We had constructive conversations on the Glover Report, the stuff that is going through parliament has the potential to be critical for our membership. The more we can do to resist it, the better. CROW (Right to Roam) mapping may be done by natural feature and access to woodlands. Where woodlands have been planted by public expense, we are likely to lose access to those areas. That is not acceptable.

The following day there was a wild swim in the reservoir. There were 300-400 people wild swimming. Marshalled by United Utilities and the police. Entirely positive.

Note from Hayfield Parish Council, they were pleased with the event.

There is an issue climbing at Cown Edge rocks, the land owner has withdrawn permission. It's above Glossop. Elsewhere nationally Rob Dyer has done a great job at Wildcat, we have saved access, access by abseil. Better than no access at all.

Cole Hill agreement, so that's positive.

The Needles (Isle of Wight), can do that now.

There are difficulties parking at Eric's Café (Tremadog), at loggerheads. Suing each other.

On a brighter note, positive sounds at Vixen Tor (Dartmoor). Things that have been ok for years can suddenly change, if a new manager or owner comes in. Volumes, lots of people going triggers access problems. As does how you broadcast it. Parking problems, litter problems, landowners put the shutters down, the best thing we can do is wait 18 months and hopefully we can go back again.

Comment: Apprentice Wall (Anton Stones Wood), the one next to the train track has a fence put up, the council have put signs up saying no climbing. It's unclear who owns the wood. Dangerous to climb.

Comment: Mike Adams would be the contact for that area.

Comment: Got links to photos I can send to him if someone can send me his email.

HF: To match Peters flowers, one single bulb of a snow drop was put up for auction, bidding started at 99p and finished at 1k.



Comment: We've given a lot of ground at Wildcat, could we have done more. Could have used the precedent that we have had access for a long time. Upper Tor is a gem of a crag and I'm disappointed with the outcome. No criticism of Rob, but the loss of the access to Wildcat is the biggest issue we've had in the Peak for years.

HF: It's English Law. There is nothing we can do if the landowner doesn't want us to have access. People in the local community lobbied, if the land owner says no, there's very little you can do about it. This argument was about child protection and that's very difficult to resist.

AR: Do you think if the current arrangements go well, might there be some room in the future to extend access?

HF: There might be, but they haven't been open to conversation. We have taken the view that it is better to work with them rather than against them.

Comment: Social Media is making it difficult to keep access quiet.

Bird Restriction Update - Kim Leyland

KL: Not many updates. Ring Ouzels aren't doing what they are supposed to be doing. Higgar Tor and Burbage Quarry south, although Burbage Quarry might be an old sign.

Not much going on, but hopefully they will start nesting soon.

Comment: Are a few late this year?

KL: Peregrines were a bit of a mix, Hidden Quarry, Moss Rake, Ravensdale have restrictions.

Comment: The birds nest miles away from the climbers. It seems mad to have restrictions up.

Comment: Moss Rake - there was a thing with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, they got involved.

HF: There's no formal access at Moss Rake anyway.

Comment: I think you need to be careful, if you have a Peregrine nest a mile away, the crag shouldn't be closed.

KL: Maybe, but I've had birds fly off whilst I've been putting signs up. It is one, where we thought we wouldn't need a restriction, but we do and it's a legal



situation. The RSPB and the police get involved we have to err on the side of caution.

Comment: A lot of climbers aren't knowledgeable enough to be able to make an informed decision and know about Peregrines.

KL: I do try to limit restrictions where possible. But I have seen the birds disturbed at Moss Rake.

Comment: Only realised when I saw the signs there after cycling in there, there were people riding motorcycles around. It doesn't say that its Peregrines nesting there, they're nice birds, people might listen more if they knew?

HF: People steal Peregrines and their eggs. Better for climbers not to get involved.

KL: In the Lakes they put up a list of crags that people need to avoid, in the Peak we can't do that as our crags are more accessible.

Comment: Yarnecliff: Sign asking you to stay out of the area?

KL: Tawny Owls or Kestrels, from National Trust.

5. Members' Council Update- Alison Cairns

AC: Report available on the BMC website

Google local area page and find the report if you are interested.

Tony is very efficient in our new guise at getting our minutes published.

Introduce Sam Harris in person. It's the first time I've met him. I'm Alison and been around a few years.

Briefly, 3 council meetings as standard in between the rounds of area meetings.

Currently looking at all the BMC policies, being reviewed at the moment. Participation Statement being reviewed first.

Council nominated directors, three directors from the board are council nominated and represent member's council on the board. Being on council is a lot of work and if you become council nominated director - it's a lot of work! How can we make that a more reasonable role? How can we succession plan? Also succession planning people coming on to council.

Ties in with work doing here, how can we support the areas generally? Not just in terms of area meetings, believe it or not even in our reduced attendance, we are still one of the best attended local areas in the meeting.



(PD confirms we are the best attended area meeting)

AC: We are still the best attended area meeting. Which is quite sad, when you look at how many are here compared to our membership.

It would be nice if area meetings were more representative of our membership. We are trying to increase communication with area officers, look at the issues, how we can make area meetings as well attended as possible, how we can engage our meetings.

Comment: Email and people knowing agendas and minutes is a big problem. GDPR is an excuse. I've been receiving the wrong emails. How many people would be offended if the BMC took our email addresses and then contacted us?

PD: GDPR is a problem, trying to not hide behind it and look at ways we can improve. Trying to implement, single sign on, improve the website. If you unsubscribe from one email you are removed from our system. Trying to get that fixed.

Comment: That's good, but that takes people to be proactive and be aware that that facility exists. Should have the email addresses from all the people at these meetings. Only places were seeing this is on UKC or UKB.

PD: If you're not receiving emails it's because you've unsubscribed.

Comment: Getting notifications for the wrong area.

PD: We need to get Emma at the BMC to sort that out for you. She knows this is a problem. Some is case by case, some is a system problem. Email Emma and ask to be put back on the list. Email me p.davies@thebmc.co.uk.

Comment: When I was secretary, I inherited a huge list of emails and sent emails to those people. I got told that we had to stop using that list, and once we started having to use the newsletter, attendance dropped.

PD: I agree, but it would be breaking the law.

Comment: Raise a point about volunteers not having BMC emails. People, Chairs, Secretaries should have BMC email addresses.

PD: Chris is trying to capture all these nuggets.

AC: This stuff is boring but for the BMC, it matters.

This is the sort of stuff that we deal with in Members Council. We spoke about other issues around area meetings, collaboration between areas, f2f, hybrid, zoom etc.



If anyone has any ideas on this please feed it back. Feed it back to Andy (Chair). How the area is organised is down to Andy and Sam.

Open Forum Meetings, discussed the participation statement.

BMC AGM Weds May 18th at 7pm

Comment: What's Clubs 2.0?

AC: Was in Paul's statement. Changing how easy it is for people to become BMC Clubs.

6. Any Other Business

All: Thanks to Andy for last 2 years on Zoom.

6.1 CEO Update: Paul Davies

PD: Membership is going up, income is going up, ahead of projections.

Pleased to report Sport England funding towards grassroots

Competitions around GB Climbing

Reforming Mountaineering - Putting the M back in the BMC

Gala dinner in Coventry 8/9 October. Watch this space, going to try and make that very good, big thanks for Volunteers.

Trying to do as much as we can around Ukraine.

7. Date and venue of next meetings - Andy Reeve

AR: 2 in person meetings and 2 in Zoom. Next meeting will be on zoom.

Comment: In person meetings are so much better.

PJ: I do think we need to take into account where some of our members live. Consider all of our members.

Comment: If Area Meetings are a way of engaging with membership, why is the budget so tight?

AR: Bring the meeting to a close at 9.30. I think your voices have been heard about meetings.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm