

HAMPSHIRE FOOTPATH, ACCESS AND WALKING ENVIRONMENT (FPAWE) COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY - WAY OF WORKING

1. The FPAWE needs to be clear on the way we meet the requirements placed on us by the Ramblers' Charitable Objectives, the Trustees of the Ramblers' Association, Ramblers Central Office and the Constitution of the Hampshire Area with regard to rights of way (RoW), access to the countryside and the protection and enhancement of the walking environment. Below is shown:

- a. What we want to do.
- b. How we are going to do it.
- c. How we know how we are getting on.

COORDINATION

2. What we want to do: Coordinate activities between the Ramblers Central Office (RCO)/Hampshire Area Council (HAC)/Hampshire County Council (HCC) authorities and the Hampshire Ramblers' Groups

3. How we are going to achieve this:

- a. Receive RCO and Area Footpath Circulars/communications/policy documents and HCC correspondence and where appropriate send them to Committee Members for information or action.
- b. Represent FPAWE at the quarterly meeting of HAC, providing a report to the HAC; contribute to the Annual General Meeting HAC report.
- c. Represent the HAC to external bodies on delegated matters.
- d. Forward significant items of concern raised by Groups to RCO/HAC/HCC.
- e. Coordinate RCO campaigns (e.g. Pathwatch) and any other HAC/HCC initiatives (e.g. BVPI surveys).

4. How we know how we are getting on:

- a. RCO/HAC/HCC and Group representatives view the coordination as being successful (e.g. no complaints are received).
- b. Any Best Practice Guidelines (see Para 9a) for these activities are being followed.

FPAWE COMMITTEE

5. What we want to do: Run an Effective Area FPAWE Committee

6. How we are going to achieve this:

- a. Arrange dates and accommodation for meetings; distribute an Agenda and associated papers to Committee members at least two weeks before the meeting, ensuring only topics appropriate to a meeting are included.
- b. Chair the meeting ensuring all agenda items are adequately covered within the prescribed time allowed (normally 2 hours).
- c. Take and distribute minutes within 4 weeks of the meeting.
- d. Ensure HCC/RCO/HAC speakers regularly attend committee meetings to discuss relevant topics.
- e. Keep an up-to-date list of committee members and the Groups they represent.

7. How we know how we are getting on:

- a. Agendas and minutes are sent within the time frame.
- b. Meetings cover all necessary business within the time frame.
- c. Speakers are invited periodically to meetings.
- d. Any Best Practice Guidelines (see Para 9a) for these activities are being followed.

BEST PRACTICE

8. What we want to do: Ensure all Committee members are aware of 'Best Practice'

9. How we are going to achieve this:

- a. Agree and produce Best Practice Guidelines that detail procedures for activities and where responsibilities lie.
- b. Discuss at FPAWE meetings ways of best tackling any identified procedural problems encountered by Groups to pool experience and knowledge.
- c. Where appropriate arrange lectures or training days on 'best practice' and any associated policy, e.g. the legislative framework in England.

10. How we know how we are getting on:

- a. Best practice guidelines produced and seen as helpful by Groups.
- b. The number lectures or training days that are arranged.
- c. The number of procedural problems discussed at FPAWE meetings.

KEEPING PATHS OPEN

11. What we want to do: Work in partnership with HCC Countryside Service and others (e.g. Parish Councils and Landowners) to keep our paths open

12. How we are going to achieve this:

- a. Encourage Groups to undertake a program of regular surveys on the condition of the RoW and report any problems identified to HCC through CAMS.
- b. Encourage Groups to undertake way-marking using fingerposts, way-marking posts or attaching way-markers to approved furniture.
- c. Encourage Groups to undertake vegetation clearance and other path maintenance.
- d. Encourage Groups to assist with the HCC stiles-to-gates exercise and the repair of path furniture.
- e. Maintain a list of the top key issues (e.g. half a dozen) at FPAWE Committee level; actively and regularly promote them to the higher levels of HCC.
- f. Maintain records at Group level of the activities undertaken by them (including hours spent).
- g. Seek out and/or implement innovative opportunities to keep paths open.
- h. Encourage Groups to liaise with Parish Councils and, where appropriate, with landowners, over RoW matters.
- i. Monitor both the extent of Access Land and the permitted temporary closures to ensure that the amount available is optimised.
- j. Monitor temporary path closure orders to ensure that the RoW are reinstated, repaired and re-opened in a timely manner.
- k. Make recommendations to the HAC and RCO on whether to initiate legal action to secure the protection and repair of RoW.

13. How we know how we are getting on:

- a. Best Practice Guidelines (see Para 9a) for these activities are being followed.
- b. The number of hours spent quarterly on Group RoW activities.
- c. The number of resolutions achieved on the key issue list.

CHANGES TO THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

14. What we want to do: Monitor and influence changes to the RoW Network

15. How we are going to achieve this:

- a. Keep a log of all path change proposals/requests/consultations, etc; record progress/status and produce a report to FPAWE committee members when appropriate; keep records of approved changes.

- b. Receive consultations and Orders from RCO, Local Authorities and public bodies on changes to RoW; send them to the relevant FPAWE Group representative and ensure a response on behalf of the Ramblers in accordance with RCO Policy.
- c. Encourage all Groups to identify all planning applications (including Statutory Plans) within their territory and to monitor, comment on and oppose where they either adversely affect RoW or are not in accordance with RCO policy.
- d. Recommend a policy on new building developments that protects existing RoW; develop and promote that policy with RCO/HAC/HCC/Districts.
- e. Receive Confirmed Orders from Central Office, and pass to the appropriate Group representative for information, monitoring and reporting back on implementation.
- f. Ensure Ramblers are represented at any public inquiries that adversely impact on RoW.
- g. Ensure that the Definitive Map and the Register of Publicly Maintained Streets are a correct record of RoW in the Area and take all necessary action to ensure that errors and omissions are rectified, keeping a log of submissions.
- h. Encourage Group representatives to identify potential expansions of the RoW network and champion FPAWE accepted proposals to higher authorities.
- i. Produce regular items for Hampshire Rambler about recent path changes.

16. How we know how we are getting on:

- a. Best Practice Guidelines (see Para 9a) for these activities are being followed.
- b. Ideas on additions to the RoW network expansion are produced, considered and progressed.

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