



South Lincolnshire Walking Festival Steering Group Inception Meeting

9th December 2014

Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington NG34 9RW

www.southlincswalking.com

Tel 01529 461499
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MINUTES

Present:

Debby Braund - Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Access
Chris Miller – Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Access
Penny Ward – Heritage Lincolnshire Architecture and Culture Team Leader
Fran Taylor – Boston Borough Council Healthy Walks
Carly Togher – 1life North Kesteven Healthy Walks
Mike Chapman – Spalding Ramblers
Judy Chapman – Spalding Ramblers
Alison Crow Stamford Ramblers
John Oliver – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust SE Lincs Warden
Stuart Parker – Lincolnshire Ramblers Lincs Area Secretary
Keith Thompson – Sleaford Ramblers
Derek Booles – Grantham Ramblers
Ann Martin – Boston Ramblers
John - Boston Ramblers
Derek- Boston Ramblers
Bev Gormley – Heritage Lincolnshire Cultural Events Officer

Apologies/Not present:

Liz Bates – Heritage Lincolnshire CEO
Rachael Smith – South Kesteven Healthy Walks
Ray Bowden – South Holland Healthy Walks
Donna Sutton – North Kesteven District Council Spires and Steeples challenge
Chris Andrews - RSPB

1.	Introductions	Bev introduced herself and asked everyone present to share who they were and which organisation they represented
2.	Background to the South Lincolnshire Walking Festival	<p>Bev gave a short presentation on the background to the new walking festival and why Heritage Lincolnshire were organising it. Slides available at http://www.slideshare.net/HeritageLincs/slwf-presentation-for-cultural-officers</p> <p>Bev explained that Heritage Lincolnshire already organises the Lincs Wolds Walking Festival and would be using that model to pilot the new festival in the south of the county covering Boston, South Holland, North and South Kesteven. The festival is planned to link up with other events and festivals such as the Spires and Steeples challenge, the Stamford Georgian Festival and the Spalding Pumpkin Festival</p>
3.	Role of the steering group	Bev explained the role of the steering group as a group of advisors and partners whose audience has a vested interest in the SLWF. She also asked everyone to consider stepping up to the chairperson role. ACTION – All to consider being chair person or nominating someone for the role for the next meeting.
4.	Planning stages	Bev shared the current walk calendar, and action plan with the group. She also shared the website on the screen.
5.	Budget, funding, sponsorship and advertising	<p>Bev described how the festival was being funded and that funds are being sought to cover the running costs. There was some discussion about launch and finale events similar to those arranged by the Wolds Walking Festival. Bev stated that as there is currently no budget for launch and finale events they would have to be very low key. As this is a pilot we won't be trying to attract sponsorship as the festival has no proven track record, except the good reputation of the Wolds Walking Festival and Heritage Lincolnshire. This is something that can be looked at if the festival continues in the future. Bev has compiled a list of organisations to contact regarding advertising in the walks brochure. To help keep costs down we will be using the Heritage Open Days distribution channels within the county.</p> <p>Bev asked if anyone knew of a suitable 'first walk' with a venue so that press could be invited. John Oliver</p>

		suggested LWT's Willow Tree Fen and thought that the local garden centre might like to be involved as a venue for facilities and refreshments. ACTION - Bev and John to meet at Willow Tree Fen in January.
6.	Activity plan and next steps	Bev referred to the activity plan and stated that the next step is to send out walk registration forms to those who have already expressed an interest. Fran Taylor submitted 14 expressions interest from her Boston walk leaders group. In early January Bev will be sourcing quotes for information leaflets, then. All walk registration forms must be submitted by 23 rd February in order to be printed in the brochure. The official launch will be early January when the press releases will be distributed asking for walk leaders to come forward.
7.	Any other business	<p>Insurance – Walks will be insured under the organisations the walk leaders belong to.</p> <p>Dogs – It will be up to the walk leader if dogs (on a short lead) are allowed on the walk. The walk leader tells us on the registration form if dogs are allowed. Bev has approached Jerry Green dog rescue to see if they want to lead a dog walk.</p> <p>LCC Countryside Access Team – As September/October is ploughing season we need to keep in mind that some paths across fields may not be visible. It might be worth finding out who the landowner is for each walk. Chris and Debby would prefer to be sent the routes as soon as possible to avoid a backlog. Debby suggested emailing the registration form to all of the steering group members. Chris said he would tell the South Lincs local access forum about the steering group and that it might be useful for Bev to attend one of their meetings. ACTION – Bev to send routes to Debby as soon as they are received, and will email the registration form to steering group members. Chris to speak to local access forum.</p> <p>There was a question about how many walks per day. Bev said 3/4 walks a day would be great</p> <p>Stuart – requested that everyone think about public transport when registering walks</p> <p>Volunteer expenses – As with the Wolds Festival, there will be no expenses for pre-walking the route</p> <p>Hill Holt Wood – Keith Thompson suggested getting in</p>

		touch with Hill Holt Wood. ACTION – Bev to get in touch.
8.	Date and venue of next meeting	After registration closes