

Ramblers Trafford Group

Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting 6th November 2024

Notes of the RTG committee meetings are made available to all members through our web site. The social WhatsApp group is used to communicate other matters that might be of interest.

In addition to communicating the activities of RTG, I attend the committee meetings of the Greater Manchester and High Peak Area Ramblers group.

During the past 12 months, I have attended the Area AGM together with 3 of the 4 executive committee meetings. (The one I was unable to attend coincided with our overnight trip to Grassington). Sadly, attendance has been much lower this year but this has not prevented interesting discussions taking place.

Kath Thorley now attends the meetings as RTG's other representative together with Jacqui Knowles who was appointed Area Treasurer in January.

Key events and themes of the year: -

June Mabon was acknowledged for her work in securing Right of Way status for a stretch along the Bridgewater Canal and in Urmston. Her passing in June has left a gap in footpath work both in Trafford and in her role as the Entrust representative for the Greater Manchester area. Area voted a £50 donation to Macmillan in her memory.

Several other groups including RTG are facing difficulty in securing a volunteer for the role of Footpath Secretary.

The publication of the training modules for new walk leaders raised many issues, particularly on the provision of first aid and the support for and assessment of new walk leaders. Rosie Hurley and Kath Thorley attended the July executive meeting to submit carefully considered observations about shortcomings in the guidance and the impact this might have on levels of future recruitment of walk leaders. Other groups within GM&HP had reached many of the same conclusions. Area subsequently sent a letter to Ramblers Head office highlighting the concerns that members had raised in the hope of receiving greater clarification and/or amendment.

GM&HP Area Ramblers have recently submitted a detailed response to the first round of consultation on the future preservation of green spaces and footpaths within the proposed development of Davenport Green (aka the Timperley Wedge).

RTG members represented Ramblers at three Bee Network events held in late summer in Trafford. Although few potential future recruits were identified at the sessions, it will be helpful in the long run for Ramblers to have a more significant presence in the Bee network. Currently the publicity is principally for cycling even though the network is designed to highlight all of the ways one can travel without the use of a car.

GM Ringway is up and running. Frances Bennett is a guardian of Stage 19 which covers the Bridgewater Canal from Stretford to Altrincham. Funding for the project is now at an end. A friends' group has been formed to oversee ongoing route maintenance and signposting together with the web site, the Go Jauntly app and supporting social media.

The Area Walking Environment Officer has been involved in several initiatives designed to make walking in Greater Manchester more accessible for all. A mayoral election campaign strategy was

penned to facilitate members raising the issue initially with those standing as local councillors and then later, also MPs. Long term, it is hoped that a Greater Manchester Walking Strategy will be accepted by all the local authorities and other relevant organisations. Tom Ross, Leader of Trafford MBC and a keen walker, has recently accepted the role of GM&HP Ramblers President.

The next area of work will be the forthcoming consultation on the Peak Park Plan.

Janet Moore

27.10.24