**Calderdale LDWA Committee Meeting dated 18-9-23**

**Present**

Jane Guest

Karen Nash

Sandy Gee

Paula Pickersgill

Roger Helliwell

Stephen Walker

**Apologies**

Neil Midgley

Geoff Barnes

**We focussed this meeting on the possibility of a Challenge event.**

At the previous meeting we considered options for a challenge event, the majority decision was to consider the Black Brook as our local group challenge event, this is because it is based in Calderdale, it has three loops ensuring only one main venue required for starting the walk, returning after each loop for refreshments and then finishing with the need for only one car checkpoint mid-way into the first 12 mile route. We considered how many members or volunteers would be required; at the previous meeting we suggested around 14 people would be a minimum needed to run the event safely.

A provisional date of 3-8-24 is suggested, this date appears to avoid other Challenge events and ensures plenty of daylight hours for those walking all three loops considering of 4.5, 6.5 and 12 miles.

It is agreed that decisions are needed about, numbers of entrants, cost of the event, parking and what to write and put in Strider for the event. Karen agreed to prepare a draft suggestion for the next meeting, but all to consider and bring their own thoughts.

It is agreed there is a lot to plan and manage a successful challenge event and that we would need more regular meetings to focus on tasks and plans, and the need for commitment from Calderdale members so that we do not have to request outside help, Calderdale is your group, please support your group.

This meeting was to consider issues that have arisen and attempt to finalise initial plans for the event as the details of the event would ideally need to go into Strider prior to 10-10-2023 to ensure walkers are fully aware, if we were to miss this issue of Strider the next one would be March/April, which we believe is too short notice for walkers to sign up and join us for the event.

The biggest concern is the limited parking at Sowood community centre, we were aware that when this event was run by the Irregulars, they were able to use an adjoining pub car park for overflow parking, however this pub closed. There is limited roadside parking except a layby lower down the road. We estimate that there would be parking for approximately 30-40 cars at the community centre and maybe 12 at the layby, potential only parking for 50-55 cars for helpers and walkers.

There is a possibility that we could change the start of the event to the cricket club lower down in Stainland, where there appears to be much more parking, however this venue may be very small inside and due to August being the cricket session we may need to share with the cricketers. Concerns here were around space, if there is a cricket match and if young children are sharing toileting facilities as walkers, causing a potential safeguarding risk.

Understandably this venue needs to be seen to consider what facilities there are, eg kitchen, space and seating for walkers and cost. A further suggestion is for the event to start at the cricket club to ensure improved parking and then use the community centre for refreshments after each loop and at the finish, where walkers would then need to walk down the road (2 thirds of a mile) back to their cars. This was considered but felt not ideal, we want walkers to remember our event for its quality not for having to walk extra milage to finish.

Sandy to try and arrange a visit to see the venue at the cricket club before we can make any final decisions. There was a further discussion about a change of date to avoid the cricket session.

Sandy had accessed information from the LDWA tool kit, which confirms what information is required, this list is long but when we considered this it appears we could provide information required with relative ease once we have decided on dates and venue.

It is clear that we will need volunteers to help to arrange and run the event, decisions need to be considered as to who will be the contact person prior to the event and an emergency contact on the day. Jane said she would consider being the emergency contact on the day. We also need to confirm the name of the event as if we change the venue or route description, we should change the name.

We discussed other issues for the event and Paula agreed to look into the cost of badges, certificates, tally cards and a banner, we agreed that these designs must meet LDWA specifications and would need to be agreed before being sent to print.

**Any other business**

Since this meeting further discussions have been held and a second suggestion is being considered, this is to change the challenge event altogether to a walk called Ell-and-Back which is again around Calderdale, 20 miles and starts from Heath in West Vale/Greetland, we are aware that Heath has a large car park and a local pay and display car park locally. This walk is 20 miles and would need 2-3 extra check points so would need more volunteers, however this could be a positive alternative and solve parking difficulties.

We agreed a further meeting to clarify if this event is viable and where and when we can hold it so that final details can go into Strider prior to 10-10-2023.

**Next meeting 2-10-23, 7pm at The drop Inn Elland, please note this is a Monday not Tuesday as previous meetings.**

Karen Nash

Calderdale LDWA group secretary