

S40s General Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and time: 19/01/2026 19.30 - 21.30

Place: The Lescar community room, 303 Sharrow Vale Road, S11 8ZF

Attendees: Mohamad Al Taha (Chair), Craig Leitch, Lee Heycoop, Richard Mills, Mandy Kippax, Lucia Contrino

1. Apologies: Thea Anning, Neil Monkman

2. Approval of Minutes ([link to the minutes](#)). Approved.

3. Any Urgent Matters arising. None.

4. Chairs report

- a. SYNED Update. Mohamad attended walk and reported back on ideas from Kent West representative re increasing number of walk leaders via quarterly prize draws for active walk leaders. Richard attended SYNED meeting where key roles were agreed and proposed changes to voting discussed. Idea of one member/one vote versus current delegate system. Role of SYNED as a group discussed and current lack of focus. Richard will continue to attend for time being. Sheffield walking festival planned with Martin Evans as organiser. Plan would be that S40s put forward a walk for the festival.
- b. Thanking walk leaders whose names in the 2025 AGM report. Mohamad to send to walk leaders.
- c. Mick Nott wishes to retire from his role as an authoriser for payments from the group bank. Charlie will authorise going forward.
- d. Walks Manager and adding S40s walks to the Ramblers main website. Mohamad ran through the process for adding walks to the main Ramblers website, and the fact that it also adds to the S40s site at same time. Leaders can do this themselves once activated on site. Walk leaders need to consent to being added to system. Mohamad to test the system. Walk leaders to remember to ask attendees if they are new to see if we are attracting new walkers via this process. Photos from walks can be added to the S40s site for approval by anyone.
- e. Housekeeping, roles, cover, etc. Roles need to be added/deleted and Mandy to send link. Keith to maintain webmaster role. Regarding cover for holidays/absence: Richard/Mohamad, Craig/Mandy, Keith/Mandy, Lucia/Lee. Members to notify any holidays/absence via Whatsapp.
- f. Members to add photos to the S40s photo galleries. Can be added by anyone on website.
- g. S40s photo profile on Ramblers website & S40s Facebook front photo, to keep or to change? Need new photos for these and walk leaders to encourage group photos for these sites.
- h. S40s Email threading (view), changing the setting. Mohamad ran through process to change settings if required.
- i. Walk Leaders Meeting? Mohamad to trial for six months. We need more walk leaders carrying out walks to attract more members.

5. Walks report: We have 51 walk leaders, 20 of whom have not led a walk in last year or have completed training to help other walk leaders with Ramblers ratio guidance. Approx 5 still not completed walk leader training. We have approx 6 to 10 walk leaders who carry out the majority of the walks.

6. Social report:

- a. Socials and Weekends Co-ordinator role is vacant. Mohamad to discuss with the committee Mandy's feedback/comment regarding "weekends and social

events that involve collecting deposits/ payments from S40s members are not possible”

No social secretary in place. The logistics of how to then organise future events to be discussed when treasurer in attendance.

7. Footpath report: We've been asked to comment on two footpath diversion proposals from Sheffield City Council:

1. Diversion of a path at Dungworth near Our Cow Molly. Lucia sent this to Mandy and Jim C to comment on and they have suggested that we oppose the diversion as it's a very muddy and uneven surface, unless the surface is improved.

2. Woodhouse Station and Driver Street in the Woodhouse area of Sheffield. A diversion is being proposed for a path that has apparently been informally closed for a number of years, due to the dangerous condition of a flight of steps. This a residential area so isn't of concern to us.

Sheffield Country Walk - level crossing at Ecclesfield:

Network Rail closed access to the level crossing a few years ago for health and safety reasons and proposed a long diversion. There was a site meeting in March 2023 where walkers requested that a footbridge is provided. Ecclesfield Parish council are planning a new meeting with Network Rail. Peter Robinson, who monitors Sheffield Country Walk, and Richard Mills may attend if they can make the date.

With all of these issues, Lucia endeavours to liaise with the other Sheffield Ramblers groups, as well as John Harker at Peak and Northern Footpath Society.

Also, Ramblers have opened applications to their Path Accessibility Fund. Applications opened on 1st January and close on 14th March 2026. It's all about improving accessibility and they welcome applications to fund projects that seek to remove barriers and open up paths for more people in England, Scotland, and Wales. This includes improving access for those people with reduced mobility, who may struggle to climb over stiles.

The group was asked if they had any ideas of suitable locations. Lucia was advised that SYNED haven't discuss this.

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-care-about/path-accessibility-fund>

8. Training report: Nothing to report at this time.

9. Web report: Thea to forward.

10. Treasurer's report: Neil to forward.

11. Secretary's report: Current number of members is 316, down by three since December. 11 new members (2 new to group, 5 new to Ramblers, 2 rejoining, 2 new to area). 14 leavers (4 lapsed, 2 left area, 8 resigned)

12. Report on links with other Sheffield Groups: Mohamad reported that there are potentially members of S20/30s wanting to join our group and he will look at ways to grow links and make this possible.

13. Agreement of matters for group email / minutes: Agreed.

14. AOB - None.

15. Next meeting date and time and place

27/04/2026, The Lescar community room. Time to be agreed (19.00 or 19.30?)

