

WALKERS ARE WELCOME ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Town:Kilsyth.....

To maintain your status as a Walkers are Welcome town, please send this report by email to the WaW Secretary andrew@andrewbibby.com by 31 March 2010.

1. Please use the space below to summarise the main activities you have undertaken in 2009 to ensure that your town/village continues to be one where walkers are welcome. *Please relate what you write to the six WaW criteria.*

Our Walkers are Welcome launch event was attended by about 90 people including representatives of several community groups, Ramblers, councillors, council officers and our local Member of the Scottish Parliament. (Criteria 1)

Friends of Kelvin Valley Park in conjunction with Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum continue to support and promote Walkers are Welcome. The forum has its own budget and a dedicated North Lanarkshire Community Engagement Officer to act as a link between the forum and local authority. (Criteria 2 and 6))

We have consulted and co-operated with a variety of organisations to improve the path network. Namely, the Forestry Commission about a new path called the Soon Cut linking the village of Croy and Auchinstarry on the Forth and Clyde Canal. We have also submitted suggestions which resulted in the enhancement of two private forestry paths north and south of Auchinstarry. And have consulted with North Lanarkshire Council regarding an improved path between Kilsyth Town Centre, Colzium Lennox Estate and Banton Loch. (Criteria 3)

We have produced a number of newsletters and leaflets. Our Spring / Summer issue of Kelvin valley Park News included much information on paths and countryside, the Autumn / Winter issue included our Walkers are Welcome launch event. We also published an Enjoying the Outdoors leaflet detailing activities, services and Walkers are Welcome column by Malcolm Wilkinson. Our Focus on Renewal supplement included a Paths for All article which promoted the path network and Walkers are Welcome status. We have researched the heritage and current state of 12 historical routes as part of a Scotways national project. Walks have been led along the Antonine Wall, around Banton Loch and Colzium Estate as well as two around Dullatur and Twechar Marshes. (Criteria 4 and 5)

2. If you have undertaken any initiatives which you feel are particularly innovative and which might be of interest to other Walkers are Welcome towns/villages, please give details below.

We have secured funding from LEADER for a Walkers are Welcome project. Half of the project includes improvements to signage in the area and the other half is the Walkers are Welcome national conference in October 2010. This was acknowledged by the LEADER Local Action Group as an innovative way of combining elements in one project. Our justification being to demonstrate ongoing improvements to the path network.

3. What funding have you been able to obtain? Have you any evidence of ways in which WaW status is helping your community, your local economy?

We have secured funding from LEADER and NHS Lanarkshire. Part of the justification for improving the path network has been Walkers are Welcome status.

4. The Walkers are Welcome principle is a 'bottom-up' one, operating on the basis of mutual support and activity. What contributions are you making towards developing the network, nationally and/or regionally? (eg: *attendance at conference, mentoring other towns*)

Two representatives attended the 2009 national conference in Church Stretton. We will be staging this year's national conference.

Declaration

We wish to apply for continuation of our status as a Walkers are Welcome town/village. We have sent a cheque for our annual membership to the Walkers are Welcome treasurer.

Name: Ian Jarvis

Organisation: Friends of Kelvin Valley Park

Note: Annual returns will normally be posted on the WaW website, so that others are aware of each town's achievements. Please advise us if for any reason you would rather that this form was not made public.