

WALKERS ARE WELCOME ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Town: ...Newton

Stewart.....

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.*

Newton Stewart was accepted as a walkers are welcome town in October 2009, so the previous six months were taken with preparing our application. Oct-Dec we were mainly active in promoting the status.

1. To demonstrate local support we submitted a petition of 300 names plus letters of support from the local community council , business association and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

2. A steering committee has been formed consisting of representatives from Newton Stewart Walking Festival Committee, Cree Valley Community Council and Newton Stewart Business Association who report back to their organisations. The steering group meets approx bi-monthly and Walkers are Welcome is a standard agenda item at the monthly meetings of Newton Stewart Walking Festival committee. The structures are in place to maintain the programme.

3. All relevant businesses received a newsletter explaining waw and were asked to display stickers (50 were distributed). There has been a very good response.

3. WaW was launched on 12th December by Alex Fergusson MSP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale and presiding officer in the Scottish Parliament. WaW banners were prominently displayed in the town. This received good media coverage – in all there have been 6 press items in local press.

4. An item on walkers are welcome plus the logo is included in the walking festival brochure with a print-run of 5,000 distributed widely in south of Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland. The logo is included on the walking festival website (newtonstewartwalkfest.com) . Newton Stewart Business Association website (Newtonstewart.org) contains an item on waw and the logo.

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.

Hope to have things to report in 2010, our first full year.

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?

Our funding to date has come from Newton Stewart Business Association and Newton Stewart Walking Festival Committees.

We will have evidence of benefit in 2010

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)

We are in regular contact with Moffat WaW and Southern Uplands Partnership, (SUP) a not-for profit organisation which promotes sustainable rural development across South of Scotland. SUP organised a conference of walking festival organisers on 24th November 2009 which we attended and on which waw was an agenda item with interest being expressed by other towns in the region.

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: Joan Mitchell

Organisation: Newton Stewart Walkers are Welcome and Newton Stewart Walking Festival Committee

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.