

Geograph Project Limited

Company Newsletter No 6

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Trustees, 27 September 2016, Royal Leamington Spa

1 Absences and introductions

For various reasons, only four of the seven trustees could attend. Robin was elected chair for the meeting. We welcomed Steve Fareham, who had expressed an interest in becoming a trustee at the news of Richard Croft's resignation (reported 10 September and in Newsletter 5); Sebastian had invited Steve to attend. He's from Barnsley, a non-executive director, a semi-retired structural steel engineer, a member of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers and a grandfather: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/profile/15341>

2 Mapping

We agreed in principle to move to the OS Maps API when it becomes available. Barry, who has had a preview, reported that it's fine for our needs; the transition should be straightforward.

3 Remaking the Geograph schools' website <http://schools.geograph.org.uk>

We agreed Christine's draft bid to a grant-making body. If successful the grant would fund changes to the schools' version of the site to increase its educational value and to promote it to schools. Volunteer involvement would be needed for some aspects.

4 Increasing income

Michael is preparing an appeal for donations and legacies. He fears that unless grant or sponsorship income can be secured, advertising on the site may be necessary. Income from subscriptions is unlikely to be enough, given the relatively small number of active users; besides, merely introducing subscriptions might result in a fall in donations.

5 Growing the number of contributors and visitors

We will subscribe to Reach Volunteering <https://reachskills.org.uk> to provide an opportunity for volunteer marketing experts to advise and help us.

6 Supporting moderators

Moderation could be thought of as a service, essential to the project and the website, provided by a group of experienced volunteers. From time to time we have considered ways in which the service might be supported. A group of trustees (some of whom are moderators) will discuss how the matter might best be taken forward.

7 Forum decorum

The forum at its best is a wonderful feature but the unkind posts of a few have an emotional impact and may deter others from posting. We are actively looking for effective ways of discouraging and managing bad behaviour.

8 Image Type Tags

The team had consulted moderators about replacing the unpopular 'Detail' tag and had received a favourable response. The group will meet again to refine the proposals. ['Close Look' and 'Extra' were introduced on 10 November, together with updated guidance.]

9 Looking ahead

Because of absences, a number of other agenda items were carried forward to the November meeting.

Sebastian Ballard, Chairman

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Geograph Project Limited is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales No 7473967, charity No 1145621, registered office 49 Station Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6EA. The directors of the company and trustees of the charity are: Sebastian Ballard (Chairman), Michael Dibb (Treasurer and Acting Company Secretary), Peter Facey, Barry Hunter, Christine Johnstone and Robin Stott.