

Chair's report to AGM

Welcome to the AGM of Step Out Sheffield 2024.

Hopefully you are enjoying the new venue and will also enjoy the goodies that await once we finish the business of the day.

Spring has brought a lovely new crop of walkers and leaders. Other than echoing Young Mister Grace and saying, "You're all doing very well!"

I'll leave it to Sue to fill in the details. Oh, and hasn't she done well! Thank you Sue.

I took over mid-term when Dorien was forced to leave us to take up a more demanding role elsewhere. Sadly, I am older and without transport so I will not be a familiar face to some of you.

Dorien worked diligently and was keen to develop independent walking groups and this resulted in last year the introduction of a £500 grant to groups who had a constitution and bank account giving them the tools to seek funding for themselves. I'm pleased to report that 11 groups are now financially established. That's almost half of our walks.

We will continue to provide a £500 start up grant to remaining groups that decide to adopt a constitution and open a bank account.

The Committee are advised to be risk adverse in making further grants until Step Out Sheffield becomes a Charity. Clearly if a walking group can provide a good reason to release funds, for example to pay rent or replace worn out vacuum flasks, the Committee will consider the request warmly.

At the pie and peas last Autumn I suggested that we are at risk of fading away as recruiting Committee members was difficult under our current constitution. Together with Sue and Kath we listened to the feedback from members and came up with another change that keeps the current delivery unchanged.

Looking back on previous Chair's reports I realised that Step Out Sheffield has been constantly evolving and changing at the administration core for 8 years while delivering the same unchanged programme of volunteer led walks.

This AGM will take the next step in future proofing the core structure by becoming a Charity and releasing Committee members from the uncertainty of personal liability for significant reserve funds.

Francis Feeley, Step Out Sheffield transitional Chair
16.4.24