

Who we are, What we do, How we do it

27 January 2021

Document Purpose

Every year we welcome new members to join GRAC to continue the work of its/their predecessors. This document summarises the way Area Council operates so as to retain continuity and a consistent approach.

Everyone who attends meetings of Gloucestershire Ramblers Area Council can be considered an Ambassador, portraying the work of GRAC to their organisations while representing the views of their organisations to GRAC.

Who we are

We're one of some 50 Ramblers Areas making up the Ramblers Association. In Gloucestershire, seven Ramblers Groups look after their local Parishes on behalf of the Area. The Area Council comprises elected Officers, delegates from each Group, independent members and representatives of affiliated organisations. Visitors are welcome to attend too.

What we do

We're a charity whose aims are to defend footpaths, protect the places where we like to walk and provide means to enable walking. Some 1600 members support our efforts to benefit the hundreds of thousands of walkers within Gloucestershire.

When do we meet

Area Council meetings take place every 4 months plus an Annual General Meeting. There can also be intermediate meetings - for example to discuss national motions at Ramblers General Council (or AGM).

How we do it

We're an inclusive democracy and aim to represent the view of the wider walking public (rather than just our own) and keep in mind - What do walkers expect of us?

In meetings the role of the Chair, supported by those present, is to ensure fair debate within our aims. Wider views can be sought beforehand so that decisions taken are well founded, and decisions deferred when necessary. Minutes of the meeting show decisions, information and action, can include steps taken towards the decision but won't contain all that was said.

Say what we do

Decisions are collective and in the best interests of Ramblers. We should all abide by decisions made and be able to explain positively, courteously and diplomatically to other organisations or anyone interested, the reasoning for those decisions. Every year we produce a summary report for our AGM.

Further Reading

Ramblers Aims – defend footpaths, protect countryside, facilitate walking, educate the public.

Ramblers 'Tone of Voice' - the way we express ourselves.

Gloucestershire Ramblers Area Constitution – includes Groups, Affiliates and individuals.

Ramblers Code of Conduct – inclusive, democratic, respectful, fun.