

# WALKERS ARE WELCOME CIC






## MEMBERS' ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR JAN TO DEC 2022

Your Annual Return and subscription are both due by 31 January. **Please complete this report electronically and send it as a Word document to [secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk](mailto:secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk) by 31 January. If you anticipate or experience any problems completing the Return and/or making your payment in time, please advise us as soon as possible.**

To maintain your accreditation as a Walkers are Welcome town or village, it is essential that you show how you have met the criteria during the previous year by completing this Annual Return. Please answer every question and provide the fullest information; it is time to shout about your achievements. *The form expands to allow additional data.*

We are always looking for evidence that Walkers are Welcome members are making a difference in their communities and it is wonderful to learn of your successes and to share innovation across the network.

<b>Town or village name</b>	Wellington, Shropshire
<b>Name of group or organisation</b>	Wellington Walkers are Welcome
<b>Population: Source of population figure?</b>	25,000 from UK census 2011
<b>Amount of payment due, see subscription below</b>	110
<b>New Subscription paid</b>	Yes
<b>Date paid and how <u>or</u> date it will be paid</b>	Paid on the 6th December by Faster Payment
<b>Name of mentor</b>	Baz Fewster

<b>Key to comment colours:</b>		<b>Well done, criteria met.</b>
		<b>Some concerns, your mentor will offer guidance and monitor progress.</b>
		<b>Criteria not met.</b>
<b>Mentor's feedback summary:</b>		<b>Overall Assessment</b>

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<p><b>Achievements &amp; innovation this year</b> Shout about your group's main achievements this year. Please include innovation and projects that go beyond the criteria that you are proud of.</p>	<p>Our Walking Festival in 2022 was our best yet with more people taking part. We had a Creative Writing walk for the first time in the festival and a Heritage Open Day event visiting places linked to Thomas Parker the inventor. Comments included someone deciding to take a week's holiday next year at the time of our festival in order to go on many more walks.</p> <p>Malcolm, our path maintenance and footpath secretary led a walk for Children in Need - Wellington Welly Walk - as part of BBC's Radio Shropshire Walk and Talk Event. We continue to lead a walk on the first and third Sunday of every month.</p> <p>We are walking some of the Slow Ways routes in Shropshire and getting them verified.</p> <p>We recruited 2 new committee members at our AGM. We held a stall at the Wellington Midsummer Fayre helping us showcase what we do - advertising our Walking Festival and giving out our free walking leaflets.</p>
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<p><b>The six criteria are:</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Demonstrate popular local support from the community and local businesses for the concept</b> Detail here how other groups or partners and residents you are working with have helped you to achieve your goals.</p>	<p>We have links to many other local groups which include committee members attending the Local Access Forum; Friends of the T50; Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers; Rail Rambles; Walking for Health (now called Ramblers Wellbeing Walks); Love Telford; Climate Action Hub: Climate Change Borough partnership; Telford Green Spaces Partnership; The Orbit ( a small cinema and cafe in Wellington which shows a walking themed film in our Walking Festival); Bowring Walkers (Bowring is the local park); Wellington History Group - one of their members led a walk about the listed properties in Wellington. Local businesses support us by advertising in our festival leaflet. The revenue generated more than pays for the leaflet.</p>
<p><b>2. Demonstrate that the local council formally endorses the application for Walkers are Welcome status.</b> This would have been originally demonstrated by the local council (Town, Parish or Community Council) passing a resolution in support, being represented on the steering group, and making a financial contribution where possible. How has this developed in the current year?</p>	<p>We have a member of Wellington Town Council on our committee who is very supportive and full of praise for what we do.</p> <p>The Council give us grants when we apply for these. I am about to request a grant of £250 in February which will cover the costs of our Insurance and our Subscription. I am confident that the Council will be happy to give us this. They have always done this in the past.</p> <p>The Mayor of Wellington officially opened our Walking Festival this year outside the Wellington Leisure Centre.</p>
<p><b>3. Demonstrate a commitment that the local public path network will be maintained in good condition.</b> This might be ensuring that the local ROWs were all walked last year and problems reported to the relevant authority whilst checking that faults are rectified and/or, what actions have your own maintenance team undertaken this year?</p>	<p>We have an excellent Path Maintenance and Footpath Secretary in Malcolm. He leads a twice monthly path maintenance session and keeps abreast of footpath issues - keeping up pressure on the local Rights of Way officer to fulfil his obligations, both in the LAF and otherwise.</p> <p>He regularly inspects paths that have been reported as having problems and works tirelessly to get these resolved.</p>

<p><b>4. Demonstrate that there is adequate marketing of the town's Walkers are Welcome status</b></p>	<p>We have a Publicity Secretary who regularly submits articles to the local newspapers and she has talked on Radio Shropshire. Our free leaflets are available at the local library and supermarket and one of our committee members regularly tops up the supply. There are shops and cafes in Wellington that display the Walkers are Welcome stickers. There is a large information board at Wellington Station with a map of walking routes in the area and the address of our website, as well as a big sign at the station that says "Wellington for Walkers" with the WareW logo. We have our own website which is kept up-to-date and we use Facebook and Twitter.</p>
<p><b>5. Demonstrate how the town encourages the use of public transport.</b> This can be demonstrated, for example, by including clear public transport advice on marketing leaflets or lobbying for improvements.</p>	<p>Our regular Sunday walks start at the local Leisure Centre, which is close to the bus and train station. Many of our Walking Festival walks also start at the Leisure Centre. 10 of the 30 walks in our Walking Festival involved using public transport.</p>
<p><b>6. Demonstrate the mechanisms in place to maintain Walkers are Welcome status.</b> This can be demonstrated through having a well-balanced and committed WALKERS ARE WELCOME steering group from within the community. Please list your current committee or organisation members and state how their roles support the group continuing.</p>	<p>We have a large hardworking committee. Its members are:- Chair- Eve Clevenger, keeps links with other local organisations, back marks, writes the Annual Return, chairs meetings, helps at stalls, writes local grants applications. Secretary - Naomi Wrighton, has links with many organisations, is on the National Committee, manages the website and sends out twice monthly emails about walking matters and on Facebook and Twitter (and much more!) Treasurer - Sheila Jones, keeps careful records of our finances Path Maintenance and Footpath Secretary - Malcolm Skelton, works incredibly hard organising path maintenance sessions and keeping up pressure about footpath issues. Also managed the online bookings for the Walking Festival Publicity Secretary - Jean Escott, regular writes articles about what we do. Wellington Town Councillor - Julie Pierce, supports what we do at council meetings Minutes Secretary - Pam Hill, writes up the minutes of our committee meetings. Walk leaders - Chris Jay, Greg Vernon and Amanda Graham. All lead or back mark walks both on Sundays and in the festival.</p>
<p><b>Records Update – Website Profile</b> Please confirm here that you have checked that your profile entry on the national website is complete and up to date, including a photograph, and that the contacts shown are correct. If they are not, please note here updates required and say when this will be corrected.</p>	<p>Our profile on the national website is correct.</p>
<p><b>Priorities 2023</b> It is important each year to review the previous year's achievements and equally to think about the year ahead. Please indicate your specific plans/priorities for the following year.</p>	<p>We are already starting to plan the Walking Festival for 2023 with new walks and events to entice more walkers to join us. We ask for feedback about our Festival and endeavour to take up suggestions that walkers tell us. We are signing up to Plastic Free Wellington by publicising the use of reusable water bottles, reusable cutlery and avoidance of clingfilm.</p>

	<p>We are considering having a Festival Hub, as our secretary saw the one at Whitchurch, which seemed a good idea.</p>
<p><b>National Committee:</b> We always welcome your feedback. Here is an opportunity. <b>Please make your suggestions here.</b></p>	