



OPEN MOTIONS

- A mid-year, interim, update on the 2022 motions will be published by the board of trustees in October 2022.
- An update on all open motions will be published in the AGM papers in March 2023.

2022 [1]	Simplification of risk assessments
2022 [2]	Walk leadership requirements
2022 [3]	Improving communication and consultation
2022 [4]	Strengthening Ramblers' role in protecting paths
2022 [5]	Return to member activities alongside volunteer activities *
2022 [6]	General Council meeting format *
2022 [7]	50 years anniversary of the Cornwall Coast path *
2022 [8]	Walk magazine & communication with the wider membership *
2021 [4]	Prioritise IT development for supporting, encouraging and retaining volunteers
2020 [1]	Alternative ways for debating topics of interest or concern *
2020 [8]	Affiliated organisations *
2019 [7]	Diverse and representative General Council
2018 [4]	Roadside signage of Public Rights of Way

** Remitted to the board of trustees*

2022 [1] Simplification of risk assessments

This General Council believes that the imposed requirement for written risk assessments in the format prescribed is unnecessary, serves no useful purpose and notes it has led to walk leaders standing down. Council urges the Board of Trustees to identify and implement a simpler and less burdensome approach to documented risk assessments for organised walks as a matter of priority.

2022 [2] Walk leadership requirements

This General Council is gravely concerned that perceptions of bureaucracy are deterring leaders and potential leaders of group walks from offering their services. Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to ensure that, except as required by any current legislation or in the event of an incident that seems likely to lead to an insurance claim, leaders are placed under no obligation to make or keep any written or electronic records relating to their walk, either before, during or after the event. Council therefore calls upon the board to remove the requirement for written risk assessments of group walks and, in doing so, to ensure that the absence of such records will not adversely affect the insurance cover provided for walk leaders.

2022 [3] Improving communication and consultation

This General Council believes that the effectiveness of the Ramblers is being significantly diminished by poor communication, failure of meaningful consultation on nationally driven initiatives and lack of openness in debate on these initiatives. It therefore calls upon the Board of Trustees to:

- bring about substantial improvements in these areas;
- set up a process to ensure that all stakeholders, including those in Areas and Groups, are given adequate notice of planned initiatives and are fully and meaningfully consulted before decisions are made; and
- draw up and publish measures for monitoring its success in doing so and to share the results with Areas and Groups.

2022 [4] Strengthening Ramblers' role in protecting paths

This General Council is concerned that the Ramblers' charitable object of "the provision and protection of footpaths and other ways over which the public have a right of way or access on foot, including the prevention of obstruction of public rights of way" is receiving insufficient attention and resources when compared with our other charitable objects. Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to produce a report of actions to rectify this to be submitted to the 2023 AGM.

2022 [5] Return to member activities alongside volunteer activities

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to:

- return to member activities alongside volunteer activities;
- make information for both accessible on the website; and
- remove 'volunteer' from member role descriptions where it is not required.

2022 [6] General Council meeting format

This General Council accepts the necessity of the changes to the format of the annual Council event caused by the Covid pandemic. Council urges the Board of Trustees to revert to the two day format as soon as it is safe and legal to do so.

2022 [7] 50 years anniversary of the Cornwall Coast path

May 2023 marks the 50 years anniversary of the Cornwall Coast Path. Cornwall Ramblers will be celebrating that milestone during the weekend of the 20th/21st May 2023. This General Council urges members of the Ramblers to support and join Cornwall Area in celebrating the anniversary.

2022 [8] Walk magazine & communication with the wider membership

This General Council requests the Board of Trustees to arrange for Walk magazine to include a section to allow Areas to communicate with members and to inform them about items of local interest.

2021 [4] Prioritise IT development for supporting, encouraging and retaining volunteers

This General Council acknowledges the difficulty that Areas and Groups have in supporting, encouraging and retaining volunteers. To help address this, Council urges the Board of Trustees to prioritise those IT developments that directly assist the Areas and Groups. These will include help in

- managing their email distribution lists
- improving the information for membership secretaries
- logging into and running their own websites
- providing a programme of walks and coach rambles.

2020 [1] Alternative ways for debating topics of interest or concern

This General Council invites the board of trustees to consider and trial alternative, less formal, ways whereby topics can be brought to Council for discussion and debate without the formality of the current “Motions” process. Council considers that alternatives should sit alongside the current “Motions” process to be used where the topic is complex or it is not appropriate at that time to bring a formal motion. Outcomes from such debates/discussions should not be binding on the board but would be expected to help inform strategy, policy, campaigns and the overall business plan. The board is requested to report back to General Council 2021 on its conclusions and to introduce a trial if appropriate.

2020 [8] Affiliated organisations

This General Council is concerned by the reduction in engagement with affiliated organisations and calls upon the Board of Trustees to put in place a proactive programme to recruit affiliated organisations, including considering reducing or removing the fee, and to look for ways to increase collaboration with our affiliates at local and national level.

2019 [7] Diverse and representative General Council

This General Council cherishes our representative democracy and believes in the importance of General Council being both diverse and properly representative of the membership of the charity. Council therefore requests that the Board of Trustees:

- 1) reviews General Council as an event to ensure it reflects the composition of Ramblers' membership, by identifying and removing actual and potential barriers to participation;
- 2) asks Areas in England, Scotland and Wales to ensure that their appointed Council members are representative of their membership, by examining their practices, including their arrangements for Area governing bodies and their appointment processes;
- 3) reports back to General Council 2020 on its findings and proposals for implementing change across the organisation.

2018 [4] Roadside signage of Public Rights of Way

This General Council notes that it is the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Countryside Act requiring English and Welsh highway authorities to signpost public rights of way where they meet with metalled Roads. It further notes that the Pathwatch data indicates that few authorities have complied with the requirements in full. Council therefore requests that the Ramblers gives priority to working with the relevant authorities to bring about a full compliance within the next 5 years as part of the Pathwatch campaign.