

## OPEN MOTIONS POST-GC 2021

2021 [2]	Action needed to increase the Ramblers membership and influence
2021 [3]	Clusters, communities of practice and special interest groups
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 [4]	Developing links with schools, young people and their communities
2019 [7]	Diverse and representative General Council
2018 [4]	Roadside signage of Public Rights of Way
2017 [6]	Funding for restoring Lost Ways

\* Remitted to the board of trustees.

### **2021 [2] ACTION NEEDED TO INCREASE THE RAMBLERS MEMBERSHIP AND INFLUENCE**

This General Council urges the Board of Trustees to increase its efforts to retain our current membership and recruit new members to the Ramblers. In recent years we have seen a loss of over 10,000 members. This loss cannot be overlooked if we wish to renew and sustain the organisation and ensure that the Ramblers is seen as relevant to current and future generations.

### **2021 [3] CLUSTERS, COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

This General Council applauds the establishment of clusters, communities of practice and Special Interest Groups. As well as congratulating the Board of Trustees, the Senior Leadership Team and staff for this initiative and their continued commitment to change, Council urges the Board to evaluate the effectiveness of these new initiatives, consult with membership, extend their remit, resource them adequately and report back to General Council 2022. Particularly in the case of the Special Interest Group concerned with directly elected Mayors, Council requests the Board to ensure that this group continues to meet following elections and expands its membership to include more Ramblers members from relevant Areas.

### **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 [4] DEVELOPING LINKS WITH SCHOOLS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES**

This General Council urges the Board of Trustees to develop methods to work with schools and young people as a means of:

- a) increasing awareness of The Ramblers and opportunities for walking;
- b) developing a new cohort of walkers;
- c) supporting national and local initiatives on public health and childhood obesity.

Council suggests this could be done by:

- a) producing a schools' pack for distribution amongst schools (possibly seeking external funding for this) and material aimed at young people to distribute through their organisations and via social media;
- b) producing a pack for Groups and Areas which may wish to follow up this initiative, bearing in mind the issues of safeguarding.

## **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.

## **2017 [6] FUNDING FOR RESTORING LOST WAYS**

This General Council commends the work started in restoring lost ways in England and Wales, but is deeply concerned that resources allocated will be inadequate to ensure that members have the support needed to research and make all feasible claims. Council calls upon the board of trustees urgently to employ a project manager to develop the project in the light of the Don't Lose Your Way seminar in Birmingham in October 2016, answering the questions raised and drawing on internal and external expertise. This will include consideration of funding, for instance the establishment of a specific and significant fund from which areas can bid to fund relevant work, particularly training volunteers, copying the records needed to evidence claims and a 'fighting fund' to respond to challenges to claims.