

Report on
Walkers are Welcome Annual Get-Together
Cromer, Norfolk October 2018

Four members of the Market Weighton Walkers are Welcome committee were represented at the 2018 conference.

The formalities of the Annual General Meeting were held in the ultra modern facilities of the North Norfolk District Council Offices in Cromer.

The Chair began by saying some very nice comments about Market Weighton's Nigel Botting who died recently. He was obviously held in high regard by the National committee due to his involvement with Walkers are Welcome at the beginning and the whole room were asked to hold a minute's silence in his memory, which was very touching for all of us representing Market Weighton.

At the following meeting, a number of points came to the fore for members to consider. We discussed the on-going Agriculture Bill and its problems on how to improve access. Also the Social Prescribing system being set up by the NHS to encourage people into better health (eg walking!).

Also tips were given and noted on new funding available for walkers to make a difference in their areas.

The Chairman reported that there is growing evidence that Walkers are Welcome UK wide had put more than £4.5m into the economy over the past 10 years - not to be sneezed at from a small organisation, run by volunteers.

We talked to the conference about the new "Walk the Towns" leaflet for Market Weighton funded by ERYC plus the other help we are lucky enough to receive from this Council; also the walk organised by Market Weighton volunteers in support of the Children in Need fundraiser and its consequent publicity by us locally; our involvement with the establishment of a new path along the Market Weighton Canal starting from the new town council offices; plus the celebration of the 10th year Anniversary as a Walkers are Welcome Town with an evening walk and buffet in a local hostelry. Again, many towns are continuing to replace stiles with swing/kissing gates, as reported at Hebden Brigde last year.

Market Weighton delegates enjoyed a Geology Walk with Martin Warren along the Cromer coast, where Martin used the beach as a timeline for the evolution of the earth and universe, with much information given on evolution, global warming and what towns and councils of the future had in store to combat these destructive forces, as well as man's, in the last 20m years.

We also had the pleasure to learn from Rob Goodliffe's talk on "Our Fragile & Historic Coast" how the Cromer and Norfolk Councils were protecting their coastlines from natural erosion with the latest highly technical equipment.

Both the talks and ideas we picked up were fascinating and inspiring as was the whole organisation of the very full weekend by the Walk Cromer team.