

E/M 28/2/2020 Town/Parish Councils

Hello

I'm thrilled to be able to write to you about a step along the PJSC's journey which whilst not in the category of Neil Armstrong's "...a giant leap for mankind" is nonetheless a significant one. Tomorrow the Club will be launching a campaign to have the status of 'A Pennine Journey' declared a National Trail by 25th September 2028 - the 90th anniversary of when AW left Settle on his 'Long Walk'. When it is successful it will mark the culmination of a tribute to him that started for us with the waymarking of the route in 2013 and continued soon afterwards when the Ordnance Survey put the entire route, direct from the maps drawn by our President Ron Scholes for the guide book onto their database. Between 2014 -2016 OS maps, both Explorer and Landranger ones were released covering the entire route.

Last year we started discussions with the National Trail authorities to ascertain whether 'A Pennine Journey' met their criteria for consideration as a National Trail. During those discussions I was left in no doubt that because of ongoing work on the completion of the Pennine Bridleway and the England Coast Path coupled with the present economic climate, which is not expected to improve in the short term, they could not comment but did say the Pennine Journey Supporters Club could say that they had *"aspirations towards National Trail status"*

In AW's 1939 narrative about his walk he says *"For this journey I had found it necessary to buy five maps of the Ordnance Survey. These took in the whole backbone of the Pennines from Pendle to the Cheviot, and spread out together, as they could only be with the furniture pushed up against the walls, they made a picture which gave me many evenings of anticipation"*. This exemplifies the thought that must have gone into his planning for the walk as in everything he did in life and we think it deserves the tangible recognition that National Trail status will provide.

Your councillors might like to know of the Club's purpose which underpins this campaign which is as follows:- *To support and promote the Pennine Journey long distance footpath for the benefit of walkers and residents of the area through which the walk passes. In doing so it will provide healthy recreation and other leisure time activities in the interests of social welfare and assist urban and rural regeneration by an added boost to the local economy as well as other purposes that are charitable.*

We expect to get agreement in principle from all the highway agencies whose early support led to the waymarking and who, later, added their endorsement to our approach to the Ordnance Survey. Until we get into the position of meaningful discussions about what the mechanics of our involvement will entail we have no way of knowing what our commitment might be but regular route monitoring will probably be one for which the support of our members and that of parish and town councils along the route will be needed. I have long been sure that it was the local support the route got at the outset which led to the consequent approval by the highway agencies. Please will you continue this support so that, in time, the economic boost to the local economy can be achieved.

Finally I thought you might like to see the emblem for the campaign which is attached. It is a derivation of one done by Peter Burgess, who designed that wonderful Tubular Fells topological map and who was one of the Wainwright Society members who walked and test walked the 'A Pennine Journey' route prior to the publication of the guide book, as a completers certificate for those walkers who participated in the first North Pennines Walking Festival in 2015. It encapsulates all those walks in northern England with which AW is so associated as well as Hadrian's Wall - the objective of his 'A Pennine Journey'.

Kind regards and best wishes,

David,

David Pitt,

Chairman,

Pennine Journey Supporters Club

www.penninejourney.org.uk

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