



## Press release

### **Walkers Are Welcome in these villages!**

The Quantock villages of Nether Stowey and Over Stowey have joined a growing list of places in Somerset that are 'going the extra mile' to offer something special for visitors from near and far who enjoy walking.

Stowey Walking group, representing both villages, has been informed that its application for accreditation from 'Walkers Are Welcome' has been successful and it is now a member of the UK Network.

News of the official accreditation was greeted with delight by the Group's steering committee at its monthly meeting and plans were made immediately for a launch event in November when there will be an inaugural walk and a reception for all those who helped to gain the recognition.

"We are so pleased to have been successful and grateful for the help and encouragement we have had from the organisation," said Stowey Walking Chair, Lynne Abbott of Old Cider House B&B in Nether Stowey.

"We are also grateful for the backing we have had Sedgemoor District Council, Nether Stowey and Over Stowey Parish Councils and the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, not forgetting of course the communities here.

"This accreditation is just the beginning as it means we can help look after our local footpaths better, plan guided walks and publish a selection of suggested walks for visitors – all of which will help local businesses benefit from people coming and spending their money here."

Already the Group has had its first success in improving the condition of footpaths in the villages by working with Somerset County Council to replace stiles on the route between the two Stoweys.

Next steps for the Group include setting up its own website and asking local businesses that support the scheme to promote it with window stickers showing they are happy to help make it a great experience for walkers visiting the villages.

There are more than 100 places in the UK that have become members of the Walker Are Welcome network since it started in 2007, with 6 now in Somerset.

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