Baildon Walkers are Welcome Committee

03/10/2024

Dear Helen,

**Re: Future of Bracken Hall Countryside Centre**

At this week’s meeting of the committee of Baildon Walkers are Welcome, I was asked to write to the Town Council to express our hope that the Town Council will renew its commitment to Bracken Hall Countryside Centre so that it can continue to provide a valuable base for outdoor activities, environmental and historical material, and walks.

The key reasons we would support its continuation are that:

* Shipley Glen and Bracken Hall continue to draw visitors from across Bradford and further afield and fit well into the recently developed “Visit Baildon” project.
* Funding has been spent in recent years to improve Bracken Hall Countryside Centre and it now provides a useful meeting place for the Man Shed, and for various walking activities (and these seem to us to be areas for possible future growth).
* Walking and the outdoors are both high on the agenda of the City of Culture and we are working with the Bradford on Foot project to ensure that walks around Baildon are given a strong focus.
* Shipley Glen marks the start and end of the Millennium Way long distance walk which will be 25 years old in 2025. As a contribution to the City of Culture, Baildon Walkers are Welcome intend to work with partner walking-organisations to offer guided walks covering sections of the Millennium Way throughout the year. We have already requested the use of Bracken Hall Countryside Centre for a launch event on Saturday 18 January 2025. The Countryside Centre is also on the route of the popular long-distance path, the Dales High Way.

Please forward this letter to the relevant committee and councillors.

With thanks and best wishes

Chris Flecknoe, Secretary to Baildon Walkers are Welcome