

Trailway News October 2014



Photograph © Graham Rains

This is the first newsletter you have had for a long time. I apologise that I have not written one sooner. This letter is to tell you about the AGM and the current projects that the Rangers and ourselves are working on. There are a number of projects under way but none of them has reached completion so I shall outline them to you and hope that one way and another by this time next year one or two of them will be finished.

The AGM will be on Wednesday 26th November in the Church Centre

Shillingstone at 7.30pm. There will be a presentation by Giles Nicholson, a photographic presentation by Graham Rains and a short talk by Steve Adamson on the Local Enterprise Partnership and what it could offer the Trailway.

Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge. The most demanding and expensive project is the link between Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge. This is also the one that is likely to take the longest time to complete because it requires sorting out river crossings, obtaining rights of way, and finding the finance to do all this. I feel that if we could ask for donations towards building the link between Sturminster Newton town centre and Rolls Mill industrial estate this would convince Sustrans and Dorset CC of the importance of the first step. If you know any of the employers in the area, please let me know as this is where we should start.

Spetisbury to Sturminster Marshall. This is a relatively short distance and one which would make a great deal of difference to the two communities. It would also improve the quality of the Trailway as if it is used it does not get overgrown. The people in both villages would have access to a wider area. The Trail would not always be on the trackbed of the old Railway because in some parts there has been so much infilling that it has disappeared and the A350 road has been built on top of it. There are not so many landowners in this area and it is probably easier to achieve than the one mentioned above.

The link between Blandford and Charlton Marshall. This has been a long running problem and I have had some very eloquent letters about much difference it would make to all users

if the trail between Wards Drove and the Tesco roundabout was established. This will happen when then new development of Blandford extension is built as it is part of the district plan. Unfortunately we shall have to wait a while for the houses to go in and the work to start. Once it is there it will mean children going to school in Blandford St. Mary and Spetisbury will be able to cycle to school safely.

Car Park at Shillingstone We have waited 8 years for the Car Park on the verge near Shillingstone Station and Haywards Bridge to be built. When Haywards Bridge is strengthened I have been assured that the car park will be built. This is probably the only project that will happen before our next AGM.

Finally I would like to quote from a letter I received from Steven Andrews:

'I am a regular user of the North Dorset Trailway. For more than two years I have been using it to get to my work in Sturminster Newton from my previous home in Blandford, and now from my current home in Spetisbury. I have done approximately 5000 miles of journeys on the trailway. This has saved over 700 Litres of fuel and (according to an on-line calculator) over 1.6 tonnes of co2 emissions. I am a BIG fan of the facility.'

This is what we would all like to see.

Best wishes to you all and looking forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Lesley Gasson

Chairperson