

Trailway News July 2016



Little Lane near Shillingstone Parking

It is a long time since you last received a news Letter so I shall try to bring you up to date.

There is hope for a new link to the Trailway being built from Okeford Fitzpaine via Little Lane. Some of the work at the Okeford Fitzpaine end has already been done but the track is still very rough. It is in the village plan and should be bicycle friendly when it is complete. Little Lane is the lane beside Hambledon Farm opposite the Car Park near the Trailway in Shillingstone. It is a farm track or green lane and is badly rutted from all the tractors that use it so is only really passable by walkers at present and is not easy to access.

We have a new website address. The new address is www.northdorsettrailway.org.uk The addition of **uk** to the address is new. Our old address is for sale. If there things on the website that you would like to see please let me know and I shall ask the webmaster to add or change things. We want to make it as useful as possible to our members and visitors. Would you like a members' area? Would you like more pictures of developments and area near the Trailway? Would you like to pay your subscription on line? Let me know what you want

Sturminster Newton Town Council and Sturquest are trying to improve the entrance to the Trailway in Sturminster Newton as it is not attractive and does not really invite visitors to use it.

The link between Sturminster and Stalbridge is still being negotiated. Once we have a clear plan of what is the most feasible route and a clear idea of the cost of installing it we can approach funders. The problems of access never go away so there may have to be a medium term route and a long term ideal route.

The Shillingstone Station Trust has not so far put in an application to divert the Trailway off the platform and down below the station area to rejoin the route on the other side of the station. This work was supposed to be carried out

while the bridge between Child Okeford and Shillingstone was closed as they are also supposed to be repairing Lamb House Bridge. We wait to see what will happen.

We hope to produce a new Trailway leaflet giving details about how to find the Trailway in Blandford and Sturminster Newton as it is increasingly popular with visitors and a tourist attraction in this area.

We have also asked for more sign posts in the two towns directing people to the Trailway. One visitor said it was better than the Otter Trail in Devon!

The link between Spetisbury and Sturminster Marshall is being discussed with the Transport dept of DCC because crossing the A350 is very hazardous especially for small children on bicycles which is one of the joys of the Trailway. Finding a solution that is direct, safe and acceptable to land owners is always a problem.

Finally our AGM will be on Monday 21st November in Shillingstone Church Centre at 7.30pm. This is our annual gathering and a chance for you to hear what progress or lack of it we have made and ask questions about parts of the Trailway that are important to you.

Lesley Gasson