

Trailway News Letter March 2017



[The Trailway on the way to Stourpaine](#)

I am sorry it has taken me so long to update you with Trailway News. This edition will cover the AGM, our new committee, the end of DT11, outlines of costed links to the Trailway and a summer picnic in June.

The AGM took place as usual in the Shillingstone Church Centre which is a good venue as there is plenty of parking and it is about the centre of the Trailway.

Graham Stanley outlined the various routes which had been considered to link Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge and Spetisbury and Sturminster Marshall. All of them were problematic but the least difficult one is to use the old Railway Crossing behind Clarke's Yard in Sturminster Newton and finally link this to Stalbridge Lane. The cost of this would be about £800,000.

The link between Spetisbury and Sturminster Marshall is not confounded by the river but by the A350 and where and how to cross it. Any crossing would cost in the region of £600,000.

Finally the Rangers have always hoped for a visitor centre on the Milldown which would link the Trailway to the nature reserve and the school as well as providing a tearoom and toilets for those using this facility. This would cost in the region of £400,000 but would bring in some revenue for all these facilities.

The Trailway Network committee is made up of people who reflect all the areas and interests of those who use the Trailway.

- Jan Wardell is on Stalbridge town council and is a member of the Ramblers association,
- Graham Rains is the footpaths officer in Shillingstone and a cyclist,
- Dilys Gartside is on Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council and runs Cyclewise that trains cyclists,
- Sarah Watts lives in Witchampton and represents the British Horse society,
- Pauline Batstone is on Sturminster Newton Town Council, the District Council and the County Council,
- Joe Hickish lives in Blandford and is a keen cyclist
- Steve Gerry lives in Sturminster Marshall and enjoys walking

- Graham Smith lives in Charlton Marshall, belongs to the Dorset Doodlers and also cycles
- Steve Adamson lives in Blandford and is interested in financing the Trailway
- John Cody who is the secretary lives in Durweston and is interested in walking
- Lynne Marshallsay who is our new treasurer lives in Shillingstone and is a keen walker
- Lesley Gasson who is the Chairperson lives in Shillingstone and is a walker

We all try to promote the Trailway for the wonderful opportunities it gives us all to enjoy the country side safely without the increasingly heavy traffic on the roads.

In Sturminster Newton on 20th March in the Exchange there is an exhibition of voluntary organisations. The Trailway will be represented. Please come and visit our stand

DT11. As some of you will know the community organisation DT11 is being wound up and we are putting a bid for some of its funds to improve the Trailway. We hope to secure £2,000. A drop on the way to raising the £800,000.

The Big Bikish Brake Off This is a picnic on the Shillingstone Rec beside the Trailway on 25th June. We want to publicise and promote the Trailway in the best British fashion with a picnic, music and sunshine. Come and join us from all parts of the Trailway. I will give you more details about food, drink, music and games.

Lesley Gasson



Graham's spring lambs