

Frome's Missing Links report of 2021

It was always going to be a long journey. But while the curtains remain down on the live performance so to speak, behind the scenes our backstage crew of volunteers have been as busy as the pandemic restrictions have allowed. The show must go on, but sadly due to circumstance there is little to see for all this effort in terms of new multi use path on the ground. However, despite these delays, significant steps have been taken and the political winds of change are there. Positive signs that the mood music is changing nationally and regionally in our favour are everywhere.

Lobbying has been a big issue of late, with many a politician having to tread carefully when declaring personal and financial interests. Frome's Missing Links supporters and trustees are all volunteers and give up their time entirely for free. In that way we are a truly independent campaigning group. However, as a small charitable organisation we have to be mindful of the wishes of key stakeholders such as landowners, who ultimately can make or break a project. In that respect, FML remains committed to accessible paths for all, including equestrian access and walkers, but we sometimes have to make realistic compromises. We don't want to exclude anyone. Primarily our active supporters tend to be cyclists, but we will continue to negotiate for the best outcomes for all active travel participants.

Our own lobbying efforts have been aided by working with Sustrans, Somerset Rail to Trail, Strawberry Line, Greener Greenways and Cycle Routes Ltd, staff and councillors at Mendip and Frome Town councils and by taking part in some joined up group meetings covering Taunton, Bridgwater, Bruton, Wells, and Glastonbury. Work with FTC on producing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) are continuing. By working together with others we think we make a stronger case for an extensive network of active travel routes across the whole area.

In other news, we now have an updated and revised preferred route document, which covers the whole 'missing links' section north of Frome. If Network Rail agree to these plans we will have for the first time some firm proposals for a completely traffic free path out of Frome to the Colliers Way.

Phase 2 of the route from Great Elm to Elliots Lane already has planning permission and while construction has ground to a halt, we have at last been able to agree the sale of some land to help us finish this section. We are grateful to landowners who offered us alternative possibilities and to Sustrans for drawing up those proposals. However with the agreed sale of land along the original route now agreed, we are just awaiting completion of contracts and can then once again look to completing Phase 2 as originally envisaged by the end of next year.

Phase 3 also has planning permission but progress at Whatcombe has also stalled, although we now anticipate adding tarmac on the next 150m of path by the end of August. Thanks are due to landowners and to Frome Town Council for approving a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of the completion works at Weylands.

Thanks to earlier work done by FTC and FML trustees a multi use path now exists from Asda through to the edge of the newly built Edmund Park estate, which we hope will eventually run out on the southern end of the development to Feltham Lane. Developers Persimmon have constructed an excellent path as far as their southern boundary. Negotiations on this last stretch to Longleat are at an early stage but we hope to have positive news and revised drawings soon.

Fundraising continues and some long term and sizeable funding possibilities are on the horizon. We are grateful for an individual donation of £2,000 recently and indeed for any donations large or small. We found out recently that we can qualify for Gift Aid on all donations and hope to backdate that – a nice surprise!

Coming up soon on June 27th is the Bike Jumble, which last year raised £3,700 so lets hope we get somewhere close to this again. Already as I write this we have in excess of 70 bikes of all shapes and sizes and the usual plethora of spare parts and accessories. We'll be near the library along with some of the Ding crew – make sure you catch a bargain!

The School Travel Challenge is always a success, although this year we have had to push it back to September/October for obvious reasons.

As ever, the Friday Crew volunteers continue to improve and maintain the Colliers Way and regularly check on work in progress – without them the cost of these plans would be even greater. Together they have saved the project many thousands of pounds, so again, massive and heartfelt thanks to them.

This is a good time to be pushing for changes. Frome has a wealth of new enthusiasts, campaigners and organisations such as Ding, Pronto, Health Connectors and others, all of whom are keen to improve safe travel options in the area. So, thanks again to all of our volunteers and supporters, from marketing, media messaging, practical earth moving, offers of equipment and services and the many other ways you support the project. It's with your help that we will continue to improve the off road network of paths for everyone.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Frome's Missing Links

1166492

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

1/1/2021

To

12/31/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Public donations	3,414	-	-	3,414
Sale of engraved bricks	-	-	-	-
Online fundraising & collection tins	2,234	-	-	2,234
Grants received	8,000	-	-	8,000
School travel challenge donations	-	-	-	-
Ceilidh profit	-	-	-	-
Frome Sunday market bike jumble	2,936	-	-	2,936
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,584	-	-	16,584
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,584	-	-	16,584
A3 Payments				
Professional fees	-	-	-	-
Insurance premiums	302	-	-	302
Other operating expenses	-	-	-	-
Direct expenditure on building cycleway	740	-	-	740
Bank charges inc. Paypal	-	-	-	-
Internet expenses	-	-	-	-
Planning fees	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,042	-	-	1,042
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,042	-	-	1,042
Net of receipts/(payments)	15,542	-	-	15,542
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,825	-	-	21,825
Cash funds this year end	37,367	-	-	37,367

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	cash at bank	37,367	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	37,367	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
B3 Investment assets			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
B5 Liabilities			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	
		Adrian Warren	
		Tricia Golinski	

CC16a



Last year
to the nearest £

581
-
4,088
-
-
-
-
-
-
4,669

-
-

4,669

-
-
263
2,581
-
-
-
-
-
-
2,844

-

2,844

1,825
-
20,001
21,826



**Endowment
funds**
to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

**Endowment
funds**
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

**When due
(optional)**

Date of
approval

9/24/2022
9/24/2022