

## **Frome's Missing Links Annual Report 2022**

It's not easy to build new active travel paths. Route choice, designs, plans, landowners, barriers (bridges, rivers, roads, canals), the need for ecological, topographical and physical surveys, public consultations, opposition and discussion from the myriad of user groups (Ramblers, railway restoration groups, Trails Trust, Wildlife Trust, etc), rights of way changes, flood risk assessments, badgers, bats, noise, planning permission, insurance, tools, storage space, and general lack of funding are just a few of the problems we regularly have to deal with. No wonder we talk about this as a long-term project!

At least this year, there is some tangible progress to report on the much-anticipated Phase 2 northern link into Frome. After many years of patient negotiations with various parts of Network Rail (NR), we have been able to open up and fence off a small but key piece of land along what was the old GWR branch line to Radstock. This saw brilliant efforts from our volunteers as they first hacked their way through 50 years of undergrowth and vegetation; removed the final ten pairs of old rails, sleepers and iron works (each rail weighing about 1 ton) and erecting about 200m of weld mesh fence under Network Rail supervision. This development has kick started the whole Phase 2 route and we now look for a completion date this side of Christmas. Our volunteers and contractors have been making huge progress on this technically difficult section and it is in no small part down to our volunteer support that this has been made possible.

To add to the excitement we now also have permission to fence off another 180m of adjoining land, which will complete the link to Elliots Lane. In total Phase 2 will add another 1.3 km of useable path to the Colliers Way and will eventually become an important gateway to the much anticipated 70 mile Somerset Circle. Obviously we are quite excited by the prospect of opening a new section of path after so many years of grindingly slow progress.

More progress on the ground on Phase 3 should see another 450m of path surfaced along the river at Whatcombe by the end of the summer. We have committed £30,000 to this and will again be working with Connor Construction, who with Aggregate Industries and Mrs Yeoman's team are helping us to complete the work.

With the help of Somerset Council and Mendip District Council we have applied to Sustrans for development funding from the DFT transport fund, which will enable the next stretch to Cooper Hall and beyond. As always we say thank you to all involved.

Phase 4 is now the last part of our missing links and is only a mere 1.3km long. However, this is technically the most expensive section, as it will run largely along the existing Mendip Rail mineral line from Whatley. We have conducted a detailed survey of this whole section, with NR staff and a newly revised workbook of our plans has been submitted to NR – we thank John Grimshaw and Greenways for their help in this endeavor. Volunteers also installed a new gate and planted 400 saplings at the Coalash Lane site, where we already have a short connecting section of completed path. More progress indeed!

The main fund raising event this year was the Ceilidh, which raised almost £3,000. We also received £800 from the sale of scrap iron works. We also had a very successful day at the Independent Market and raised more funds from our collecting tins and stall. The Frome Community Bike Project, which now has CIC status and successfully raised £30,000 start up capital, will donate any excess funds to Frome's Missing Links.

Frome's Missing Link volunteers have also been helping out with various elements of the proposed Somerset Circle, which will join up disused railway lines such as the Strawberry Line and could eventually form a 76 mile circuit of traffic free routes across Somerset. Already about 2km of path has been newly created between Shepton Mallet and Wells and our volunteers played a big part in making this happen. The Frome section will form the link from the Somerset Circle to the rest of the National Cycle Network to the east.

We have had a lot of support from staff and councillors at Mendip District Council (MDC) in the last few years. MDC is now defunct and subsumed into the new Somerset Council, but we did receive a parting gift of three penny farthing bike racks, which we will place along our path in due course.

Finally, thank you to our trustees and key volunteers who have all made massive efforts this year. Sometimes it feels like a full time job rather than a useful hobby but the rewards are obvious and the enthusiasm from the general public drives us on. As I have said before, this remains a long-term project, one step forward, two back, two more forward with an unexpected twist or two along the way – a bit like ceilidh dancing perhaps. The big difference is that we should all be able to walk, dance, ride or skip along some new bits of path this year. I know I intend to do just that.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Frome's Missing Links

1166492

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/01/2022

To

31/12/2022

### 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 £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Public donations	3,458	-	-	3,458	3,414
Sale of engraved bricks	-	-	-	-	-
Online fundraising and collection tins	335	-	-	335	5,170
Grants received	13,454	-	-	13,454	8,000
School travel challenge donations	-	-	-	-	-
Ceillidh profit	-	-	-	-	-
Frome Sunday market bike jumble	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>17,247</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,247</b>	<b>16,584</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>17,247</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,247</b>	<b>16,584</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance premiums	-	-	-	-	-
Other operating expenses	427	-	-	427	558
Direct expenditure on building cycleway	13,957	-	-	13,957	81
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>14,384</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,384</b>	<b>639</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>14,384</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,384</b>	<b>639</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>15,945</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>37,323</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,323</b>	<b>21,379</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>40,186</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,186</b>	<b>37,324</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at bank	40,186	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	40,186	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	PMGolinski	P M GOLINSKI	01/06/2023	