

## **BONIFACE TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

**REGIISTERED CHARITY NO 1168111**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 1JULY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2021**

### **Contact Details**

**Address** 6 Woodlands, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, Devon, EX5 5BP

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### **Names of Trustees**

Paul Taylor (Chair)

Stephen Parker

Robert Lunnon

Nick Dyer

### **Structure Governance and Management**

The Charity Is a CIO using the model Constitution for voting by members other than trustees.

Membership is composed of representatives from local Parish Councils, District Council and County Council representatives and local sustainable transport interest groups to fit the purpose of the objects of the Charity.

Members and Trustees meet together on average 6 weekly, currently on line

One Chairman, an Administrator and Treasurer have each been appointed, and sub committees for various tasks have been appointed, in the areas of route of the intended project, legal matters, and publicity and website. It is intended these positions will be reappointed at each AGM. Under the constitution Trustees retire by rotation each AGM and formally are elected for Reappointment.

The Charity currently has 4 Trustees. This number is considered sufficient to meet the Charity's current objectives and allow for any future continuity in the event of replacement. The Trustees were grateful to the services of Clive Smith who retired as a Trustee during the year, having given the Association the benefit of much knowledge of interest in the project to date and Clive has kindly offered to continue to share his wealth of experience on matters at the Exeter end of the project.

### **Objects of the Charity and Aims and Objectives.**

The objects clause of the Constitution reads as follows

*To promote, encourage, provide and maintain an all purpose, traffic free trail, for general use by walkers, cyclists and wheelchair and mobility scooter users, in whole or in part between the town of Crediton, the village of Newton St Cyres and the city of Exeter, in the County of Devon.*

This Charity is expected to oversee a significant large scale, long term project, with the ultimate aim of securing an all purpose trail from Crediton to Exeter passing through the village in Newton St Cyres in Devon. This will comprise approximately 6 miles in distance.

Public consultation has showed to date much support for the proposed project with intrinsic benefits to the public at large. The scheme will offer an alternative for pedestrians, pedal cyclists, and wheelchair and motorized mobility scooter users, to what is currently a very busy main road, the A377, a road where in many places there are no proper pavement facilities.

On line and printed surveys showed an impressive demand for the project amongst the public.

The Charity has appointed a consultant engineer with specialist experience in this type of project. Our consultant engineer could see no major issues in the project in terms of construction and provided an opinion that the scheme would be workable in practice. The construction methods would largely comprise a tarmac path of suitable width, with stock proof fencing for most of the route, with a

small number of small scale bridges over streams, a limited amount of excavation, and it is likely that one river bridge may be required which would be the biggest expense of the project.

Land owners have been very supportive to the project and a large number of land owners along the proposed route of the path have agreed an intention in principle to grant legal agreements to facilitate construction and use of the path along their respective parts of land without capital payment.

Relevant Parish, District and County Councils have been notified of the project and discussions have taken place with various officers regarding the project.

### **Activities within the Year**

Whilst inevitably the COVID restrictions have had a noticeable effect like many others the Association has been able to take advantage of meeting on Zoom and remains in regular communication and is even able to hold a remote meeting with Council Officers, as mentioned below.

Following completion of the first and most comprehensive land owner agreement in April 2020, the Association has continued to pursue the further legal agreements for the first anticipated phase of the project, with progress being effected to a degree by COVID restrictions.

One of the next longer term objective would be to acquire planning permission for the first anticipated phase of the project, further to a Pre-Application submission with Mid Devon District Council in January 2018.

The Association continues to have further discussion and liaison with the Devon County Council. The Cabinet of Devon Council resolved in April 2020 to allocate several cycleway project for funding, and the Boniface Trail project has been listed formally as a proposed project. It is understood that no direct funding from central Government is available at present but that may be available within the 2023/24 financial year. There may be funding opportunities from COVID initiated central Government schemes. It is fair to say that the County Council is advancing other cycleway schemes which are more advanced in priority, but the Association is encouraged on the whole by the recognition of the project by Devon County

Council. Following this approval a Zoom meeting was held in July 2020, between various trustees and various Devon County Council Officials, and the respective Mid Devon District and Devon County Councillors. One outcome of the meeting was that DCC generated a document “DCC Core design principles for shared use trails”. Although part of this document is generic, part of it is specific to the route under consideration for the Boniface Trail. Another successful outcome from that meeting was that the Boniface Trail is being considered as a project to attract contributions from future developers of sites close to the proposed route under statutory planning requirements. In principal continued professional support and input was expected from DCC on the planning and engineering aspects.

This support was further boosted by a site meeting in September 2020 with the respective Highways Development Officer, and Cycleways Engineering Officer from Devon County Council, with a willingness to feed back with opinions regarding the project, and this was supported by the offer of Devon County Council passing the main legal agreement to date to their appointed lawyers for consideration. Inevitably there has been a delay in feedback in these matters due to COVID related events.

### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees declare that they have held due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Commission accept that the objects of the Charity have appropriate public benefit.

In carrying out its activities during the year, the Charity has had due regard to its objects and served the public by continuing to promote the objects of the Association and work to pursue legal agreements and promote support from local government, thus furthering the objects of the Charity which will, ultimately, benefit the public.

The Trustees can summarise as to how it is anticipated the project will benefit the public as follows:

- a) It will provide a facility which will be open to all persons, which, in the particular location, does not presently exist.
- b) It is accessible to a wide range of potential users to encompass pedal cyclists, pedestrians, and those with mobility impairments.
- c) Any person within, or visiting, the geographical area will be able to enjoy the facility
- d) The benefits of walking and cycling are widely regarded to have benefits to public health and well being.
- e) The Trustees consider the particular route of the path is in a place of high natural beauty, providing further benefits to well being.
- f) The path will bring large improvements in terms of safety to the public, with particular regard to a large percentage of respondents in the Charity's initial survey expressing the view that the equivalent route along the current established A377 is particularly unsafe
- g) The project will improve Air Q particularly in the Crediton area.

### **Financial Review of the Year**

During the year small grant activities have been restricted due to COVID restrictions but the Association remains optimistic regarding longer term funding as noted above. One small grant of £400 was received from Crediton Town Council. There remains cash in hand for the purposes of pursuing further land owner agreements and planning costs.

Longer term financial objectives would be to raise additional funds for the planning application for the first intended phase, and for construction itself. Possible avenues of longer term, larger scale, funding, would include as follows:

Developers' contributions under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Community Infrastructure Levy

Landfill Tax Credits

Remaining European Union Tourism Promotion Funding

Local Enterprise Partnership

Local fundraising/donations/crowd funding.

Volunteer Labour/skills

Business sponsorship

Lottery

Heritage

Sports Council

Supermarket “bag tax” donation schemes

Crowd funding

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Taylor', written in a cursive style.

**Paul Taylor**

**Chair**

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BONIFACE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

1168111

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
07/01/2020

To

Period end date  
30-Jun-21

### 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>					
Crediton Town Council Grants	400	-	-	400	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	400	-	-	400	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	400	-	-	400	-
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	400	-	-	400	-
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	12,047	-	-	12,047	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	12,447	-	-	12,447	-

## 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 in Bank	12,447	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>12,447</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(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
Paul Taylor <i>Paul Taylor</i>		Paul Taylor (Trustee/Chair)		30/04/2022