

BONIFACE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1168111

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2022

Contact Details

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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.

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.

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 carried out in 2016, at the inception of the Charity, showed an impressive demand for the project amongst the public.

Initial consultations with an engineer with specialist experience in this type of project, resulted in the engineer's opinion that there should be no major burdens in the project in terms of construction, and 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. The first and most comprehensive land owner agreement was completed in April 2020.

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

In July 2020, the Association held an on line meeting with Devon County Council Officers for Cycleway Engineering and Design and Highways Development, and respective County and District Councilors, in an ordattempt to progress the project. This was followed by a site meeting along a major part of the route in September 2020, between Trustees of the Association and the appropriate Devon County Council Officers. These meetings together resulted in the offer from Devon County Council to provide assistance and guidance in terms of design and planning of the project, and also to provide a legal appraisal of the first land owner agreement, which covers a major part of the first intended phase, from the County Council's appointed lawyers in this field.

The Association has continued to meet regularly to seek to progress matters with particular emphasis on Devon Couty Council's input, since this is likely to have a major positive influence on the future status of the project in terms of acquiring planning approval and funding. To a degree, progress during the year remained affected by COVID restrictions, but as the year has progressed members and Trustees have been able to meet in person.

The Association has been greatly assisted by the work of the recently formed A377 Action Group, which is a campaign group composed of relevant ward Parish Council Chairs, District and County Council Ward members and appropriate

Devon County Council Officers, The aim of this group is to campaign for improved road safety along the A377, an issue which is intrinsically linked to the Boniface Trail project. The Group promotes two main campaigns, one being better speed and traffic calming along the A377, and the other being the advancement of the Boniface Trail Project itself. One very significant development from the Group's work is that Devon County Council agreed in November 2021 to allocate funding of £20,000 for an outline feasibility study of the route from Crediton to Exeter with focus on the route between Crediton and Newton St Cyres (but with the hope that the Association may be able to persuade Devon County Council to extend this focus further along the route. towards Half Moon). The appointed Consultants had a background meeting with the Association on 4th March 2022. As at the year end a report from the consultants is expected to be released shortly and the Association is pressing Devon County Council for the forthcoming report.

Additionally the Association is participating in a series of discussions called Climate Conversations instigated by Mid Devon District Council. Mid Devon District Council has recognized the climate emergency. One discussion item has been to allow and encourage certain roads in Mid Devon to be classified such that cyclists have priority over other road users and some key roads in Crediton have been mentioned in this context.

Looking forward, the Association will continue to work with Devon County Council and other respective Councils and any other relevant authority and interest groups to advance the project with particular interest to seek further funding from Devon County Council.

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 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 only currently available equivalent route along the current established A377 is particularly unsafe
- g) The project will improve Air Quality 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, as per the previous year. Operating costs for the year have been limited to small hall hire fees to cover personal meetings. There remains cash in hand in the sum of £12,795 as at the year end for the purposes of pursuing further land

owner agreements and planning permission/consultancy costs when the appropriate opportunities arise.

Longer term financial objectives would be to raise additional funds for the planning application for the first intended phase, and for construction itself, and the Trustees consider it a high possibility that funding may be acquired in the longer term from Devon County Council, utilising appropriate allocated funding streams and central government initiatives for this type of project. 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

Local Enterprise Partnership

Local fundraising/donations/crowd funding.

Volunteer Labour/skills

Business sponsorship

Lottery

Heritage

Sports Council

Supermarket "bag tax" donation schemes

Crowd funding

Central Government Sustainable Transport funding schemes

Allocated cycleway funding from County Council

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Paul Taylo (Chair)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P H Taylo', written in a cursive style.

8th January 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BONIFACE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

1163111

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/07/2022

To

Period end date
30-Jun-23

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Crediton Town Council Grants	400	-	-	400	400
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	400	-	-	400	400
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	400	-	-	400	400
A3 Payments					
Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Rent	52	-	-	52	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	52	-	-	52	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	52	-	-	52	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	348	-	-	348	400
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,447	-	-	12,447	12,047
Cash funds this year end	12,795	-	-	12,795	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 £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Bank	12,795	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,795	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		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
		<i>P H Taylor</i>	Paul Taylor (Trustee/Chair)	08/01/2024