

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1188324

Details

Other names	The Two Shires Greenway
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2020-03-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	44 Dunnington Alcester B49 5NX
Phone	07771660250
Email	avonandarrowgreenway@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: To promote and encourage in the Avon and Arrow river valleys in Warwickshire and Worcestershire for the public benefit the development and provision of safe shared paths and facilities that are available to all non-motorised users (NMUs) - walkers, dog-walkers, cyclists, pushchair and, wherever possible, mobility scooter and wheelchair users, and horse riders, and to undertake such projects and activities of a charitable nature which will assist in promoting health, wellbeing and the protection of the environment.

Activities: Activities include the promotion of cycling and walking environments and infrastructure within the valleys of the rivers Avon and Arrow in Worcestershire and Warwickshire to support the creation of traffic free leisure paths linking rural communities to the principal towns in the area. The paths will support health and wellbeing, local tourism and responsible cycling for all ages and abilities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Warwickshire
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31		£0	£706	-
2024-03-31		£0	£3,008	-
2023-03-31		£0	£700	-
2022-03-31	£3,000		£817	-
2021-03-31	£4,735		£914	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jeremy Harvey	Chair	2020-03-04
Colin Tether		2020-03-04
Daryl Bailey BSc, ACA		2020-03-04
Liam Maude		2020-03-04

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188324

Accounts

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
(Working name: The Two Shires Greenway)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1188324

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
Working name: The Two Shires Greenway

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Trustees

Jeremy Harvey	Chair
Liam Maude	Vice Chair
Colin Tether	Trustee
Daryl Bailey	Treasurer

Principal Office

44 Dunnington
ALCESTER
B49 5NX

Registered CIO Number 1188324

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS – 31 MARCH 2025

Pages

3. Report of the Trustees
4. Financial Report for the period

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees present their annual report and the unaudited accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) for the period ended 31 March 2025.

The organisation became a registered CIO on 4 March 2020.

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Trustees

The trustees of the CIO who served during the period were:

D Bailey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
J Harvey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
L Maude	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
C Tether	(appointed 4 th March 2020)

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the ongoing support received from its stakeholders and Sustrans during the period.

Signed by order of the board of trustees

J Harvey
Chair

Approved by the board 19 January 2026

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
Working name: The Two Shires Greenway

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income:		
Donations and grants	-	-
	-	-
Expenses:		
Hire of Village Hall	(52.50)	(30.00)
Website costs	(159.98)	(188.73)
Professional Indemity Insurance	(249.00)	(244.00)
HM Land registry fees	(44.00)	(33.00)
Contribution to Sustrans Report	-	(2,357.81)
Publicity	(15.00)	-
Meeting costs	(185.80)	(154.84)
Total income less expenditure	<u>(706.28)</u>	<u>(3,008.38)</u>
Balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	3,738.02	6,881.34
Accrual - meeting costs	(46.77)	(126.00)
Accrual - Sustrans Report	-	(2,357.81)
	<u>3,691.25</u>	<u>4,397.53</u>
Reserves b/fwd	4,397.53	7,405.91
Income less expenditure in year	(706.28)	(3,008.38)
Reserves c/fwd	<u>3,691.25</u>	<u>4,397.53</u>

Accounts prepared by D Bailey, Treasurer

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188324

Accounts

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
(Working name: The Two Shires Greenway)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1188324

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D Bailey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
J Harvey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
L Maude	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
C Tether	(appointed 4 th March 2020)

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the ongoing support received from its stakeholders and Sustrans during the period.

Signed by order of the board of trustees

J Harvey
Chair

Approved by the board 22nd January 2025

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

Working name: The Two Shires Greenway

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

The Avon and Arrow Greenway Project (working name, The Two Shires Greenway (“TSG”)) was started in 2018 from an initiative by Salford Priors Parish Council. The Town and Parish Councils between Evesham and Alcester collectively agreed that a route between the two towns should be looked at and they all contributed funds towards a feasibility study. Later it was agreed to add the route from Broom to Stratford upon Avon and another feasibility study was commissioned. Both studies showed that it was practicable to build the routes together with branches to nearby villages.

The TSG is a charity, managed by a volunteer Executive Committee of six people including two parish councillors. The Executive Committee have worked tirelessly over the past 5 years and developed the route opportunities in some detail.

What we have achieved so far

- Clarity of the route over most of both spines with comprehensive Feasibility Studies supplied by Sustrans.
- Strong political support from all parish councils, both district councils and in principal support of varying degrees from county councils.
- Development of the Salford Priors to Alcester section underway with £500,000 raised.
- Development of the Evesham to the Valley section, a deliverable work in progress with some funding earmarked and £150,000 achieved in grants for the Harvington to Norton section.
- Massive political support for the Broom to Bidford Health Centre section of the spine to Stratford upon Avon.

Potential benefits of the project

- A massively exciting cross county/district network of footpaths and cycleways.
- Local adults cycling to work and children cycling to schools as part of active travel.
- Zero emissions and environmental targets achieved.
- Opportunities to significantly increase footfall for tourism in our towns and villages thus supporting the local economy.
- Public health benefits for mental and emotional wellbeing. Prevention in the onset of Alzheimer’s and Type 2 diabetes (which currently takes 10% of the entire NHS budget to treat), also coronary heart disease etc.

Recent developments

1. Salford Priors to Wixford section

Salford Priors Parish council are starting on the first part of the delivery of Salford to Wixford Greenway. The intention is to cut back the vegetation on certain parts of the route by the end of February 2025 to avoid the bird nesting season which starts on 1st March 2025. Quotes have been obtained for fencing and clearance where necessary and will be actioned shortly - after this work we can begin of the construction of the greenway itself.

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

Working name: The Two Shires Greenway

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

2. Evesham to Harvington section

We continue to pursue all avenues to ensure that the grant we obtained for the Harvington section is spent and the progress on building the route out of Evesham is achieved. We are working with Wychavon District Council on this section of the route.

3. Wixford to Alcester section

Once the route from Salford Priors to Wixford is under construction we can re-engage with Alcester Town Council and all other partners to continue developing the route via Oversley into Alcester with the necessary permissions and signage. This route can currently be walked or cycled but needs significant additional work to make it more easily accessible. While this, as you know, is not our preferred route, it does allow the complete Salford Priors to Alcester section to open for use.

4. Broom to Stratford section

While Community Infrastructure Levy grants are temporarily on hold this year by Stratford District Council we are continuing to work closely with Stratford District Council and Bidford Parish Council to win funding to begin work on the Broom to Bidford Health Centre route.

5. Funding

An expression of interest has been made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for approximately £400K working with Stratford District Council, Alcester Town Council, and Warwickshire County Council. We will hear if we have made the short list for a full application by the end of February 2025. This grant is to fund a full time officer based at Stratford District Council for 3 years to project manage work on all local greenways and rights of way. It will also fund a consultancy from a key national organisation with expertise in the field.

Future challenges and opportunities

As many of you will be aware the present government is pursuing the development of Unitary Authorities which will dispense with District Councils. There are a number of very good reasons to be concerned about how quickly this process may affect our very strong relationship with Stratford District Council and the support we have had from them. However, there is still a window of opportunity for us to work in partnership with them (and colleagues at Warwickshire County Council) to deliver the hugely valuable amenities our project offers to the citizens within and outside the district.

In conclusion can I thank my colleagues on the executive for the extraordinary resilience they have shown in continuing their determination to get this Greenway built despite bureaucracy, minimal levels of funding and a lack of strategic planning for walking and cycling in rural counties by successive governments. Can I also thank all of you who have supported us over the last five years and given us help and encouragement.

Joe Harvey - Chair Two Shires Greenway Project

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

Working name: The Two Shires Greenway

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income:		
Donations and grants	-	-
	-	-
Expenses:		
Hire of Village Hall	(30.00)	-
Website costs	(188.73)	(309.98)
Professional Indemnity Insurance	(244.00)	(244.00)
HM Land registry fees	(33.00)	(45.00)
Contribution to Sustrans Report	(2,357.81)	-
Ordnance Survey licence costs	-	-
Meeting costs	(154.84)	(101.00)
Total income less expenditure	<u>(3,008.38)</u>	<u>(699.98)</u>
Balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	6,881.34	7,506.91
Accrual - meeting costs	(126.00)	(101.00)
Accrual - Sustrans Report	(2,357.81)	-
	<u>4,397.53</u>	<u>7,405.91</u>
Reserves b/fwd	7,405.91	8,105.89
Income less expenditure in year	(3,008.38)	(699.98)
Reserves c/fwd	<u>4,397.53</u>	<u>7,405.91</u>

Accounts prepared by D Bailey, Treasurer

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188324

Accounts

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1188324**

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Trustees

Jeremy Harvey	Chair
Liam Maude	Vice Chair
Colin Tether	Trustee
Daryl Bailey	Treasurer

Principal Office

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Registered CIO Number 1188324

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THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

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D Bailey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
J Harvey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
L Maude	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
C Tether	(appointed 4 th March 2020)

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the ongoing support received from its stakeholders and Sustrans during the period.

Signed by order of the board of trustees

J Harvey
Chair

Approved by the board 12th January 2024

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

Our spine routes engage two rural counties; our greenway links them in a potentially mighty partnership to create a new network for walking and cycling. It's a strategic partnership that is both exciting and powerful and offers us a route to government funding through Active Travel and the Dept for Transport. Constructing this relationship completes our engagement through all levels of politics, parish, district, county and government and is vital in attracting the money necessary for Two Shires Greenway vision to become a reality - more of this below!

A brief overview of the both routes –

Evesham to Alcester is Spine 1 and Broom to Stratford is Spine 2. The section from Salford Priors church to Wixford and onto Alcester is underway with CIL funding from Salford Priors PC and Stratford District Council to the tune of £500,000 and we expect work to commence very early 2024

We have CIL money for the section through Harvington Harvington PC have been awarded 150K community legacy grant money. We are waiting on National Highways and WCC to process the legal side so we can go for match funding. This would effectively give us 300K for this section.

The parish council has set up a working group to progress this. The Valley owners are very supportive of the project as a whole and specifically the link to Evesham Town.

On Spine 2 We have a pincer movement strategy in place for this route as the central section offers the greatest challenge. So we are working on the route from Broom to the Bidford Health Centre with Bidford PC and we have bid for £250k of Stratford DC CIL money for this section in this year's CIL grants – we are hoping to hear good news in the next week or so!

In partnership with this we are also in the planning stage with Luddington and Welford Parish Councils, on the route from the Stratford racecourse to Welford. (we intend to bid for CIL funds for this section in 2024.) In effect we are coming at it from both ends inwards, Broom to Stratford and from Stratford to Welford. Delivering these sections will leverage extra funding to do the difficult job of joining them up. Once done we then have immediate access to the Tramway to Long Marston

Long term strategy requires county joint action with government.

We are engaged with Councillors from Worcs CC, who have responsibility for Highways and Transport, and Councillors from Warks CC to achieve cross county support for the project as a whole. The difficult sections of the Greenway project will require serious funding (many millions) from Active Travel and the DFT to complete. Our concern is

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

that Active Travel is currently focused primarily on urban development which is unhelpful for rural counties like Worcestershire and Warwickshire where connectivity is key.

So the aim is to lobby DFT and Active Travel for funding for routes offering 'connectivity' rather than just the present urban focus. Ideally both district councils, Wychavon and Stratford would work to ensure their county council's engagement with the cross county strategic partnership.

We also believe that Directors of Public Health should have a powerful voice in supporting the Greenway and we are asking DC leadership to set up a meeting so we could enlist their support for this project to promote health and wellbeing.

So Evesham to Harvington

We know that the original work started over 5 years ago to deliver this route has stalled badly for a number of reasons, however this is the perfect time to resurrect the work as things have changed and we can work with those changes.

We hope to set up a joint meeting between the two District Council leaders to encourage cross district council co-operation and pushing for the engagement of District Council County Cllrs to join in the creation of a pressure group with the two county councils to lobby government.

We met Eagle One on 28th September. They are very keen to see this route in place and talked with great enthusiasm about the commercial and tourist benefits for Evesham. They offered to help us sharpen up the executive summary of our business plan.

Worcestershire CC has outlined a plan to create a PROW across the New Farm nature reserve. This can later be upgraded to a bridleway. Eagle One have agreed to this being linked into their land.

We were invited to update the Evesham TC planning committee on progress on November 20th and spent a very positive hour briefing them and asking for their active support in pursuing the route and lobbying Wychavon DC

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

We now would be delighted if you could use your influence to push for progress on your section of this unique infrastructure project which will bring significant benefits and offer a huge opportunity to develop a network of walking/cycling paths for the whole of South Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This amazing amenity will connect all the footpaths and bridleways and routes off the Greenway to other villages and places of beauty and interest along the way. We hope that you continue to see the huge benefits of actively supporting this agenda and investing time and political capital as well as cash in its development.

J Harvey
Chair

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income:		
Donation from Bidford on Avon Parish Council	-	3,000.00
	-	3,000.00
Expenses:		
Hire of Village Hall	-	(45.00)
Website costs	(309.98)	(164.75)
Professional Indemity Insurance	(244.00)	(244.00)
HM Land registry fees	(45.00)	(156.00)
Publicity costs	-	(71.89)
Ordnance Survey licence costs	-	(80.99)
Meeting costs	(101.00)	(54.50)
	(699.98)	2,182.87
Total income less expenditure		
<u>Balance sheet:</u>		
Cash at bank	7,506.91	8,105.89
Accrual - meeting costs	(101.00)	-
	7,405.91	8,105.89
Reserves b/fwd	8,105.89	5,923.02
Income less expenditure in year	(699.98)	2,182.87
	7,405.91	8,105.89
Reserves c/fwd		

Accounts prepared by D Bailey, Treasurer

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

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THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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Signed by order of the board of trustees

J Harvey
Chair

Approved by the board 26th October 2022

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

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Route 1 – Evesham to Alcester

Salford Priors Parish Council made a brave and far sighted decision in early 2018. Through their Neighbourhood Plan process, they called a meeting of adjoining parishes extending to Alcester Town Council to the north and Evesham Town Council to the south. Their purpose was to investigate the potential of developing pathways for walkers and cyclists across parish boundaries.

It soon became clear that there was enthusiasm for such a project among the parishes. The route would be based on the old railway line between the two towns that closed in 1962 and would run along a 10-mile spine route between Alcester and Evesham. As a result of that first meeting it was agreed to set up a group and take the challenge on. That group was comprised of representatives from the parish and town councils of Alcester, Bidford on Avon, Cleeve Prior, Evesham, Exhall, Harvington, North and Middle Littleton, Norton and Lenchwick, Offenham, Salford Priors and Wixford. It was originally called the Cross Parish Cycle and Pathways Project (CPCPP) but this was changed soon after to the Avon to Arrow Greenway Project (AAGP).

An early decision was taken to commission and fund a Feasibility Study for the project from 'Sustrans', the National Sustainable Transport Charity. This excellent comprehensive study has formed the basis for the work of the group since then.

We have made very significant progress over the last four years or so since then. We properly established the organisation, gained charitable status and worked hard to start the implementation of the Sustrans Feasibility Study. From the start the AAGP's strategy has been to progress through forming positive partnerships and we now have all Parish, Town and District Councils along the proposed route supporting us both in principle and financially. We have increasingly strong links with County councillors and officers from both Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Councils and We are in discussions with major local landowners and have the strong backing of organisations such as the Heart of England Forest and the Avon Navigation Trust.

Adding the Broom to Stratford upon Avon Route

Early in 2020, an approach was made by a representative of the Bidford Health Centre Patient Participation Group (BHCPPG) about extending the AAGP route from Bidford Village to the Health Centre. The Health Centre is located close to the old railway line which used to run from Broom to Stratford upon Avon and closed in 1960. It is located about a mile from the centre of Bidford on the B439 which has no footways so walking the Health Centre is not an option. The BHCPPG representative felt using the old railway line from Bidford village was an option to provide a good route with health benefits. AAGP Officers have met with BHCPPG and subsequently held a site meeting. Initial investigation of land ownership and other enquiries have shown that there seems to be a very good prospect of a continuous route to Stratford upon Avon being possible along the old railway line. This route, around 7.5 miles, would link up with an existing shared pedestrian cycle way within Stratford town along the old railway line, past Stratford Racecourse and join to the existing very popular Stratford Greenway.

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

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This route passes through the parishes of Bidford on Avon, Temple Grafton, Welford on Avon, Luddington and Stratford upon Avon. The route is wholly contained within Stratford upon Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council areas. Contact has been made with senior officers and politicians including the sitting MP. The political and financial support of all parishes, the Stratford Town Council, and Stratford District Council have been achieved and close working relationships with Bidford, Welford on Avon and Luddington Parish Councils have been extremely productive.

A high quality Feasibility Study similar to the one commissioned for Spine Route 1 has been delivered by Sustrans and paid for by grants from the Parish Councils, Town Council, Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council. This comprehensive commitment from grass roots all the way to county is crucial and a key part of the AAGP's strategic approach. It establishes the project as an element of future infrastructure planning at all political levels and is vital in order to open up the opportunity for substantial funding via government grants.

The Broom to Stratford upon Avon spine route matters because:

- The link will be an important part of the off road network being developed in the area and would link up with both the AAGP spine route and the existing Stratford Greenway.
- The link will allow longer journeys to be made to between the three historic towns Alcester, Evesham and Stratford and would have massive tourist potential.
- The inclusion of Stratford upon Avon will substantially increase the profile of the AAGP and could become a key tourist amenity as well as having massive local benefits.

Most recent progress and plans

Worcestershire

- We continue to liaise with Wychavon and Worcestershire County Council on the route from Evesham to The Valley and hope to see some progress there using the existing funding they have accrued.
- We have worked very closely with Harvington Parish Council and as a result they have been awarded £150,000 to develop the AAGP route within their parish – we are of course delighted and excited and our aim is to pursue a matched funding bid this year (see below).
- If as expected work on these two sections begins next year then the focus for us will be on linking them to the start of the Salford Priors program at Salford Priors Church.

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

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Warwickshire

- We are working with Salford Priors Parish Council to enable the generous allocation of part of their CIL funds to be out to use early next year. Though the funding does not cover costs of the whole of the route from the Church to Wixford it should allow an ambitious start to be made. As with the Harvington funding it is our intention to use the existing monies to bid for matched funding this year.
- The invaluable support of Warks County Councillor Piers Daniel has given us hope that Highways will proceed with a 'priority' traffic system for Wixford bridge. The bridge is very narrow and very dangerous for those brave enough to seek to cross over it as heavy vehicles use it day and night with little thought to pedestrians or cyclists! A priority system will allow one way traffic and a wide pedestrian and cycle way to be created.
- This in turn means we have a route to Alcester going via Exhall and Oversley Woods and across the A46 into Oversley Green and on to Alcester Town. Though it is not our preferred route, the access directly over the road at Wixford bridge and down the existing path along the side of the River Arrow to Alcester requires further work with the landowners and significant funding. However, the opening up of this significant stretch of the route will undoubtedly give the AAGP a huge boost in terms of both profile and credibility.
- Bidford Health Centre is seeking planning consent for a major redevelopment on its large existing site. It went out to public consultation last year and we are a part of the grand plan. The section of our Spine Route 2, from the branch line at Broom following the old railway line to the back of the Health Centre, will be included and costed into their strategy. This is a very exciting prospect for us and a very valuable addition to access to the Health by walking and cycling!

The Warwickshire Draft Infrastructure Plan

Earlier this year WCC issued its draft infrastructure plan and invited feedback. We have both spine routes mentioned as proposals under consideration but there were problems. WCC officers had marked our plans under the guidance issued by the Department of Transport ("DOT"). DOT criteria heavily favour urban proposals and our routes engage urban areas but go to the next logical step and seek to link them. Given that both our routes are essentially of a rural flavour we have sought to persuade Warwickshire County Council that they overlay DOT criteria with those that relate more closely to the needs locally.

I know a number of you wrote to support our evidence and we are very grateful. More lobbying is needed as the delivery of these new Greenways can only be completed with significant funding from the top. We will continue to build strong relationships with our two county officers and politicians, your support when in conversation with those who you work with will be invaluable.

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

Business Plan and Funding Strategy

We are continuing to build a strong business plan in order to support the project as a whole but also, vitally, to underpin our ambitious funding strategy mentioned above. We are currently identifying potential funding organisations and prioritising funding targets on our routes. Any of you who have fund raising experience or advice to share please do not hesitate to offer your help.

The potential of our project is growing all the time as the country begins to understand the value it offers in terms of the environment, public health and zero emissions. The impact of opening up such an ambitious network of paths and cycleways giving access to the rich environment that surrounds us is enormous.

- It offers the opportunity to build on the new enthusiasm for walking and cycling.
- It will accelerate the situation where children and adults alike rely less on cars and public transport getting to school and to work respectively.
- It crosses District and County boundaries which only increases its already huge potential value and offers the opportunity for a wider partnership of those working to see this project succeed.

I can only reiterate last year's report in which I stated that it really is something worth fighting for – a new Greenway with spines from Evesham to Alcester and Broom to Stratford linking to the existing and well used Stratford Greenway from the Racecourse.

I would like to thank you all for your support up to now and ask that you continue that support for us, and guidance to us, during the evolution of the project.

J Harvey
Chair

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income:		
Donation from Evesham Town Council	-	1,500.00
Donation from Worcestershire County Council	-	2,235.00
Donation from Broom Action Group	-	500.00
Donation from Luddington Parish Council	-	500.00
Donation from Bidford on Avon Parish Council	3,000.00	-
	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>4,735.00</u>
Expenses:		
Hire of Village Hall	(45.00)	(9.00)
AAGP website	(164.75)	(547.98)
Professional Indemity Insurance	(244.00)	(244.00)
HM Land registry fees	(156.00)	(103.00)
Publicity costs	(71.89)	-
Ordnance Survey licence costs	(80.99)	-
Meeting costs	(54.50)	-
	<u>2,182.87</u>	<u>3,831.02</u>
Total income less expenditure		
Balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	8,105.89	5,996.02
Accrual - hire of Broom Village Hall	-	(45.00)
Accrual - land registry fees	-	(28.00)
	<u>8,105.89</u>	<u>5,923.02</u>
Reserves b/fwd	5,923.02	2,092.00
Income less expenditure in year	2,182.87	3,831.02
	<u>8,105.89</u>	<u>5,923.02</u>
Reserves c/fwd	8,105.89	5,923.02

Accounts prepared by D Bailey, Treasurer

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188324

Accounts

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1188324**

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Trustees

Jeremy Harvey	Chair
Liam Maude	Vice Chair
Colin Tether	Secretary
Daryl Bailey	Treasurer

Principal Office

44 Dunnington
ALCESTER
B49 5NX

Registered CIO Number 1188324

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS – 31 MARCH 2021

Pages

3. Report of the Trustees
4. Report of the Chair of the Trustees
7. Financial Report for the period

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees present their annual report and the unaudited accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) for the period ended 31 March 2021.

The organisation became a registered CIO on 4 March 2020.

Charitable Objects

The objects of the CIO are to promote and encourage in the Avon and Arrow river valleys in Warwickshire and Worcestershire for the public benefit the development and provision of safe routes, paths and facilities for cyclists, walkers and persons with disabilities and to undertake such projects and activities of a charitable nature which will assist in promoting health, wellbeing and the protection of the environment.

Activities

Activities include the promotion of cycling and walking environments and infrastructure within the valleys of the rivers Avon and Arrow in Worcestershire and Warwickshire to support the creation of traffic free leisure paths linking rural communities to the principal towns in the area. The paths will support health and wellbeing, local tourism and responsible cycling for all ages and abilities.

Trustees

The trustees of the CIO who served during the period were:

D Bailey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
J Harvey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
L Maude	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
C Tether	(appointed 4 th March 2020)

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the ongoing support received from its stakeholders and Sustrans during the period.

Signed by order of the board of trustees

J Harvey
Chair

Approved by the board 1st June 2021

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

Route 1 – Evesham to Alcester

Salford Priors Parish Council made a brave and far sighted decision in early 2018. Through their Neighbourhood Plan process, they called a meeting of adjoining parishes extending to Alcester Town Council to the north and Evesham Town Council to the south. Their purpose was to investigate the potential of developing pathways for walkers and cyclists across parish boundaries.

It soon became clear that there was enthusiasm for such a project among the parishes. The route would be based on the old railway line between the two towns that closed in 1962 and would run along a 10-mile spine route between Alcester and Evesham. As a result of that first meeting it was agreed to set up a group and take the challenge on. That group was comprised of representatives from the parish and town councils of Alcester, Bidford on Avon, Cleeve Prior, Evesham, Exhall, Harvington, North and Middle Littleton, Norton and Lenchwick, Offenham, Salford Priors and Wixford. It was originally called the Cross Parish Cycle and Pathways Project (CPCPP) but this was changed soon after to the Avon to Arrow Greenway Project (AAGP).

An early decision was taken to commission and fund a Feasibility Study for the project from 'Sustrans', the National Sustainable Transport Charity. This excellent comprehensive study has formed the basis for the work of the group since then.

We have made very significant progress over the last two years or so since then. We have properly established the organisation, gained charitable status and worked hard to start the implementation of the Sustrans Feasibility Study. From the start the AAGP's strategy has been to progress through forming positive partnerships and we now have all Town and Parish Councils along the proposed route supporting us both in principle and financially. We are in discussions with major local landowners and have the strong backing of organisations such as the Heart of England Forest and the Avon Navigation Trust.

Adding the Broom to Stratford upon Avon Route

Early in 2020, an approach was made by a representative of the Bidford Health Centre Patient Participation Group (BHCPPG) about extending the AAGP route from Bidford Village to the Health Centre. The Health Centre is located close to the old railway line which used to run from Broom to Stratford upon Avon and closed in 1960. It is located about a mile from the centre of Bidford on the B439 which has no footways so walking the Health Centre is not an option. The BHCPPG representative felt using the old railway line from Bidford village was an option to provide a good route with health benefits. AAGP Officers have met with BHCPPG and subsequently held a site meeting. Initial investigation of land ownership and other enquiries have shown that there seems to be a very good prospect of a continuous route to Stratford upon Avon being possible along the old railway line. This route, around 7.5 miles, would link up with an existing shared pedestrian cycle way within Stratford town along the old railway line, past Stratford Racecourse and join to the existing very popular Stratford Greenway.

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

This route passes through the parishes of Bidford on Avon, Binton, Temple Grafton, Luddington and Stratford upon Avon and close to Welford on Avon. The route is wholly contained within Stratford upon Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council areas. Contact has been made with senior officers and politicians including the sitting MP and a close working relationship established with Luddington Parish Council who are particularly active regarding their footpaths and cycleways.

There is widespread support in principle and a key part of the AAGP's strategic approach is to establish the project as an element of future infrastructure planning at all political levels. This approach is vital in order to open up the opportunity for substantial funding via government grants.

The Broom to Stratford upon Avon spine route matters because:

- The link will be an important part of the off road network being developed in the area and would link up with both the AAGP spine route and the existing Stratford Greenway.
- The link will allow longer journeys to be made to between the three historic towns Alcester, Evesham and Stratford and would have massive tourist potential.
- The inclusion of Stratford upon Avon will substantially increase the profile of the AAGP and could become a key tourist amenity as well as having massive local benefits.

As a result, the AAGP is now commissioning a further Feasibility Study from Sustrans to identify potential routes and their costs so we can build an evidence based business case to take to our politicians and landowners.

Like everything else the project has been hit hard by the consequences of Covid 19 since the first lock down in March 2020. Despite this we have made positive progress through regular Zoom meetings and updated the wider working group with virtual meetings and regular Newsletters. We believe that with the exciting partnership we have with Salford Priors Parish Council and the three landowners involved, it is possible we will see work on the section from Salford Priors to Wixford begin before the end of 2022. The opening up of a significant stretch of the route will undoubtedly give the AAGP a huge boost in terms of both profile and credibility.

The potential is enormous – consider the impact of opening up such an ambitious network of paths and cycleways giving access to the rich environment that surrounds us. It offers the opportunity to build on the new enthusiasm for walking and cycling which is one of the few good things that the pandemic has given us. It will accelerate the situation where children and adults alike rely less on cars and public transport getting to school and to work respectively. That the route crosses District and County boundaries only increases its already huge potential value and offers the opportunity for a wider partnership of those working to see this project succeed.

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

It really is something worth fighting for – a new Greenway with spines from Evesham to Alcester and Broom to Stratford linking to the existing and well used Stratford Greenway from the Racecourse.

My thanks go to all those who have supported and helped the AAGP over the last year. In particular parish, district and county council members and officers already themselves under pressure. Special mention goes to Salford Priors Parish Council who we have been working so closely with and to Jo Fleeman, parish clerk for Luddington Parish Council and the Council itself for its generous donation. We are also extremely grateful for donations during the period from Evesham Town Council, Worcestershire County Council and Broom Action Group.

I would also like to offer personal thanks to all on the AAGP executive, Colin, Daryl, Jill and Liam who have put in so much time and effort to keep our project moving under very challenging circumstances. Finally, a big thank you to Martin Philpott from Sustrans for his continuing guidance, support and expertise. It has been very exciting to be a part of such a great team. We are very hopeful that we will see much faster progress as we return to a more normal world over the next weeks and months.

J Harvey
Chair

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

£

Income:

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	<hr/> 4,735.00

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	<hr/> 5,923.02

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Income less expenditure in period	3,831.02

Reserves c/fwd	<hr/> 5,923.02
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Accounts prepared by D Bailey, Treasurer