

Trailway News June 2014



It has been a long time since I last wrote a newsletter to all our members. Things have been going very slowly for the development of the Trailway and not very smoothly

There have been some small hopefully useful expenditures. We have asked the Countryside Rangers to put up ten more signs along the area of the Trailway indicating where it is; as visitors do not always know where and how to access it.

With the help of the DT11 Forum Community Partnership we have had 2000 A3 size leaflets of a map of the Trailway and its links to the towns and villages as well as other bridleways and paths such as the Wessex Ridgeway and the Stour Valley way printed. They are available on the website and in the Tourist Information Centres. I hope you have a chance to see one.

We are still very keen to extend the Trail towards Stalbridge but until Snook's Yard moves to its new site at Rolls Mills Industrial Site there is no access to the next bit of the Trail from Sturminster Newton. If you go along the A357 you will see the building site where Snooks are building their new premises but it is a long way from finished. This extension to the Trailway although longed for by everyone is one of the most difficult to achieve.

I went to a meeting of the Dorset Local Access Forum and explained where the Trailway is and our hopes of extending it both to the North and to the South of its present position. Hopefully the members will encourage DCC, NDDC and EDDC to support and improve the Trail.

Extending the Trailway towards Poole would link a whole conurbation to the Trailway, improve its economic value and its transport value. People in Sturminster Marshall are keen to link to Spetisbury and to the Castleman Trail into Poole; so that we can extend the trail to the South. Getting East Dorset Council and Dorset County Council interested in all our activities to extend the Trailway is very important.

You can do your bit by asking your Village or Town Council to support it; write to your County Councillor and point out what an asset it is and that they should help fund it as a tourist attraction and benefit to the area. Sustrans is more likely to help to fund this if it has both local and County Council support. We are a campaigning organisation and do not want to stop the development of the Trailway where it has reached now; we need to ensure that it grows.

Lesley Gasson