

FROMES MISSING LINKS
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019

Charity Name:
Links

Fromes Missing

Registered Charity Number:

1166492

Charity's principal address:

25 Innox Hill
Frome
Somerset
BA11 2LW

Names of charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Richard Ackroyd	Chairman		
Adrian Warren	Treasurer		
Grant Gellatly	Trustee		
Ruth Knagg	Trustee		
Tricia Golinski	Secretary		
Chris Green	Trustee		

Structure, Governance and Management

The Governing Document is a Constitution adopted 6th January 2016.

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered on 12th April 2016.

Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in March.

Frome's Missing Links works closely in partnership with Sustrans, the National Cycling Charity, to ensure the proposed cycleway is built to their specification and ultimately incorporated into the National Cycleway Network.

Fromes Missing Links is registered for Gift Aid with HM Revenue and Customs.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the Charity set out in its Governing Document

The objects of the CIO are the improvement of the health and well being of residents of Frome, principally by raising funds to assist with the construction costs of building a network of cycle ways within a 10 mile radius of the town to be used for their enjoyment and exercise.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects.

Thank you to all of our supporters for their continued efforts on our behalf. Frome's Missing Links would be nothing without the resilience and involvement of our local people and that special Frome togetherness that we all love so much.

It's worth reminding people that Frome's Missing Links registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in January 2016 and campaigns for better and safer walking and cycling routes in Frome and better connections to neighbouring towns and villages. The goal is to develop traffic-free routes with gentle gradients suitable for all ages and abilities – including specifically to fill in the sections of national cycle routes that are currently still dangerous, but not to exclude any other users such as horse riders and mobility scooters.

The Charity's year-end was 31st December 2019 and our management accounts show a total income for the year of £8,098.47, with costs of £10,278.22, leaving cash at bank at £19,904.75. The accounts will be independently verified, ready for submission to The Charity Commissioners.

Like all organisations, Frome's Missing Links has had to adapt quickly this year to changes brought about by the Covid-19 crisis. Despite set backs, we remain optimistic. Our cash reserves have held steady and ever more preparation and development work has again gone on behind the scenes. Once again, volunteers have continued to build community support through a variety of fundraising efforts such as the School Travel Challenge (working with Frome Town Council), another Ceilidh, a successful Independent Market and attendance at events such as Mendip's Climate Emergency strategy launch evening. We have also made an application to the Places to Ride fund, which we hope will help us to finance the completion of Phase 3 below.

Again, the wonderful Friday Crew have continued their efforts, which this year included helping FTC staff to install lighting at the Dippy, creating important wildlife meadows at Buckland Bridge and the creation of new fencing and

hedgerows in Whatcombe. We are indebted to all of our volunteers, from those who help to publicise our efforts to those who rattle tins and fundraise – nothing would be possible without this tremendous level of public support.

With a wider community view, the trustees have been working with Connect Chapmanslade and helping them to develop their plans for a link to Frome, Warminster and Westbury. Trustees have also offered advice to a group in Wincanton looking to develop the old railway line to Bruton. Both are very promising developments and show how far the idea of creating safe routes has become embedded in the public's thinking.

The ongoing saga that is Phase 2 rolls on. Having gained Network Rail 'engineering clearance' to proceed we then lost the possibility of leasing a vital strip of farmland. Happily neighbouring landowners have offered an alternative route and we have engaged Sustrans to do the planning needed to complete this section. So, three steps forward and two back, but that is one step in the right direction – the new route will be extremely pretty and we think very popular.

Because of the hold up on Phase 2, our next immediate target is to take the path that currently ends at the sewage works at Low Water (Phase 1) through to Jack's Lane (Phase 3). We have been liaising with the landowners and have successfully arranged for a footpath diversion with Somerset County Council. Surveyors, engineers, hydrologists and ecologists, have written the necessary reports. We carried out a wide consultation of interested parties, all positive, but we still have no news on planning permission. Mendip have been extremely slow to respond to our requests to date. This is frustrating and unacceptable in our opinion.

Meanwhile, volunteers have undertaken preparatory work by marking the Phase 3 route with gates, fencing and tree planting along the boundary of the path to be. Volunteers planted hundreds of young trees that will eventually form a 6m wide shelterbelt. Our thanks to the Woodland Trust for providing us with about 470 trees from their 'Wild Wood' pack. This was a mix of hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn, holly and goat willow, plus a few home grown oak trees. In addition to the shelterbelt, the volunteers have also planted over 200 tall willow whips, which will act as an immediate screen when work starts on the path later this year. The new plants will complement the 450 saplings planted earlier with the help of Duke of Edinburgh students.

Until planning permission for Phase 3 is granted, volunteers will carry on with a culvert, a cattle grid and further allowable preparatory ground works.

To summarise, Frome's Missing Links remains well organised and is in a strong position to push forward in the coming months. We have the continued support of a majority of local people and landowners. Despite the bureaucratic

hurdles there is much to be positive about and much still to be done. So my message is “we pedal on into 2021” – let’s complete those blessed missing links once and for all!

Richard Ackroyd
Chair
Frome’s Missing Links
June 2020

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

We hold cash of £19,904.75 in our account at Barclays Bank, all of which are unrestricted funds. These funds are held to meet relevant expenditure for building the cycleway infrastructure, including any professional fees. A further £12134 is held on our behalf by Sustrans.

Declaration in accordance with The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012.

The Trustees declare:-

1. That the CIO has not given any guarantees or indemnities of any type to any third party.
2. The CIO has no debts or liabilities, and has not provided any security secured by any asset owned by the organisation.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signature		
Full name	Richard Ackroyd	Adrian Warren

Position	Chairman	Treasurer
Date		