AGM 2025 Chair's Report

In June 2016, Frome's Missing Links was set up as an independent charitable organization (CIO), having previously been part of Sustainable Frome and working with Sustrans. Amazingly, that is almost 10 years ago. As a CIO we do not make a profit or reward our trustees financially. Any monies that we hold will eventually be spent to achieve our charitable aims and objectives, which are to create a series of safe accessible pathways for cyclists, walkers, and riders that avoid the busy and steep roads on the edge of Frome and to connect with the National Cycle Network route 24 at Great Elm.

Achievements

We completed Phase 2 of our path from Great Elm to Elliots Lane, by adding an asphalt surface, 1.3km long in March 2025 and we had a grand opening ceremony in April 2025, where we were joined by the Mayors of Frome and Radstock and many of our local Councillors and supporters.

The history of Phase 2 is quite long, but essentially Network Rail agreement was awarded in 2021, the final llandowner agreements were signed off in 2023. Following this, many weeks were spent removing old rails, breaking through dense foliage, fencing off a pathway and laying the basic rough surface for walkers in 2024. Tree works, gates and fencing and laying the asphalt surface (thank you Wainwrights) was completed in March 2025

Towards the end of 2024 and start of 2025, volunteers created two new picnic benches from old concrete sleepers along the Phase 2 route and reduced a slope mid-way along the path, once again utilising old redundant railway sleepers. In the months after the grand opening of Phase 2, volunteers continued to install more benches made from old wooden railway sleepers, penny farthing bike racks, signs, planted trees, and installed more fences. The Friday Crew now regularly work to clear picnic areas, sow wildflowers, re-build walls, add gates, fell diseased trees, litter pick and generally keep the path open for everyone.

Friday Crew volunteers also regularly clear and clean up several paths across Frome and surrounding villages. Feltham Lane is part of NCN24 and gets a clean-up twice a year.

Volunteers also worked on the Strawberry Line extension behind the Kings of Wessex School, in Cheddar. This was a two-week project to put a new bridge over the river Yeo. Our volunteers lent their expertise and time to this project and gained valuable insights into bridge construction. Another bridge project was completed in Shepton Mallet for the Strawberry Line extension behind the town football club. The ambitious Windsor Hill Greenway to Masbury, with a new path across the viaduct in Ham Woods to Thrupe Lane, also saw our volunteers getting involved. In doing so our volunteer base membership and skills have increased dramatically and most importantly all these initiatives have helped to complete missing links in the Somerset Circle of Active Travel pathways.

Trustees and volunteers have also continued with the publicity drive and spent time getting the message out via regular newsletters and press briefings. Our MP Anna Sabine visited the path and helped us to make new progress with Network Rail. We ran another successful Ceilidh and appeared at a few fetes and festivals. We continued to liaise with Somerset Council, Network Rail and Frome Town Council and support groups.

Aims

There are two main sections of Active Travel path left to complete. Phase 4 is now a mere 1.5km, but a technically challenging section. The route south of Frome is shorter and in theory much easier to complete. The trustees have agreed that we need to work up our plans in both areas and concentrate this year on getting further permissions to allow the completion of both sections. We recognise that in this coming year, our emphasis is very much on completing the link to the north. As such, we intend to build further on our currently positive relations with Network Rail, which recently has seen some significant progress. We also need to firm up our agreements with landowners, especially where new owners have arrived.

Phase 4, Jack's Lane to Elliots Lane. Once an agreement is reached with Network Rail, we intend to start work at Jack's Lane. We believe we already have sufficient funds to create a sloped path to gain access to the railway track bed. This of course will just be the start. To complete the whole of Phase 4 will need some determined fund raising, involving major funders. Our trustees are already planning for this.

By completing Phase 4, we will link in with the Somerset circle project, helping to create over 70 miles of traffic free path across Somerset. Trustees will continue to make regular contact with other bodies who are trying to make this happen. As stated earlier, we have taken part in practical workdays along the Strawberry Line and Windsor Hill paths near Shepton Mallet and fed information into Somerset's Cross LCN Active Travel network and other influential groups. These sorts of joint ventures will continue.

We will continue to work with the Frome Community Bike Project who go from strength to strength and who also contribute to our funds when they are able.

Finally

Many thanks to the various funding agencies, contractors, local authorities and businesses who have helped us, often at cost or on a gratis basis. Too many to mention them all here, but we should thank Mendip and Somerset Council, Frome Town Council, Great Elm Parish Council, Buckland Dinham Parish Council, Mells Parish Council, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (Sustrans), Railway Paths Ltd, Active Travel England, Sports England, Frome Wheelers, Frome CTC, Frome Community Bike Project, anonymous donors, Wainwrights for the surfacing, and of course members of the public for supporting us on the Crowdfunder appeal. Thank you all.

And finally, last but certainly not least, a massive heartfelt thank you to Mr Geoff Pell, whose vision and tenacity made all this possible. Geoff, whether you like it or not, you are the backbone of this project, and everyone today owes you a huge thank you.

Rich Ackroyd
Chair, Frome's Missing Links
AGM 2025

ANALYSIS FOR CHARITIES COMMISSION RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS TEMPLATE

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	NL - SPORT ENGLAND GRANT	SUSTRANS	SOMERSET COUNCIL	TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	GRAND TOTAL
OPENING BALANCE							
Opening balance per CC16 last year		**£ 35,308.83**	**£ 15,000.00**	**£ -**	**£ -**	**£ 15,000.00**	**£ 50,308.83**
						£ -	
						£ -	
RECEIPTS						£ -	
Grants		£ -		£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00	£ 100,000.00	£ 100,000.00
Donations		£ 56,466.28				£ -	£ 56,466.28
Fundraising		£ 2,664.07				£ -	£ 2,664.07
Total receipts		**£ 59,130.35**	**£ -**	**£ 50,000.00**	**£ 50,000.00**	**£ 100,000.00**	**£ 159,130.35**
PAYMENTS	**Category for CC16 Charities Commission**						
Ceilidh	Fundraising	£ 2,412.60				£ -	£ 2,412.60
Works	Charitable Expenditure	£ 24,790.80	£ 15,000.00	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00	£ 115,000.00	£ 139,790.80
Insurance	Other operating expenditure	£ 431.52				£ -	£ 431.52
Power of Pedal	Other operating expenditure	£ 172.00				£ -	£ 172.00
Admin	Other operating expenditure	£ 227.00				£ -	£ 227.00
						£ -	£ -
						£ -	£ -
Total payments		**£ 28,033.92**	**£ 15,000.00**	**£ 50,000.00**	**£ 50,000.00**	**£ 115,000.00**	**£ 143,033.92**
CLOSING BALANCE		**£ 66,405.26**	**£ -**	**£ -**	**£ -**	**£ -**	**£ 66,405.26**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Frome's Missing Links

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Frome's Missing Links (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

B Goddard

Name: Beverley Goddard

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address: 25 Leaze Road, Frome, BA11 3EY

Date: 14 October 2026