



The Culm Valley Railway trail



Introduction to the Culm Valley Railway trail

- What is the Culm Valley Railway trail
- Where does it go
- Who will use the route and why
- Why is it necessary
- Timescales
- Art and interpretation
- Who is involved
- Stages
- Challenges & solutions
- Conclusion



What is the Culm Valley Railway trail

- Walking, cycling, wheel chair accessible path (horse riding if possible)
- Tiverton Parkway to Hemyock
- 9.5 miles long
- Old railway line



Where does it go

- The route passes through the following villages:
- Hemyock
- Culmstock
- Uffculme
- Willand





Who will use the route and why

Purposes:

- Work
- School
- Shops
- Visiting friends and family
- Exercise
- Leisure

User groups:

- Local people
- Tourists
- Less mobile
- Wheel chair users
- Horse riders





Why is it necessary

- Safe routes
- Fitness
- Obesity
- Young people, wheel chair users & low mobility
- Tourism
- Regeneration
- Carbon emissions

Providing safe links to communities

- Schools
- Commuter routes & safe access between villages on the route
- Link to the railway network





Obesity and fitness

- 60% of adults obese by 2050
- Active travel
- Off road sections encourage people who haven't cycled for years or who have never cycled to get into the habit

Young people, wheel chair users & low mobility

- Independence for young people with low levels of funds and reliance on parents
- Independent or low levels of assistance required to access to the countryside





Tourism and regeneration

- Northern coast to coast path & Tarka trail
- Bicycle hire
- Pubs
- Cafes and restaurants
- Sale of farm produce
- B&Bs and camping
- Jobs
- Devon as cycling destination – Exe estuary trail
- Assistance for existing businesses e.g. Coldharbour Mill



Carbon emissions

- Increased walking and cycling for everyday journeys will reduce carbon dioxide & other pollutants
- Climate change

Timescales

- 23% of route complete
- Tiverton Parkway to Willand - complete
- Willand – Uffculme 2013?



Art and Interpretation





Who is involved

- Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty have asked project co-ordinator Kim Goonesekera to investigate this project
- Devon County Council – Cycling, Rights of Way and Area East
- Sustrans (Links to schools bid)



Stages

- Funding
- Acquire the land (dedicate as RoW, buy or lease)
- Surveys (ecological etc)
- Design
- Planning and consents (EA)
- Construction
- Open and promote



Challenges

- Sections of the old railway line have been built on
- Multiple private land owners
- Concerns about users and their behaviour
- Funding
- Land owners reservations



Solutions

- Find alternative route options
- Real life examples
- Funding bids
- Local people to assist with negotiations
- P3 officers or others?
- South Molton group of volunteers successfully creating footpaths & bridleways
- Training by Devon County Council Rights of Way team



Conclusion

- Obesity & fitness
- Safe routes
- Independence
- Tourism & Regeneration
- Carbon dioxide & other pollutants
- How much do you and your communities want this?