



Friends, we are contacting you now in order to provide a brief update. In 2016 you completed a questionnaire relating to a proposed new all-purpose path between Crediton and Exeter. The working party is now a registered Charity, the Boniface Trail Association (BTA) that, over the past few years has regularly met to progress the project. Here is a brief status update.

Since last being in touch and after the initial overwhelming support gained from **public consultation**, numerous meetings of different types have been held, namely:-

- **Site meetings** to “walk the route” and explore the various options available in order to achieve the object of a multipurpose off road link between Crediton and Exeter. Then-
- **“Legal meetings”** have been held with major landowners along the route in order to listen and take into account their interests and views thereby ensuring that their concerns and rights have been noted and taken into consideration when exploring the various route options. Finally,
- **“Local Government meetings”** A large number of meeting have been held with various departments at both District and County Council level. Councillors from all political persuasions from constituencies along the route have been consulted and each has confirmed their full support and enthusiasm for the project. However, the principal agency with whom BTA has held discussions is, of course, Devon County Council Highways , as it will have significant input into both the line of the route and its relationship with the A377, especially where it links the with the rural town of Crediton and the city of Exeter.

At this time, there are two news items that have happened recently which have prompted us to get back in touch.

We are pleased to announce that BTA has now reached a formal agreement with the principal landowner on the route and it is hoped that the format for this agreement may now be rolled out quickly to the remaining land owners on the current route.

The second news item involves Devon County Council and recent announcements by Government at Westminster. You may be aware of recent Government statements encouraging greater use of cycles and outdoor exercise in general. This means that sums of money may well be released shortly to invest in these types of projects. As part of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) DCC has stated their wish to connect the rural towns of Crediton and Tiverton to Exeter by off road multi-purpose cycle routes.

Sometime in the future, and as part of an integrated Transport Strategy, this initiative may not only help to push the project forward, but once completed, the Boniface Trail may also encourage people to stop the use of their cars to commute to work along the A377. (Only 2.3% of Mid Devon residents use a cycle to regularly commute to work).

As the timetables and investment potential of government far outweigh that of the BTA, it is vital therefore that the Boniface Trail integrates closely with local strategic transport and development plans. We therefore intend to work closely with local government at Parish, District & County levels in order to ensure that the aspirations of local communities and businesses are fully aligned with those responsible for developing the future of our communities.