

Friends of Trent Vale Trail press release

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WORK BEGINS ON NEXT STAGE OF TRENT VALE TRAIL

Work on the next section of the Trent Vale Trail has begun in earnest! When complete, it will open up a new leisure route in the east of Nottinghamshire. As well as walkers and cyclists, the trail has been designed with pushchairs and wheelchairs in mind. Many people in the villages north of Newark and east of the Trent are eagerly awaiting the opening of the extension of the existing path from Newark. This will allow them to walk and cycle between villages without having to use the A1133.

It should open early in 2020 and planning is well underway for the next section from Besthorpe to Fledborough Viaduct. When complete, the work will complete a route from north of Newark to the Dukeries Trail.

The Trail is the initiative of volunteers with Sustrans, the charity that's making it easier for people to walk and cycle. Along with representatives from the local Parishes along the route they have formed the Friends of Trent Vale Trail who are taking the lead role in fundraising and project management. They're hoping that the completion of the works next year will allow a range of activities to take place along the trail. These include, guided walks and bike rides, ecology events and 'pushchair picnics'.

A number of other organisations have pitched in to help the volunteers including Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council. A number of parish councils have also helped - in particular Collingham Parish Council. They have also received support from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, Tarmac, Linconshire Co-op and local businesses.

Working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council the volunteers successfully bid for investment from EU LEADER funding. This has paid for this new section of the trail linking Collingham with Besthorpe, with part of the route passing through the Besthorpe nature reserve.

County and district councillor Mrs Maureen Dobson has been a keen supporter of the project. Commenting on the project she said; "I'm passionate about opening up the Trent Vale Trail. We know how important it is to take regular exercise, we are always being told by the health authorities we have to do things to stop obesity and diabetes and this is one of the ways to do it. This path will connect the villages and open up the

area for walkers who want a pleasurable afternoon stroll, a bit like me. Or cyclists and people with wheelchairs or pushchairs, no one will be left out.”

Chairman of the Friends of Trent Vale Trail, Alan Hudson, said: “After three years of fund-raising and planning involving lots of local people, I’m really excited that construction has begun.”

For more information contact the Friends of the Trent Vale Trail by email at friends@trentvaletrail.org or visit their website www.trentvaletrail.org

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