

# CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL



TOWN HALL  
CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH  
HIGH PEAK, DERBYSHIRE, SK23 0HP

Tel: 01298 813320  
clerk@chapelpc.org  
www.chapelpc.org



Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9.00 to 12.30

30 June 2021

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Parish Council to be held on **Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 7.30pm.**

The meeting will be held in the Main Hall of Chapel-en-le-Frith Town Hall.

After apologies for absence have been given, the business to be transacted will be as follows: -

1. Declaration of Interests
2. Dispensations
3. Variation of Business
4. Police matters
5. Open Forum – Public Participation
6. To receive the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 1 June 2021
7. To receive the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 June 2021
8. To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9 June 2021
9. To note the Minutes of the Footpaths and Trails Working Group held on 15 June 2021
10. To consider any matters arising from the above Minutes.
  - South Head Drive Play Area report
  - Welcome Back Fund
11. To measure the council's opinion on two 10-minute parking spots outside the Co-op.
12. To authorise the Chairman and Clerk to sign the new lease for the Sparrowpit Play Area following the unanimous agreement at the Amenities Committee held on 23 June 2021.
13. Motion from Councillor Gourlay – This council resolves to move the start times for Ordinary Meeting to 7.00pm.

Clerk to the Council – Suzan E. Stockdale

14. Motion from Councillor Barton – That the Parish Clerk be authorised to contact HPBC and or DCC to enquire if the Parish Council could buy-in their expertise from their specialist in-house functions, whose purpose is to seek grants/funding from but not limited to central government, National Lottery Community Fund and others.
15. Motion from Councillor Hill – That the Parish Council moves from cheques to BACS/Bank Card payments which will expedite the delivery of future purchases.
16. Motion from Councillor Chantler - To reinforce the operational changes and changes in culture and working practices of this council I propose the following motion:-  
All decisions and resulting actions decided at the full council and all committee meetings, will be recorded, progressed and monitored by the following methods.
  1. They will remain on each agenda as matters arising and decisions made as actions discharged or outstanding with named individuals tasked to update and implement with progress checks built in.
  2. Large White boards will be purchased and displayed in the office with all outstanding work / actions to be completed with time lines identified.
17. Motion from Councillor Beswick - “Due to the demand for allotments demonstrated within our Parish and the lack of available allotments, The Parish Council shall write to the Secretary of State to ask for either allotment status to be extended to all of ‘The Leys’ area again, or for the allotment status to be swapped to the bottom half of the land to allow access to the allotment plots”  
and  
“The Parish Council shall make all of the Leys allotment site with allotment status open for plot holders no later than 3 months from the reply from the Secretary of State”
18. Motion from Councillor Barton - "Due to full-booking of potential venues for a full council meeting to be held in Dove Holes in August, that the meeting is re-scheduled to be held in Chapel en le Frith town hall"
19. Motion from Councillor Sizeland - “The Parish Council resolve to enter into active discussions with HPBC to speedily facilitate the adoption and maintenance of the play park and associated land, and that this be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair”
20. Allotment judging
21. Councillors Allowances
22. Schedule of Accounts presented for payment
23. Correspondence
24. Any Other Business (For discussion only)
25. Press Releases

**26. To resolve to exclude the press and members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

- Update on legal matters relating to the Memorial Park
- To agree the job description, person specification and interview panel for Assistant Park staff vacancies.
- To introduce a formal system of supervision and appraisal for all staff linked to outcomes.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs SE Stockdale  
Clerk to the Council

**CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2021**

**Meeting Held:** Tuesday 1 June 2021  
Held in the Main Hall of the Town Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith.

**Present:** Councillor M Chantler in the Chair  
Councillors J Adshead, M Barton, A Beswick, N Gourlay,  
N Hill, C Sizeland, Mrs S Walters and S Young.

**In Attendance:** Mrs S E Stockdale – Clerk to the Council

**Apologies accepted:** PCSO Green

**Apologies noted:**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**22/36 Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:  
Councillor N Gourlay declared that he is eligible to receive a Councillor Allowance.

**22/37 Dispensations**

Two dispensations have been granted to Councillor Sizeland.

**22/38 Variation of Business**

Agenda items 16 and 17 were moved to be taken after agenda item 5.

**22/39 Police Matters**

Councillor Adshead reported that he was liaising with the Police and community in Sparrowpit about high performance cars racing on the highway.

**22/40 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**22/41 Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held 18 May 2021**

Minutes numbered 22/1 to 22/32 were presented.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as being a true and correct record.

**22/42 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27 May 2021**

Minutes numbered 22/33 to 22/35 were presented.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as being a true and correct record.

**22/43 To note the minutes of the Footpaths and Trails Working Group held on 4 May 2021.**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be noted.

**22/44 Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

**22/45 To agree Councillor allowances**

**RESOLVED:** That this item of business is deferred to the next Full Council pending further information.

**ACTION:** Clerk to obtain information about how Councillors could donate their allowance to charity if they choose not to take it.

**22/46 Insurance arrangements**

All members have been circulated with the insurance renewal documents.

**RESOLVED:** That a MS Teams meeting is held with the Insurance Brokers for members to attend.

**ACTION:** Clerk to arrange a MS Teams meeting

**22/47 Notice of Election**

Members were advised that a Notice of Election has been posted for two vacant seats in Dove Holes and Martinside and one vacant seat in Chapel East Ward.

It is anticipated that there will be a further vacancy in Chapel East Ward and the Elections Officer at High Peak Borough Council will be advised that the member elected unopposed has not taken up his seat.

**22/48 To confirm new Councillor Training**

All new Councillors have been booked onto the DALC Essential Councillor Training Course on 28 June 2021.

**22/49 2020/21 Annual Report**

**RESOLVED:** That the report be accepted and that the Communications Committee consider a new format for 2021/22

**ACTION:** Clerk to add the 2021/22 Annual Report to the Communications Committee agenda.

**22/50 Internal Audit**

The Internal Audit Report was presented and there were no matters arising to bring to the attention of the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Internal Audit Report is accepted.

**22/51 Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021  
Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)**

The Responsible Financial Officer certified that the financial position of the authority and its income and expenditure presented fairly the financial position in accordance with Regulation 12 (1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Clerk submitted the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the Annual Return.

This was considered by members and approved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) is approved and that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the return.

**22/52 Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021  
Accounting Statements (Section 2)**

The Clerk submitted the Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the Annual Return. This was considered by members and approved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Accounting Statements (Section 2) is approved and that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the return.

**22/53** Motion from Councillor Gourlay - "In place of ratifying the minutes and decisions of committee meetings during the full council meeting, all councillors should instead be sent agendas and minutes for every committee of the council."

**RESOLVED:** That all Councillors be sent copies of agendas and minutes for all meetings irrespective of whether they are on individual committees.

**22/54** Motion from Councillor Adshead –" Can a final decision be made about how the Parish Council wishes to proceed with the South Head Drive Play Area".

**RESOLVED:** That this item be deferred until the next Full Council meeting and that Councillor S Young will submit a written report following a site meeting to be held on 2 June 2021.

**ACTION:** Councillor S Young to provide a written report to the next Full Council Meeting.

**22/55** **Welcome Back Fund**

The Clerk reported that a request for grant funding of £5,000 has been submitted to High Peak Borough Council for the following:

- Removable cycle racks
- Litter picking equipment
- Portable Market stalls/gazebos for community events

**22/56** Motion from Councillor Chantler - As a new member of the Parish Council and also the local community, who has had no previous involvement with Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council, or any of the previous agendas, issues and matters that have arisen. I would find it personally helpful to myself and perhaps others. For each member of the Parish council to publicly briefly outline what they wish the Parish Council to achieve going forward in the next council cycle, and in so doing, what they personally consider as priority issues and why.

**Councillor Barton** - To work with other Councils and Stakeholders to enter Britain in Bloom when Covid restrictions allow this to take place.

To produce a management plan and maintenance schedule for all the parks in the Parish.

Undertake to tidy up the Market Place and Historic Old Town.

**Councillor Hill** – To involve residents in projects were they can work together on a regular basis.

Consider an Artisan Market.

Look to establish a Chapel Community Centre.

Level the football pitch in the Memorial Park to make is more user friendly.

**Councillor Adshead** – To engage with young people and provide more facilities for young people in the Parish.

**Councillor Beswick** – To involve the community more through community engagement.

To work with community groups and encourage community responsibility.

To provide more allotments given the well-being benefits of being outdoors.

To improve tourism and cleaning up the town.

To improve green spaces.

To improve youth services.

**Councillor Gourlay** – To acquire property in the Parish

Take over the Lease on Chapel Market Place

To lead on the re-wilding of green spaces.

To use United Charities grants for educational purposes in the Parish.

**Councillor Walters** – To improve the Memorial Park and football pitch.

To improve the Market Place.

To have community events/festivals.

**Councillor Sizeland** – To obtain the Market Rights

To involve local groups in community work.

Better use of physical assets.

Better engagement with the local Schools.

Add value to the Precept with grant funding.

To promote tourism.

**Councillor Young** – To work towards achieving a Green Flag Award in the parks.

To add new play equipment in Dove Holes and rebuild wall around the junior football pitch.

To listen to the outcome of local consultations.

To remove the traffic calming build outs in Chapel-en-le-Frith.

**Councillor Chantler** – To have an inclusive holistic view of the community which is outward facing.

To engage and work with the local community using individual's skill sets.

To work with young people and people with disabilities.

To work to reduce crime in the Parish.

**22/57            Motion from Councillor Chantler – Proposal for a Chapel-en-le-Frith Festival**

It is proposed that a Chapel Festival is organised throughout the Parish with a series of events running over a week working with and involving local organisations. Due to the current situation it is anticipated that this would take place in 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the Communications Committee undertake to form a task and finish group reporting to the Council to develop and implement a Parish Festival for the summer of 2022 or 2023.



**22/58            Schedule of Accounts presented for payment.**

Cheques numbered 009138 to 090151 were presented amounting to £23,406.07.  
**RESOLVED:** That the cheques be signed and the accounts to which they relate be paid.

**22/59            Correspondence**

- i. Defibrillator sponsorship request
- ii. Sunday School Lane
- iii. Public Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Agreement 2021 - 2022

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk check whether there is still a live electric supply to the Red Phone box in Bagshaw before a decision is made on the sponsorship request. That that correspondence regarding the maintenance of Sunday School Lane is noted.  
That the Minor Maintenance grant is considered by the Footpaths and Trails Working Group.  
**ACTION:** The Clerk to respond to the correspondence.

**22/60            Any Other Business**

That the consideration of two 10 minute parking spots outside the Co-op in Chapel-en-le-Frith is deferred until the next meeting.

**22/61            Press Releases**

None.

**22/62            To resolve to exclude the press and members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**RESOLVED:** That the SHIFT Community Engagement quote is considered at an Extraordinary Meeting on 9 June 2021.  
That Councillor Hill to be the lead Councillor with the proposed Community Engagement.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.25 hours.

CHAIRMAN

**CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2021**

**Meeting Held:** Tuesday 9 June 2021  
In the Main Hall of the Town Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith

**Present:** Councillor M Chantler in the Chair  
Councillors M Barton, A Beswick, N Hill, Mrs S Walters and S Young.

**In Attendance:** Mrs S E Stockdale – Clerk to the Council

**Apologies accepted:** Councillor C Sizeland

**Apologies noted:** Councillor N Gourlay

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**22/65 Declaration of Interests**

None.

**22/66 To agree the quote from SHIFT for community engagement**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council accepts the quote amounting to £12,000 plus VAT from SHIFT for community engagement work and notes that 50% of the cost will be met by the High Peak Borough Council Regeneration Grant.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.15 hours.

**CHAIRMAN**

## CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 2021

**Present:** Councillor S Walters in the chair  
Councillors Barton, Beswick, Chantler, and Hill.

**In Attendance:** Mrs E Howe – Assistant Clerk

**Apologies:** None.

#### **22/67 Public Speaking**

One member of the public was present wishing to speak regarding concerns relating to application HPK/2021/0173.

#### **22/68 Election of Chairman**

The first item of business transacted was the election of Chairman. Councillor Barton proposed and Councillor Chantler seconded that Councillor Walters be elected as Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Walters be elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee for the period of 12 months.

#### **22/69 Appointment of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Hill proposed and Councillor Beswick seconded that Councillor Barton be elected as Vice Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Barton be elected as Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee for the period of 12 months.

#### **22/70 Plenary Powers**

Applications seeking Planning Permission or Approval to carry out developments at locations within the Parish.

The Committee considered in turn eight applications to carry out developments within the Parish and it was **RESOLVED:** That the following comments be sent to the relevant Planning Authority.

#### **HPK/2021/0248**

Homeleigh, Station Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith

Single storey rear extension & enlargement of existing rear dormer.

Cllr Hill declared an interest as a tenant of the architect who has provided the plans.

No Objection.

**HPK/2021/0173**

The Fickle Mermaid, Foresters Way, Chapel-en-le-Frith

Demolition of existing constructions and construction of roadside facility comprising of a petrol station, associated convenience store and 1 no. drive thru unit (Class E).

The Committee request HPBC consider this application at Development Control. The Committee have a number of concerns regarding the increased litter that will affect the surrounding area, the increased traffic on Foresters Way and the speed of traffic on the A6 and Foresters Way, the access to the site from Foresters Way, lack of accessible toilets available 24 hours a day for facilities that have been proposed for use 24 hours a day, light pollution caused by a 24 hour site on the neighbours adjacent and the lack of provision for electric vehicle charging points.

If HPBC were minded to approve the application significant speed calming measures should be implemented at the cost of the applicant to the A6 and Foresters Way.

There should also be a penalty clause added as a condition to the approval notice to ensure litter is the responsibility of the companies trading on site.

**HPK/2021/0217**

Town end Methodist Church, Market Street, Chapel-en-le-Frith

Proposed greenhouse with polycarbonate glazing.  
No Objection.

**HPK/2021/0268**

Rear of 17-19 Market Street, Chapel-en-le-Frith

Single storey side extension  
No Objection.

**HPK/2021/0275**

1 Fern Bank, Chapel-en-le-Frith

Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey kitchen extension.  
No Objection.

**HPK/2021/0282**

5 Bagshaw Avenue, Chapel-en-le-Frith

Proposed garage conversion with roof alteration and rear dormer to provide additional bedroom space.

No Objection to the application however should HPBC Planning Officers be minded to approve the application there should be provision for off street for two vehicles.

**HPK/202/0235**

J E Morton, Newfield Garage, Manchester Road, Tunstead Milton

Retention of concrete blockwork wall retaining bank to Canal Feed.  
No Objection.

**HPK/2021/0270/0271/0272**

The Royal Bank of Scotland, 9 Market Street, Chapel-en-le-Frith

Conversion of Grade II listed former Bank into a Restaurant (Use Class E) at ground floor. Change of use to two flats (Use Class C3) at first floor. External alterations include new windows and doors to the rear elevate along with a new kitchen extract.

No Objection to the application however the Committee have significant concerns regarding the lack of parking provision.

**22/71 Appeals**

None.

**22/72 Notifications**

**Permission**

NP/HPK/0221/0221 – Pritchard Green Farm, Lesser Lane, Combs

NP/HPK/0321/0258 – The Bungalow, Malcoff to Slack Hall Farm, Chapel-en-le-Frith

HPK/2021/0156 – Wilshaw, Whitehough Head Lane, Whitehough

HPK/2021/0026 – 25 Greggs Avenue, Chapel-en-le-Frith

HPK/2020/0303 – Land and building at Smithbrook Close, Chapel-en-le-Frith

NP/HPK/0420/0301 & 0302 – Chestnut Centre, Chapel-en-le-Frith

**Refusal**

HPK/2020/0518 – Land at Forge Works, Chinley

**22/73 Correspondence**

The Assistant Clerk reported the Peak Park have invited the Parish Councillors to take part in stakeholder workshops as part of a review of the Peak Park's Local Plan.

The Assistant Clerk reported comments have been requested by HPBC regarding the Water in Buxton Supplementary Planning Document.

**RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed to make no comments.

**22/74 Any Other Business (For discussion only)**

Councillors requested training, the Assistant Clerk is to investigate with DALC.

Cllr Barton proposed and Cllr Beswick seconded that all future planning committee meetings start at 6.45pm.

Planning Committee dates:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

CHAIRMAN

## CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATHS AND TRAILS WORKING GROUP

### Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 15 June 2021 at 7pm online via Zoom

**Present:** Cllr Chris Sizeland (Chair)  
Alistair Beswick  
Michael Chantler  
Liz McCormick  
Tony Brackenbury  
Sandra Higgins  
Peter Soden

**Apologies:** David Benning

---

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1 Formalities</b> Chris Sizeland welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new councillors Alistair and Michael who are to receive copies of the latest Progress Report, which Peter will send to Sandra to be appended to the minutes of this meeting. Peter summarised the main points included in the Report.	PS SH
<b>1.2 Annual Election of Chair</b> Chris Sizeland indicated that he was willing to stand again as Chair. Sandra proposed his continuing appointment and this was seconded by Michael and unanimously agreed.	
<b>1.3 Attendee names and contact details</b> Attendance recorded by Sandra Higgins.  It was noted that David Benning has resigned from the Working Group on 13 June 2021. On behalf of the Group Chris thanked him for all his work in the past.	
<b>1.4 Apologies for absence</b> David Benning.	
<b>1.5 Declarations of interest</b> Attendees were asked to declare any interests.  Cllr Chris Sizeland has two footpaths on his land. One on the route and one just off it. The Clerk has given Chris a dispensation in respect of these.  Liz McCormick is a trustee for the G E Barratt estate which incorporates part of the land that Footpath 122 crosses at the Target Field and heads up to the railway embankment.	

---

## CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATHS AND TRAILS WORKING GROUP

### 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021

#### 2.1 Amendments

Item 3 - David Benning suggested (by email before his resignation from the Group) adding to the end of first paragraph, after "so far" "and suggested that members who contributed should be thanked for their efforts".

Item 6 – Peter Soden noted that it should be added that he asked "When will the Group's current Progress Report and recommendations be presented to the Parish Council" and that for clarification "but the minutes are submitted to the full Council to be noted" should be added to Item 6.1.

#### 2.2 Matters arising

Item 3 – Peter has added a sentence to the report.

Item 4 – DCC have had a lot of staff changes and we now do not know who holds relevant positions and who we should be contacting.

Item 5 – The information board was ordered 5 months ago. Michael will follow this.

---

### 3 Terms of Reference

Not yet agreed but Chris will continue to work on something more formal.

CS

---

### 4 Footpath Maintenance Grant

£675 was awarded last year from DCC and this has been spent on the path alongside Combs reservoir.

Another grant is available this this year and possible projects include Combs again, the flooded part of Church Lane, Bluebell Wood in Wash and the Cinder Path out towards Bowden. Chris to put in application.

CS

---

### 5 Invitation of Richard Lovell of DCC to meeting

The invitation is intended for the officer in charge of the Monsal Trail. Chris highlighted the difficulties of dealing with DCC and the newly elected Member for Chapel & Hope Valley, Nigel Gourlay, has been asked to assist. Michael, as newly elected Chair of CPC will be also be monitoring the progress of correspondence with DCC.

CS  
MC

---



## CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATHS AND TRAILS WORKING GROUP

### 6 Information Boards at Chapel Milton

The Stodhart Tunnel is a historical site, being the second oldest tunnel in the World, and it was agreed that it needs to be part of the Tramway Trail and more information available.

Due to the safety issues of crossing the road, any board should be on the Ferodo side of the road. A site visit would be useful to identify a suitable place.

All

The Trustees of the Trust owning the Tunnel and Historic England have been contacted in the past but no responses have been received. This is an important site and this should be actively pursued.

CS  
MC

Peter also noted the wider transport history of the area with the tramway, viaducts, etc.

Chris has been told about another tunnel in Bugsworth which is very overgrown but may be of some interest.

---

### 7 Interactive Map

A map of the Tramway Trail route needs to be online. Examples had been circulated. An interactive map would enable the user to show specific routes and information on the map.

Everyone was asked to look at the maps for next time.

All

---

### 8 Any other business

- 8.1 Tony has received an email from Tony Boundy about a new sign on the footpath at Top o the Plane. The landowner's sign says that the area is private land and warns against trespassing. Care needs to be taken when publicising this part of the route.

Also in this area, a wall has collapsed, which Tony has reported to DCC.

- 8.2 Tony reported that no work has yet been done on the footpath up to the station.

---

### 9 Items for next meeting

#### 9.1 Agenda items for next meeting

9.2.1 Progress Report

9.2.2 Terms of Reference

9.2.3 Follow up of communications with DCC

9.2.4 Site of Stodhart and Chapel Milton Information Boards

9.2.5 Interactive Maps

**CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATHS AND TRAILS WORKING GROUP**

**9.2 Date and method of next meeting**

Date - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Location – Zoom (still allowed as we are a group).

---

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

---

EXTENSION OF THE PEAK FOREST TRAMWAY AND WARMBROOK TRAILS:  
INTERIM WALKING ROUTES, LINKS TO THE WIDER AREA AND OTHER RELATED PROGRESS  
CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATHS AND TRAILS WORKING GROUP,  
PROGRESS REPORT 3    MAY 2021

## **1 Executive Summary**

In 2018 Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council (CPC) adopted recommendations by its Footpaths and Trails Working Group (the Working Group) for extensions to the Warmbrook Trail and the Peak Forest Tramway Trail (the Tramway Trail). The recommended routes were intended for a wide variety of users, including walkers, cyclists and horse riders but more immediate and readily achievable interim routes were proposed for walkers only. The purpose of this current report to CPC is to summarise the progress made by the Working Group since March 2018.

A substantial amount of detailed information has been sent to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) describing the Working Group's Tramway Trail schemes and proposing that the Councils work together to implement the schemes. Responses are expected from the relevant DCC teams in due course.

Good progress has been made in implementing the first two phases of the interim walking routes. A safe and practical walking route has been established and signed which extends the existing Tramway Trail by a distance of two kilometres from Charley Lane to Chapel Townend, including an additional 430 metres over the original route of the Peak Forest Tramway.

Work remains to be done on establishing ownership and extending the interim walking route around Chapel Townend to Top o' the Plane and on to Dale Road, Dove Holes.

A scheme has been proposed for access to the historic Stodhart Tunnel and the route of the original Peak Forest Tramway in that vicinity but permissions for access have yet to be arranged.

Some progress has been made in contacting owners of land proposed for extensions to the Warmbrook Trail but much remains to be done on those extensions. Progress on several other Trail-related topics is also reported.

The Working Party has concentrated on trails within the Parish but consideration has also been given to connecting trails to the wider area, from Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish to Whaley Bridge and Buxton and beyond. Promising developments on these connections, involving Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and neighbouring Parish Councils, are reported.

Continued involvement of CPC in implementing the local trails and encouraging the wider network is recommended.

## **2 Background**

The Chapel-en-le-Frith Neighbourhood Plan for 2013-2028<sup>1</sup> proposed the extension and improvement of the Peak Forest Tramway and Warmbrook Trails. The intention is to provide pleasant links between centres of population and employment in the Parish for local people and visitors to use and enjoy by walking, cycling or riding as an alternative to motorised forms of transport. The Tramway Trail is to be developed as a high-quality tourist attraction, benefitting the local economy in line with High Peak Council's Local Plan policy.

In 2015 the Parish Council established a working party to consider extensions and improvements to both trails. The Working Group produced two substantial progress reports<sup>2,3</sup> and another short report<sup>4</sup> summarising its recommendations, which were adopted by the Parish Council at a full Council Meeting in April 2018.

That Summary Report proposed detailed routes for both the Peak Forest Tramway and Warmbrook Trails. It was recognised that implementation of the proposals for a variety of users including cyclists and walkers is a long-term project that will require considerable expense, time and effort and heavy involvement of the High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). The Parish Council therefore adopted the Working Group's recommendations to try and establish much less expensive and more readily achievable Interim Walking Routes for immediate use. The intention is that at least some parts of the Interim Walking Routes will ultimately be replaced by the Multi-user Tramway Trail.

---

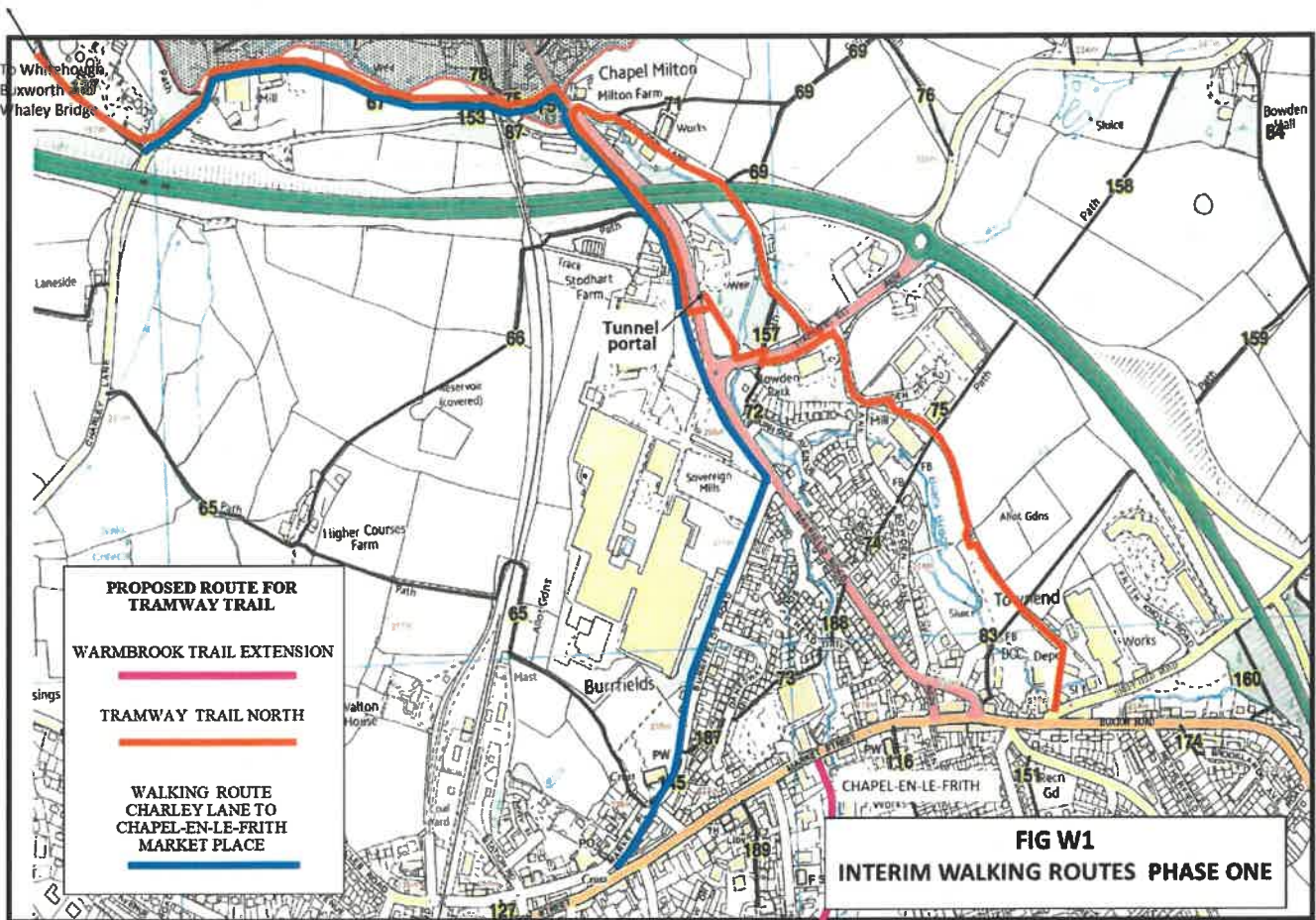
<sup>1</sup> detailed references to sources of information are given at the end of this report.

### 3 The Tramway Trail Interim Walking Routes

The interim walking routes are to be implemented in four phases. Maps labelled Figures W1-W4 show the sections of the proposed Interim Walking Routes to be implemented in each phase.

#### 3.1 Interim Walking Route Phase 1

The dark blue line in Fig W1 shows Phase 1 of the Interim Walking Route.



This section of the Interim Walking Route starts from Charley Lane (top left), near where the existing multi-user section of the Peak Forest Tramway Trail from Buxworth currently terminates. The Interim Walking Route follows Chapel Footpath 67 eastwards across the fields to Chapel Milton and then turns south to follow the footpaths alongside Hayfield Road (A624) and Burrfields Road to Chapel Market Place and the historic Town Centre. This section of the walking route coincides with the existing signposted route linking the Peak Forest Tramway Trail to the Town Centre.

Steps have been taken to add additional signage to the route, as indicated in 4 below.

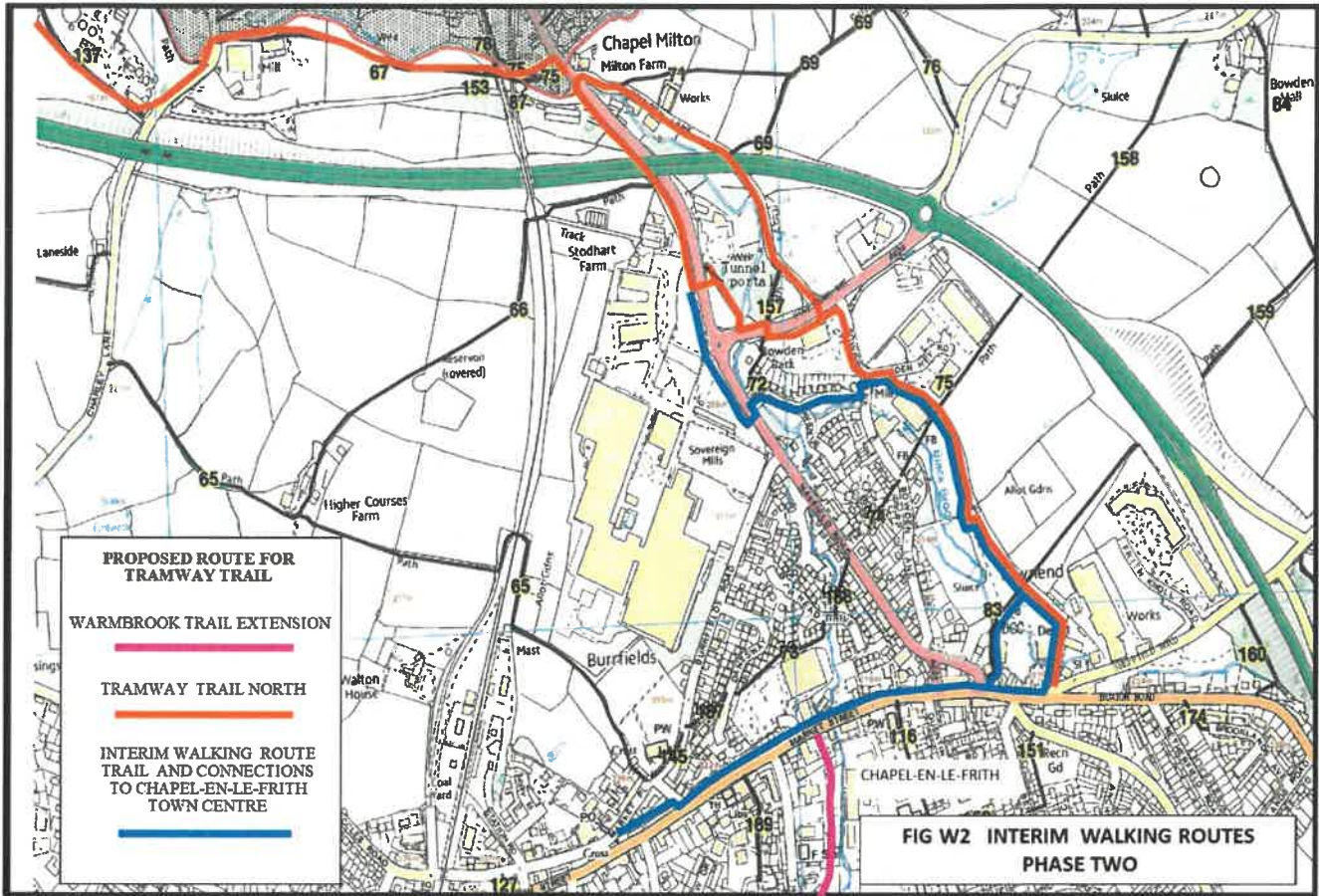
A pamphlet is available that describes the existing Peak Forest Tramway Trail and includes the Phase 1 part of the walking route. Reprints of the pamphlet are available from Chapel Town Hall.

A leaflet describing a new circular walk to Cracken Edge, which includes the Phase 1 route, will be added to the collection of walks<sup>5</sup> presented by Chapel-en-le-Frith Community Group.

Implementation of Phase 1 can be regarded as largely complete.

### 3.2 Interim Walking Route Phase 2

The dark blue lines in Fig W2 show the Working Group's proposed Interim Walking Route from Hayfield Road to Chapel Townend and Chapel Market Place.



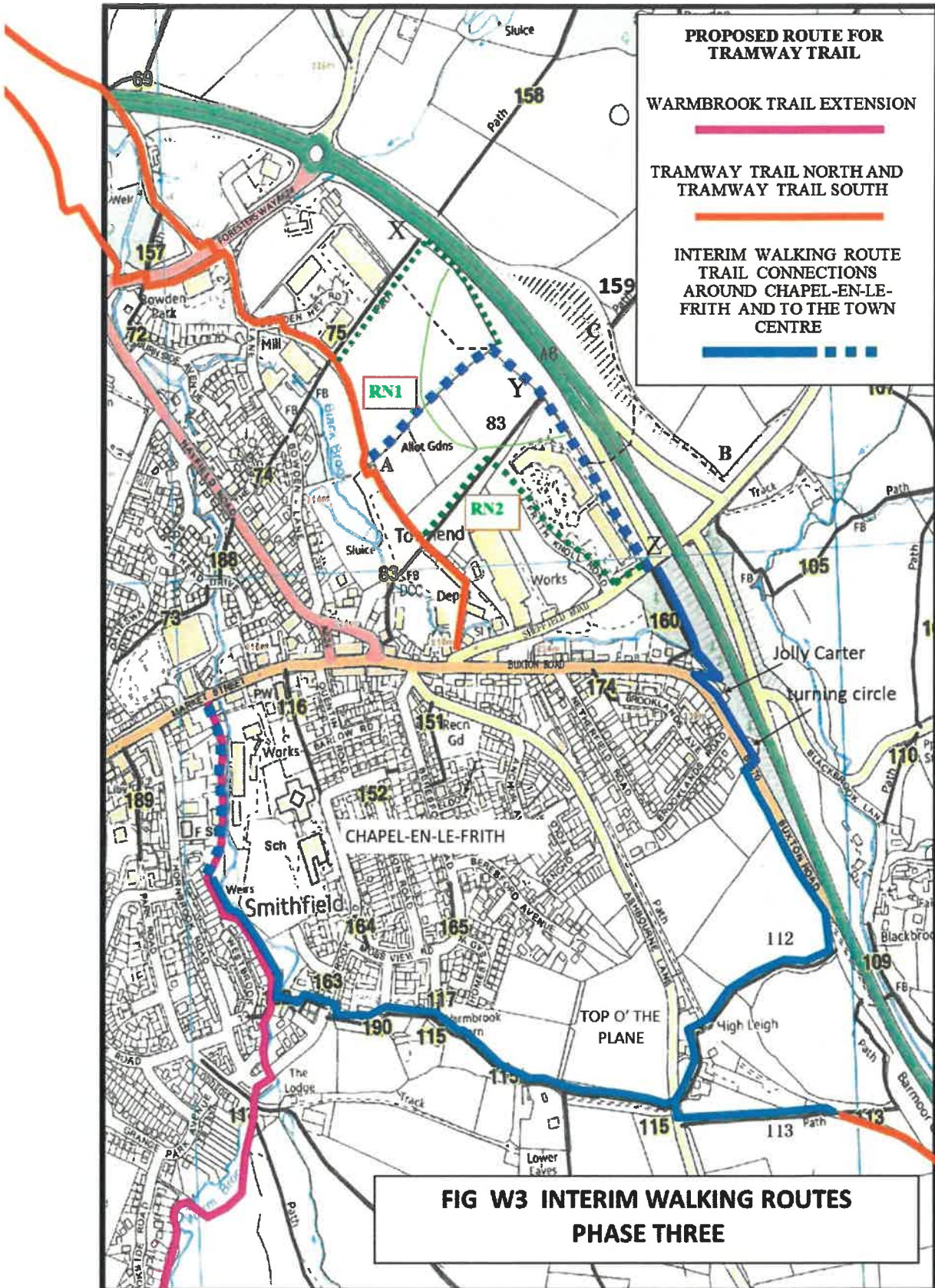
Starting at the northern end, the Phase 2 part of the proposed walking route follows the western side of Hayfield Road southwards to its junction with Burnside Avenue. The route has now been changed to cross Hayfield Road here, taking advantage of the existing central pedestrian island, and follows Burnside Avenue and Brook Fold eastwards to join Bowden Lane. Then from Bowden Hey Road, the proposed route follows the route of the original tramway for about 430 metres to the former Longson's Yard at Chapel Townend and then turns south to join Sheffield Road near its junction with Buxton Road. Another short section follows Footpath 83 to join Hayfield Road East near its junction with Market Street. The proposed Tramway Trail at Townend will be connected via Market Street to Chapel Market Place.

Good progress has been made with Phase 2. A practical, safe route using existing paths has been established and signage implemented for the whole of this part of the interim walking route (see 4 below). Taken together with Phase 1 this interim walking route extends the existing Tramway Trail a distance of two kilometres

A 200 metre length of drystone wall forming the boundary of the Tramway Trail was removed near Longson's Yard. This section of the Tramway is specifically protected under Policy EP5 of the Neighbourhood Plan<sup>1</sup>. As the retention of the wall is part of an approved planning application for the adjoining land, the Parish Council and HPBC have ensured that the planning permission specifies that the wall is replaced by the developer prior to the first occupation of the development.

### 3.3 Interim Walking Route Phase 3

The dark blue lines in Fig W3 show the proposed Phase 3 rural walking route that skirts around the eastern end of Chapel-en-le-Frith to connect the proposed north and south sections of the Tramway Trail. The broken dark blue lines are parts of the Interim Walking Route that require a little more work, see below, before they can be regarded as walkable rights of way.



This Phase 3 Interim Walking Route follows public rights of way to Top o' the Plane in the south, except for a small attractive section of footpath (RN1) that passes through a band of trees from point A (in the upper part of Fig W3) for a distance of about 250 metres up to the A6 Bypass boundary fence. From near Y to Z, a distance of approximately 400 metres, the route lies inside this fence, so that pedestrians already have a legal right to walk here. The route then crosses Sheffield Road and on to Chapel Footpath 160 leading to Buxton Road, initially on the eastern footpath and then crossing to the western footpath of Buxton Road just south of the turning circle, and then uphill on Chapel Footpath 112 towards Top o' the Plane. The section from Sheffield Road to Top o' the Plane, a distance of approximately 800 metres, is entirely on public footpaths. Another part of the route connects Top o' the Plane to the Town Centre via Chapel Footpath 115 and a proposed extension of the Warmbrook Trail. The section of the route X-Y and the Footpath 75, shown as a broken dark green line near the top of Fig W3, is included in case the preferred route A-Y is unachievable.

As noted above, nearly all of the Phase 3 part of the proposed walking route has been chosen to follow public rights of way but work remains to be done to complete this Phase:

- a) Section RN1 is an existing path through a protected strip of woodland adjacent to the Parish Council's former allotments. Landowner's permission is to be sought for this section RN1 and a public right of way or permissive path established.
- b) Signing is needed for the whole of Phase 3. Public footpath signs exist where paths leave public roads but there is a need for more informative signs.
- c) Some clearance of bushes is required for the section of path from near Y to Z that lies within the A6 Bypass boundary and runs parallel to the slip road. Derbyshire County Council, as Highway Authority, have been approached for their approval for this clearance work and also to carry it out.

As an extension to this work, the necessary signing would also include directions to cross the Bypass by walking under it on Sheffield Road near Z and then using an established path on the other side of the Bypass from B to C to reach Chapel Footpath 159. This signed route would encourage more walkers in the area, some being discouraged at the moment by the perceived danger in crossing the Bypass near Y.

### **3.4 Interim Walking Route Phase 4**

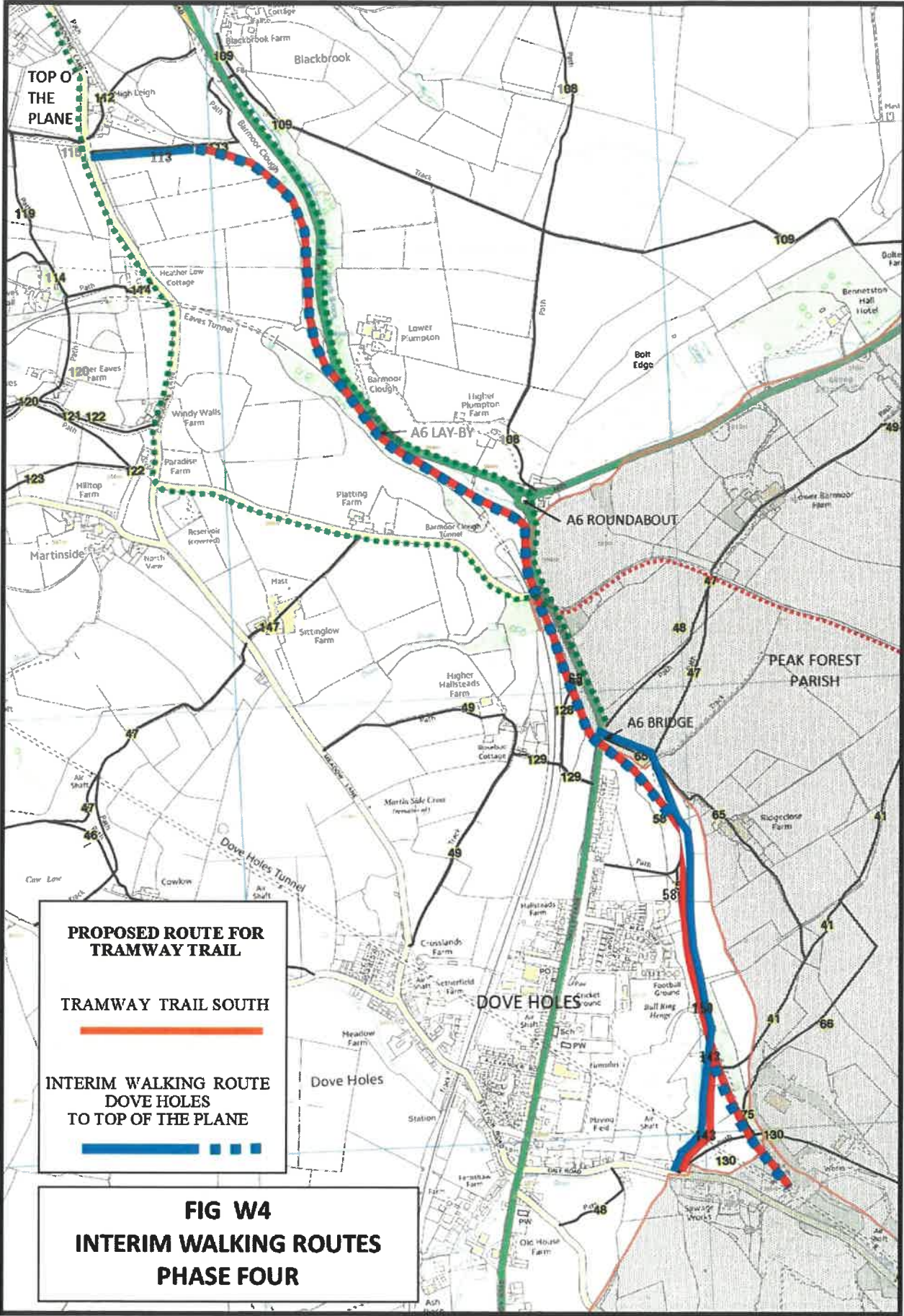
The continuous and broken dark blue lines in Fig W4 show the proposed walking route from Top o' the Plane to Dale Road, Dove Holes. This is the longest of the four phases, a distance of approximately three kilometres. Starting from Top o' the Plane on Ashbourne Lane, top left corner of Fig W4, it follows Chapel Footpath 113, an old pack horse route, for a short distance to join and then follow the original route of the Peak Forest Tramway south, all the way to Dale Road.

Most of the length of the route from Dale Road to the A6 bridge, a distance of approximately 1.1 kilometres, is over existing paths that have rights of way and require very little work and signing. Contact has been made with the single owner of the long section from Dale Road to just south of the Barmoor Clough A6 roundabout.

Considerable work remains to be done to bring the part of this route shown by the broken dark blue lines in Fig W4, into use as a footpath, including:

- a) Ownership has to be established and access permissions obtained for some sections, notably for the section from Top o' the Plane to the A6 lay-by.
- b) Clearance of small trees and dense undergrowth in areas around Barmoor Clough roundabout.
- c) Drainage and other measures (e.g. board walk or raised footpath level) to allow passage over a wet section near where the tramway passes under the A6 bridge.
- d) Further discussions with the owner of the long section of the Tramway from Dale Road to Barmoor Clough.

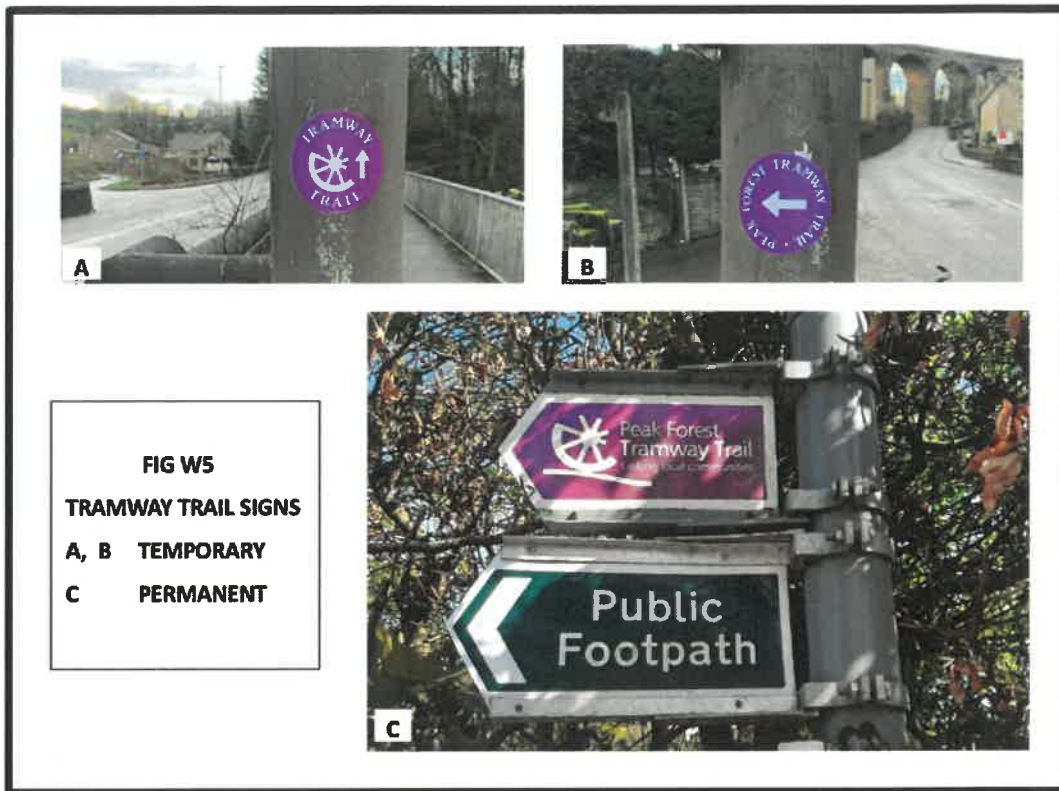
Signing will be needed throughout.



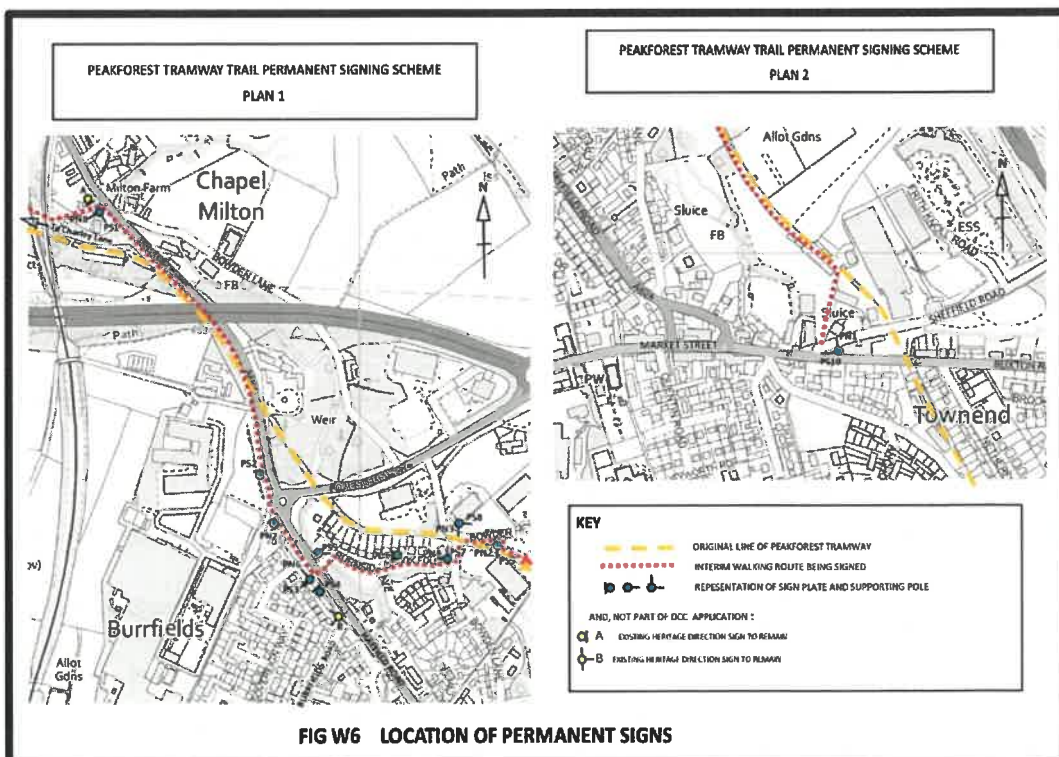


#### 4 Trail Signage

CJK Packaging Ltd, a local business, have supported the work of the Group and funded temporary signs that have been put in place to indicate the whole two kilometre section of the Interim Walking Route from Charley Lane to Chapel Townend.



Derbyshire County Council have been approached for permission to mount permanent signs at selected positions along the highways. The signs would be identical to existing signs at Whitehough (photo FIG W5) and the sign locations are shown in on the map, FIG W6.



Financial support to procure and mount these permanent signs is available from joint Parish Council and HPBC funds pending the permission from DCC.

This signage scheme includes signs directing walkers to and from the Town Centre, to increase footfall and so maximise spend, giving economic benefits to the town. With the canal towpath from Whaley Bridge to Buxworth, a level waymarked route would be created from Whaley Bridge to Townend. The eye-catching signs would also act as a marketing tool, encouraging greater use.

## **5 Stodhart Tunnel Portal**

The orange line on Map W1 shows a revised proposal for the position of a crossing for the ultimate Tramway Trail route for both walkers and cyclists to cross over Hayfield Road in order to access the historic Stodhart Tunnel Portal, a Grade II\* listed building. The proposed route adopted in 2018 crossed Hayfield Road near to the entrance to Lodge Nursing Home, but the Working Group has subsequently proposed moving the Hayfield Road crossing point 45 metres south, away from the entrance to the Nursing Home. It has also proposed that the preferred route for the multi-user Tramway Trail should be modified to follow the original route of the tramway, as far as possible, from the portal to Sheffield Road and to cross Foresters Way where it meets Footpath 157.

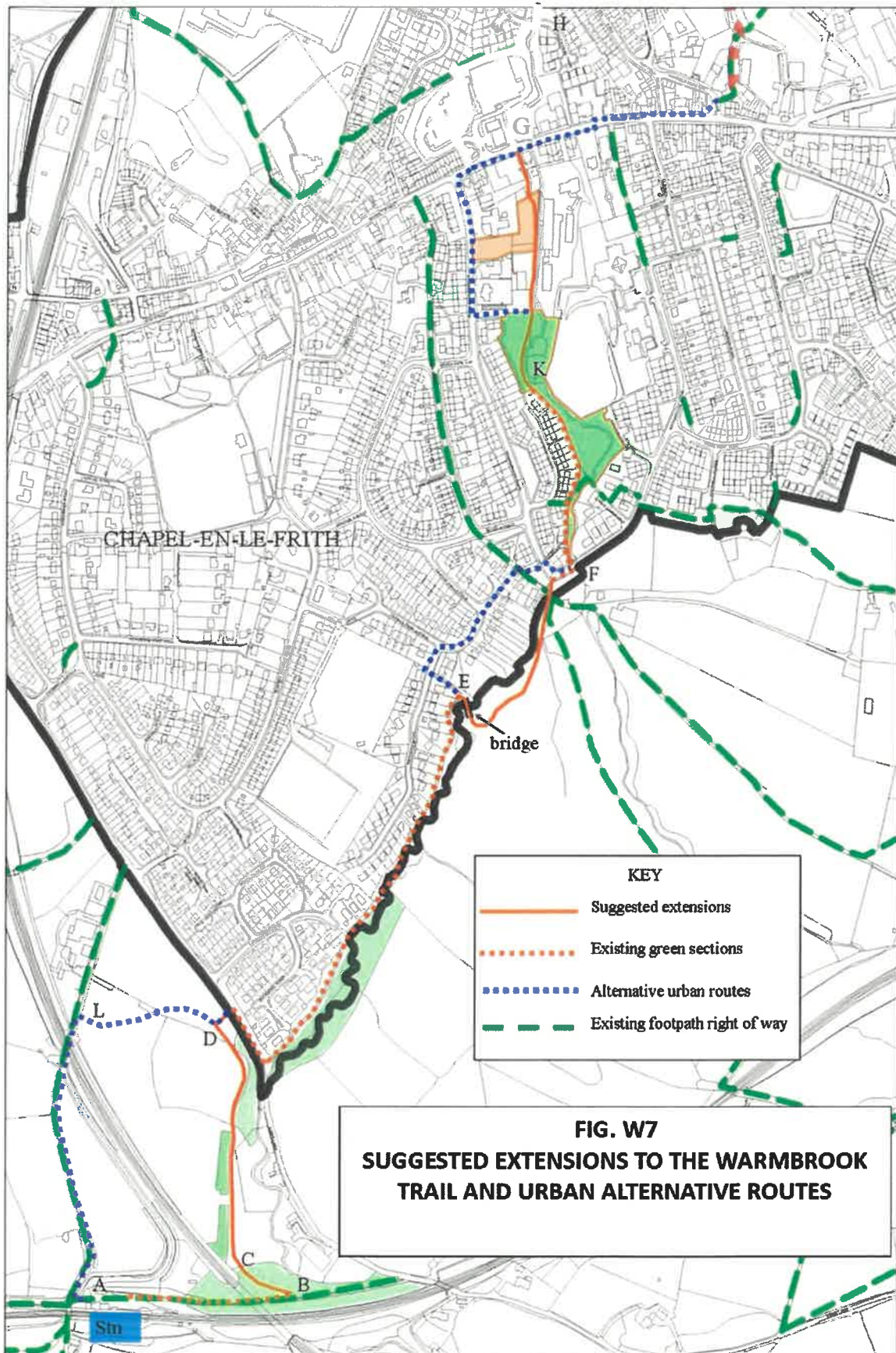
To make the Stodhart Tunnel Portal accessible to the public, a scheme has been drawn up to provide a short length of path from the crossing point on Hayfield Road into the land on which the portal is situated and to erect an interpretation board near to the portal. In order to gain permissions to implement this part of the route, the Working Group are contacting the Stodhart Tunnel Preservation Trust, representatives of the land owners, and English Heritage. This is work in progress.

## **6 Maintenance of Tramway Trail from Whitehough to Charley Lane**

- a) Problems with Tramway flooding are a huge issue and are holding back much improvement work. Therefore, a report has been produced bringing together the best solutions to the flooding and those ideas are now the basis of a multi-agency approach.
- b) A replacement for an Interpretation Board at Whitehough that was destroyed by a falling tree should very soon be installed, funding having been obtained from the Parish Council and the Small Towns Regeneration Fund.

## **7 Warmbrook Trail**

The intention is to extend the Warmbrook Trail to provide a pleasant green walking route following the Warmbrook all of the way from Chapel-en-le-Frith South Railway Station to Market Street in the heart of the town, and to the shops at Townend. The orange lines on the map, Fig W7, which is taken and slightly modified from the 2018 Summary Report<sup>4</sup>, shows the proposed extensions to the Warmbrook Trail from the railway station in the south up to Market Street at G near the top of the map. The broken blue lines in Fig W7 show existing urban alternative routes that could be used if the recommended extensions could not be achieved.



Some contacts have been made but considerable further work is required to implement all of the following sections of the Warmbrook Trail:

A-B is a public footpath, Chapel Footpath 59. The footpath would need to be improved.

B-C passes down a wooded hillside, following the Warmbrook. The route passes close to the railway tunnel below. The land and tunnel owners, Network Rail, have been contacted informally and have been provided by the Group with an outline specification for the path and method of construction. Progress is now paused due to the current coronavirus restrictions.

C-D passes across a public green space, behind two bands of trees. Ownership has passed from Seddon Homes, who were informally contacted by the Group, to the Rosebay Trust. Again, progress has been delayed due to the current restrictions. Representations have been made requesting that a substantive amount of S106 money from the Seddon Development is allocated to Sections B-C and C-D of this scheme.

D-E is the existing Warmbrook Trail, that has been maintained by HPBC and would require little if any upgrading.

E-F The current owners of the land, the G E Barratt Trust and Mr Barry Wood, were approached by the Parish Council to explore options for reinstatement of the path and bridge that had previously existed there. The multiple owners did not all agree with reinstatement, so in the absence of a unanimous vote, there is no agreement in principle at this time to the Parish Council's proposal for this section.

F-K is an existing footpath.

K-G The exact route of this section, ownership and permissions are to be determined. Some path clearance and surfacing, and probably an opening or gateway in a fence, adjacent to the rear of Horderns Motor House, will be required. The design of the pathway will need to be integrated with a possible car park extension, proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. HPBC councillors have been alerted to this.

G-J would use the existing Market Street footpaths and signalised Puffin pedestrian crossing as a link to the proposed Tramway Trail extension (See Fig W2)

Signing would be needed throughout.

The alternative urban routes for the Warmbrook Trail, shown in Fig W7, could be signed and used as Interim Walking Routes until the recommended extensions have been established. In particular, because of the likely delay and expense in providing section B-C, the Group are actively considering minor improvements on the parallel route A-L and DCC have agreed to undertake some limited improvements. Also, in the absence of permission for the preferred route E-F, signing of the alternative route needs to be considered.

## **8 Other Issues**

### **8.1 Footpath Link to Chinley School**

A footpath spur allowing traffic-free access from the Tramway and the Wain Homes development at Whitehough to Chinley School and beyond is currently being negotiated and those talks are making good progress.

### **8.2 Shared use Cycle and Walking Paths**

The Parish Working Group intend to ask Derbyshire County Council to consider the possibility of adapting a section of footpath on the west side of Hayfield Road, from Chapel Milton viaducts to Burnside Avenue, to be shared by walkers and cyclists on a share with care basis. Also, to consider the possibility of arranging for cyclists to share the footpath for travel alongside the A6 up Barmoor Clough towards Buxton and being directed to use the Platting Farm and Ashbourne Lanes (see the broken dark green lines in Fig W4) if they wish to avoid Barmoor Clough when travelling from Buxton to Chapel.

The preferred route for the Tramway Trail to avoid the A6 at Barmoor Clough remains that recommended to follow the relatively level line of the original tramway from the A6 lay-by to Top o' the Plane. However, these low-cost solutions may be considered for part of the final multi-user scheme if it proves impossible to implement the Working Group's ultimate proposals.

### **8.3 National Trust Interest**

Contact has been made with the Director General of the National Trust requesting their involvement in the Tramway Trail project. They indicated that they could not make any financial commitment or be otherwise closely involved, but they considered it a very worthy project in line with their aims and would be happy to provide a letter of support

## **9 Links to the wider area**

Although footpaths and trails in the Chapel Parish area has been the primary focus, the Parish Council Footpaths and Trails Group is actively encouraging links with the wider area, see Fig W8.

### **9.1 Derbyshire Key Cycle Network**

Derbyshire County Council has proposed a Key Cycle Network, a network of cycleways throughout the county<sup>6</sup> that includes sections covering the whole of the Parish Council's proposed route for the Tramway Trail from Whitehough to Dove Holes, see Fig W8. The County Council have been allocated £1.7M from the third tranche of the UK Government's Active Travel Fund that will be used to implement sections of the Key Cycle Network.

The Parish Council has sent to Richard Lovell (Economy Transport and Environment) at Derbyshire County Council a wealth of information describing the work of the Footpaths and Trails Working Group in developing the Tramway Trail scheme, suggesting this can now be used by the County Council as a basis for developing the scheme further, and proposing that the two councils work in partnership to take the project forward. Mr. Lovell has undertaken to circulate the documents to the team dealing with Key Cycle Network and also the County Council's Public Rights of Way team and to respond when they have digested the information.

In considering priorities for the allocation of funding for development of the Key Cycle Network, the County Council allocated priority rankings to the sections through Chapel Parish that indicate these as long-term project proposals, five years or more hence. Ruth George, County Councillor for Whaley Bridge and Blackbrook, is working hard, together with other organisations, in proposing that the County Council should increase the priority given to implementing sections of the network that would connect Whitehough to Buxton, including the sections through Chapel Parish, as part of a larger campaign to link Greater Manchester with the Buxton area and beyond<sup>7</sup>. Buxton Town Team have suggested some improvements to the proposed route linking Dove Holes and Buxton, see Fig W8.

These potential extensions from the Tramway Trail would connect Chapel Parish to the Greater Manchester Cycling and Walking Network<sup>8,9</sup> in one direction and to the heart of the Peak District National Park in the other, as well as providing a through route between these two significant cycle trip generators.

### **9.2 Other possible Links to the South and East**

Chapel Parish Footpaths and Trails Group had previously suggested<sup>4</sup> an "East Link" (shown as a broken red line in Figs W4 and W8) using existing tracks to provide a link from the A6 at Dove Holes to the Pennine Bridleway at Peak Forest, a route which could be adapted to accommodate cyclists and horse riders. Chapel Parish Working Group had not pursued that link because it lies entirely within Peak Forest Parish

Contact has been made with Councillor Roberts (HPBC Council member for Limestone Peak Ward) and with Buxton Town Team to consider enabling a cycling link from Dale Road, Dove Holes, as far as the Pennine Bridleway and hence the start of the Monsal Trail at Blackwell Mill, (see the continuous red line in Fig W8). This would need improvements to Wormhill Bridleway 6 to make it more cycle friendly and accessible. It should require no new permissions as bridleways can also be used for cycling. This would allow easy access to the start of the Monsal Trail from both Chapel and Buxton using tracks and quiet minor roads. From there you can get to Bakewell and beyond. The broken dark green line in Fig W8 is an alternative potential cycling route linking Dove Holes to the Pennine Bridleway at Wormhill. It is emphasised that at present, because these two options are not within Chapel Parish (except at their extreme north west ends), they have not been investigated and scrutinised to the same level of detail as the Group's principal Tramway Trail proposals and so must be considered as provisional.



KEY	
Key Cycle Network Completed	
Key Cycle Network Proposed	
Buxton Town Team Alternative Proposed	
Peak Forest "East Link" Suggested	
Wormhill link Suggested	
Peak District National Park Boundary	

**FIG W8**  
**MULTI-USER ROUTES**  
**CONNECTING CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH**  
**TO BUXTON, WHALEY BRIDGE**  
**AND THE WIDER AREA**

## **10 Conclusions**

### **10.1 Multi-User Tramway Trail Proposals**

The proposals for the Multi-User Tramway Trail remain substantially the same as reported in previous progress reports and the Summary Report<sup>3</sup>. The Parish Council has sent Derbyshire County Council detailed information on the current proposals and suggested that the two councils work in partnership to take the project forward. Responses are expected from the County Council's Key Cycle Network and Public Rights of Way teams.

### **10.2 Interim Walking Route**

Good progress has been made in establishing and signposting a safe and practical Interim Walking Route, which forms a two-kilometre extension of the Tramway Trail from Charley Lane to Chapel Townend. Signage will direct visitors from the trail extension to Chapel Market Place and the historic Town Centre. Other sections of the proposed Interim Walking Route from Chapel Townend to Dale Road, Dove Holes need more work.

### **10.3 Stodhart Tunnel**

A scheme has been proposed that would provide access to the historic Stodhart Tunnel portal and a short section of the route of the original tramway near the Lodge Nursing Home on Hayfield Road. An information board is proposed to describe the history of that area. Work is required to obtain necessary permissions and implement the scheme.

### **10.4 Warmbrook Trail**

Only a little progress has been made towards extending the Warmbrook Trail to form a pleasant green walking route from Chapel South Railway Station to Market Street in Chapel Town Centre. Owners of some sections of the route have been contacted but further work is required.

### **10.5 Connections With the Wider Area**

The DCC Key Cycle Network, which covers the whole of Derbyshire, includes the proposed multi-user Tramway Trail through the Parish and has the potential to provide links to Buxton, Whaley Bridge and beyond, including to Greater Manchester, the Peak District National Park and various long-distance Trails. The Working Group have suggested additional possible cycling routes from Dove Holes through Peak Forest and Wormhill to connect to the Pennine Bridleway and Monsal Trail.

## **11 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Chapel Parish Council:

- Continue to implement the Interim Walking Route for the Tramway Trail and the Warmbrook Trail proposals, giving appropriate priority to consultations with landowners and others that has been hindered by coronavirus restrictions.
- Work with HPBC and DCC to develop the multi-user Tramway Trail, for use by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, to link centres of population and employment within the Parish, which will also add safe and interesting leisure routes for local people and act as a tourist attraction, supporting the local economy.
- Work with HPBC, DCC and neighbouring Parish Councils to support the Key Cycle Network proposals and raise the priority allocated to sections that lie within the Parish and link to the wider area

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013-2028, Referendum Version, 'made' by High Peak Borough Council August 2015
- <sup>2</sup> Our Footpaths Our Heritage: Our Plans to Extend, Improve and Maintain the Peak Forest Tramway and Warmbrook Trails; Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council Footpaths and Trails Working Party, Progress Report No1, September 2016
- <sup>3</sup> Recommended Multi-user and Interim Walking Routes for Tramway Trail Extensions; Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council Footpaths and Trails Working Party, Progress Report No 2, February 2018
- <sup>4</sup> Proposed Extensions to Warmbrook and Peak Forest Tramway Trails; Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council Footpaths and Trails Working Party, Summary Report, March 2018
- <sup>5</sup> Circular Walks Around Chapel-en-le-Frith, Chapel-en-le-Frith Community Group, 2021, <https://chapelcommunity.co.uk/things-to-do/circular-walks/>
- <sup>6</sup> Key Cycle Network Development and Funding Opportunities, A report to Derbyshire County Council Cabinet, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Author Jim Seymour, <https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s2561/Key%20Cycle%20Network.pdf>
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk/news/people/former-high-peak-mp-ruth-george-pushes-county-council-over-buxton-manchester-cycle-route-3122141>
- <sup>8</sup> Beelines, Greater Manchester Cycling and Walking infrastructure Proposal, 2018 <https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/34oOjdbQmsImeI4AQQM8My/e8dee4819e6bc8c13036af620d81259f/Beelines.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup> Greater Manchester Cycling and Walking Network, Transport for Greater Manchester, 2019 [https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/11LrCwzWcA4XgubY4EfHuW/678576b88a9ec614e410d766828c1b0d/BeelineNetwork\\_schematic\\_March\\_2019\\_hi-res.pdf](https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/11LrCwzWcA4XgubY4EfHuW/678576b88a9ec614e410d766828c1b0d/BeelineNetwork_schematic_March_2019_hi-res.pdf)



# **PROPOSED EXTENSIONS TO WARMBROOK AND PEAK FOREST TRAMWAY TRAILS**



**ROUTE RN1**

## **SUMMARY REPORT MARCH 2018**

**Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council Footpaths and Trails Working Party**

**CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL – FOOTPATHS AND TRAILS WORKING PARTY  
POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS TO THE WARMBROOK AND PEAK FOREST TRAMWAY TRAILS  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**MARCH 2018**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in August 2015, proposed the establishment of projects for protecting, enhancing and developing the Peak Forest Tramway Trail and extending the Warmbrook Trail. In September 2015 the Parish Council set up the Footpaths and Trails Working Party of three Elected Members and three (subsequently four) local people with specific interests in these issues to take this project forward as part of a Community Plan.

The Warmbrook Trail at present is a very pleasant footpath on the southern perimeter of Chapel-en-le-Frith town alongside the Warmbrook. Previously, the route crossed over a rough bridge and continued along the edge of the Target Wall Field emerging at the junction of Thornbrook and Warmbrook Roads. Unfortunately, the bridge was removed a few years ago so that the trail now terminates on Brookside Road.

The Peak Forest Tramway was an early rail track opened in 1796 to carry limestone from the quarries at Dove Holes down through Chapel-en-le-Frith to the Bugsworth Canal Basin. That was before the existence of steam locomotives. Trains of wagons were propelled by gravity downhill all the way from Dove Holes to Bugsworth and uphill, for all except the steepest section, by teams of horses. On the steep hillside descending into Chapel-en-le-Frith and adjacent to the present Ashbourne Lane, an incline plane was constructed where descending loaded wagons would haul up the ascending wagons attached to endless chains and ropes. At peak activity over 100,000 tons of limestone was sent down the tramway per year and operation continued for almost 130 years.

The tramway became disused in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In December 2003, High Peak Borough Council commissioned consultants to undertake a feasibility study to bring the tramway route back into use as a trail. Soon after the feasibility study report was presented, the most westerly section of the route, between Buxworth and Charley Lane, was restored, with funding assistance from the European Union, and the route was named 'The Peak Forest Tramway Trail'. There is enormous scope to restore remaining sections of the tramway as a trail. It is already possible to walk some of the remaining sections and some others require only clearing of overgrowth to reveal attractive walking routes and interesting historic features.

The Parish Council's Working Party has walked the length of the Peak Forest Tramway and Warmbrook Trails, considered alternative routes for extending the existing trails, consulted Derbyshire County and High Peak Borough Council officers, and recorded its findings in two detailed progress reports<sup>1,2</sup>.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this project include:

1. The continuation of these historic trails to provide not only awareness of our heritage but also to provide leisure facilities such as walking, cycling and horse riding, and general enjoyment of the countryside.
2. The establishment of new high quality visitor attractions, giving important and beneficial linked additions to the tourism offer of the High Peak and positively assisting the local economy.
3. The provision of green utilitarian transport facilities enabling local people to walk or cycle to work or school, go shopping or access other local facilities
4. The linking of these trails to surrounding Derbyshire greenways, footpaths and bridleways.
5. The restoration, preservation, signposting, historic information guidance and maintenance of the Peak Forest Tramway and the Warmbrook Trails.

---

<sup>1</sup>Our Footpaths Our Heritage: Our Plans to Extend, Improve and Maintain the Peak Forest Tramway and Warmbrook Trails; Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council Footpaths and Trails Working Party, Progress Report No 1, September 2016

<sup>2</sup> Proposed Extensions to the Peak Forest Tramway Trail; Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council Footpaths and Trails Working Party, Progress Report No 2, February 2018

The intention is to provide attractive and safe greenways and footpaths, following traditional routes and avoiding busy roads as far as possible and to accommodate a wide variety of walkers and cyclists, including young and athletic, older and the less able people, families with children and pushchairs, joggers, dog walkers and, where possible and appropriate, access for horse riders and the disabled. For the greenway, the aim is to provide a good surface three to four metres wide, with green strips alongside.

## **PROPOSALS**

### **Proposed Extensions to the Warmbrook Trail**

The proposal is to extend the existing Warmbrook Trail footpath with the intention of providing a pleasant green walking route all the way from Chapel-en-le-Frith South Station to Market Street, Chapel-en-le-Frith. This will involve developing footpath extensions and new rights of way as shown on Fig A.

### **Proposed Extension of the Peak Forest Tramway Trail**

The proposal is to extend the Tramway Trail from Charley Lane as shown in Fig B, to provide a pleasant route for walkers and cyclists and where possible, horse riders, all the way from Buxworth to Dove Holes.

Two routes are shown for the section of the Tramway Trail North between Chapel Milton and Foresters Way (See Fig C), one via Bowden Lane and the other via Hayfield Road which passes the entrance to the historic Stodhart Tunnel.

A number of different potential routes were considered<sup>1</sup> for the Tramway Trail through and around Chapel-en-le-Frith Townend to Top o' th' Plane and two routes have been proposed<sup>2</sup>. These proposed Tramway Trail connection routes are included in Fig B and are shown in more detail in Fig C.

- A 'rural' route skirting the eastern edge of the built up area (RS1-RS4-RN1 in Fig C), which will involve establishing some new public rights of way and trail construction, the latter being relatively simple except in the vicinity of Buxton Road; and
- An 'urban' route (RS2-US3 in Fig C) down the incline plane, then via a short section of Ashbourne Lane, which will need adaption to be family user-friendly, and across Market Street, where a signalised pedestrian crossing may be necessary, to join the original tramway route at the rear of Longson's Yard, Townend.

Other routes have been identified using existing roads and footpaths to link Chapel-en-le-Frith Town Centre with the Tramway and Warmbrook Trails, as shown on Fig C. We recognise that the route of the Tramway Trail itself is some distance from the Town Centre and therefore recommend that these links should be advertised and signed, to enable trail users to divert to eat, drink, and see other attractions, thus helping the town's tourism economy to a greater extent.

The two detailed Progress Reports provide more information on all of the routes considered<sup>1</sup> and recommended<sup>2</sup> by the Parish Council's Working Party.

### **Interim Walking Routes**

Walking routes have been identified<sup>2</sup> as alternatives to the preferred multi-user links for the section of the trail around and through Chapel-en-le-Frith Townend. We recommend that the Parish Council pursue, with Derbyshire County Council, the establishment of these routes for walkers only in the first instance. This is a simpler, narrower, lower cost option than the multi-user alternatives. These walking routes include the whole of both Tramway Trail North and Tramway Trail South (see Fig B) and all the trail walking route connections, including those linking with the Town Centre, shown on Fig C. The walking routes generally either follow roads or footpaths with existing public rights of way except for some parts of Tramway Trail North and Tramway Trail South and the section of the connecting route marked RN1 in Fig C. More details of these proposed walking routes can be found in the Progress Report No 2.

## **LINKS BETWEEN THE TRAILS AND THE WIDER AREA**

The proposed extensions to the trails will connect centres of population, employment sites and visitor attractions throughout Chapel Parish and also beyond, as shown in Fig D. The extended trails will also provide a missing east-west link between important national trails outside the Parish, the Midshires Way and Pennine Cycleway in the west, at Whaley Bridge and Buxworth, and to the Pennine Bridleway and Monsal Trail in the east and south.

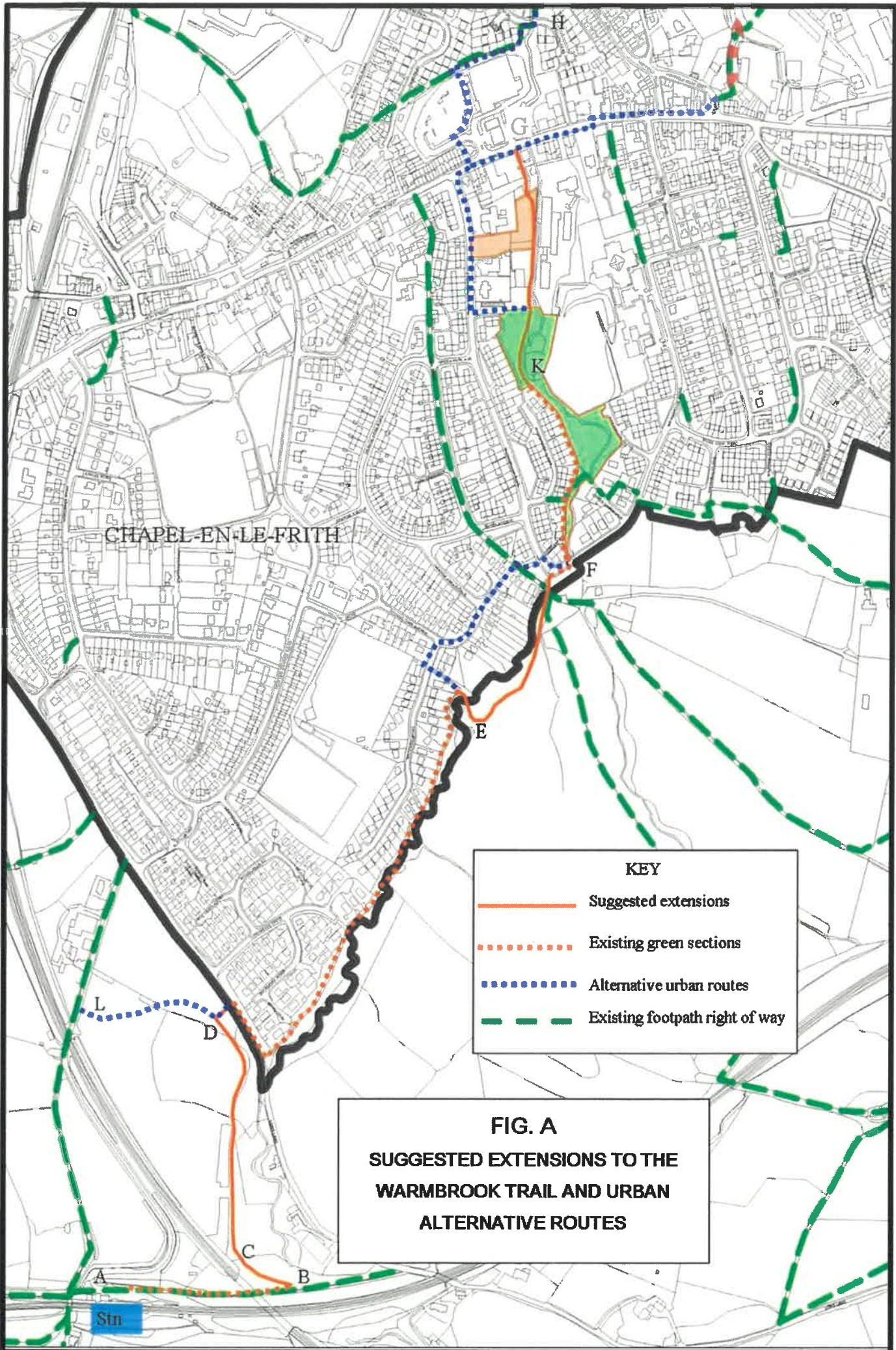
Bugsworth Basin is situated at the western end of the Tramway Trail and is an established and successful visitor attraction in itself, and from there the canal towpath provides an important link to Whaley Bridge. Whaley Bridge and Chapel-en-le-Frith provide many places to eat and drink, and are well served by bus and train services. Fig D also shows the connections between the railway stations at Whaley Bridge, Chapel -en-le-Frith South and Dove Holes and the new trails, which will provide new links between the railway line from Greater Manchester and the Peak District National Park to the east. Round trips between Whaley Bridge and Chapel-en-le-Frith or Dove Holes will be able to be easily undertaken, walking along the proposed trails in one direction, and using train or 199 bus in the other.

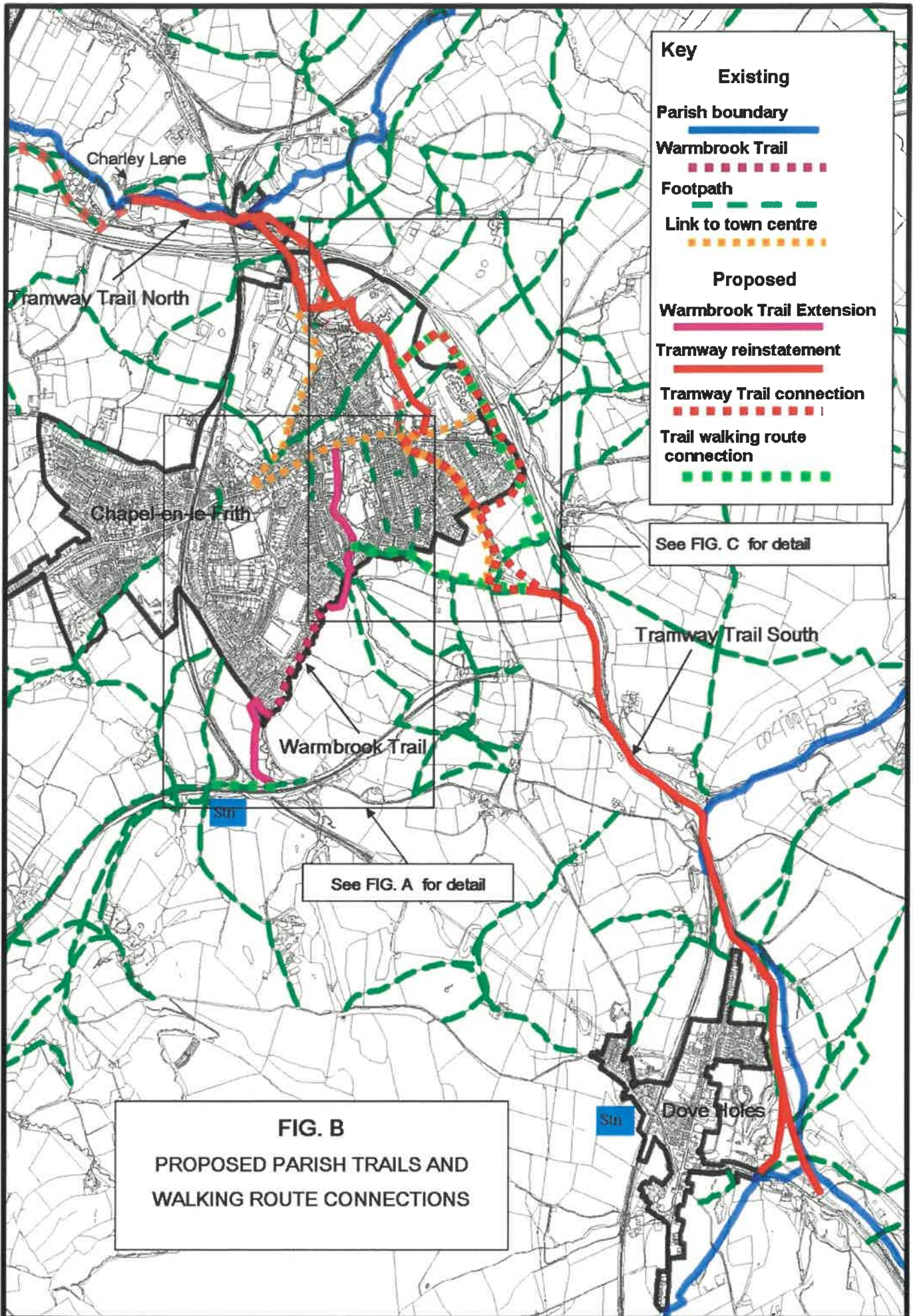
## **THE NEXT STEPS**

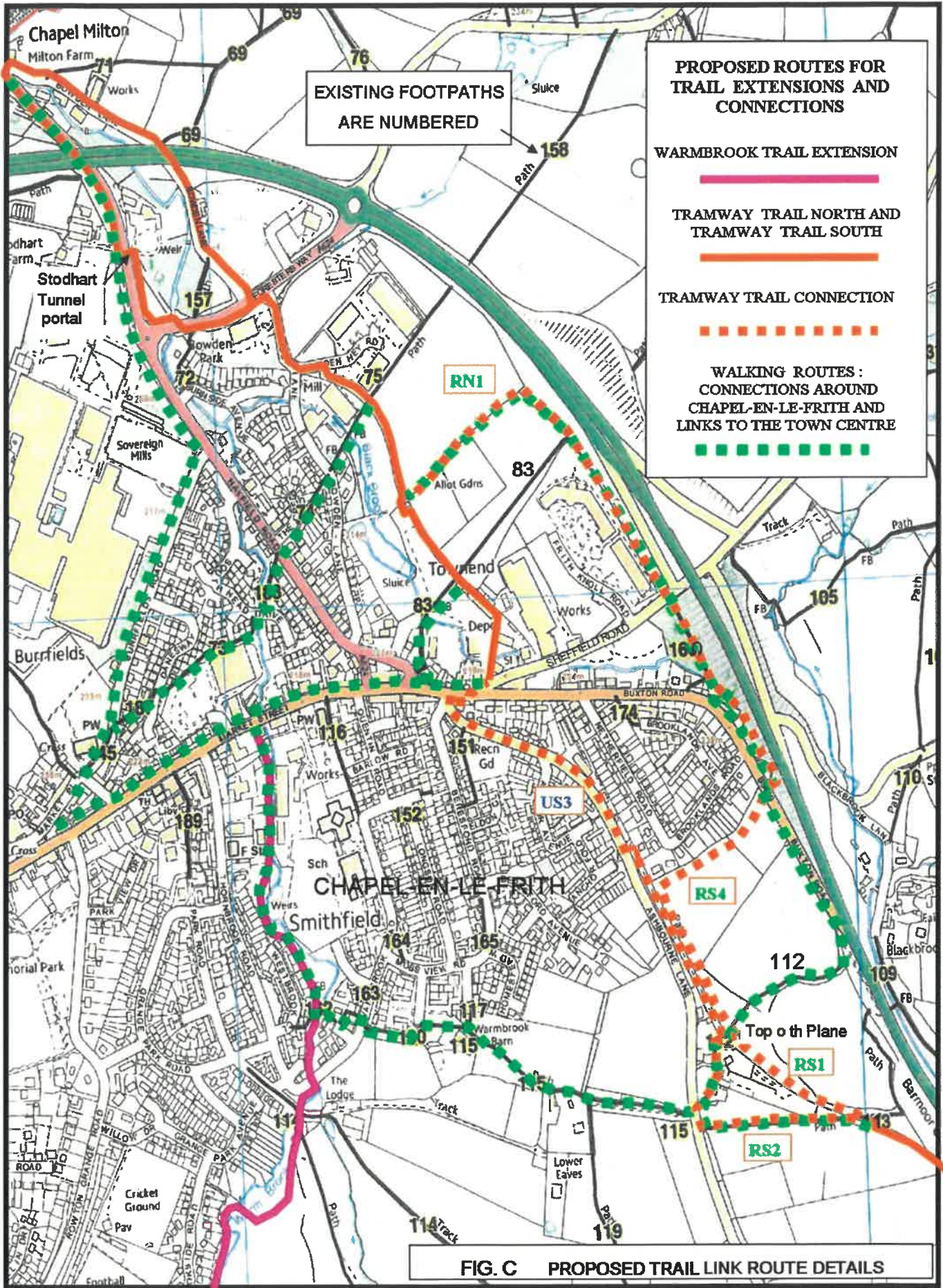
The objectives and proposals of the Working Party are in line with those of the Derbyshire County and High Peak Borough Councils.

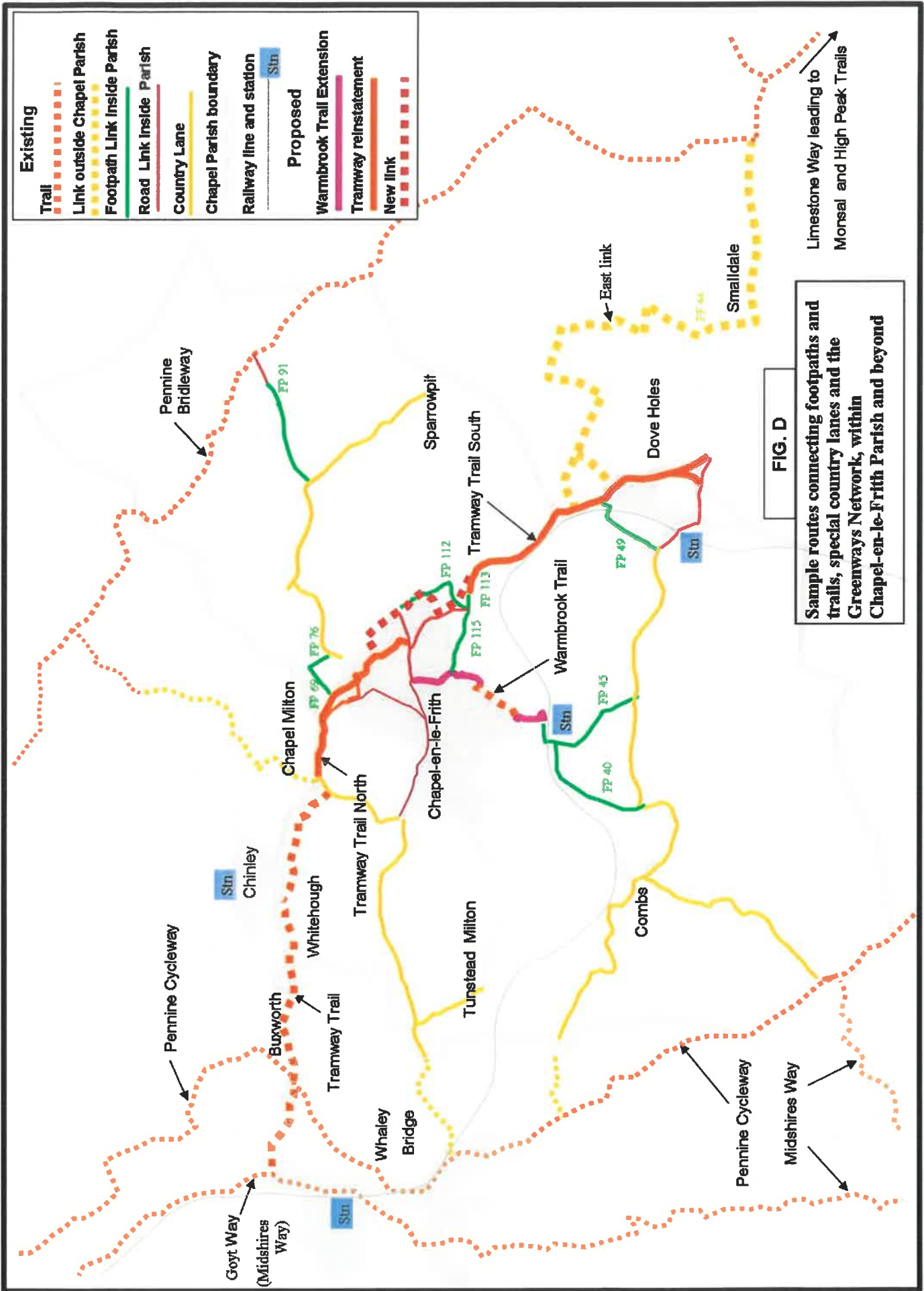
If Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council approve the Working Party's proposals, the Parish Council should work with Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council to seek:

1. Regeneration, Heritage, Countryside and Transport grants and donations to achieve the above.
2. The recognition of the Peak Forest Tramway as a major part of Derbyshire's story of transport and industrial development and as an important green strategic transport facility.
3. Professional guidance on grant applications, land ownership of sections of the proposed routes and the preparation of planning applications, the latter to include advice on surveys required and supporting documents needed.
4. Consultation with land owners, local people and other interested bodies and groups.
5. Establishment of Rights of Way where these do not already exist.
6. Establishment of responsibility for the maintenance of all sections of both the Greenway scheme and the interim scheme.
7. Integration of the footpath and trail proposals with planning of any new housing or industrial estate developments and developments currently underway.
8. Clearance, surface preparation and sign posting of footpaths for the proposed walking routes.
9. Preparation of maps and publications, including on-line, describing the walking routes for potential users.
10. Preparation, letting and supervision of contracts for the construction of the final greenway scheme.









**FIG. D**  
**Sample routes connecting footpaths and the trails, special country lanes and the Greenways Network, within Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish and beyond**



### Google My Maps

Click on the link to see cycle and walking route layers added to a satellite image and three points of interest marked with red labels (you can click on the labels for more info)

Please do not edit these layers

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1FbsdtpnX\\_tn\\_gg7xKvmErOFcJDQpAZJe&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1FbsdtpnX_tn_gg7xKvmErOFcJDQpAZJe&usp=sharing)

### Derbyshire Mapping Portal

Click on the link below and try opening layers (top right hand corner) for

- Public Rights of Way
- Cycle Networks

Look carefully at DCC proposed Key Cycle Network route through Chapel Parish from Charley Lane to Dane Road Dove Holes and on to Buxton. Also note the proposed Local Cycle Network route near the Stodhart tunnel

[https://maps.derbyshire.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Ordnance\\_Survey\\_Maps](https://maps.derbyshire.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Ordnance_Survey_Maps)

### HPBC interactive Planning Map

<https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/hp/council-services/planning-and-buildings/interactive-planning-map>

Open the layer **Local Plan 2016/ long distance trails** and look carefully at the proposed long distance trail route from Charley Lane to Chapel Townend

Here is a report on where we are up to with some background info.

Many years ago when the site was built there was a planning condition to provide a play space for children up to 8yrs old.

Originally this happened but unfortunately it was later vandalised and had to be removed for safety reasons. During this period of time there was discussion about the Parish taking it on as our own area. This did not happen as some were not interested and also there was a legal dispute at the Borough. Kath and I have had a meeting with Emily Thrane to see where she left it when control of the council changed last time.

The answer to this is that it was with the legal team trying to sort it out. There was a Community Select meeting last night at the Borough and one of the items was to do with all the park areas. You can watch a YouTube video of this if you want.

I did manage to question about the south head play area. The reply came from the leader of the council Anthony McKeown that it was not in the plan as they do not own it yet, they are in dispute with the builders about the monies, condition of the wall, equipment to be provided. When this is sorted it would then be there's to do with as they please. I did say that I hoped it would not take ten years to sort out as this is the life of the plan and already has taken twenty years to get nowhere.

In the same meeting Kath Sizeland did say that Chapel parish may be interested in it, but once again it was said that they cannot do anything yet until it is officially handed over from the builders. So if we are minded to chase this then we would need to start talks with the Borough, Whether it is to take control of the site with or without equipment or as an open space or just getting the Borough to clean the site up by whatever means, as technically it is still in the hands of the builders.

Hope this helps.

Regards Stewart.