

LIVING STREETS

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Living Streets Guernsey LBG Newsletter— May 2017

Baubigny Schools pathway muddy track upgraded

One of the drawbacks of using the pathway which we developed in 2010 has always been the condition of the track which goes behind the Bowl towards our gate into the vinery site. The “muddy track” as we call it, floods badly in various positions, but it is at it’s worst near the douit behind the Track.

For years we have been trying to upgrade this by filling in the pot holes and making it more walkable for children and the public.

We have always faced opposition from a couple of the landowners in the area and have also been threatened with court action if we do anything. We have done masses of research in the Greffe which shows that the path is not owned by the adjoining landowners. They do, of course, have right of access on foot, cart and horse.

We had been told that if anyone brought litigation it would be very expensive so we have always backed off.

But at our AGM last December we brought up the subject and those attending supported us by saying that we should just get on and deal with it since no one could claim ownership.

So that is what we did in March this year. Thanks to Tom Le Pelley and the support of Ronez we acquired some lorry loads of road planings and with the help of Ken Wheeler and his digger we filled in the pot holes and spread the planings across the path.



Photos: top row left to right: muddy path in 2016 after lots of rain; path before we started work in March 2017 (after a dry period); tipping the planings; bottom row left to right: spreading the planings; the finished path; A job well done—thanks to Tom and Ken!

Phase 2 of the project will deal with the muddy section near our gate where there is also a douit

Access is a bit more tricky but we intend to tackle this soon so that the whole section will be much more pedestrian friendly.

During the 3 hours of our work in March we talked to many pedestrians and cyclists and they were all very appreciative of our work.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tranquillity Walk
Sunday 17th September
2017

“Bright Day”
Friday 20th October 2017

Road Safety Week
20th November 2017

Facebook

We now have a Facebook page: “Living Streets Guernsey” so you can follow some of our activities there. Also on our website: www.livingstreets.org.gg

We need a new Treasurer

David Jackson has been our Treasurer for the past three years and, sadly, we will be losing him at the end of this financial year—end of September. He has been marvellous and is willing to do a handover to a new person.

The job isn’t too onerous—it’s mainly keeping track of our funds from the purchase of our merchandise and producing the final accounts for our AGM.

We would like the new Treasurer to join our committee, but we don’t hold too many committee meetings. If you know of anyone who would be willing to volunteer, please get in touch with Pat on 268088.



Living Streets new 2018 calendar

Our new 2018 calendar is in the shops already. We managed to get it out for the Easter holiday this year—so in time for the early tourists. You can purchase it from Lexicon, Guernsey Post, the Cliff Top Shop, Coach House Gallery, the Museums and Tourist Information Centre, Beekers, Trésors in the Pollet and the Guernsey Shop, the Tapestry Gallery, Smilers at Vazon, Le Tricoteur at Rocquaine, the L’Erée Bay Hotel, Beaucette Marina Restaurant and Martyn Guille at the Little Chapel. We will be selling the calendar at the St. Martin’s Farmer’s Market at the Manor and later at the Douzaine Room in the winter.

May—National Walking Month



Tom Le Pelley and Fergus Dunlop launching National Walking Month

May is National Walking Month and Living Streets, once again, linked up with the Bus Users Guernsey group to promote walking and using the bus—which we call “Stride and Ride”. Tom walked to the airport from his home in order to catch the 94 bus to Town and met up at L'Eree with Fergus who used his 61 bus. We are encouraging commuters to walk to work if they live within a 1 mile radius of their workplace, or to walk to their

nearest bus stop and take the bus to work—perhaps getting off a couple of stops early in order to get some exercise. We are targeting businesses and civil servants and deputies. The third week in May is Walk to School week and the Active Travel Unit in Environment have persuaded 9 primary schools to take part.

Distances in Guernsey are so small that it makes sense to use your travel to work an opportunity to work out and keep it.

Commuters might be surprised at the Improvement in the bus service. Sixty one buses come into town each morning before 9am with some starting as early as 5.30am. It is far less stressful than driving to work and then searching for a parking space. The new bus app allows you to see exactly where your bus is so that you can be sure to time your arrival at the bus stop.

Preserving pedestrian walkways

Much of our work is done quietly in the background when a member of the public contacts us with help with a pedestrian safety problem. The States owns the land adjoining the Pitronnerie Road Industrial estate. We were contacted by a lady who does a regular walk with her friends using our Baubigny Schools pathway and onwards towards Oatlands for coffee. Part of the circular walk included the Chateau des Marais which they accessed through this land until it was suddenly blocked off by the huge gate in the picture above. This means their only route now is to go up to Beeton’s and then walk down Le Bouet to Ivy Castle lane. Le Bouet is a very dangerous road for pedestrians with lots of heavy vehicles often driving on the pavement.

We are working with the Active Travel Unit in Environment to try to turn around the decision to block off this route for pedestrians. We understand that there are problems with fly tipping and noisy vehicles but we see no reason why this route can’t be re-opened just for pedestrian access by using different gates. We cannot keep losing pedestrian walkways if we want more islanders to walk.



New Bouet GHA housing estate—access blocked by large gate



Original off road walkway from Beeton’s now also locked off.

NEWS IN BRIEF

When it rains it kills

Drivers are being urged to slow down when it’s raining after almost 3,000 people were killed or seriously injured when driving in the rain in 2015. Even driving within the speed limit in wet weather could be dangerous if drivers don’t allow extra space between them and the vehicle in front. *Road Safe Journal (December 2016)*

Air quality impact of diesel severely underestimated

Around three quarters of the European population now live in urban areas, and as a result are exposed to hazardous air pollution. The primary urban air pollutants are particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides, ozone and volatile organic compounds. These pollutants are linked to respiratory and cardiac disease and can reduce life expectancy. *(European Commission)*

Ban drivers from parking on pavements

Local authorities in the UK want more power to ban inconsiderate motorists from parking on the pavement. A ban on pavement parking has been in place in London for 40 years. The current Scottish Government has pledged to ban pavement parking and in late February the Lords in Westminster devolved powers surrounding pavement parking to them. *(Living Streets UK journal)*

Mayor secures record investment in cycling in London

Sadiq Khan has announced that a record £154 million per year will be spent on cycling over the next five years. The record investment will help Londoners get about quickly without having to use a car, which will benefit people’s health, improve air quality and encourage the shift towards more healthy and active travel. It will also include substantial benefits for pedestrians with new pedestrian crossings and more pavement space. *(Dec 2016)*

TV Campaign highlights dangers of driving for work

Launched in Ireland this attempts to highlight the dangers involved in driving for work to both employers and employees *(Driving for better Business) 28th February 2017)*