

Old Ford to Hunston Canal GREENWAY (West Sussex)

ROUTE OVERVIEW TO REPURPOSE AND PROTECT THE CANAL

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This concept paper sets out to show how a GREENWAY could be created by using and supporting the old canal. This will give villagers, newcomers and visitors an opportunity to visit the old canal whilst travelling through this very historic area of West Sussex. Starting at the River Arun it moves west across to Hunston.

The Vision

To create a GREENWAY along or close to the Old Ford to Hunston Canal route. By developing this GREENWAY we can create an Active Travel route that serves and joins the local communities, supports Government targets and promotes an alternative means of travel to residents and at the same time ensures that the future of the Canal is protected.

Benefits

- Space will be created for cycling, walking and horse riding in a safe environment with benefits to participants of wellbeing, exercise, safe movement and sustainable transport options for commuting
- Its creation would offer an alternative travel option to all the new residents from the recently built housing estates and positively impact on traffic levels and congestion. The route brings together/ links with other GREENWAYS, National Cycle Route, Footpaths, Bus Routes and Rail Stations
- Would support the Governments Active Travel, Well Being, Climate Change, Air quality and Health initiatives *
- Create a protected wildlife avenue for animals and plants
- Support equestrian sector which is the second largest rural employer
- Similar GREENWAYS have also benefited from increase visitor numbers and lengthening of tourist season
- Protect existing canal structures and provide opportunities for further restoration

(*Obesity costs the UK £7b per year)

Good will

Community involvement is essential if this vision is to move forward and key will be the goodwill and support of landowners in making this happen

Timespan

Whilst it would be good to have it completed for the Canals 200th Birthday (2023) in reality it would probably be completed by a sectional approach

Costs

A detailed costing has not been completed at this stage (average per mile development costs are normally around £300k the route is approx. 10 miles long). Every pound invested in cycle /walking normally yields a return of around five pounds although much higher figures have been documented. Funding streams could include contributions from new housing estates, lottery funding, infrastructure or DFT active travel funds. So many possibilities!

Route

Where possible the route will follow the canal - however reality rules that some diversions may be needed.

Following pages

The following pages will provide some initial suggestions for the route

Further information can be obtained by contacting: *Chris Sprules Yapton Sustrans chrissprules27@gmail.com*