



Members have had a particularly active spring this year, working to make improvements to the environment of the Loop and encouraging people to use it, whether as walkers, joggers or cyclists. The following are some of the highlights:

Levenshulme clean-up

Sunday April 6th dawned snowy and cold, but the sun broke through to encourage more than sixty helpers who turned out to clear two skips' worth of rubbish from the sides of the Loop in the Levenshulme section. Work ended just as snow and rain returned. Our thanks to all our members who took part, and to Philippa Lloyd and Dick Venes who ran the event on behalf of the Friends, with support from other organisations. Paul Thomas of Sustrans has sent a special thanks, pointing out how important such events are for Warden Tom and others who work on a routine basis to keep the greenway looking clean and pleasant.

Community Mapping guide to the Loop

The print run of 10,000 copies we had obtained under the Transport Thematic Partnership grant looked set for rapid exhaustion following an active delivery programme undertaken by members, primarily to homes along the Loop, but also to cycle shops and other centres. With money outstanding from the grant we have been able to print another 10,000, and we will be discussing a further delivery programme at the members' meeting on 19 May. We have plentiful copies available if members want some to give to family, friends or colleagues (contact Dick Venes or David Beetham). We mounted a stall at Sainsbury's Fallowfield supermarket on Saturday April 26th, to publicise the Loop and hand out copies of the guide, and were pleasantly surprised at the level of interest shown, and the numbers of people already familiar with the Loop and using it. Many thanks to Steve Keeney for arranging updating of the guide with Community Mapping, to Pam Flynn for overseeing the delivery programme and to everyone who has given up time to help with delivery and promotion.

Informational lecterns

Members using the Loop recently will have seen the newly installed lecterns at Chorlton, Athol Road, Sainsbury's, Levenshulme and Debdale. The ones at Levenshulme and Debdale were unfortunately placed on the wrong side of the track so that the map element in the design would point in the wrong direction (we live and learn!). We decided to install the design for the present at Debdale, since it is under a

signpost pointing in the right direction, but to leave the Levenshulme one until Tom has been able to dig up the lectern and move it to the north side of the track. This glitch aside, we hope the design will encourage further interest in the Loop and its history. Many thanks to Warden Tom for the successful installation.

The lectern at the Chorlton end has been paid for with a ward cash grant from Chorlton Park ward, which will also be financing the installation of two benches and a wild flower seeds purchase. We have been given permission to use unspent money from this grant on laying a tarmac surface at the entrance from Mauldeth Road West by the new flats on the Princess Road corner. This has long been an eyesore and an obstacle to easy access, and discussions are under way with the Sustrans Manchester office about implementing this proposal. When these improvements are all finished we shall be holding a publicity event to celebrate them (including the tree planting mentioned in the last newsletter).

Future events

Sunday 18 May: Family ride along the Loop from Chorlton Park to Reddish Vale, with a refreshment stop at the country park visitor centre. Those who want a shorter ride (15 miles maximum) on an all-tarmac surface can join a group returning from there. Those wanting a longer ride (25 miles maximum) will continue via national route 62 through Stockport to the Mersey Valley and back to the Loop via Didsbury, with another refreshment stop. Children are welcome accompanied by an adult. Times: 11 am depart from Chorlton Park, Beechwood Avenue entrance; 11.30, Sainsbury's carpark; 11.40, Highfield Country Park entrance.

National Bike Week, 14-22 June: As last year, we shall be arranging a number of rides: on Sunday 15 June along the Mersey Valley (in collaboration with the Mersey Valley wardens); on Friday 20 June an evening adult ride with refreshment stops; on Sunday 22 June a 'Loop the Loop' ride including the city centre and a picnic. Details will be circulated nearer the time by email and on our website www.cycle-routes.org/fallowfieldlopline/

Monday 19 May: Members' meeting, 7.30 pm, Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield. All welcome.