



Next meeting 7.30 – 9.00pm Monday 19th November 2018 at Union Chapel Wellington Road Fallowfield M14 6EQ

Newsletter November 2018

There has been lots of activity and exciting developments on the Fallowfield Loop over 2018. Hence this rather long newsletter. We hope that many of you have been enjoying some of the events that have been taking place – such as the Handlebards Shakespeare Productions, the Floopfest in September and the many volunteering opportunities that we have been developing with Sustrans.

Read on and do join in with what's taking place if you can.

- Levenshulme Night Market Fotfl/Sustrans Stall: Friday November 16th 5.00 – 9.00pm.
- Fallowfield Loop Google Map.
- Wildlife walks.
- Thursday task days.
- New bi-monthly litter pick project.
- Report from Floopfest.
- Addressing anti-social behaviour on the Loop.
- Update on Station South.
- Update on Godfrey Ermen Fields.
- Report on the 2018 Autumn Clean-up of the Floop.

Levenshulme Night Market Fotfl/Sustrans Stall

Volunteers from Fotfl and Sustrans are having a Community Information Stall at the Levenshulme Night Market on Friday November 16th 5.00 – 9.00pm. The market is held in the car park by Levenshulme railway station. Do come down and say hello to us and enjoy the market. If you can help staff the stall during the evening please contact Frances McCann.

Fallowfield Loop Google Map

[“Points of Interest” map](#), put together by the Friends of the Fallowfield Loop (and updated and greatly expanded in September 2018), shows the route of the Loop and points of interest on or accessible from it. The map has multiple layers which can be turned on or off by the user. We would like to continue to refine and update this over time so if you have suggestions for places to include on this map or notice any necessary corrections then please [let us know](#). Current map layers are: Access points, Wildlife and natural features, Public resources and amenities, Landmarks, Historical interest, The Railway 1891-1981. The link to the map is on our website.

Wildlife Champions

The Wildlife Champions is a national Sustrans wildlife mapping and audit project . As part of this monthly wildlife walks are held on the Fallowfield Loop on the 4th Sunday of each month 10.30am – 12.30pm. Details of future walks and reports of previous walks can be found on the Fallowfield Loop Facebook and website pages.

For more information contact Abigail at the Sustrans office on 0161 923 6053.

Thursday Task Days – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month

This team of volunteers have been crucial in making the Fallowfield Loop an amazing 10km greenway that is just 5km south of Manchester city centre.

Ian Barker plans and leads the volunteer work mornings on the Fallowfield Loop on the first and third Thursday each month. To get latest information about the task days and to register to join in contact volunteers-north@sustrans.org.uk (telephone 0161 923 6050).

Once you are registered you will receive the fortnightly notifications about the up and coming task day, then all you need to do is to let Ian know if you are intending to come along. Ian never lets it get boring and you will find yourself in good company and learn a range of skills.

New bi-monthly litter pick project

Sustrans NW volunteers are arranging for communal litter picking to take place two days a month on the NCN60, namely along The Floop (Chorlton – Fallowfield) and The Yellow Brick Road (Debdale Water Park – Ashton Canal). Being regular events these will enable us to keep on top of the litter and will help volunteers and local supporters to plan their attendance in advance. This project is being co-ordinated by Charles Kinneburgh.

November – Floop clean-up

When : Thursday 8th November 2018 at 10.00 am for registering/briefing.

Where : Start at junction of Floop and Yellow Brick Road in Gorton (near Debdale reservoir) – [Map](#).

November - Yellow Brick Road (YBR) clean-up

When : Saturday 10th November 2018 at 10.00 am for registering/briefing.

Where : Start at the junction of Longford St and Western St, Gorton adjacent to an entrance onto the YBR. [Map](#).

Equipment will be provided as required but suitable clothing and boots should be worn.

If the weather forecast is particularly bad (e.g. if it looks like continuous heavy rain) then the event may be cancelled at the last minute but this will only be done in exceptional circumstances. If in doubt, contact Charles.

December dates are Thursday 13th December (Floop) and Saturday 15th December (YBR).

Report from Floopfest

“Floopfest”, took place on the afternoon of September 15th 2018, at three locations on the Fallowfield Loop: St Werburgh’s, Levenshulme Quadrants and Abbey Hey Donkey Sanctuary. Volunteers, Friends of the Fallowfield Loop and Sustrans staff welcomed people on to the Loop to take part in a wide range of activities and entertainment. The aim of “Floopfest”, was

to promote the path to the local community and to consult with users to find out how to improve the route. People joining “Floopfest” had a wide range of activities to take part in: creative activities like Gorton Rocks, ‘Bling your Bike’, Mindful Art, Build-it Lego activities, Screen printing, Children’s art with the Mud Pie Academy and Boggart-making. Also for the children there was face painting and temporary bike tattoos, plus a chance to try out bush craft activities with the local scout group.

There were physical activities like the Bee Ride, Yoga and the Smoothie bike.

The Friends of the Fallowfield Loop had a welcome stall and information point and there were opportunities to find out more about nature on the path with a beekeeping stall, bug hunts, fungi walk and wildlife walks. People could even help with some litter picking.

Food, drink and entertainment were provided in the form of live bands and music, Pizza Revolution and Coffee Cranks.

It is estimated that in excess of 500 members of the public came along and got involved, including over 60 people who took part in the Bee Cycle Ride along the path. Over 160 people completed surveys or postcards at the event and the pizza cart sold out completely after their 50th customer.

The questionnaires were delivered via a paper survey carried out by volunteers who circulated the venues on event day, and also online via Survey Monkey. 101 paper questionnaires and 93 online submissions were returned, giving a total of 194 responses. A summary of the results will be put on the Fallowfield Loop website.

Addressing Anti-social behaviour on the Loop.

Over the past 6 months we have been alerted to a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour, robbery and assault on the Fallowfield Loop and adjoining routes. This is matter of great concern and Fotfl are, along with others, raising the matter with the police, Sustrans and other bodies. As a result of a Protest Cycle Ride organized by Helen Pidd and others on 17th October, and the following local and national news coverage, Ian Hopkins, chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, promised that his officers would look again at the muggings. We understand that the incidents have now been linked as a “crime series” and are being investigated as part of GMP’s Operation Valiant, which targets personal robberies.

If you have concern about anything you experience or witness on the Fallowfield Loop the action you should take is: in an emergency call 999, otherwise call the police on 101. Also notify Sustrans on 0161 923 6050 or by email.

Summary of the report of the protest ride on Wednesday 17th October.

Around 350 people turned out for a protest ride along the Fallowfield Loop and up the “Yellow Brick Road” towards Openshaw on 17 October.

It was organised by Helen Pidd, the Guardian’s North of England editor, after three members of her Manchester-based cycling club, Team Glow, were mugged on the route in the space of a week and she had subsequently become aware of other recent incidents on, or near, to the Fallowfield Loop to which it had been felt there had been an inadequate police response. The weather gods were kind for the protest ride, which set off from Levenshulme Quadrants in golden sunlight. The group split into two, to make it slightly more manageable — and so that Sian could go live on ITV Granada Reports at 6pm, and Helen could race ahead to a GMP building in Claytonbrook to go live on BBC NorthWest Tonight at 6.30pm. It also made the national ITV news the following night, in a report about the rising number of violent crimes going un-investigated by police.

Music came courtesy of the magnificent yellow Boom Bike, an adapted cargo bike with speakers, very generously lent by Pavol at Manchester Bike Hire and pedaled gallantly by Alex Hamming. Callum Skinner, who won gold in the velodrome at the Rio Olympics in 2016, also joined the ride. He used to live very near to the Floop in Fallowfield and wanted to offer his support.

Special thanks to Ian Barker from the Friends of Fallowfield Loop, for “recci-ing” the route with Helen the day before the event.

Update on Station South

By Pauline Johnston Director Station South CIC

Station South are continuing to make good progress with the building. The roof is near completion, save for the insertion of glazing, which will be done at a set date in the future. The collaborative restoration with the building owners Railway paths Ltd is continuing at pace and planning and change of use applications are being drawn up for submission in preparation for the second round of vital repairs, which are out to tender currently. The successful crowdfunding campaign raised a grand total of £66,651 (Thank You!) which will go some way to supporting the continuation of some of the vital repair works that we are leading on, including the creation of a new floor throughout the building and connecting to main utilities.

Station South are also developing outline plans for the external site and are keen to progress a detailed co-design with community stakeholders along with offering opportunities to volunteer in Spring 2019. We'll be sure to keep the Friends of the Fallowfield Loop involved in the process as we're keen to have your continued support and input.

Update on Godfrey Ermen Fields

The Campaign by residents in Abbey Hey to have the playing fields that are alongside the Fallowfield Loop (opposite Wright Robinson High School) given Village Green status has been a long and arduous process. In October 2018 we received the following email from the campaign group:

As some of you might have read on the Facebook Page yesterday the Council approved our Village Green application for Godfrey Ermen Field. Hopefully it will remain a beautiful open space forever. But..... there's still a possibility that the Trustees of the field will appeal against the Council's decision. They must do this within the next 3 months. Therefore, although we are over the moon with the outcome we are holding back celebrating until we are certain our fight is over and then we can start planning our celebration. In the meantime carry on enjoying the Field, Thank you for all your support, fingers crossed and we'll keep you posted with any developments.

The 2018 Autumn Clean-up of the Floop

Charles Kinniburgh's report.

An autumn clean-up of the Floop took place over the weekend of 20/21st October almost exactly 6 months after a similar event in the spring. Fortunately the weather was warm and dry on both days which made for pleasant conditions to litter pick. As previously, we started from The Quadrants and headed East on the Saturday and westwards on the Sunday. We were finished by 1pm on each day which was partly due to the fact that the Whalley Range Scouts took responsibility for some of the Floop at the St Werburgh's end and The Abbey Hey

Neighbourhood Forum did the same for the Fairfield end. It was also helped by the fact that there was only about 40% of the litter collected this time and there were no blatant fly-tips to be dealt with. The detailed statistics were as follows (where the numbers in brackets are the corresponding numbers for the spring clean-up):

Details:

- Number of volunteers participating Saturday = 15 (20).
- Number of volunteers participating Sunday = 8 (17).
- Number of volunteers participating Monday = 0 (1).
- Number of volunteers participating more than once = 3 (8).
- TOTAL Volunteer-days = 23 (38).
- TOTAL Volunteers participating = 20 (29).
- Number of bags filled on Saturday (Levenshulme to Fairfield) = 26 (61).
- Number of bags filled on Sat/Sunday (Levenshulme to St Werburgh's) = 28 (65).
- TOTAL Bags of litter collected = 54 (126).

These figures only tell half the story as they don't take into account the amount of litter picked up in the months prior to these events. Undoubtedly there was significantly less removed before this clean-up as compared to the previous one. This all points to the Floop becoming less littered.

Next meeting- 7.30 – 9.00pm – Monday 19th November
All members welcome