

Community Involvement

A number of residents of Mary Tavy have already shown support and have made donations to this project.

You can help with this project in a number of ways:

1. By making a donation to the fund

If you would like to contribute to the fund please send cash/ cheque (made payable to 'The Mary Tavy Community Footpath Action Fund') to Sue Maas, MTCFAF Treasurer, Station House, Station Road, Mary Tavy, PL19 9PQ. Alternatively drop it off in an envelope marked 'Community Footpath Fund' into one of the collecting boxes in the **Post Office** or in the **Mary Tavy Inn**. Receipts are available from Sue on request, 01822 810946. (PS - Take part in the Mary Tavy Inn weekly Bonus Ball prize event, part of the proceeds to the footpath fund!)

2. By helping us out with the work and / or materials

We will need volunteers at certain points of the project to help with bridging, stone walling, hedge cutting and general labouring. We would also be very interested if you know of any sources of no cost / low cost materials such as concrete sleepers, timber for fencing rails, rubble etc. If you would like to help out in any way with construction please contact: Jock Easton, 01822 810414, jockeaston@helpforheroes.org.uk.

3. By helping us in other ways

If you feel you may be able to help us in other ways because of your particular skills and experience or would just like to find out more about the project, where we are with funding or what will happen next, please contact: John Thacker, 01822 810912, johnthacker@mac.com.

The Mary Tavy Community Footpath Action Group

John Thacker Cllr Michael Cook Jock Easton Paul Green
George Hill Garry Lee Sue Maas Martyn Smale

The Mary Tavy Community Footpath Project



Many parishioners will have heard about proposals for a footpath running along the edge of the Mary Tavy Recreation Ground, across farmland parallel to the A386 and coming out on Buller's Hill at the Mary Tavy Inn.

The Parish Council have discussed options and held a public meeting at which there was strong support for the footpath. However the plans seem to have floundered with little likelihood of the footpath being created through the Parish Council in the near future.

A group of Mary Tavy residents recently got together and have decided to take the footpath proposals forward as a community project.

Find out how you can help be a part of this project by looking at the information on the back page.

The need for a footpath

It is currently only possible to get from either end of the planned footpath by either going the long way round or along the A386. Both of these routes are on roads, and everyone will recognise that walking along the A386 is very dangerous.

The footpath will enable those who live in the south east of the village to get to the post office safely; those in the north and west of the village to get to the church safely; children will be able to walk peacefully and safely to and from the Coronation Hall or the Recreation Ground, holiday-makers will be able to stroll around the village.

The pleasant green path will help bring the village together and will be a great asset to the community.

Funding

We plan to fund the project from private donations, fundraising events and grants which support community access. We already have some money in the fund and are currently applying for grants. As this is a community project we can use volunteers for much of the work and look for discounts and sponsorship from businesses.

The type of footpath

The footpath is being created as a 'Permissive Path', which is not the same as a public right of way. This means the landowners have given permission for the public to cross their land at their own risk. Horses won't be allowed and cyclists will have to dismount and wheel their cycles but the landowners are kindly allowing dogs provided they are on a lead and of course that owners clean up after them. There won't be any steps so pushchairs can be used.

A Permissive Path is much cheaper, quicker and simpler to create than a right of way.

Timing

The landowner agreements are being drawn up by DNPA, then fencing will be done first so that we can carry out bridging, gates, surface work and signage. We hope this will be done during March.

We anticipate the footpath will be open shortly after Easter this year. The opening itself will include a celebration, an event open to all residents of the parish.

Thanks

We would like to thank the Parish Council, in particular the Footpath Working Group, for having started this project and thereby enabling this group to take the project forward.

Thanks go to the landowners: The Mary Tavy Recreation Association; Martyn Smale, owner of the farmland; and Garry Lee of The Mary Tavy Inn.

Devon County Council and Dartmoor National Parks Authority fully support this permissive path and are being extremely helpful to us in making this happen.

And thanks go to future funders and supporters.

