

SFG News Items 3 August 2017

website <https://sandbachfootpaths.wordpress.com>

1. **The Trent and Mersey canal towpath** between Moss Lane and Hall Lane/Elton Road, near Ettiley Heath, will be closed for resurfacing from Saturday 19th August to Friday 8th September 2017. This also affects Moston FP20 which leads to the towpath. On Sunday 13th August, Graham is planning to lead the Flashes walk, taking in this part of the canal, but the walk should not be affected. Keep watching Facebook and emails for details of the walk.
2. **Repairs to the M6 bridges near Hassall Green** mean that the Salt Line path and Alsager Road are now closed during the works. However, the Trent and Mersey towpath under the M6 remains open. To walk the Salt Line from the carpark, go left along Alsager Road to approach the M6 but before the M6, go left up a track to the canal where you go through a new wooden gate and turn right, keeping the canal on your left. After going under the M6, leave the towpath and turn right downhill along Smithy Grove, then, just before the Pink Church, go left over a stile and up a track, through a kissing gate and turn right keeping the hedge on your right, over a stile, then through a gate and down to the Salt Line where you turn left. You can then do one of the walks such as "Rode Heath Ramble", or "Solar System and Borrowpit Meadows" on the website.
3. **A Sandbach Masterplan Map** is now on the SFG website. It shows every path in Sandbach Parish: Public Right of Way (PRoW), snicket, ginnel, park path, towpath, trails (e.g. Brook Wood, Dingle Wood) and country park (Wheelock Rail Trail). Not only all that, but aspirational paths through the new housing developments are shown. To view the map, go to the website, and in the black bar under the ferny picture click on the tab "related links", then scroll down to "Sandbach Footpath Masterplan". The web view does not allow you to zoom, so right click on the PDF file on the webpage and save it somewhere on your device, then open the pdf to zoom and pan to examine in detail. It is an 8Mb file so allow time to view. Any mistakes or additions, please contact Trevor at: sandbachfootpathgroup@gmail.com
4. **The housing developments** (see item 3) show informal footpaths and links in the planning applications. As SFG, we want to ensure these planned footpaths come to fruition and where there is a benefit to press for additional footpaths.
The housing developments are:
 - a) Capricorn, near the M6 junction 17. On the Masterplan you can see the paths round the perimeter of the woodland, across from Daisy Bank Drive to PRoW Footpath 14, a bridge across the brook to enable another link across, a path nearer to the M6 from the garage to the St John's area via part of FP14, and hopefully a path parallel to the fishing ponds. It will be good if all that can be achieved, and we are already part way to achieving this, but need to continue to meet with the developers to try and make it happen.
 - b) Abbeyfields, off Middlewich Road between Park Lane and Abbey Road. Importantly a path linking Middlewich Road to the Wheelock Rail Trail is shown.
 - c) Elworth Hall Farm, off Dean Close and Grange Way. This shows new footpaths to the north of the estate and north of Sandbach Golf Club. A very useful link is shown from the estate to Cookesmere Lane.
 - d) We need to liaise with the developers to ensure that these proposed footpaths come to fruition. Anyone who can help, with special knowledge, interest or contacts, in any of the above a), b), c), or other site missed out, please contact Trevor at: sandbachfootpathgroup@gmail.com
5. **The "Wheelock Rail Trail & Canal NO STILE"** walk, that we did one Sunday recently, from Hind Heath Lane, is now on the website, with optional extended walk and alternative start from Wheelock Green Bank. Please check all the lefts and rights etc., are OK. We have a few "No Stile" walks now, which should help those of us with creaky joints.