

# Clock is ticking on the future of lost footpaths

Time is running out to log the lost footpaths of Sandbach before they are scrubbed from the records forever, according to a local community group.

Trevor Boxer, of Sandbach's Footpath Group, was speaking at Sandbach town meeting on Thursday about the work of the voluntary group.

It was formed in 2015 to preserve and improve footpaths in and around Sandbach.

Mr Boxer stated that the

Government deadline to record old footpaths was 2026. Any not logged after that date would no longer be classified as such.

Mr Boxer said: "We have a project to record lost paths. After 2026 any existing footpaths not recorded will be taken off the records."

He stated that a fraction of the county's "lost footpaths" have been recorded, and the area was behind other parts of the country.

Mr Boxer continued: "We are way behind Cornwall. We have got 400 lost footpaths and 30 have been recorded so far."

He also raised concerns that proposals for a sprawling development could cause the loss of footpaths in the Houndings

Lane area.

As reported by the *Chronicle* Muller Property Group has announced plans to build 100 homes, along with shops and restaurants, on a site of Old Mill Road, which would be called Houndings Park.

The developer claims that this will deliver affordable housing, 150 new jobs and major highways improvements.

Mr Boxer said: "The developer is disregarding existing footpaths. When the time comes I hope we can make comments about that."

Town mayor Coun Martin Forster added: "It's fascinating how many lost footpaths there are. It really would be a shame if they were to disappear for ever."

To find out more about the work of Sandbach Footpath Group visit them on [sandbachfootpaths.wordpress.com](http://sandbachfootpaths.wordpress.com).