

## **Botusfleming and Hatt Environmental Response (BOTHER) Report. October 2020.**

The group wanted to take on a project that would benefit our local community and also help Cornwall Council to achieve its target of Carbon Net Zero by 2030. They finally decided to ask the UK walking and cycling charity Sustrans, who are also custodians of the National Cycling Network, to comment on the viability of a foot/cycle path from Hatt to Carkeel alongside the A388. BOTHER did not want to waste time and money on a feasibility study if the general plan was felt by experts to be unrealistic. Sustrans spent some time (without charge) doing a desktop study of maps and concluded that it was worthwhile commissioning a feasibility study. BOTHER's reasons for deciding on this foot/cycle path project were:

1. It is government policy to encourage and promote walking and cycling as alternative modes of transport.
2. The research carried out for the Neighbourhood Development Plan discovered that many residents wanted better facilities for walking and cycling.
3. The nearest concentration of retail outlets for the community is in Carkeel.
4. There is now a foot/cycle bridge over the A38 at Carkeel which allows walkers and cyclists to reach Saltash in relative safety.
5. There is a connection to the national rail network in Saltash.
6. The A388 from Hatt to Carkeel is very busy and has bends in it that make it unsafe for walking and cycling to access shops and rail links.
7. In 2017 Cornwall Council Highways completed a detailed survey for a "Safe Passageway" for walking and cycling from Callington to Roods Corner. However, the all-important final link to Carkeel was not done.

A lot of time and hard work was devoted to putting together a bid to fund the feasibility study. Invaluable help in this was given by Sustrans, Cllr Jesse Foot and Catherine Thompson (Community Link Officer). The work has now been finally rewarded with the offer of a grant from Cornwall Council's Climate Change Fund to pay for the study. The exact amount to be confirmed.

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher

October 2020