

**Statement to highlight the opportunity and benefits of the further development of the Chew Vally Recreational Trail – BANES Council meeting 18/09/25**

My name is Nick Baker. I am a parish councillor from Chew Stoke.

I would like to highlight the opportunity and benefits of the further development of the Chew Vally Recreational Trail.

The northern section of the Recreational Trail around the lake was completed in May 2022 providing an accessible, all weather, traffic free trail path suitable for walking, cycling and access with buggies and wheelchairs.

The aspiration now is to complete the full perimeter trail path around the lake involving construction of a new accessible path on land predominantly owned by Bristol Water.

The current status of the project is that BANES officers are continuing an open and positive dialogue with Bristol Water. The Council has retained feasibility funding to work on this.

The current developed recreational trail is considered a great asset by the Chew Valley community providing a valuable opportunity for walkers and cyclist of all ages and abilities to enjoy traffic-free activity in a safe and beautiful environment.

The completion of the full perimeter path offers opportunities for developing connecting paths to the communities around the lake. This could promote active travel between villages for school children, commuters and general everyday use.

Chew Valley Lake is also a regional asset and is enjoyed by visitors from the wider West Country.

Completion of the recreational trail could offer opportunities to develop and enhance visitor-led commercial and recreational amenities around the lake and its surrounding villages. The location also offers great educational opportunities for learning about the environment and active travel.

I believe that the continuing promotion and completion of the trail could be used as a good example to showcase the region's commitment to promoting active travel, developing sustainable rural communities as well as developing regional tourism in the local economy.

**I would like to encourage BANES councillors to continue to commit to maintaining a dialogue with Bristol Water to progress next steps for reviewing funding and feasibility for this scheme.**

Nick Baker – Chew Stoke Parish Council