

TRUSTEES SOUGHT

Bennerley Viaduct - An International Iconic Heritage Structure

Make a Difference

We are seeking applicants to serve on the newly established Board of Trustees of Friends of Bennerley Viaduct (FoBV) at a very exciting time in the life of this iconic structure.

We need an effective and representative Board of Trustees to fulfil the requirements of the Charity Commission and oversee this next stage of the life of the 'Iron Giant' and the work of the Committee of the FoBV.

Skills and Experience

We are seeking to establish an effective Board of Trustees to support the Committee with a range of skills and experience, to include:

- Heritage
- Community
- Fundraising/Grants
- Finance
- Legal
- Tourism
- Engineering
- Local Authorities
- Project Management
- Marketing/Public Relations
- Business Management
- Cycling and Walking



From a Humble Viaduct to a World Treasure

Bennerley Viaduct, known locally as the 'Iron Giant', is one of only two wrought iron railway viaducts remaining in the UK. Bennerley is the longer of the two and unlike the Meldon in Devon, is almost unaltered. It was built in 1877 by the Great Northern Railway Company as a key element allowing the Friargate Line from Burton-on-Trent to Nottingham to cross the Erewash Valley, and closing in 1968 to traffic. It is now a Grade II* monument, beloved in the area.

Saved from demolition following a public enquiry in 1980 the Bennerley Viaduct has stood dormant for 50 years.

However, in the last few years much has been happening. The FoBV was formed in 2015 to support an ambitious Heritage Lottery Fund grant application being made by Sustrans. In 2017, despite the key heritage and community benefits of the viaduct being acknowledged, the bid was not successful and Sustrans decided not to re-apply.

Overcoming this disappointment, the FoBV have since worked in partnership with the owners of the viaduct, Railway Paths Limited, to devise a more modest plan to restore the viaduct for public access and support their fund raising activities.



Requirements and Expectations

Trustees will be required to attend four board meetings a year and offer support to the charity as required. These are currently by video but will return to in person meetings at the charity's office in Ilkeston when allowed.

We will be using a simple [application form](#) in order to undertake a skills audit of those applying to ensure we achieve a balanced board of trustees able to provide the skills and experience that FoBV will need now and in the future for effective oversight of its activities.



This activity received a substantial boost in 2019 with both the FoBV charity being established and an application by the FoBV to the World Monument Watch in New York being successful. They chose Bennerley Viaduct as being the only heritage site to support in the UK for the next two year period, along with such sites as Notre Dame in Paris. This has opened the doors to more support in terms of grants and public interest.

The restoration of the viaduct is now making good progress in three phases, the first being conservation work to the iron works, the brick piers and abutments due for completion by Christmas. The second phase, the provision of a public access ramp from the canal towpath at the western, Derbyshire end, of the viaduct is now commencing and also due for completion by Christmas.

The third and final phase of the restoration is currently out to tender for provision of a deck across viaduct and exit route from the eastern, Nottinghamshire, end of the viaduct. This is part funded and further fund raising is in hand. It is hoped the viaduct will be fully open to public access in the second half of 2021.

Once these works are completed the next challenge is to maintain the newly restored and accessible viaduct, establish it as a major local, national and international tourist attraction, and to safeguard its future.

Please Apply by:

Please download and complete an [application form](#) and send it to chair.trustees@bennerleyviaduct.org.uk

by **30th November 2020.**

We hope you may be sufficiently interested to apply to become a trustee. If you require further information about the project or being a trustee, then please contact: John Scruton chair.trustees@bennerleyviaduct.org.uk

