

BE PROUD

A GROUP of hard working community volunteers undertook a clean-up that resulted in 368 bags of litter being removed from a popular walking and cycle route in east Manchester.

Working over three days in October, local people came together to remove drink cans, food packaging and even abandoned beds and supermarket trolleys from a pathway known as The Yellow Brick Road – which runs from The Fallowfield Loop, near Debdale Park, to the Ashton Canal.

The clean-up was organised by walking and cycling charity Sustrans, with additional support provided by Manchester council and the Manchester and Stockport Canal Society.

Organiser Charles Kinniburgh said: "This is an attractive, tree-lined path in an urban environment, which allows people to walk and cycle away from traffic, but the amount of litter on it has been putting people off using it for some time. We had a fantastic response from the



local council neighbourhood team, which made available a community centre and provided refreshments throughout.

"The response of volunteers from Sustrans and other local groups, such as the Manchester and Stockport Canal

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Society, was truly amazing.

"Despite some challenging weather, 42 volunteers turned out over a long weekend to

successfully clear the path. Sustrans will now work with the local council and community to ensure that the route keeps looking good for everyone to use and enjoy."

The route forms part of the National Cycle Network, which includes more than 14,000 miles of

cycle and walking routes, many of which are traffic-free.

Sustrans volunteer coordinator, Abigail Pound, said: "Thanks to all the people who turned out. Many people complain about the path, which was in a shocking state, but we hope that fewer people will be

tempted to drop rubbish now the route is clear."

Coun Nigel Murphy, Manchester council executive member for neighbourhoods, said: "All the volunteers deserve our thanks for their effort. Their hard work has made a real difference and improved a very popular walking and cycling route.

"It is never acceptable to drop litter or fly-tip unwanted items and I hope the clean-up will make people think twice and respect this well-loved area."

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