Proposal for BMX Track on Silloth Green

July 2012

Prepared for Heritage Lottery Fund By
Anna Malina, Community Engagement Officer for the Green

Read By
Jason Dixey, Green Project Manager, Cumbria County Council
Councillor Stuart Graham, Silloth Town Council, Parks Committee

Distributed to
All Silloth Town Councillors
Contents

Proposal for a BMX Track on Silloth Green ................................................................. 3
Access for All .................................................................................................................. 3
The Proposed Site and Planning Consent .................................................................. 3
Track Design, Engagement with Professionals and Estimated Costs ....................... 3
Materials and Drainage ............................................................................................... 4
Additional Engagement with BMX and Parks Professionals ..................................... 4
Consultation ................................................................................................................ 5
Addressing Potential Risks .......................................................................................... 7
Operation, Maintenance and Code of Conduct ......................................................... 7
Summary ..................................................................................................................... 8
Appendix 1 – Letter from youngsters in BMX Group .................................................. 9
Appendix 2 - Photographs of Silloth youngsters visiting different BMX tracks ........... 10
Appendix 3 - Photographs of proposed site for BMX Track on the Green .................. 11
Appendix 4 - Email confirming no requirement for planning consent for proposed BMX Track .................................................. 12
Appendix 5 - Hand Drawn Designs for BMX Track .................................................... 13
Appendix 6 - Examples from Grounds Maintenance and Green Spaces Manager, Carlisle City Council. 15
Appendix 7- Photos from Open Consultation Event .................................................... 30
Appendix 8 - Transcript of comments from people attending 'Open Consultation Evening' .................................................. 31
Appendix 9 - Supporting letter and feedback sheet from Silloth Youth Club ............... 32
Appendix 10 – Copy of Online Consultation ............................................................... 34
Appendix 11 - Online Consultation Results ................................................................. 37
Proposal for a BMX Track on Silloth Green

Young people in Silloth have been instrumental in preparing a proposal to build a BMX Track on Silloth Green. They have taken a responsible approach that has been admired by the community and Silloth Town Councillors alike.

The youngsters make their case in Appendix 1 for a new BMX track to replace a dirt track on the Green that was re-developed with HLF Funding.

A 'Silloth BMX Group' has been formalised, a committee has been formed and a bank account has been opened. Roles for volunteer adults (mainly parents) have also been identified.

To gather ideas, find out what worked best in other areas and feed this knowledge into a realistic plan, the youngsters visited many other tracks (Appendix 2).

Access for All

The BMX Track facility is primarily intended for use by two-wheeled bikes. The track would be for the community and would be accessible to everyone.

Interested parents/volunteers would be on hand to ensure access is open and to offer help and training to minimise risk of any damage. They would also help with operational management and any changes over time.

The Proposed Site and Planning Consent

The photographs in Appendix 3 show that the proposed area for the BMX Track is the disused land next to the Green Maintenance Yard, on the opposite side of the road to the Good Companions Residential Home. This land is currently of limited use for other purposes.

The area has tall mature trees. Action will be taken to address potential risk of damage to any trees after the design has been finalised and trees at risk identified.

Records show no services underground, however, checks will be carried out by Lambert Green (the contractor) before construction work begins.

Checks have been made and no planning permission is required to commence building a BMX Track on the area identified (Appendix 4).

Track Design, Engagement with Professionals and Estimated Costs

Plans for the track were drawn up by volunteers (interested parents) in consultation with young people (Appendix 5). The free hand drawings captured what the youngsters wanted, and were used to show people the design of the proposed track. During the consultation period, additional professional advice was sought, and example plans for BMX tracks built elsewhere in Cumbria were provided by Luke Leathers, the Grounds
Maintenance and Green Spaces Manager, Carlisle City Council.

Information received and included in Appendix 6 includes:

- BMX FAQ and Examples
- Example BMX Track Building Programme
- Example BMX Track layout
- Example Design and Access Statement
- Example Safety Sign

This expert information is proving extremely useful in developing understanding and evolving a professional design for the proposed Silloth Green BMX Track. Largely, the materials needed for the small dirt track would be fairly cheap natural sub soil or clay based material. No concrete would be required, thereby keeping costs low. It is proposed that materials not used for paths on the Green could be recycled on the jump track, again keeping costs low while also utilising materials that otherwise would need to be disposed.

The amount needed for the build using aforementioned materials has been estimated at £15,000.

One of the volunteer parents is now working with the young people to build on the previous hand drawing, in order to produce a design that incorporates accurate measurements and specific jumps. When this is completed, any necessary actions to protect trees will also be considered.

If enough funding is assured, a professional designer will be employed to check and build on these efforts and finalise the drawings before work commences.

**Materials and Drainage**

Materials and an adequate drainage system will be identified and incorporated into the design by the contractor, Lambert Green. The information provided by the Grounds Maintenance and Green Spaces Manager, Carlisle City Council, will provide additional guidance.

**Additional Engagement with BMX and Parks Professionals**

The BMX Group and their parents have sought information from professionals involved in developing BMX tracks elsewhere in Cumbria. The feeling was that this would help them gain important insights to ensure a professional track that not only met the needs of the youngsters involved but also enhanced the local community.

Robert Mitchell, the Green Spaces Project Officer, Carlisle City Council, who was responsible for the construction, design and maintenance of 5 similar projects around Carlisle was asked some specific questions related to the impact of BMX tracks built in other areas:

- What impact has the BMX Track had on youths?
- What effect has the BMX Track had on the local residents?
- Has the local area improved since the creation of the BMX Track?
- Have you, as a Manager with responsibility for Several Tracks in the Carlisle area, had any issues of health and safety or any other problems regarding the tracks and if so what, and how did you overcome these?
- Would you with all your experience think that a BMX Track would benefit not only the children of Silloth but also residents, shop owners and visitors?
• Have the children taken any ownership of the Tracks and have you built any relationship with the children and parents since you launched these projects?

The Green Spaces Officer indicated that Carlisle City Council had provided BMX tracks around the city neighbourhoods to offer activities for local youngsters that would help prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour and develop neighbourhoods as communities. They found that the tracks gave people and opportunity to meet and have fun and created more community wellbeing for youths and adults alike. Young people were also able to compete with each other in time racing and stunts. There had been no known issues with residents with the location of the BMX tracks since they had been built, despite some of them being only 50 metres away from houses.

Among other benefits, the Green Spaces Officer indicated:

• Less boredom for kids riding their bikes around the streets.
• Brings kids together to develop their skills
• Gives parents more bike activities to use in their neighbourhood with their children.
• Brings the local youths together in one area which is easier for policing if needed, rather than the youths all over the estates.
• Kids form their own little bike community

Drawing from his experience, he believed a BMX Track on the Green would help develop a better quality of life in Silloth for young bike users.

Consultation

A great deal of effort was put into public consultation, to ensure everyone in the area was engaged and given an opportunity to say what they felt about the BMX Track proposal. Youngsters who had proposed the Track were centrally involved during the process. Different methods were tailored to different age groups and needs, so that as many people as possible could have a say. The different approaches used for the consultation are as follows:

• Employees and residents in the Care Home were visited by Councillor Stuart Graham and consulted about the proposal to build a track on the opposite side of the road.
  ◦ There were no objections and the proposal was supported. It was suggested that residents would enjoy seeing the youngsters at play.
• An open consultation evening was held in the Silloth Community Hall from 7.00pm on the evening of 30th May, 2012 to provide information about the proposal and what had been done already and to provide opportunity for the public to air their views.
  ◦ A poster was distributed around town to advertise the open consultation event and encourage people to attend.
  ◦ The event was also publicised in the local Community Newspaper, The Buzz.
  ◦ Stuart Graham, Silloth Town Councillor, began the discussion by explaining that the group of young people who were interested in designing a BMX track in Silloth had approached the Council with a proposal. They had attended a Council meeting and had presented their ideas. They had also raised £550 from the local community towards the bike track.
As the photos in Appendix 7 illustrate, the young people were among those who attended the open consultation event. They gave a presentation to people attending, outlining their ideas for the track and explaining what they had done already by way of exploring the best options. The youngsters showed people attending designs and photos of the proposed track, and of themselves visiting BMX tracks in other towns to find out what worked for people there. They indicated they were keen to have a bike track locally so they wouldn’t have to travel outside Silloth on a regular basis.

Around 30 people attended the event and all were impressed by the young people’s presentation.

- It is worth noting that some of the youngsters who presented their ideas during the public consultation had also taken on the role of community reporters at the Green opening event on 20th May 2012, bringing back feedback from residents and photographic ‘memories’ of the day. This in itself is an indication that they have a responsible approach.

Also in attendance to answer queries were Stuart Graham, Silloth Town Council, Jason Dixey, Cumbria County Council Project Manager for developing the Green, Graham Wilkinson, Silloth Town Council, Tony Markley, Cumbria County and Silloth Town Councillor, Margaret Snaith, Silloth Town Council, Elaine Wannop Silloth Town Councillor and Anna Malina, Community Engagement Officer for the Green.

Outcomes from the open event:

- All consultees were supportive of the idea and felt a BMX Track would be a boost for young people in the community; it would give them a dedicated space to ride their bikes.

- One problem outlined by a member of the public was related to potential danger for youngsters entering the BMX Track through the same entrance that cars entered the car park. Reassurance was given that the entrance to the track would be through a different entrance, so diminishing risk. This reassurance satisfied people attending.

- At the end of the event, feedback sheets were made available for people to add their thoughts. Written comments, included in Appendix 8, indicated that people attending the open event were wholly supportive of the proposal and felt youngsters in the area would benefit greatly.

In addition to the open event, several articles describing the BMX Track proposal were included in Issue 105 of ‘The BUZZ,’ the local Community Newspaper. See http://www.solwaybuzz.co.uk/Issues/issue_105/page_all.pdf pages 16-17). The paper was distributed several days before the open evening was due to take place.

The articles also publicised the open consultation evening, provided information about the proposal and listed different contacts and ways in which people could respond to the consultation, eg.

- face to face, by telephone, email or in writing to Councillor Stuart Graham or by contacting other Councillors

- face to face, by telephone, email or in writing to the Community Engagement officer

Feedback about the open evening was outlined in an article in Issue 106 of the
• The young people who proposed the BMX Track also consulted other youngsters at Silloth Youth Club.
  ◦ Appendix 9 indicates that the responses from those involved in running the youth club as well as youngsters attending it were extremely supportive of the proposal to build a BMX Track on the area of the Green identified.

• Young people in Silloth were also consulted via an online consultation and questionnaire (Appendix 10).
  ◦ The Headmistress of Solway Technology College in Silloth distributed the online link to pupils, and invited them to complete the questionnaire.
  ◦ Interested youngsters also shared the URL with local Friends on Facebook, so that they could also complete the questionnaire.
  ◦ In total, 54 responses were received. As many girls as boys responded, illustrating that both genders have an interest in having a track on the Green.
  ◦ The results outlined in detail in Appendix 11 indicate that the proposal for a small dirt track on the Green is well supported by all those responding. Potential benefits and risks were highlighted. Knowledge of perceived risk provides a good opportunity to consider potential problems and take some preventative action.

**Addressing Potential Risks**

Information about whether or not bats habitat in the proposed area is being sourced and checked so that risk of harm is eliminated. Confirmation of results of enquiries will follow this proposal.

Any diseased trees will be identified on a routine basis and steps taken to remove them.

If tree roots or trees are damaged or if trees become unhealthy as a result of the BMX track, then replacements will be planted.

Potential damage to trees will be assessed, and action to protect them included in the final plans.

**Operation, Maintenance and Code of Conduct**

Some BMX Tracks rely heavily on their volunteers to improve and maintain their tracks. This will also be the case in Silloth.

It is advisable, however, to incorporate some kind of maintenance programme, that also involves the Park Wardens.

It may be the case that the top coating of dust will need resurfacing since it is advisable to re-dust and compact the track every 4 months, or as needed. In addition, if the track suffers some settlement, some jumps may need re-shaping. Some funds may need to be set aside or raised to do this work.

Club volunteers would be on hand to help in any jump alterations to incorporate new ideas and keep interest alive.
Drawing on information obtained from the Grounds Maintenance and Green Spaces Manager, Carlisle City Council, a Code of Conduct will be drawn up and information posted on a sign visible to users. No alcohol will be allowed and users will be encouraged to take their litter home in order to keep the Bike Track tidy. Advice on use of the track will be included; also on use of safety gear for riders. Information will also be available, outlining on what to do if a fault is discovered. In addition, emergency information will be on view in case of accident.

Encouragement will be given to new members to join the club and take part.

Summary

From information gathered and consultation conducted over time (detailed in appendices 1-11 attached), it is very clear that there is immense scope and a great deal of enthusiasm in Silloth for building a BMX Track on the Green.

The youngsters have worked extremely hard on this proposal and are very keen to have funding for a small starter dirt track in Silloth. The hope, therefore, is that this proposal will be looked upon favourably by Heritage Lottery Fund, and funds estimated at £15,000 will be released from the Green re-development monies to start building the proposed track as soon as possible.
Appendix 1 – Letter from youngsters in BMX Group

Hi Anna

Over the past couple of years we have made our own dirt jumps in the pines, (on the Green) this started with only a few of us but soon lots of other children joined us and before this area was redeveloped by the HLF for the climbing area we had around 30 young people using the jumps that we had built.

Over the last year, we have campaigned for a track/jump area of our own like other towns in Cumbria, we raised £550 by donations from local people to help support us to achieve this, so me and my friends have been to different parts of the country trying out all the different BMX and mountain biking areas (dirt jumps)

We have spent a lot of time travelling & looking how all the jumps were built and which were good and which weren’t, so when it comes to building our own we hope we can bring our ideas forward to make a fantastic track, we are hoping to have an input as to the design and we have given the Town Council plans of a track that we think will deliver what we need.

These are some of the places we have visited. Briar Bank Carlisle -BMX Hammonds Pond in Carlisle - BMX Saint Murvey – Cockermouth – Mountain biking – dirt jumps Whinlatter – Keswick – Mountain biking – dirt jumps Glentress – Scotland – dirt jumps

We have just returned from a camping trip at Fort William in Scotland, We watched how the world champion bikers do there jumps!! It was awesome and something for us to inspire too.

We Do hope that we will soon have a track of our very own and we know that it may be small but it will give us a lot of enjoyment and something that we will be proud of.

Thank You.

Lewis, Joel & Reece On behalf of Silloth Kids BMX Track
Appendix 2 - Photographs of Silloth youngsters visiting different BMX tracks
Appendix 3 - Photographs of proposed site for BMX Track on the Green

Proposed site for BMX Track
Appendix 4 – Email confirming no requirement for planning consent for proposed BMX Track

From: Jason R Dixey
Subject: FW: Maintenance Depot BMX Track - Planning not required
Date: 22 May 2012 10:21:15 GMT+01:00
To: Anna Maltin, Stuart Graham <graham_s14@sky.com>

Hello both
Please see below e-mail re no requirement for planning for BMX track. I suggest keeping it very safe somewhere in STC system.
Jason

Jason Dixey
Project Manager
Economic Development Unit
Cumbria County Council
The Courts
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA5 8NA
Tel 01228 226694
Mobile 07929141799
Fax 01228 226689

From: Clark, Mike [mailto:Mike.Clark@pbworld.com]
Sent: 20 February 2012 16:17
To: Dixey, Jason R; R.W.Allison; Louise Hudspith
CC: Glenwright,Dave
Subject: RE: Maintenance Depot BMX Track

Hello Jason,
I’ve just spoken to Sarah Smith again at Allerdale planners who has confirmed that the creation of a BMX track within the maintenance depot by STC can be done under permitted development rights and therefore doesn’t need a application for planning consent. She is to put a note on file to confirm the question we raised and the advice given.

Best regards,

Mike
Appendix 5 - Hand Drawn Designs for BMX Track

Plan 1
Plan 2
Appendix 6 - Examples from Grounds Maintenance and Green Spaces Manager, Carlisle City Council.

BMX FAQ and Examples

Intermediate Track 1

Area required 30m x 14m
Building time 2 weeks

Materials - Sub soil or clay based material 400 – 450 tonnes
4/5mm stone to dust (approx 8 tonnes)
Complete drainage system
Estimated cost £8,500 (including labour)
Intermediate Track 2

Area needed 40m x 24m
Building time 3 weeks

Materials - Sub soil or clay based material 700 – 1000 tonnes
4/5mm stone to dust (approx 16 tonnes)
Complete drainage system
Estimated cost £12,000 (including labour)
Intermediate Track 3

Area needed 60m x 40m
Building time 5 weeks

**Materials -**
Sub soil or clay based material 2000 – 2500 tonnes
4/5mm stone to dust (approx 30 tonnes)
Complete drainage system
Other features: Manual start gate. Tarmac start hill.
Concrete start pad.
Estimated cost £30,500 (including labour)
Regional Track

Area required 80m x 50m.
Additional car parking needed for club and race events
Building time 7 weeks

Materials -
Sub soil or clay based material 3000 – 3500 tonnes
4/5mm stone to dust (approx 40 tonnes)
Complete drainage system
Other features: Start gate plus air ram system. Tarmac start hill.
Concrete start pad. Safety railings for start hill
Estimated cost £45,000 (including labour).

Bath BMX Oddown (The Tumps)
National Track

Area required 100m x 80m.
Additional car parking and temporary camping facilities track side. The recommended density is 60 – 75 units per camp able hectare.
Building time 9 weeks

Materials -
Sub soil or clay based material 3,500 –5,000 tonnes
4/5mm stone to dust (approx 50 tonnes)
Complete drainage system
Other features: Steel storage container. Start gate plus air ram system. Tarmac start hill. Concrete start pad. Safety railings for start hill. Separation pens for riders. The price of a National standard track depends on the options and extras you require.
Estimated cost £85,000.00.
Track Maintenance Programs

Many clubs rely on their volunteers to improve and maintain their tracks. This however puts considerable pressure on these people with the track, club sessions and racing events taking over their lives. You then find that what began as a hobby or sport can turn into a chore. Hence the volunteers lose interest and the club losses valuable members. It is advisable to incorporate a maintenance program with a contractor enabling the volunteers more free time to pursue the day to day running of the club.

**Grass Cutting:**  This could be incorporated with the local authorities general parks and recreation maintenance program.

**Track Maintenance:** Tracks will incur a lot of wear and tear with constant use and consequently the surface will erode away. Therefore the top coating of dust will need resurfacing. It is advisable to re-dust and compact the track surface every 4 months or as needed.

**Track Alterations:** Generally most tracks have some settlement once built. Some jumps lose their sharpness and may need re-shaping. After some time, the riders conquer the difficult jumps and get bored of the same old thing. To keep their interest it may pay you to make some jumps alterations. Perhaps one or two different combinations a year may suffice. Your club volunteers could do this work as this helps to keep their interest and incorporates their own ideas. This will help keep their interest rather than the mundane task of general maintenance.
Example BMX Track Building Programme

BMX Track Building.

Project Programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Delivery of Material – clay based subsoil (80% clay 20% sand/soil) and top dressing (5mm to dust).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Drainage (ensure that the site is adequately drained and free of standing/flowing water). Poor drainage and frost will lead to the break up of the track surface.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mark out the track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Build and shape the START HILL, water the surface and compact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Begin rough shaping of the straights laying our where the obstacles will go. Remember that the first and second straights may be raised to giving a slight downhill gradient to the track, which will aid drainage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Begin shaping of the turns. Water the surface and compact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Build jumps on 1st straight. Water the surfaces and compact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Build jumps on 2nd straight Water the surfaces and compact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Build jumps on 3rd straight Water the surfaces and compact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Groom the berms and the straights, roll and water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Apply top dressing, (5mm to dust) and groom the track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Water the entire track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Roll the entire track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ride!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example BMX Track layout

Starting hill
Min 1.5m high

Over 3m

Big Table Top
5m long x 1m high

Roller
0.4m high
Steep entry and shallow exit

First turn 180 deg,
1.5m high

First turn 180 deg,
1.5m high

Small Triple 5m long x 0.8m
down to 0.6m high

Small Table Top 3m
long x 0.6m high

Second turn 180 deg,
1.5m high

Second turn 180 deg,
1.5m high

Big double 6m long x 1 high

Small Triple 5m long x 0.8m
down to 0.6m high

Killer
0.4m high
Steep entry and shallow exit

Small Table Top 3m
long x 0.6m high

Small Triple 5m long x 0.8m
down to 0.6m high

Finish
Example Design and Access Statement

Platt Fields Park BMX Track

Manchester

Design and Access Statement

January 2007

Prepared By: Landscape Practice
MEDC
PO Box 463
Town Hall
Manchester
M60 3NY

For: MCC Leisure
Pink Bank Lane
Manchester

Document: Platt Fields Park BMX Track – Design and Access Statement

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<th>Prepared By</th>
<th>Checked By</th>
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<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>12 Jan 07</td>
<td>Chris Onyemem</td>
<td>Ian Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Project Director</td>
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Ref. 33774:DOC/01:P:01
PLATT FIELDS PARK BMX TRACK

Landscape Access and Design Statement

1.0 Introduction

The proposed BMX track at Platt Fields Park is a new development by Manchester City Council’s Leisure Department. This compliments the other sporting and games facilities that already exist in the park including tennis courts, all-weather and grass football pitches, a basketball court and roller-skating ramps.

The new development will provide a venue for BMX cycling in the city for the local community and will help to improve the physical well being of users. It will also provide a safe and accessible venue for the local youths to ride their bikes and take part in competition events. This will help to reduce crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour.

2.0 The Site

The site is located on the disused tennis courts adjacent to the roller-skating ramps and the grass pitch. The site is bounded to the north by an all-weather, five-a-side football court, to the east by the roller skating ramps and grass football pitches to the east and south by open grass areas with a belt of mature trees. The surrounding areas have tall mature trees that will reduce the visual impact of the track. The site covers an area of 105x65 sq metres including the track and spectator areas.

The council acquired this part of Platt Fields Park in 1908. The northern part of the site was initially used as tennis courts and later as a parade ground by the army. Most recently the area was returned to use as tennis courts but has since fallen into decline and is now abandoned.

Records show no services underground. However further checks will be carried out by the contractor before construction works commence.

There is an area of scrub near the southern boundary that will be lost. The area of scrub consists of some recently planted shrub and tree species. This is of limited visual value and will be removed as part of the development. The loss of this belt of scrub will be offset with more robust tree planting along the southern edge of the site.

The site is flat and there are indications that it is poorly drained. A geotechnical survey will be carried out to determine the ground condition.
3.0 Consultation

In development of these proposals a number of key user groups and other relevant stakeholders have been consulted, these are as follows:

- Friends of Platt Fields Park
- British Cycling Federation
- Manchester City Council Leisure Department
- Platt Fields Park, Park Manager
- Sport England
- Crime and Disorder Unit

The consultation process will continue through the development and construction of the scheme.

4.0 Access

Access into the site will be through the existing access to the basketball court and the roller skate ramps. The grass verge between the two courts will be replaced with a tarmac road leading to the gates of the new development. This access road will be for maintenance and emergency vehicles only. Visitors to the track will use the existing public car park within the park.

The existing entrance into the park from Mabfield Road will not be altered.

To facilitate access during the construction phase, a temporary works access road will be constructed with terram mat and stones through the grass area to the site entrance. The playing surface of the football pitch will not be affected. The road will be removed as soon as the works have been completed and the area reinstated.

5.0 Access for All

The track is a facility for the community and will be accessible to everyone. The facility is primarily intended for use by two-wheeled bikes, however, less able people will be provided with three-wheel bikes and the members of the cycling club will be on hand to offer training and supervision.

6.0 Design:

- The track covers an area of 85x40 sq metres and the course is laid out in the shape of a ‘U’ within a ‘U’ with four parallel straights and a turn at each end. The overall length of the track is 306m and a width of 10m that narrows down to 6m.

This ‘double U’ design is a commonly used layout in BMX, and allows for maximum use of the available area.
The site will be enclosed with a 2.4m high weld mesh fencing with two 3m wide gates, green in colour to keep in character with the fencing in the area.

Other facilities proposed for the track include a steel cabin for bike storage, a prefabricated office building and holding and staging areas for competitors. A 1m high timber post and rail fence will be erected to separate the track from the spectator area.

The spectator area will be used during official race meetings when a demountable stand will be brought in temporarily for spectators.

The track will be surfaced with reclaimed building rubble, 20mm to dust or other sustainable materials. The start hill (2 Metres high) and the holding and staging areas will be surfaced with tarmac while the spectator and building areas will be in situ concrete slabs. Areas between the tracks will be topsoiled and seeded.

Flood lighting will be provided for night time and winter use. Modern luminaries will be used to minimise light pollution and energy consumption.

Drainage will be by means of French drains consisting of stone-filled trenches and perforated flexible plastic drainage pipes connected to silt traps before discharging into the nearby lake and to appropriately located soakaways.

All trees and shrubs close to the site will be protected during construction works in accordance with BS-5837. Those to be felled to make way for the development will be replaced with Extra Heavy Standard Trees.

A sketch 3-dimensional drawing showing what the track will look like after construction is attached.

7.0 Maintenance

The track will be managed by the Manchester BMX Club in partnership with Manchester City Council's Leisure Department in-house staff and the by the British Cycling Organisation (BCO) who will be using the track for training.

8.0 Operation

It is proposed that the hours of operation will be from 09:00 until 22:00 Saturday until Sunday. Outside these hours the facility will be closed. The gates will be secured and the site secure behind 2.4 metre high fencing. Local school children will use the track for training offered by the cycling club.

The track will be open throughout the year and will be used for training by the British Olympic BMX Cycling team. Regional competitions will be held once a year that will
attract between 600 and 1000 competitors and spectators thereby contributing in promoting Manchester and helping improve the local economy.

The provisional timetable for the facility is outlined below:

- Monday - Friday: Morning Sessions: World Class Performance Team - Track Closed to the general public - Coached by BCF staff (track hire charged).
- Monday - Friday: Lunchtime Sessions: Open Session – Open to the general public.
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday: Afternoon Sessions: Positive Futures - Track Closed to general public - Groups of local at risk young people - Coached by MCC staff.
- Tuesday and Wednesday: Afternoon Sessions: Open sessions
- Monday - Friday: Early Evening Sessions: Schools MCC - Open to schools or open access - Coached by MCC staff.
- Monday - Friday: Teatime Sessions: Open Session – Open to the general public.
- Monday – Friday: Evenings : Club Coached Session - Open to members and non members - Coaches by club volunteers/ MCC staff.
- Saturday – Sunday: Mornings: Club Coached Session - Open to members and non members - Coaches by club volunteers/ MCC staff.
- Saturday – Sunday: Afternoons: Race League
- Saturday – Sunday: Evenings: Open Session – Open to the general public.

9.0 Summary

The proposed BMX track for Platt Fields Park will provide a fantastic resource to the community. It will assist with delivering a number of the Council’s Key Corporate objectives including those linked with enhancing health, reducing crime and increasing the cultural offering of the city.
Example Safety Sign

Help make The Melbourne Park BMX Track pilot scheme a success.

Bicycles only. No bottles. No alcohol.
Children must be supervised by a responsible adult.

Please read the Code of Conduct below before using the track.

The Track.
Get to know the track. Learn from others.
Watch how they take the obstacles.
Walk the track before riding it for the first time.
Always ride within your control and ability.
Respect other riders, look out for them and give them plenty of room, especially if they are learning the track; they could be new team members.

Found a fault on the track?
Contact: 01228 817200

The Rider.
Full or open face helmet that covers the ears.
A road style helmet is not suitable.
Gloves which cover your fingers and your wrists.
Long sleeved top, sleeves rolled down.
Long trousers, but NO flares.
Soft soled shoes, like tennis shoes.

Emergency Information:
In case of Accident - call 999. Ask for Ambulance.
When connected be ready to provide the following:
1. Incident location: Melbourne Park BMX Track
2. Number of people in your party.
3. Any injuries.

Nearest A&E Hospital Facilities -
Cumberland Infirmary, Newtown Road,
Carlisle. CA2 7HY
Tel: 01228 523444

If you would like to join a team or take part in an organised session contact:
B. Fresh on 01228 210016

PLEASE Take your litter home and keep the Melbourne Park BMX Track looking sweet.

www.carlisle.gov.uk/melbournebmx
Appendix 7- Photos from Open Consultation Event

Joe presenting case for BMX Track at Open Consultation Event
### Appendix 8 - Transcript of comments from people attending ‘Open Consultation Evening’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Support and Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully support this great project for the local kids. This is their aspiration – hope it can be achieved</td>
<td>This is an excellent idea for Silloth and I feel would particularly benefit the teenagers of Silloth and other neighbouring areas. Well supported by the youth. Also a benefit to the town as I’m sure it will attract more visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I agree with the bike track happening as it benefits older kids and keeps them from hanging about the street and shops.</td>
<td>The idea of a track for the kids to use is brilliant. It will give the kids an interest and stop them hanging round the streets. It will also help attract visitors to the town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think this would be a fantastic opportunity for Silloth and all the kids.</td>
<td>I think it will be great for a BMX track in Silloth because our parents don’t have to spend money taking us places to do things like this, also kids our age have less to do than the younger kids.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is exactly what the children of Silloth and visiting children need. We have so many children in Silloth that would enjoy this. It would also tidy up the eyesore. Children from surrounding areas will flock to Silloth to use the BMX Track on the Green.</td>
<td>I think it is a really good idea for Silloth and it will keep kids of the streets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This would be a very positive project for Silloth. The young people need this activity and have worked very hard at trying to set this up. It may also help to prevent any possible anti-social behaviour, and the young people can only develop self-esteem and caring for the property they have had a hand in setting up. Good for the young people and good for Silloth.</td>
<td>This will benefit everyone in Silloth and could make a fantastic visitor attraction as well as giving the children a project that they have been included in from the start. Another good example of Silloth Town Council developing links with the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This is an excellent idea.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 9 - Supporting letter and feedback sheet from Silloth Youth Club

George Holden
Silloth Youth Club
Silloth

Councillor Stuart Graham
Silloth Town Council
23 Caldew Street
Silloth

Hello Stuart,

I was visited by a group of youths from Silloth on Monday 11th June 2011 at Silloth youth club, the youths are part of a group who are trying to get a BMX track built in the pines on the Green, Silloth.

The youths engaged with the children at the youth club and asked them for their thoughts and opinions, the children were shown a sketch of the proposed track and photographs of the area that it is intended to build the track, the children are very excited at the thought of having a BMX Track in Silloth, the children had no negative reflections.

I myself as leader for the youth club think that this type of venture is long overdue! This type of activity will not only benefit the children of Silloth but the surrounding area thus providing a social net work other than the electronic type (children talking face to face and taking part in physical activities)

I have attached a public consultation comment sheet that the youths kindly provided me with the children’s thoughts!

I do hope that this track can be built sooner rather than later and we “Silloth youth Club” would look to utilise the track for another activity for the Youth club to get involved in, may I take this opportunity to offer the services of the youth club for any voluntary work that may benefit this venture.

Kind Regards

George Holden
3 Petteril Street
Silloth
016973 32004
Silloth on Solway Town Council

Public Consultation

Wednesday 30th May 2012 from 7.00pm

To engage people in Silloth and consult on the proposal for a BMX Bike Track on Silloth Green

Everyone in Silloth is being consulted about a proposal to put a BMX Bike Track on the Green. The photo to the left shows the proposed site on the Maintenance Workshop Area of the Pines, adjacent to the Good Companions Residential Care Home. This open consultation event provides an opportunity for people in Silloth to hear about what is being proposed and to offer an opinion on it if they so wish.

If you have a comment to make that you didn’t have the opportunity to make during the event, please tell us what you think below. You may add your name if you wish.

Comment

Luke Maddison says "It is a good idea and will keep the children off the streets."
Christina Ray says it is about time more things were made for the youth of Silloth today.
Mary thinks that it is an awesome idea giving the children a chance to try something different.
Adam Dixon thinks it is an absolutely brilliant idea and can’t wait to use it.
Calvin Rawell said "I wish there was one here when I was younger."
George Holden thinks that anything that gets the children off the street must be a good thing.
Appendix 10 – Copy of Online Consultation

Introduction

Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire.

1. Would you support the development of a BMX Track on the Green in Silloth?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not Sure

2. Do you think a BMX Track would be beneficial to the community and young people of Silloth?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not sure

3. If you answered "Yes" to Question 2, what do you think these benefits would include (Please tick 3 options only)?
   - Reduce anti-social behaviour
   - Challenging
   - Increase safety in the area
   - Provide new opportunities
   - Learn a new sport
   - Encourage team work
   - Educational
   - Increase outdoor activity
   - Fun
   - Promote well-being
   - Inspirational
4. Please tell us about any other benefits not already mentioned. If you can't think of any please answer "None".

Additional benefits (Required)  

5. Can you see any problems in having a BMX Track on the Green? If you can, please list them. If not, enter "None".

Problems  

6. Would you use the BMX Track yourself?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

7. What age are you?

(Required)  

8. Are you male or female?

Gender (Required)  

9. What school do you attend?

School (Required)
Appendix 11 - Online Consultation Results

Question 1: Would you support the development of a BMX Track on Silloth Green?

Around 90% of those responding said they would support the development of a BMX Track on the proposed site on Silloth Green. 10% said they were unsure.

Question 2: Do you think a BMX Track would be beneficial to the community and young people of Silloth?

Around 95% of respondees said they believed a BMX Track in Silloth would be beneficial, 1% did not believe a BMX Track would be beneficial and 4% were not sure.
Question 3: If you answered ‘Yes’ to Question 2, what do you think these benefits would include (Please tick 3 options only).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent of All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce anti-social behaviour</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>72.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase safety in the area</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide new opportunities</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>48.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn a new sport</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>55.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage team work</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase outdoor activity</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>79.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote well-being</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspirational</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>31.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Answered</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 4: Please tell us about any other benefits not already mentioned. If you can’t think of any, please answer ‘None’.

74% of participants said they could not think of any other benefits. Others felt there were even more benefits, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There would be more things to do and a lot more fun – you always see people round Silloth on their bikes with a BMX track they would be there. There’s a lot of people who love doing BMX and I think it would be very beneficial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would stop young teenagers wandering the street at night and it will stop them getting into trouble with the police.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something to do on the weekend and after school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good for keen bikers and would get people off the streets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So far in Silloth, the new water park play area in the pines cater for the younger children but not really for older ones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For young people to interact with one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good fun for everybody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it will keep young people out of trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would help because the nearest bike track is at Cockermouth so would be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>awesome just to bike to the area and not spend money on fuel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would help some people I know to practice because the closest bike park for them is in Cockermouth and would be fun for the older kids as there is nothing else to do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoyment for the children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase fitness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It will give the youngsters of Silloth something to do that is fun, by providing this track it will reduce the amount of youths hanging around outside various shops and the street corners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase self confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It will be an area for kids to congregate – in a good way, rather than hanging round the streets looking for something to do, they can all challenge themselves and enjoy something outdoors, without getting into trouble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needed by kids who don’t engage in team sports but provides a bond at every level and a group of peers with same interests. Very physical as anaerobic therefore reduces bad and anti-social behaviour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeps the youngsters off the streets and gives them an added interest in sporting activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It will be really fun for people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it will keep the BMXers in a certain area, which is safe instead of people using the BMXes somewhere else which may be more dangerous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good fun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits more people from different towns, villages etc, coming down to the bike park and will promote more profit for businesses in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think this would be an excellent idea making the bike track because it will encourage others from other places to come down and make Silloth more populated. It will also keep youngsters off the streets from misbehaving. I think this should definitely go ahead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It will show how democracy works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People to stay out of trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is nowhere in Silloth for young people/teenagers to go to benefit from the outdoors safely and away from road traffic. Teenagers are too old for parks and play areas. Instead of knocking them, it is our duty to support all residents in Silloth including our teenagers. After all they are our future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Silloth Green has been under such a fantastic re-development that this would finish the whole area off.

This will benefit everyone in and around Silloth as it will give the town another visitor attraction also the underlying reason to provide outdoor activities for youths who would normally block paths, shops and streets with bicycles, also would prevent/deter children from creating their own jumps in the newly developed pines area.

A combination of above, times have changed and kids expectations have changed too; it’s difficult these days to find activities that don’t cost money and don’t need to be supervised.

**Question 5: can you see any problems in having a BMX Track on th Green? If you can, please list them. If not, enter ‘None’**

Around 78% of people responding could see no problems. Others responded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People could get hurt and people could complain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It could be pretty dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They might fall off and hurt themselves if they do not wear the right safety equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Might be dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security measures might be required, eg. CCTV. Area should be fenced to bring control measures – drinking water and toilets needed, and car parking for those who transport bikes to the location. Costs increase substantially with th add ons not the track. An outdoor track just complete in Rathoath Co Meath in Ireland and outdoor facility at Chapelizod Dublin…[comment from here was incomplete]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I see no problems as long as it is built away from the park area where the children play at.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thugs coming round and wrecking them or using the ramps as things for fun other than biking which would upset the riders who are wanting to use them properly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too small. Safety issues. Possibly becomes a target for hangers on who might be less disciplined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children may start to build their own in areas that have been re-developed by HLF.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 6: Would you use the BMX Track yourself?

Just over 31% of people responding said they would use the track themselves. Around 39% said they would not use the track themselves, and almost 30% said they might use the track.

Question 7: What age are you?

Off the 54 respondees, 35 were in the 12-14 age group; the rest were in the 18 plus age group.

Question 8: Are you male or female?

26 respondees said they were male and 28 said they were female.

Question 9: What school do you attend?

34 respondees attended Silloth technology College; 1 attended nelson Tomlinson, 1 attended Beacon Hill Secondary School in Aspatria, 18 attended other schools in Silloth or had left school.