

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 8 MARCH 2022
title: LONGRIDGE PUMP TRACK
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek a recommendation from Committee for the lease of land to build a cycling pump track on Kestor Lane, Longridge
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
 - Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - Other Considerations – To help a group provide a new facility in Longridge.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has been approached by a group in Longridge which would like to develop a pump track at Kestor Lane, Longridge.
- 2.2 A pump track is an oval shape ribbon of tarmac which has humps and hollows, allowing cyclists, scooters, skateboards, etc. to use gravity to make their way round the track. (Appendix 1 provides an illustration, the shaded area is c2,800m²).
- 2.3 The group require the Council's agreement in principle for a lease so they can then seek funding from Sport England/British Cycling and other potential funding partners. They are aware that the Council does not have any capital sum allocated to this project and that as part of their scheme they will need to allow for maintenance and insurance costs. A lease for this purpose would normally be at least 21 years depending upon the grant funding conditions at the time of application and the source of the funding.
- 2.4 The track itself would be located on Kestor Lane and the lease would be issued to the group at the point they formalise themselves to enable them to make grant applications. They would need to ensure the facility and establish some reserves to allow them to carry out repairs to the track in due course. They would like it to be lit, though that could be something like street lighting, as flood lighting is not a requirement for the activity itself.
- 2.5 The group have carried out public consultation in Longridge, and there was a very positive response to the idea.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The Kestor Lane site was at the request of Longridge Town Council and others made a Fields in Trust site several years ago. The Borough Councils' initial consultation with that body indicates they would be amenable to the idea; however, they would need to give formal approval as and when the scheme has a design to approve.
- 3.2 The open space at Kestor Lane is used as an informal recreation space for the town and is the venue for fun fairs and circuses as well as the annual Longridge Field Day. The proposed pump track would have some impact on these, depending upon the amount of space the facility is designed to occupy. At the present time the group are looking at a space of 2800m², however they have yet to commission a detailed design as they need funding for that and that would provide a more accurate indication of the space required. The football pitch on Kestor Lane has not been used for some time, though its' current location would be impacted, however, it would still be feasible to use the area for small, sided games if required, (e.g., 9v9, 7v7) or possibly fit a full-size pitch on the remaining grass area, once a detailed design was provided.
- 3.2 The project would cost upwards of £100k, (the actual amount depends upon track length and lighting provision).
- 3.3 The issue of funding will determine the level of provision arrived at, though the group behind the project are determined to create the best facility possible.
- 3.4 Ongoing costs post initial capital costs are an issue and how they are covered will be part of the business plan the group develop as they move to seek funding, if the Council agree in principle to the land being leased.
- 3.5 The issue of leasing is critical to the scheme, because bids for funding are normally based on a group owning or secured a lease on the site. The group would be the obvious lessee; however, it could equally be Longridge Town Council.

4. CONCLUSION

The scheme has considerable merit, in that it provides a new facility in Longridge with an appeal to a wide age range. This could benefit by helping people to become or get more active as well as potentially helping with efforts to minimise ASB in the town, in addition to the potential opportunity to draw people in from further afield to use the track, which could then have some economic benefit to the town traders.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications.
 - Resources – The Council own the land even though it is a Fields in Trust site, therefore it is the Council which would grant any lease on it for the project. The group are aware there is no capital or ongoing maintenance provision in the Councils budget. Income from the existing space is from fun fairs, etc.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The project if it progresses would be under the control of the group/Town Council.
- Political – None in the context of this report
- Reputation – The Council as landowner will determine if the project is able to move forward.
- Equality & Diversity – the project would facilitate both able bodied and disabled users.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Committee is asked to agree in principle that a lease is offered for the construction of the pump track.
- 5.2 Delegate the Director of Community Services to agree the terms of the lease for consideration by Committee at a future meeting.

MARK BEVERIDGE
Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111

Appendix 1

What is a PUMP TRACK?



A pump track is an increasingly popular way to encourage kids to exercise, whilst developing balancing and bike handling skills in a safe environment, away from traffic. It can be used by any type of bicycle, skateboards, scooters, roller blades, even wheelchairs. In fact it provides a great exercise workout for the whole family.

Well-engineered pump tracks have unique features that allow kids and adults of all skill levels to enjoy them at the same time, without fear of injury. A feature that a 5-year-old can roll through can be used as a gap jump for more advanced riders. All riding surfaces and edges are low to the ground, so riders are not at risk of falling from a high point. Rounded edges, gentle embankments and perfect geometry guarantee a safe ride.

This video of a pump track shows how kids of various ages and skills can ride safely together

