

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

meeting date: 24 MAY 2022
title: LONGRIDGE PUMP TRACK UPDATE
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update members on the progress of this community project.
- 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 – The project would help to provide diversionary activities for young people in Longridge and potentially help with some aspects of ASB in the Town.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee discussed this project at the last meeting, where a decision on the request for a lease for the land was deferred until the community group leading on the project were able to become fully constituted. (Minute ref. 709, 09/03/22)
- 2.2 A meeting was held with the group and Council officers on 28th April to discuss their progress and the scheme they wish to pursue. The group has now developed a constitution and elected people to posts in the group. They just need to establish their bank account, to enable them to begin to start fund raising.
- 2.3 An update was provided to the group from the March meeting and the recommendation from Committee, to delegate the lease agreement to the Director of Community Services, pending the group becoming constituted.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The group discussed how they thought it would be better if the Council were to fund and develop the project. However, it was pointed out that the Council have made it clear through its officers from the outset of the initial meetings about the project, that the Council has no funding allocated to such a project and that currently, several of its' own growth bids are in limbo pending the outcome of the Governments' decision on funding for Local Government.
- 3.2 The question of s106 funding was discussed and whilst such a scheme would lend itself to such funding, the length of time it would take to generate a sum to progress a scheme, meant that this source of funding might be useful for additional investment in the project, but it could not be relied on to help establish the funds to see the project develop in a timely manner.

3.2 The group are going to looking to investigate potential funding options available to them, as they will need to draw together the track proposals, which will require some initial funding and they will then need to submit the scheme for planning permission.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications.

- Resources – To date the only resource which has been used is officer time
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Council own the land where the group would like to build the track.
- Political – None in the context of this report
- Reputation – It may be that residents of Longridge would like to see the Council invest in this scheme, which may adversely impact on the Council because there is no budget allocation for such a scheme in the capital programme.
- Equality & Diversity – the project would facilitate both able bodied and disabled users.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The group are very enthusiastic to move the project forward and have appreciated the help and guidance provided to date from Council officers, moving forward the financing aspect will now come to the fore and that will determine how quickly the project can proceed.

MARK BEVERIDGE
Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

JOHN HEAP
Director of Community Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111