

REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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WHEELPARK VIVARY WAY COLNE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with proposals for land off Vivary Way Colne and seek Members comments on future actions regarding the installation of a wheel park

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That members decide whether to pursue this historical suggestion to create a wheel park or similar facility on available land between Pendle Leisure Centre and Bowker BMW.
- (2) If members decide to pursue the opportunity, it must also be decided which construction method to pursue so as to allow accurate designs and costings produced. The recommended option is a concrete formation, due to long term maintenance and life cycle costs, this would need a capital budget of a minimum £135,000.
- (3) As a prerequisite for many of the funding providers such as Sports England and Lancashire environmental fund, an element of match funding would be required from Colne Town council. Pendle Council is not proposing any match funding for the scheme bar £11,540 already allocated within the capital budget from relocation of the MUGA on Vivary Way.
- (4) The Town Council agree to provide an annual sum to cover the annual inspection, lifecycle and maintenance charges and minimum revenue charges incurred by Pendle Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Skateboarding, parkour and BMX stunt riding are an increasingly popular sport and the nearest facilities are several miles away.
- (2) The land was allocate to a potential wheel park as part of the planning application on the site.
- (3) The proposed site has good access, being close to the M65 / vivary way corridor and the railway station. It will also benefit from being close to the leisure Centre and could attract a full spectrum of recreational users to the area and increase footfall to Colne Town Centre.

ISSUE

1. It was requested at the meeting of the Colne and District committee on the 9th September 2021, that the lay of the land be investigated for its potential as a wheelpark.
2. The land between Bowker BMW and the Colne leisure centre car park has been outlined at previous meetings as a potential location for a skate park. The available space is 1200sqM.
3. The Nearest skate facilities within Pendle are in Sough Park, Sough and Victory Park, Barnoldswick. Burnley have a new skate park constructed within the last 2 years at Hargher Clough.

Discussion

1. The cost to construct a professional skate park will require significant officer time in public consultations and organisation, capital introduction from PBC Colne Town Council and for grant funding opportunities to be available for the scheme to be successful.
2. The current pump track for bmx bikes set up at the Stephen Burke Hub is very well used and attracts over 130 users at weekend sessions. Recent media coverage of the professional skateboarding has increased demand substantially.
3. There are 2 options when constructing a skate park, either a cast concrete structure or individual elements that are secured to the floor.
4. A cast concrete option is the preferred option as it is the most durable surface and is the typical construction method for professional users, as seen lately in the 2021 Olympics. It can be constructed to a wide array of designs following user consultations. This method of construction costs in the region of £450 per square metre. Based on an example size of 15m x 20 this would equate to a minimum of £135,000, but could be reduced or enlarged accordingly.
5. The second option is to prepare a Macadam surface and install prebuilt elements on the new surface. This type of construction is frowned up by user groups due to its limits of imagination as it is restricted to set pieces. This works out more economical at £38,000 for the groundworks and starts at £ 30,000 for the supply and install of equipment, totaling £68,000. This would be seen as a very basic option and 'the minimal requirement'. Dependent on the elements installed this could raise by an additional £25,000.

The downside to this option is it is seen as substantially noisier due to the echo and boom effect of hollow structures. This can cause noise pollution to nearby residents and business.

Maintenance is higher as the structures are a combination of steel, timber and fibreglass. As an example, an existing element at Victory Park is awaiting 2 new sheets of ramp surfacing, the cost is almost £2000 excluding installation.

6. The proposed location may cause concern as it will encourage groups of youths to congregate adjacent to many close parked cars from the leisure centre, and also close to the Bowker BMW compound containing many high value vehicles. Anti-social behaviour may be an issue with enhanced regular cleansing required.
7. Pendle Council are in the process of transferring out parks and facilities, and are not taking on new assets. If this proposal was to proceed it would become the responsibility of Colne Town Council.

8. There is currently £11,540 in Capital allocated to Vivary Way. Dependent on design and size, an additional £123,000 as a minimum would need to be raised by capital funding and from grants.
9. Should Members wish to pursue the creation of the facility we feel public consultation upon the designs and options for use be carried out with potential users, residents and businesses prior to quotations being sought.
10. Members are advised that to raise the amounts of funding needed to achieve this project, will require significant officer time that is limited, The Greenspaces Manager is willing to assist and oversee the creation of the facility for Members on the understanding that Environmental Services will be asked to maintain the facility once installed.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report

Financial: As set out within the report

Legal: None arising directly from the report. Land is owned by PBC and was last known to be leased to PLT. This would need transferring to Colne Town council

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report

APPENDICES

Example pictures of concrete and pre built skate elements

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS