

Dear All,

I would like to place an official complaint against Pendle Borough Council and their handling of the proposed pump track in Marsden Park and the misleading and un-true mentioning of this proposed pump track in last months Nelson Town Board meeting.

I apologize for complaining direct to yourselves, but the complaints form on your website is faulty and times out every time you try and submit a complaint, hence the e-mail. Also most of your councillors can't be reached by the e-mails given to the public, so it cannot be discussed with them either.

Firstly the minutes :-

These run from section 21 onwards

Statement 1

Public consultations have taken place on the proposed pump track and Bowling Green projects at Marsden Park.

Well yes there has been a Public Consultation regarding the pump track, which was poor and not well managed, but a public consultation on the Bowling Green project ? What consultation ? The public have not been informed by any consultation over the Bowling Green project. What are the plans. So this statement is untrue as there has been no public consultation regarding the Bowling Green, I, nor any other members of the public using Marsden Park had heard of any public consultation. The Bowling Green was not even mentioned at the farce of a consultation regarding the proposed pump track. This statement needs removing from the minutes.

I know Pendle Borough Council won't repair the fence around the Bowling Greens to make them safe from vandals and threatening groups of youths, making it virtually impossible poor bowlers to use these greens, so is that the plan, to make them unusable so they can put them to other cheaper uses? Save cutting the grass?

Statement 2

These consultations which concluded in August 2024, generally received positive feedback from the community.

Really? Are you serious? I was at the consultation, believe me there was no positive feedback from the local community at all. The only positive feedback that night was from the owner of a local cycle shop, a man who runs the pump track at Nelsons Swinden playing fields, a woman who promotes cycling in schools and your own Green Spaces Manager Mr Phil Riley, all have vested interests in the issue and are hardly the community and definitely not the local community who attended in large numbers and were against the idea. Also let's not forget one lady, attached to the Swinden pump track, who spent all night sat at a table filling in questionnaire after questionnaire with a positive bias!

Also the wording of it with *these consultations*, consultations mind not, consultation. Where was the other public consultation? Was it held in the Bowling Green pavilion behind locked gates and without the public? Or did it not take place?

Statement 3

However, a petition against the pump track was raised, prompting the project team to engage directly with the petitioners.

Yet another false statement. I was one of the people who handed in that petition and letter stating why we were against the pump track in Marsden Park. I have not been engaged with anyone from Pendle Borough Council. The project team have not communicated with me about it in any way shape or form. Reading this, I started asking other people who had signed the petition, no they had not been engaged directly with the project team either ! I was not surprised in my findings. So this is another false untrue and deceptive statement in the minutes. Please remove it.

Statement 4

This proactive engagement led to a significant change in public opinion with many initial concerns being addressed through open dialogue and transparent communication.

Oh these lies get even better! No concerns have been addressed. They can't stand a chance of being addressed because there is no open dialogue or transparent communication with anyone from the project team. Who is the project team? Team means a group of people, so please could one of you give me the names and emails of this team, this open and transparent team, so I can communicate with them. You must know them, they are members of Pendle Borough Council, you employ them. Who does this team consist of, I want to communicate with them all. Unfortunately, the only contact that I know of is Mr Phil Riley, and he is certainly not open and transparent at all, just the opposite. I have no idea how to communicate with this team, we sent them a joint letter along with the petition, all the concerns were in there. Still no communication, open or otherwise. This has ended up with Mr Riley I believe, but he has not openly communicated with me since we took the letter and petition to Pendle Borough Council about the concerns in that letter or what he is going to do with the petition, he has not even told me that he got the letter or the petition. Open and transparent dialogue my arse. You can't change public opinion if you don't communicate with them, so don't make a statement that you have.

As far as I can see, all these statements on the Nelson Town Board minutes are designed for one purpose only to deceive the general public as to what is happening, so that the proposed pump track gets any easy ride through any planning hearings and goes ahead despite of all the local public concerns. So planning department take note, the minutes are misleading and public opposition is immense. Which of course would be apparent to all if the minutes mentioned over 200 people had concerns over the pump track prompting them to sign this petition in the first place or is that too transparent for you Pendle Borough Council?

So please amend your minutes as soon as possible, do not deceive the members of public who read them.

Yours,