

REPORT FROM: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL SERVICES

TO: NELSON, BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE

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MARSDEN PARK PUMP TRACK LOCATION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information on potential locations for a new cycle pump track as part of the Nelson Town Deal Funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the contents of the report are noted.
- (2) That Members agree on which location to move forward with planning permission.
- (3) That Officers' recommendation of the lower triangle is strongly considered as the chosen location.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To understand the background to the proposals and associated views from members of the public.
- (2) To ensure proper decision making and timely progress with the Town Deal Project.
- (3) Officers recommended location addresses the majority of concerns raised by residents as well as providing a suitable site.

ISSUE

1 - As part of the Healthy Town funding package covering Marsden, Walverden and Victoria Parks, the construction of a BMX track within the woodland at Marsden had been put forward for consideration. This idea was removed due to concerns being raised around the health and safety of park users when BMX riders could be crossing the multitude of footpaths on site.

2 – This proposal has been replaced with a junior pump track proposal.

3 – There is currently an established senior grade pump track at Barrowford which is very well used and supported by the Pendle Panthers BMX Club who provide weekly coaching events and compete at a regional level. The club has offered to regularly run coaching sessions at the new facility as well.

4 – The proposed pump track would be of a lower ability level than Barrowford and act as an introductory site, suitable for children on cycles and scooters comprising a low-level tarmac surface with grass banking's and appropriate natural landscaping of trees and hedging.

5 – This pump track is not expected to be a 'destination' facility and is designed to be a local amenity. As such it is not anticipated to attract large volumes of vehicles, although in the initial period of opening there may be increased numbers attending.

6 – During the initial consultations for the Town deal projects on the 9th and 12th November 2022 held at Marsden old hall, the initial proposal for the pump track was to locate it on the site of the old Lido at the top of Hallam Road. This was rejected by residents as being close to the neighboring properties

7 – An alternative location was then suggested within the 'Bowl area' in the Centre of the park on the site of the current informal football pitch. A public consultation was held on site on the 11th of July 2024 and was well attended with a mix of opinions both in support and with concerns.

8 – A third location has been proposed within the triangle on the corner of Hallam Road and Marsden Hall Road. Posters were placed on site on the 20th November until the 20th of December requesting comments or feedback be sent to PBC parks department. Only 10 responses were received.

9 – Three additional locations have been suggested by members of the public at Lomeshaye Park, Southfield Street and adjacent to the playground on Walton lane. Lomeshaye park has been ruled out based on size. Southfield Street has been leaflet dropped to all local properties and posters displayed. Only 2 responses received, 1 positive and 1 negative. Walton lane is already subject to intensive usage

Table 1 showing location options

SITE	Positives	Negatives	Officer summary comment
Former Lido	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily Accessible from park and highway for public and emergency vehicles • Main Park car park can be utilized • Reasonably level ground • Adequate free space • Clear sightlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited parking options • Close to residential bungalows • Park users request to plant orchard or allotment on the site 	Suitable site but not ideal due to property in proximity

<p>Central Bowl</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level ground with positive slopes • Out of eyesight and reduced sound issues for residential properties • Contained and scenic space • Adequate free space • On main path through the park with wide views and access • Could be landscaped to enhance the aesthetic of the area • Economical area to physically construct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can sometimes be a wet site • Hidden from view from passing traffic • Less accessible for emergency vehicles • Concerns raised around users clashing with pedestrian through the centre of park • Site of most objections 	<p>Ideal location for a pump track construction but the most controversial</p>
<p>Lower Triangle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily Accessible from park and highway for public and emergency vehicles • Reduced need for cyclists to ride through the park • A reasonable distance from residential properties • Parking available on Marsden Hall road • Reasonable sightlines • Few direct objections received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradient of land is not ideal and offer less financial value due to required regrading works • Close to busy main road. Low fencing required to close existing gap in hedging to road • Usable space is limited 	<p>Suitable space to build, but the most costly and awkward to construct and of restricted space</p>
<p>Lomeshaye Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to public and emergency services from road and canal • No residential property in sight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usable space is extremely limited • Site is often very wet • Being so isolated could pose ASB increase 	<p>Not suitable due to Space constraints</p>

Southfield Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to public and emergency services from road • Simple to park on Southfield street • Reasonably level • Limited residential properties adjacent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not within constraints of park and associated funding from NTC • Potentially more risk of ASB or inappropriate use due to isolated area 	Acceptable but not preferred
Walton lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily constructed • Suitable gradient • Easy access for emergency services • Open sightlines • Reduced need for cyclists to travel through the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walton lane is already heavily used due to the playground / Tennis court / Bowls. No capacity for increased users or vehicles • Very close to residential properties 	This side of Marsden Park Is too busy and should not be considered

9 – A petition has been raised against the pump track being constructed within the bowl with 185 signatures, a counter petition with 152 signatures has been raised in support.

Table 2 showing response figures to surveys and associated petitions

Response Source	Positive	Negative
PBC Original 2022 consultation full park scheme	49 (+ 7 no preference)	11
PBC online consultation 2024 Bowl location	72	20
PBC Paper consultation 2024 Bowl location	20	14
Member of Public Petition 2024 Bowl location / whole park	60	185
PBC Poster consultation site 4 triangle 2024	6	4
Total	214	230

10 – Dependent on the final location chosen, various mitigating options can be implemented to address concerns raised. This may be additional hedging, fencing or tree planting, reduction in height of localised vegetation, additional signage or line markings on existing pathways. Any additional seating would be limited to a standard park bench to reduce encouragement of ASB gathering.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: Funding is provided through Nelson Town Deal.

Legal: None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management: Emergency access to facility to be considered on each location.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: Low maintenance design to be incorporated in construction.

Community Safety: Good practice of open sightlines to be include within construction design.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES

1. Map showing potential locations within Marsden Park
2. Map showing potential location at Lomeshaye Park
3. Map showing potential location at Southfield Street

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS: None.