

Project Variation

Pump Track at Victory Park

1. Project Details

Project name Pump Track at Victory Park	
Funding source	PIPIF
Approved allocation	£54,375 PIPIF Plus 1/ Area Committee £1,331 2/ Town Council: £19,294 Total: £20,625
Original proposal summary	Pump Track at Victory Park Delivery of a community pump track in Barnoldswick, with the original anticipated location being at Victory Park.
Variation requested	Recommendation to vary the project location from Victory Park to Clough Park, subject to the transfer of Clough Park and its associated car park (or the park on its own if the car park cannot be transferred) to Barnoldswick Town Council and agreement on project delivery arrangements.

2. Original Project Purpose

The original project was intended to provide a pump track facility for the community of Barnoldswick, creating a recreational asset for young people, families and cycling enthusiasts while encouraging physical activity and supporting the town's leisure offer.

The PBC Head of Greenspaces, who will deliver the project at the direction of Barnoldswick Town Council supports the view that they are popular and it will be used.

A policy benefit is that infrastructure for young people such as Pump tracks are considered to contribute to a reduction in anti social behaviour by giving young people a place to go for an activity.

It was envisaged when nominated that the facility could be located at Victory Park. However having considered this further the Town Council now think this would be an unsuitable location.

3. Reason for Variation

The variation is required because Victory Park is not considered suitable by the current administration at Barnoldswick Town Council.

A number of sites have been visited and considered by nominated representatives of Barnoldswick Town Council and the PBC Head of Greenspaces.

The Head of Greenspaces has passed on his views on each.

Two locations at Victory Park have been considered.

- The redundant bowling green has been deemed not suitable due to its size constraints and its proximity to local residents who may be disturbed by noise and increased levels of evening and weekend activity.
- The lower rugby pitch has been deemed not suitable as this would require a new access track to be constructed from the road. The Rugby Club make occasional use of the area for training and would be likely to object. The ground here can also become wet.

An area behind Greenfield allotments was also considered. This was considered not suitable due to topography requiring additional engineering works which could not be afforded in the available budget, it being physically separated from the main park, a public footpath crossing the site which may need to be diverted, close to residents who may object and concern about increased activity and anti-social behaviour occurring with the allotments.

Following assessment, the only site considered appropriate is an area within Clough Park. This location also benefits from existing car parking, improved accessibility for users and fewer compatibility issues with neighbouring land uses.

The Town Councils preferred option is Clough Park.

This would require the removal of an existing playground which is in poor condition and is in need of full replacement. It is well separated from nearby housing, reducing the likelihood of noise complaints. There is substantial on-site parking available. It is a flat site, reducing construction complexity and cost. It is also located alongside other recreational facilities, including the MUGA, creating a wider leisure offer. The pump track would link an underused grass area with the existing play provision.

Clough Park and its associated car park remain in the ownership of Pendle Borough Council. Barnoldswick Town Council has advised that it would only be willing to adopt and maintain the pump track should the park asset and its car park (or at least the park on its own) transfer into Town Council ownership through an asset transfer process.

4. Proposed Revised Scope

The proposal remains focused on delivering a pump track facility for the community of Barnoldswick. The principal change is the proposed relocation of the project from the originally identified park to another location.

The revised project would be subject to:

- Final agreement by Barnoldswick Town Council.
- Progression of discussions regarding the asset transfer of Clough Park and its associated car park (or just the park if car park cannot be part of the transfer) from Pendle Borough Council to Barnoldswick Town Council.
- Confirmation of delivery arrangements and programme timescales.

The Town Council Chair confirms that discussions regarding transfer of the Clough Park assets have previously been explored with PBC as part of the current transfer programme. The Chair has already now reengaged the Asset Transfer Officer at PBC about the transfer taking place within the timescales for PIPIF. Progress on these discussions will determine whether the revised proposal can proceed within the available funding timescales.

Should the project progress at Clough Park, it would still achieve the original strategic objective of providing a pump track facility for the Barnoldswick community, albeit at a different location than originally envisaged.

At the meeting on 24th September 2026 the Town Council resolved clough Park as being their preferred location and resolved to adopt the Clough Park assets.

- Provides a more sustainable long-term management arrangement through adoption by Barnoldswick Town Council.
- Continues to contribute to recreation, active travel and youth engagement objectives within Barnoldswick.
- Enables delivery of a community asset which remains a local priority.

6. Budget and Funding Position

- The project allocation remains unchanged at this stage.
- The proposed variation relates primarily to the project location and delivery arrangements rather than the overall project objective.
- A key consideration is the requirement to commit PIPIF funding within programme timescales. For projects delivered directly by Pendle Borough Council, funding must be committed through contracts or purchase orders by the end of March 2027.
- Where projects are delivered by a third party, a Grant Funding Agreement constitutes commitment of funds for PIPIF purposes and allows the grant allocation to remain within Council budgets while delivery continues beyond the commitment date.
- Should timescales for asset transfer become challenging, It may be that an interim arrangement is required to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. Consideration can also be given to the issue of a Grant Funding Agreement to Barnoldswick Town Council, enabling the Council and Head of Greenspaces to continue progressing the project while ensuring compliance with programme requirements.

7. Risks and Considerations

- The project remains dependent upon agreement and progression of the Clough Park asset transfer process.
- The timescale for asset transfer of this asset is currently unknown and could impact delivery programming.
- Failure to secure asset transfer may prevent the project proceeding at the preferred location
- Alternative delivery mechanisms may need to be considered to ensure PIPIF funding can be committed by March 2027.
- Ownership, maintenance and liability responsibilities for the pump track must be clearly established before delivery.
- Any planning, environmental or technical requirements associated with the revised location will need to be identified and addressed.

8. Recommended Variation

The approved project was for a pump track in Victory Park. The variation is to remove the geographic status so that the most appropriate location can be identified. Currently this is thought to be Clough Park, subject to asset transfer.

Timescales permitting, this would support the retention of the original intended outcome of providing a pump track facility for the community of Barnoldswick while responding to site constraints identified since the project was originally approved and increasing the likelihood of successful long-term management of the completed facility.

1. To support the proposal and recommend the change to the Chief Executive of PBC, who in turn will consult with the Leader and Deputy Leader in making a final decision.
2. Area Committee allocated a portion of funds to the project. Committee is requested to continue to support the project with this allocation, should it be required.
3. To support the principle of asset transfer of the assets at Clough Park required for this project