

Broadclyst BMX Track – Proposed Improvements

Report to Council

Following recent discussions regarding the Broadclyst BMX track, a meeting was held with several local parents and young people who regularly use the facility. The purpose of the meeting was to gather feedback on how the track is currently being used and to understand what improvements could be made to ensure the track works better for its users.

It was very positive to see the young people engaging constructively and taking an interest in improving a facility that they regularly use. Their suggestions were thoughtful and focused on making the track safer and more enjoyable for riders.

Feedback from Users

The young people explained that they would like to make some changes to the internal layout of the track to improve how it rides and flows. These suggested changes would involve reshaping certain areas of the track rather than altering the overall footprint.

To enable this work to take place, the use of a mini digger for approximately half a day would be required to reshape the earth where necessary.

Seating

The young people and parents also highlighted that there is currently no seating area around the track. They suggested installing two benches, which would provide somewhere to sit and a place for riders to leave bags and equipment while using the track.

A number of quotes have been obtained for suitable benches, also included is an in-house option by the Council's Maintenance Team. These will be provided to Council for consideration in a separate report in the Confidential part of the meeting.

Storage for Tools

It was also suggested that having a small storage box containing basic tools (such as spades) would allow users to maintain and adjust the track themselves over time.

However, concerns were raised that a permanent storage box could potentially become a target for antisocial behaviour or vandalism, and this risk would need to be considered before any decision is made.

Financial Considerations

The Parish Council currently holds £1,500 in Earmarked Reserves (EMR) allocated for the BMX track, plus this current year's budget allocation. These funds could potentially be used to support the proposed improvements.

Summary of Requests

The following items were discussed as potential improvements:

- Reshaping parts of the internal track layout
- Hire of a mini digger and driver for approximately half a day
- Installation of two benches near the track
- Consideration of a tool storage box and basic maintenance tools

Recommendation

Council is asked to consider the feedback from the BMX track users and decide whether it wishes to support the proposed improvements and allocate funding from the BMX Track EMR if appropriate.

1. To approve the improvements to the BMX track and consider the associated bench provision as detailed in a separate report.
2. To agree and allow the purchase of the storage container if funds allow.
3. To buy a selection of tools if funds allow.
4. Delegation to the Assistant Clerk (NC) to move the project forward.