

BROWNS FIELD BMX TRACK - CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AS OF 21st JAN 2014

DATE/ RESPONSE TYPE	Please tell us your views about the Proposed BMX Track	Support the Proposal?
18/12/2013 WEB SURVEY	As a longtime resident of Sherbourne Close, Brown's Field I will be affected by the building of a BMX track. I live in a first floor flat of which the main view out is over the recreation area. All the first floor flats in the long row overlooking the area only have one bedroom and are mostly occupied by singletons. To my knowledge there are no children. We have to put up with shouting, screaming children at week-ends and whenever the weather isn't totally awful and this can cause stress, anxiety and anger. To this you propose to add a BMX track with sound effects to add to our woes. Why? You say that the area is already used as an informal track but that is hardly the case in my experience. Who is driving this proposal? There seems to be no demand for it. It certainly hasn't been made by anyone thinking and caring about the local residents. I have lived long enough in the Cambridge City Council area to realise that, when you say "proposal", what you really mean is "this is the way it's going to be" and that this consultation is just a sop to the electorate. I also realise that you will receive more votes in favour of the proposal than against and you will see this as a "green light" not taking into account that those in favour will not live next to Brown's Field (like I do) and will see the BMX track as, either something their own kids can do to get them out of the house, or a way of clearing their local streets of unruly youths. In the same way if there was five tons of smelly manure that had to be stored I would vote that it goes in the front garden of whoever "proposed" the BMX track knowing full well that he doesn't live anywhere near me. Believe me that, if I could move away from this area, I would. But I can't. I am stuck here and will, unfortunately, have to live with the manure you're going to put near me.	NO
19/12/2013 WEB SURVEY	I think the track design is fine, if a little unimaginative and repetitive, but the electronic timing system is a really unnecessary expense and a bad gimmicky idea. People can have fun without it being competitive, or if they especially want to time each other they can use a stopwatch app on the smartphone they undoubtedly own. The system would probably just break or be vandalised and presents a potential obstacle for riders to crash into.	YES BUT WITH RESERVATIONS
23/12/2013 RECEIVED IN THE MAIL	Given that it is a bit of a wasteland, it makes sense to turn it into something that can be enjoyed by kids. Also gets them out of main green area where we walk with children and dogs.	YES
24/12/2013 RECEIVED IN THE MAIL	As I live in Sherbourne Close flats, I am concerned amount increased noise, also young people climb over the fence into our site I am concerned these incidents might increase and possibility of petty crimes therefore insurance.	NO

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24/12/2013 RECEIVED IN THE MAIL	<p>Sherbourne Close property owner, in order of importance:-</p> <p>1) during warm weather children often climb or jump over the fence into Sherbourne Close and then behind the properties swing on the washing line or hang around in the buildings. Please ensure investment is made to strengthen and improve the security + fences - otherwise I have little objection. I would like the fence to be climb proof.</p> <p>2) BMX will also mean skate boarding I would like to see more sound proofing barrier around the track.</p> <p>3) it is important to make it clear that motorised bikes (especially the bike with sound reduction removed)</p>	YES BUT WITH RESERVATIONS
02/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	<p>I think this is a terrible proposal. I live in Sherbourne Close & my flat backs on to the grounds of the community centre. In 13 years I have never seen any use of the grounds by BMX bikes. I can see most of the grounds from my windows, so I am not at all mistaken. Motor cycles are used (no license plates of course) to race around and cause much noise. The police are not interested when I or my neighbours report this. Children using the community centre facilities regularly jump over the fence separating the properties, behaving abusively & littering. On discussion with community centre staff, they tell me that anyone using the field grounds are not under the centre's responsibility as the grounds are considered 'high ways' and anyone using the grounds inappropriately have nothing to do with them. This includes ANYONE using the centre, child or adult. I want to know who will be responsible for monitoring the use of such a track which I understand to be on grounds not under community jurisdiction, bearing in mind the problems already in existence, especially in school holidays? This field is right in the middle of a residential area and the rights of residents living in close proximity to be able to enjoy their homes and surrounding area does not appear to be of importance. If this goes ahead, with the same premiss of no responsibility and regular monitoring of the grounds, I say it is a waste of tax payers money and a tick boxing exercise for some PC community 'do gooder' who has no real sense of the community as a whole.</p>	NO
04/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	<p>We live opposite this site and we already experience youths causing trouble and especially when the nights are drawing in, i feel this will attract more kids to hang around and would oppose this, how is it going to be managed. It is not overlooked and i feel it will be a area for trouble. Also how will it be lit, this is a residential area and lighting would show up too much. Build it on a common land like stourbridge, more accessible and more space.</p>	NO
04/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	<p>Great idea for the children and teenagers in the area. Should also include a sheltered seating area for those waiting and watching (similar to that at Orchard Park skate ramp), and enough bins to try and prevent littering becoming an issue.</p>	YES
04/01/2014 WEB	<p>Brilliant idea. I don't necessarily think that the sound effects are needed. Will there be any on going maintenance annually?</p>	YES

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SURVEY	Reshaping etc. The possibility of having the 180 degree berms of tarmac instead of dirt for durability. This is very popular in the same projects in London.	
06/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	I think the track is a great idea we do not have enough off road cycling activities in the area, the nearest national BMX track is at Royston. Its a known fact that many of the current crop of professional cyclists started out racing BMX. I am not sure the timing lights are required the additional cost of this would be better spent on tarmac the berms to make the track truly all weather and will reduce the maintenance of having to resurface the berms regularly with fresh limestone. Most BMXs now have tarmac berms.	YES
06/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Great idea, need more of these for the kids to use. I have been involved with royston bmx club for a number of years and seen a lot of happy children enjoying and keeping kit, regularly using the facility, Need more in Hertfordshire as well	YES
06/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Please do it! I am moving to Cambridge from Reading. In Reading there are at least four such tracks. They are all well used and an excellent and cheap activity for children. My son (7) uses them at least two days a week.	YES
06/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	To whom it may concern. Firstly I should point out that I am a UCI BMX Commissaire, British Cycling BMX Commission member and Chairman of the Royston BMX Racing club and have been involved at all levels of the sport for over 20 years so my comments are purely based on BMX Racing as a sport. I am very concerned that you plans show a closed loop circuit that is being fitted with some form of timing system that will encourage riders to race as fast as they can around the track which appears to have no fencing or control for other riders entering the track at any point - or indeed riding the wrong way round the track - an accident waiting to happen! Just imagine a 15yr old rider coming up to the end of the lap, head down, not looking at anything apart from the track immediately ahead and then running into the back of 6yr old rider waiting at the start! The design of BMX tracks is very difficult if it is to be ridden by riders of all ages and abilities - I would hope you will be contracting a professional track building company to finalise the design and carry out the build - just have a well meaning digger driver building jumps and berms is asking for a track that can't be ridden by all ages and abilities and may well be the cause of accidents. I would strongly suggest you build a standard format BMX track - no closed loop of riding surface, a proper start hill, no timing equipment to encourage BMXers to race and non BMXers to vandalise!	YES BUT WITH RESERVATIONS
07/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Thinks it's an excellent proposal. Promotes fitness, competitive spirit and fun - what every young (and old) person needs! Crack on with it - I'll be bringing the bmx...	YES

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07/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	I think that the children and young people who currently use the informal track, and the young people in the area should be consulted on their views, to ensure that this idea fits with their usage and what they would like. It would be a shame to see something that has been used and developed informally by the young people, become disused because the new formal/permanent track is not suitable. If this is what they would like then great, it is good that facilities are being created for them.	YES BUT WITH RESERVATIONS
08/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	It is embarrassing a city the size of Cambridge does not have a BMX track and draw National events from all of the Country. Cambridge used to lead the World in many areas, now it is just filled with cars, students and flats, a great shame. Cambridge really needs a proper Skate Park (like in the 1970's on Newmarket Road) and an Olympic / National BMX Track, indoor Velo area.	GENERAL COMMENT
08/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Good idea. Please do it.	YES
08/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Excellent idea. Great to see Cambridge supporting BMX	YES
08/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Wow, this is brilliant news. I am flabbergasted that Cambridge City council have shown this much vision with such an exciting project, especially after the disastrous news that Bar Hill lost its skate park. Well Done. BMX and street sports are very popular with the youngsters, and are often overlooked by councils, especially, I think, because many of the kids who partake are from the lower end of the economic scale. It is because of these kids that it is so important to have facilities like this and the skate parks at Arbury park and Jesus Green. These kids cannot afford to join most rugby clubs and often struggle to get parental commitment to take them to other activities such as football away games. I will be really pleased to see this happen. I would encourage the council to put plenty of litter bins in with signs asking them to use them, making sure they are clear of the track in case of crashes and to ensure that any track timing device proposed is very robust. 99 percent of the kids will look after this facility, but there will always be one or two kids who will try to muck it up for others. It will be good to have a quality track in Cambridge, as the nearest decent tracks are Royston and Peterborough. Thank you for this, I really hope it goes ahead. I expect you may have lots of NIMBY complaints, lets hope this does not spoil this for all the youngsters who so desperately need quality facilities to stimulate their minds and bodies.	YES
09/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	I highly recommend this gets built. If one of these was available to me as a kid, I'd have been thrilled! Good exercise, fun, should keep the young 'uns from getting into unsavoury past times.. like listening the music of today.. that should be a crime against humanity but that's for another debate. Please please build this :)	YES

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09/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	I think it is an excellent idea. As I don't live alongside the site, I personally would not be affected by the noise from children's chatter and shrieks. During the day any such noise would be masked by the usual traffic noise from Green End Road or activities within the dwellings. There could be a problem in the light long summer evenings. If that were to occur, perhaps the Centre Manager or the police community support officer could talk to the children.	YES
09/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Excellent way to spend public funds - I race and I know the kids are passionate about it and it's a great way of keeping kids occupied outside / alternative to gaming stations . Well done and let's hope it comes to fruition	YES
09/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Awesome!	YES
12/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Brilliant idea. (I'm too old to use it!)	YES
13/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	I am not and have never been a BMX-er? but i think it looks great, and amazing way to entertain and include more people with a physical exercise benefit. Go for it! :)	YES
13/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	I think it looks a very exciting initiative and I hope the proposal goes ahead.	YES
19/01/2014 WEB SURVEY	Looks like a great idea, I am sure it would be well used. Three or four wide would be ideal, and there would be less queuing. Would be great to have well signed recycling options. Saffron Walden skate park is good example of this kind of facility working well. Very positive.	YES

SUMMARY		
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	DOESN'T SUPPORT (A NEARBY RESIDENT)	4
	GENERAL COMMENT PROVIDED	1