

APPLICATION NO: 15/02065/FUL		OFFICER: Mr Ben Hawkes	
DATE REGISTERED: 30th November 2015		DATE OF EXPIRY : 25th January 2016	
WARD: Leckhampton		PARISH: Leckhampton with Warden Hill	
APPLICANT:	Ms N Powel		
LOCATION:	Burrows Sports Field, Merlin Way, Cheltenham		
PROPOSAL:	Construction of BMX pump track		

REPRESENTATIONS

Number of contributors	200
Number of objections	117
Number of representations	0
Number of supporting	83

Two petitions also attached: one in support, one in objection

8 Coltham Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 6RL

Comments: 5th December 2015

Think this is a fantastic idea, will give local children/teenagers and adult somewhere to ride. will encourage individuals to learn a new sport, practice their skills and meet new people.

Roseville
Main Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 4XF

Comments: 5th December 2015

This currently quiet park would be badly affected by the extra people and traffic, noise and general privacy introduced by such a unnecessary development.

53 Hawthorn Way
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire
GL20 8TQ

Comments: 5th December 2015

This will attract unwanted noise, traffic and yobs.

Look out of place in a beautiful park.

Affect local privacy.

Be a waste of money.

1 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HG

Comments: 7th December 2015

We feel that this proposal is worth serious consideration. Leckhampton is a diverse community, popular with families, but which doesn't have many public facilities for those families. The addition of the track would promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle. We have children who are likely to use such a track and we would like it in a public, safe place where there are many park users passing by. A multi-use space is a safer place for everyone.

32 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 14th December 2015

Letter attached.

26 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 10th December 2015

Green Space: - With all proposed building work within Leckhampton we NEED our green space to be kept for children, adults, dogs and the natural wild life that live here. Children do need exercise, what's wrong with ball games, throwing a Frisbee, flying a kite? Why do we need another BMX track? There is one due to open in March 2016 at Birdlip! A lot of local residents like to walk their dogs, exercise, jogging around the park, children enjoy playing ball games, or just like to sit and enjoy the view of Leckhampton Hill. With this proposed thing, people, children and dogs will be at risk of being injured by unsupervised children, teenagers and idiots on bikes coming from far and wide to use this monstrosity. The park will be deemed unsafe and will not be the quite park it is known for.

A large part of the park will be uprooted and a monstrosity of tarmac/rubber or whatever the material this thing will be made of will not be aesthetically pleasing!

During the wet season the grass will be churned up by bikes riding across the park to this track and it will be ruined! Who will pay to have the grass put down again? The Tax Payers, who are paying for this thing?

The field is well portioned and will be over burdened by this monstrosity that is proposed. The field is low maintenance, only needing white lines for cricket/football and posts that can be removed.

What about the no cycling bylaw on the field? Are people going to stick to this? NO! you can not keep the amount of people this thing will attract under control! The field will be scarred forever!

No cycling is permitted along the footpaths (National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949) where this track is proposed to go! How will people get to it? I am not happy about the amount of strangers walking past the houses on the Grove to get to this track! Who knows what

could happen with all the extra foot traffic? This footpath is lightly travelled by people going to and from the allotments and tennis courts. This track will increase the amount of traffic along this small footpath. There are a lot of elderly people who live along this quite Grove who appreciate the quietness of this area.

Where will the entrance be? I am sure that the people who rent/own the allotments will not be happy about bikes and hundreds of people trekking through their fruit and vegetable patches, breaching their peaceful thoughts.

As no cycling is allowed on the footpath, the only other place would be the entrance to the car park itself! This would be bikes, not to mention the above issues with parking, cycling down to this track, which is not permitted by the bylaw governing Burrows Sports Field!

This track will be detrimental to the views over the field. What about the wildlife that live in the field? There are bats, shrews, field mice, fox's birds, moles, to name a few who's homes would be uprooted for this track! Where would they go?

Who will patrol the site at night? The gate to the park is not shut, which would mean the track would be abused by youths at night, especially during the holidays! You can not expect an over stretched police force to do regular nightly patrols.

24 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 5th December 2015

I strongly object to this unnecessary development. It will attract trouble in the form of increased traffic in an already over congested area where cars appear abandoned on the paths and dangerously blocking local drives and even junctions during busy periods.

Our local privacy and outlook will be degraded.

Cycle tracks could be carved in the currently well maintained grassed area with increased mud deposits.

The park already attracts unwanted antisocial behaviour in the late evenings, and this will only get worse. I've already been forced to call the police on many occasions.

The money could be much better spent on more pressing issues. Has anyone even considered the upkeep to avoid it becoming a derelict ruin and the health and safety issues it could bring with accidents from inexperienced and reckless behaviours.

I also note the people in favour do not live locally so wont understand the impact it will cause to the area and home owners.

22 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 30th November 2015

I live in Moorend Grove, which is directly opposite the Burrows Field. I object to this proposal to a BMX track. It would cause more havoc in the park and surrounding area. I have spoken to a few people along the Grove and they agree that this would not be a good idea.

Our next door neighbour's, are elderly and not computer literate. I have been asked by them to pass on their views and they are not in favour of the proposed BMX track.

We, my husband and I, have had to call the police out on numerous occasions regarding disturbances in the park. For example, youths on mopeds, cars, performing reckless stunts and youths smoking odd looking substances and leaving syringes in the car park area. This is a quiet neighbourhood which has excessive traffic at weekends due to football practice and matches in the winter, and cricket matches in the summer. The current car park is unable to cope with the excessive traffic during these times. During the evenings there are no security measures in place (i.e., the gate is not locked, no lighting in the park) unwanted attention will only get worse.

A skateboarding and BMX circuit can be found a 5-minute walk away in Hatherley and there is also one in Montpellier Gardens. Why would we want another so close to houses and Broadlands Pre-school?

We were not asked to sign any petition regarding the BMX track.

18 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 7th December 2015

1.Noise & disturbance issue.

The residences adjacent to the sports field are already subjected to high volume/ boisterous noise from the football/cricket/players and spectators over the Saturday & Sundays. The prospect of an every day/evening of keen ,exuberant BMX Riders & their spectators would be most unwelcome. This is a quiet residential area on the outskirts of Cheltenham. I understand we even have got Bats roosting in the willow tree next to the stile into Lotts Meadow!

2.Traffic issue.

The route to-and-from the field is already overloading Moorend Grove to capacity over match days . The car park quickly fills up and the balance drivers get irate when they get diverted onto most of the local roads. It takes ½ hour to disperse after match time.

3.Visual Impact.

This BMX track will be fairly high. It will probably need a surrounding fence and lighting. To gain access the riders (plus parents/visitors) will need to trek over the water-logged field between the carpark/entrance & the BMX site.....there are no alternate adjacent main roads to facilitate this extra traffic.

4.Privacy.

Residential privacy will obviously be impaired due to the influx of out-of-towners.

5.Amenity.

The amenity would obviously be enjoyed by young & old . It would also be appreciated by those living in Cheltenham. However there is a problem. It will attract lots of interest outside the borough. The Burrows Sports Field hasn` t even got any public toilets!

This is no doubt why a full scale amenity has been launched at Birdlip. See FLYUP 417 Project website. This facility will be open to the public from 14 March 2016.It will include an Indoor Pump

Track, an Indoor & Outdoor Dirt Track and a Dual Slalom suitable for all bikes. A more readily accessible small local facility should be at the Brizen Youth Centre.

14 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 4th December 2015

This is a quiet residential area which is unsuitable for this type of recreation. There are no public conveniences and limited parking. There have already been a number of complaints to police regarding anti social behaviour in the field. This can only make matters worse. Surely Pittville is the ideal area for this facility.

16 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 1st December 2015

Great idea for Cheltenham 'BMXers' but not in the location proposed. It directly impacts local walkers Me! with or without dogs as this playing field provides the only green area and access to neighbouring countryside without having to use a car. I have been happy to put up with the inconvenience currently with the existing sporting activities 4 football matches, cricket, tennis, the children's facilities, fitness activities and the attendant parking issues directly impacting me. I use the playing area plus nearby countryside everyday, avoiding the sporting activities especially at weekends, its an important amenity to someone of my age! If Burrows is the only suitable area in Cheltenham, how about losing one football pitch and locating the track in the other corner of Burrows away from houses and not by the heavily used allotments/church road/farmers field corner.

21 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LN

Comments: 14th December 2015

I would like to make a number of comments:

1. Please note that many of the bmx track supporters shown on your planning application website come from surrounding areas of Cheltenham, Gloucester, Tewksbury, Swindon and even Bristol.
2. This can only mean that if they intend to use the proposed track there will be a vast increase in traffic at all times of the day and evenings adding to the congestion around the entrance to the park and surrounding roads.
3. Both Pittville Park and Arle have in recent years been turned down for a bmx track on the grounds of increased traffic and anti social behaviour. I would therefore ask you to consider very carefully why this proposal in a residential area would be deemed any better.
4. When the proposer held the open morning in Burrows in October the photograph of the proposed track showed jumps of 2 to 2.5 feet. All of the local signed supporters would have seen the photograph of a small safe child friendly track as this was shown with the petition. However

this photograph is not really representative of the actual proposal before you as the new design has ramps and corners up to 6ft high and looks much more like a national bmx racing circuit.

5. I do not believe a bmx national racing circuit in Burrows Field is in keeping with the residential area concerned

Comments: 27th December 2015

In my view the new application for a footpath in the field just adds to the argument that Burrows field is not the right location for this project. Burrows is a green space and it would be much better to have this facility at Pittville Park.

In the proposers letter it was stated that the 4 other BMX tracks were not causing any problems. A search on the internet showed that The BMX Track at Frome was closed down due to Health and Safety concerns soon after opening and the track at Quedgeley has had to build a 1.2 metre fence around the circuit again for Health and Safety reasons.

We have already seen a revised application and I can envisage that should this go through this circuit will also need a fully enclosed fence to help keep safe the riders from dogs and stray footballs and dogs safe from riders. Burrows field is just not the right location.

17 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LN

Comments: 6th December 2015

Very concerned about the lack of public conveniences at this site..... as well as the lack of parking. On reading various comments, it seems people are prepared to travel from Bristol, Swindon etc to use a BMX track. Perhaps they could support the Birdlip facility a couple of miles away, which is due to open to the public in March'16. No doubt there will be adequate toilets and parking there. Leckhampton does not need a BMX track when there will soon be a "super facility" for BMX fans very close by in a few months time.

15 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LN

Comments: 2nd December 2015

The design and access statement of the proposal states there are no other provisions of this kind within Gloucestershire area.

As we speak Flyup 417 Project are building a facility which will cater for most riding styles and bikes, They will have an indoor pump track as well as indoor and outdoor dirt jumps, which will be accessible for BMX. They will also have a dual slalom which is suitable for any bike.

The facility will open to the public from 14th March 2016.

Location, off the 417 near Birdlip.

So due to the fact this facility will open early next year, close to Leckhampton, do we really need another track.

Like the other objectors I have concerns with the noise and potential anti social behaviour a facility like this may cause.

Parking around this location is limited, at weekends the surrounding roads are filled with cars, this facility will only add to the problem.

No Toilet facilities are available to the general public, which could lead to Anti social behaviour.

Please listen to the residents who back onto the field as this will affect us the most.

46 Merlin Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LU

Comments: 11th December 2015

1. Character of field

Burrows field has a unique character as a green space loved and enjoyed by us and many other local residents. It is used regularly for dog walking, team sports, socialising and various recreational activities. This proposal would be very detrimental to that unique character. A large man-made construction would be incongruous in this situation.

2. Parking

Parking is already a problem when team sports are taking place. The car park quickly becomes full and local roads become congested and difficult to navigate. This is a source of difficulty both for the residents and the visiting participants. The fact that the proposed track would attract people from outside the locality who would therefore arrive in cars would exacerbate this problem. Further, it is imperative that access for emergency vehicles should be maintained at all times.

3. Flooding

There are already concerns about flooding in the area. A large hard-landscaped construction such as that proposed would reduce the area of natural ground which can help to soak away rain water. The area proposed for the track already becomes muddy during times of heavy rainfall. The installation of this track together with riders getting to and from the track and congregating around it is likely to make matters worse.

4. Noise

We are concerned that local residents may be bothered by noise from the area, particularly in Summer when it is light well into the evening.

5. Safety

We are also concerned about safety issues; safety of the riders themselves and the safety of dogs that would not recognise the boundaries of the track, particularly as the track is unfenced and unsupervised.

6. Maintenance

It is proposed that ongoing maintenance will be carried out by a user group in conjunction with the council. We fear that with no legally binding obligation on the user group its enthusiasm may dwindle, leaving the council holding the baby.

7. No cycling

Currently cycling is not allowed on the field. The introduction of this track would be in contravention of that. If it were to go ahead, how would riders be prevented from impinging on the playing fields?

8. Existing alternatives

We believe there are already and soon will be alternatives. For serious BMX riders a facility is to be opened in Birdlip in March 2016. For recreational riders there are already facilities at

9. Alternative sites

If a new BMX track is really desirable enough to invest in, there are potential more suitable sites such as Brizen Farm Playing Field and Pittville.

4 Clarence Road
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire
GL20 5TD

Comments: 7th December 2015
NONE GIVEN

3 Charnwood Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HL

Comments: 9th December 2015
Letter attached.

6 Merlin Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LT

Comments: 9th December 2015
Letter attached.

85 Church Road
Leckhampton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PF

Comments: 7th December 2015

I live very near the proposed BMX track and I am fully supportive of it. I think we need more facilities like this for our local children to keep them healthy, fit and active. It is a wonderful plan and the children of Leckhampton will fully benefit from this proposed facility. There are National drives and evidence-based government plans to tackle childhood obesity, strongly linked to lack of exercise, and as such I feel we should be supporting anything that gets our children out and active. This (large) field is a shared space but there's currently limited provision for sporting facilities for children of the age group for which this track is intended.

50 Kelbra Crescent
Bristol
BS36 2TS

Comments: 4th December 2015
NONE GIVEN

10 Dinas Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 3EP

Comments: 1st December 2015

This is a brilliant opportunity for my kids. We won't have to drive to our nearest BMX track which has to be good for the environment. This area is a recreation area so why shouldn't it have a bike track. There are loads of football pitches around.

16 Ewlyn Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7PB

Comments: 1st December 2015

A great idea, I feel Cheltenham has missed a beat not creating a pump track sooner. A proven way to help people further their cycling and located in a nice safe park (minus the syringes).

Luckily the car park issue shouldn't be made any worse by having a pump track. I would imagine that most users will cycle there anyway.

There are no 'BMX CIRCUITS' in Cheltenham unfortunately, there are small parks for skateboarders and inline skaters so it would be lovely to have an area to use designed specifically for bikes.

Another point worth mentioning would be that cycling is a comparatively low noise activity so this tranquil neighbourhood should not see any greater noise impact. Certainly nothing louder than people shouting at their children when they play football.

Thank you Cheltenham Borough Council for getting behind something so positive.

Anyone against the track being built, bring your bike down once the track is complete. I will be more than happy to ride with you and we can have all of the fun!

91 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 1st December 2015

This is such a fantastic idea. This is something for all ages and abilities. This will be great for the local area and the location is perfect. Very strongly support. Burrows field is a big field and this will take up very little of the open space that is there. We need something of this kind as other areas outside of Cheltenham have these facilities already but we have nothing of its kind. The local children will benefit greatly and its a great way to keep active. This will definitely be used.

Comments: 30th December 2015

The path leading up to the track would be great not only for the pump track users but also for runners, walkers, elderly and disabled people .. (this has been mentioned a few times by local users in the 2 open days that have been held at the site) It would be good to see a path all the way around the park. Having read all of the comments against this proposal i still cannot see any problem with this as it is beneficial to all. It is in a isolated corner of the field away from any houses and will not interfere with anyone view from there living room or kitchen windows. It will not stop people walking there dogs, people playing football or rugby or others who want to use the field for ball games.

Comments: 6th January 2016

In response to St Brizen Kidnappers Lane :

I first went to a Leckhampton Parish Council meeting in November 2014 with this proposal .

1. I was told they did not deal with Burrows Field or the Old Pats Playing Field , I tried to give an adhoc talk but came across like Norman Wisdom although i was warmly welcomed and wished well i was told to go to the council ,Several people gave me their cards at this meeting and they have been of great help since.
2. I then had posters made with a For and Against Tick box and i put these up in the local Shops and on Leckhampton Road and Bath Road.
3. Having got a good response i went to the Local Council and had a meeting where i showed plans and my ideas i also got a good response there.
4. We kept the petition rolling at the Local Shops whilst waiting for a decision on what would be the best site.
5. We had a open day at Burrows having flyerred alot of the houses in the local area.
6. The proposal went to planning.
7. An Environmental Check was done after concerns, Nothing was found regarding Newt's Bat's or any endangered animals. (The report can be seen on this site).
8. This proposal is away from houses, will not cause noise pollution no more than a dog barking or an owner calling their dog.
9. A Path around the whole park would be welcomed having talked to dog walkers and joggers as not everyone (disabled and others who have mobility issues) can access this facility at the moment.
10. The corner of the field does get muddy and the small stream gets dammed up, although a channel has been cut into the field to flood it. And Daming is a sport for some children.
11. With the wettest winter on record the area around the track would still not be affected.
12. I fully support the Regional Racing Track in Gloucester But I did not submit the Plans this was done by Steven Perry (I had/ Have no involvement in this at all apart from supporting it)
13. Quedgeley is a 30 mile round trip from Leckhampton A 40 minute drive both ways if your lucky.
14. Bishops Cleeve Track is not fit for purpose having been built from the wrong materials although the kids do make use of it in the summer as best as they can. This is also A 40 minute drive.

15. My 7 year old son has many friends that would like to ride with him and as a rider myself i would like a facility. I am 46. (A lot of Locals want to use this Facility)
16. Bromham Pump Track is like the Proposed Track it sits in the corner of a field in Wiltshire surrounded by fields backing on to a lovely Hill away from houses. Our site cannot be compared to Quedgeley.
17. Leglag used their data base to call on Aprox 800 people to shut our plan down I told friends to rally to my support, and They did. Some set up online petitions and some wrote in to Planning. They did not just cut and paste like some people.

Being a keen cyclist i can see the benefit of this type of facility for the whole community. I dont feel this is out of keeping with the area. It will blend in and be a huge asset. This will not effect any regular user of Burrows Field.

12 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0EZ

Comments: 8th December 2015

Burrows Sports Ground is a sports ground that attracts large volumes of traffic for two to three hors during the weekend when football and cricket matches are held there. This is understandable, but a BMX track will attract visitors at all times of the day(and night). We live exactly opposite the entrance to Burrows and the gate to the sports ground is never closed (despite a notice being on the gate saying that it is closed each day at dusk). With this situation there will be BMX riders (of all ages) who will come by car or other forms of transport at extended times. There will undoubtedly be a rise in complaints to the police (who already have enough to worry about).

Please reject this application and resite it on another open area well away from houses.

4 Brindle Close
Gloucester
GL4 4FS

Comments: 8th December 2015

This track would be great for the kids, we have a couple in Gloucester and they are well used. Would be a great asset to the Area.

30 Morris Court
Hatherley Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 6EH

Comments: 8th December 2015

An excellent opportunity for the young and not so young people of Cheltenham to engage in healthy outdoor activity especially as there is so much concern about obesity among the young.

30 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire

GL53 0HA

Comments: 8th December 2015

As a resident overlooking Burrows Field and the car park, I am concerned to hear that a BMX Track is being proposed on the sports field.

The level of disruption that such a facility would cause to the essentially peaceful, parkland nature of Burrows Field is alarming. The Field is unique in its quiet and leafy location on the edge of Cheltenham, and hence is popular with walkers, dog walkers and families in addition to formal and informal ball games.

The small car park is already inadequate when walkers, nursery children and sports teams coincide and it is hard to believe that damage in the winter to a large area of the grass nearby will not be serious, without some hard surface road across the field to the proposed track, which would be highly undesirable.

In addition, Burrows Field suffers only occasional late night problems with vandalism and disruptive behaviour and this would be put at risk by an open-all-hours BMX Track.

In short, this is not the location for such a facility. It would be better located centrally in the town where cars are not required to get the BMX bikers to the venue.

Comments: 28th December 2015

The revised application includes a lengthy hard surface path from the car park to the proposed site for the BMX track. Further to my earlier comments, this reinforces my view that this track is in entirely the wrong location and digging up a swathe of Burrows Field to accommodate it would be simply scandalous. A facility such as this needs to be in a town centre location with easy access.

18 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LL

Comments: 1st December 2015

This proposal is completely unacceptable. Burrows Field is a quiet residential area, with many elderly and vulnerable people, who live on their own.

In this location there is a likelihood of residents being disturbed by noise and potentially anti-social behaviour, the track being used late into the evenings especially through the summer months, when windows are open, and people enjoying their gardens.

What steps will be taken to ensure the track isn't abused with motor powered scooters, quad bikes, mini motor bikes? No toilet facilities are available, which could lead to very undesirable consequences. Parking is limited, already at weekends the surrounding roads are filled with visiting cars, who often park inconsiderately.

I see back in 2012 a similar scheme was scrapped in Arle. This was due to past experience of having such a local track available, and attracting anti social behaviour. The residents got a petition of 300 names together and the council rejected the plan. For this scheme, names in favour have been gathered in advance of the local residents being consulted which feels like an underhand method of forcing the facility on local residents without adequate opportunity to review and comment.

I would like to object to the scheme at the location of Burrows Field. The proposal for a BMX track in Cheltenham is a good idea, and will be great for the youth of the town. BUT

Is Burrows Field the right location for this? Quite residential area, very little parking, no toilet facilities. Furthest corner of the town.

The correct location would be, Pittville park, it already has a skateboarding / BMX area, swimming pool, tennis courts, pitch and putt golf course.

And the infrastructure behind it, toilet facilities, café, parking. It is also in a central location, so the whole town can enjoy the facilities.

After all it is being funded through Tax Payers money.

Please listen to the residents who live next to the field, as they will have to live with this track and everything it brings on a daily basis.

8 Barnfield Way
Batheaston
BA1 7PW

Comments: 3rd December 2015

This is a brilliant idea - I have 3 boys who ride bmx and we travel all over the South West to ride tracks. There is a similar track to the one proposed near us in Bromham. It's been a brilliant success encouraging kids (and adults) to get outside in all weather and enjoy riding bikes & keeping fit. It's a great way for teenage kids to mix with both kids & adults - doing something positive & not just 'hanging about'.

We would definitely travel up to use this facility.

66 Kingsmead Avenue
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 0BB

Comments: 5th December 2015

The parking in the area is already a nightmare with football in the winter months and cricket in the summer months.

A BMX pump track would attract more cars and people making the situation worse.

This is a quiet area and should remain that way, think of the people that live there!!

47 Monkscroft
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 7TT

Comments: 5th December 2015

I object to the extra traffic, noise and people.

This is a nice quiet private park for walking, exercise and ball games.

With this box pump track it would impact upon the visual beauty and character of the park. There are not many parks within Cheltenham like this.

32 The Close

Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PG

Comments: 6th December 2015

I think this would be a great idea! The more things that get our kids out doing sports and socialising will always get my backing! Especially with the council getting rid of the green fields around the area!

49 Union Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 2JN

Comments: 6th December 2015

I fully support this proposal. I believe Cheltenham needs more facilities like this. It can encourage young people to get out and enjoy the outdoors, learn new skills, make new friends, keep fit and healthy, and perhaps develop a passion that will stay with them for life.

Great Britain has several world champion and Olympic level BMX and mountain bike athletes and we're rightly very proud of them. At present though, Cheltenham has very little to offer to young people who look up to these athletes and want to emulate them. Something as simple as a BMX and a pump track could be the catalyst to get them started.

Burrows Field is already used as a sports ground. The planned track looks small, low-level and doesn't detract from the green space. The location does not seem to impede other users of the facility in any way. It could also serve as another valuable sports facility for local pre-schools.

80 Stratton Road
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 2PR

Comments: 6th December 2015

NONE GIVEN

Holcombe House
4 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0EZ

Comments: 6th December 2015

- There is insufficient car parking and this BMX track will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with some cars being parked on the pavement.
- The current sporting activities taking place at the Burrows Field occur without any alteration to the current landscape. The creation of BMX track will require extensive alterations to the current landscape of the playing fields.
- Who will be responsible for the maintenance and up keep of the BMX track?
- How will people access the BMX track as there is not actual cycle path? The footpath which runs along the side of Burrows Field does not permit cycling.

- I believe Brizen Farm Playing Field offers a more suitable site to support this application; there is space to build the BMX track, the car park is large enough to accommodate the additional cars, the local road infrastructure can support the increase traffic and more importantly there would be no impact to local residents

111 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DQ

Comments: 8th December 2015
Letter attached.

Comments: 11th January 2016
The Revised Plan confirms our worst fears.

It is now deemed that a "footpath" is required from the car park to the proposed track.

None of the other sports within the field requires a footpath to gain access to or from the area of activity. This suggests that the BMX track is going to take precedent over the other uses within this field.

Why is it necessary to introduce a further footpath when one already exists?

Perhaps it is because the "footpath" is just a loose term for the cyclists to gain access to the proposed track, i.e. It is a "cycle-track" in all but name.

In other words the BMX track being proposed requires far more than the original proposed area. It requires a further track right across the field from the car park to the pump track itself. The whole of the east flank of the field will be taken over by cyclists and extremely close to the outfield of the main cricket pitch.

Church Road Access

The 'footpath' from Church Road could well become the main entrance for those using the proposed BMX track for the following reasons:

1. The footpath is shorter than from Moorend Grove / Arden Road.
2. The car park is often full.

Further parking along Church Road will be inevitable with further pollution

Local School

The Design & Access statement, states that it has 'support from the local school'. The term 'school' is made up of a number of bodies, not least the board of governors, who as far as I have been informed, have not discussed the BMX track in Burrows field, as it has 'nothing to do with them'.

Please also see our original letter of objection dated 6/12/2015.

4 Merlin Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LT

Comments: 7th December 2015

I am incredibly concerned about this development. I hear that a new track will be located in Birdlip, and there is a track even nearer, on Leckhampton hill which is very rarely used and partly derelict (most people prefer to mountain bike through the woods up there).

There is only a small parking area, there are no facilities such as toilets meaning the woods alongside could become a public lavatory, and traffic into the site will be increased on roads that are not built to take high volumes of vehicles.

The track will be located alongside a public footpath which is well used and there is likely to be risk to the pedestrians in this area from fast moving bicycles.

I am fully supportive of improved cycling facilities in Cheltenham through further cycle paths around town and the suburbs, but this proposal seems to be misguided.

10 Dinas Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 3EP

Comments: 2nd December 2015

I think the plan to build a small BMX track is an excellent idea. Burrows fields is a recreation area and as such should provide facilities to all walks of life. Having the track can only encourage young people to take part in a positive sporting activity. This facility would be within walking/cycling distance from 1000's of homes and would offer them another opportunity to participate in sport. They have been comments on hear that this track would increase drug use and anti social behavior! If there is an existing problem (?) this track will not make it worse in fact providing a positive activity in the area can only improve the area.

82 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ET

Comments: 3rd December 2015

NONE GIVEN

Moorend Villa
7 Moorend Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0EP

Comments: 4th December 2015

This is a great idea.

However, most people will be accessing it from the car park, should there be a Tarmac (or similar) path from the car park to the facility? In winter months the grass will become churned up from wheel tracks. Also it would make access easier for younger children cycling across the field, as well as providing a clear path for people on foot and/or wheelchair and pushchair users.

91 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham

Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 5th December 2015

I think this is a great idea and i fully support it.

As alot of people have said this is a local track that people will ride there bikes to. Other facilities of this kind that have been developed in other areas have had a positive impact for the whole community.

We have lots of space for people to walk and walk there dogs but we are very limited on facilities to promote health and wellbeing for everyone.

This is a very small facility that is not on the same scale that was proposed for Arle this is a small track which enables individuals to improve there bike skills rather than a race track.

I find it very sad that people should say 'put it some where els' when in Leckhampton we lack facilities for all, unless you are into Tennis, Football or Walking. We should provide free sports facilities for everyone.

We need to move with the times.

The location is ideal as it is in the far corner away from all houses. All entrances will still be accessible and people will still be able to walk around the whole area.

We need to think of the whole community in Leckhampton and cater for all.

I have grown up in this area and feel we have always missed something like this.

We shouldnt be looking at whos house backs onto the field as this is a sports and recreation field and we should be making sure we provide sports facilities in it.

I agree we have alot of elderly people in the area but we also have alot of younger individuals too so lets cater for all.

This Facility is GREATLY needed in THIS AREA.

6 Perrys Lane
Wroughton
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN4 9AU

Comments: 6th December 2015

I fully support this project. It will be a great asset to the community and will help engage young people in positive activities.

65A Moorend Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0EW

Comments: 7th December 2015

1. The field has the status, among regular users, of a village green; it has cricket in the summer [or other bat & ball games] and football in the winter [or most of the year these days] But it

has space to spare for walking, jogging, playing with the dog & just meditating on the beauty of the field, the view, the brook, the trees etc. BMX bikes don't really fit in.

2. Access to the proposed site would entail bikes moving across the grass, to the detriment of the surface, which is muddy at the best of times, given our weather.
3. Toddlers with their parents love to run in the field & ride their little bikes on the flat area of the cricket pitch, so their safety would be perhaps jeopardised by BMX bikes cruising around to & from the track.
4. Parking is also an issue, as local streets are choc-a-bloc on match days already.
5. Burrows is beautiful, lets keep it that way.

8 Landor Gardens
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 2TB

Comments: 8th December 2015

This is a great idea.

Positive ideas such as this don't have to split the community.

Undesireble behavior does not go hand in hand with a pump track. In fact the way to combat undesireble behavior is to bring the community together and encourage ALL it's members.

New bonds could be built and old ones could be strengthened.

99 Fortis Green Road
Muscle Hill
London
N10 3HP

Comments: 18th December 2015

I strongly object to this application.

21 Church Road
Leckhampton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PS

Comments: 18th December 2015

We are writing to express our objection to the above planning application on the following six main grounds.

1. The need for, and claimed benefits of, the track have been grossly over-stated

The Design and Access Statement claims that the construction of the BMX pump track "will provide the opportunity for all ages and genders to take part in bike riding and develop bike skills" and that this "will offer benefits for health and fitness for all". It is also claimed that the nearest similar facility (in Gloucester) "is used all the time by the local people of all ages" and that "this is a great sport for all ages". No information is given to justify these statements, however, which would appear to be entirely spurious.

There is, in practice, a dearth of authoritative published information about participation rates in BMX cycling in the UK, but that which is available paints an entirely different picture. For example, Sport England's Active People survey for 2012/13 (the latest year for which a detailed breakdown is available) shows that only 4.29% of the population of England regularly took part in any form of recreational or competitive cycling (excluding any cycling which was exclusively for travel purposes only.) Given that this included a wide range of different types of cycling, the proportion of those engaged in any form of BMX activity and to which the facility in Burrows Field would appeal can therefore be expected to be considerably smaller. Almost certainly it will appeal to, and be used by, less than 1 percent of the population.

That BMX pump riding is a specialist activity appealing to only a tiny minority of the general population is also borne out by data set out in the 'Sports Participation: Cycling Fact Sheet' published by SportScotland and based on an Omnibus Survey by TNS of participation in all sports and physical recreations. This shows that cycling had one of the highest overall participation rates amongst adults, with 11% of adult males and 8% of adult women having participated in some kind of recreational cycling at least once in the four week survey period. However, it was road cycling that was the sport's most popular format both amongst men (rated at 10%) and women (at 8%). This compared to less than 0.5% for BMX biking.

Amongst children (aged 8-15) the SportScotland survey found a similar pattern. Cycling was amongst the most popular form of recreational activity, with 50% of boys and 41% of girls having participated in cycling of one form or another over a four-week period. But here too, BMX was very much a minority activity. For both boys (38%), and girls (35%) the most popular type of cycling was cycling in a built-up area. BMX biking was the least popular, with the figures being so low that they could not reliably be analysed. This again suggests that, contrary to the claims made in the Design and Access Statement, the facility in Burrows Field, if built, would appeal only to a very small minority of recreational cyclists and to an even smaller proportion of the general population.

2. Visual impact on the character of Burrows Field

As many other objectors have noted, Burrows Field has a unique and very special character and especially the view of Leckhampton Hill from the middle and northern end of the field. The construction of what is, primarily, a hard urban facility in this unique location with its raised limestone and tarmac track will destroy the view of the hill and irreparably damage that character.

3. Inadequate access together with a lack of parking and other facilities

The proposed track is to be located some 160 metres south of the main entrance to Burrows Field off of Moorend Grove. This part of the field is poorly drained and is frequently waterlogged. The effect of users walking and cycling to and from the track will be quickly to create an unsightly, muddy scar, further despoiling this part of the field.

On the opposite (south) side of the pump track, the increased number of users, including many cyclists, will similarly exacerbate the muddy quagmire that already forms around the entrance to Lots Meadow and the start of the footpath to Church Road. Both of these problems will then require expensive remedial works to be undertaken by the District Council.

Burrows Field currently has a small parking area with 21 spaces available. On cricket or football match days this is already wholly inadequate with cars often parked for a considerable distance along the surrounding roads. This gives rise to traffic congestion and creates a dangerous traffic hazard, particularly at the junction of Arden Road with Moorend Grove. The additional traffic created by the BMX pump track will exacerbate these problems and will give rise to demands to increase the parking provision. If met, this would in turn further erode the unique character of Burrows Field.

4. Conflict with other users

Burrows Field is extremely popular with, and well used by, many dog walkers. The fact that the pump track is to be unfenced will give rise to conflict and danger between walker's dogs, the

great majority of whom can be expected to be off the lead and therefore free to wander over the track, and the cyclists that are using the track and who are likely to be cycling at speed.

Similarly, many of those who choose to cycle to the track can be expected to approach it, not from Moorend Grove, but by cycling (illegally) along the narrow public footpath from Church Road. This will both conflict with, and create a considerable danger for, the many walkers and their pets that already use this popular right of way.

5. Role of the District Council in promoting the planning application

The agent for the applicant is an officer of the District Council - Mr. Adam Reynolds - whose address is given as the Central Depot, Swindon Road, Cheltenham GL51 9JZ. We understand Mr Reynolds is the Council's Parks Development Manager.

As noted above, the claims made in the Design and Access statement regarding the demand for, and likely popularity of, the proposed facility are entirely unfounded. The reality is that track, if built, whilst being contrary to the wishes of the great majority of those who currently use Burrows Field and causing irreparable damage to the area's unique character, will appeal only to a tiny minority (less than 1 percent) of cyclists in the Cheltenham area.

However, given that it is the planning authority itself that is promoting its own planning application - and it was presumably also the Council's officers that were responsible for preparing the Design and Access statement - then there are obvious questions about the authority's ability to decide, objectively and impartially, whether or not planning permission should be granted. Those concerns are further heightened by the lack of any objective assessment of the demand for these facilities, the absence of any clear policy context, and the total disregard for the environmental and other impacts that construction of the track will have on the character and use of Burrows Field.

It follows that should planning permission be granted, and especially in view of the considerable opposition to the proposals, the Council will be vulnerable to challenge under the Human Rights Act 1998 on the basis that the planning application was not fairly considered. There may also be grounds for seeking judicial review of that decision.

6. Absence of any policy context

The Design and Access Statement quotes selectively from the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012. In particular it refers to section 17, stating that "Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision taking. These 12 principles are that planning should: take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs" (sic). This is, in fact, just one of the 12 core principles; among the others (and which are equally relevant) are that the planning process should be genuinely plan led, should be based on succinct local and neighbourhood plans, and should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

The NPPF goes on to state (at paragraph 73) that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities". Councils are asked to ensure that planning policies are "based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required."

While Burrows Field quite clearly already provides 'access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation', it is also clear that no such assessment has been made of the deficits or surpluses of open spaces or of the specific recreational facilities that may be

needed either in Leckhampton or the wider Cheltenham area. Nor is the proposal for the BMX track in any way plan-led. It is simply a opportunistic proposal put forward by a group of individuals who are interested in promoting this particular minority activity and which the District Council's officers have chosen to support.

The NPPF also goes on to state that "Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss."

Again, it is quite clear that no such assessment has been made either by Cheltenham BC or by the individuals seeking to promote the BMX pump track. There is therefore nothing to show either that the land to be taken up by the BMX track is surplus to requirements, or that the track could in any way be regarded as a "better provision" or that the need for it clearly outweighs the loss of this part of Burrows Field.

Until such time as these assessments have been made it is impossible to say whether or not the need for the track exists or to make a balanced judgement, taking into account the environmental and other considerations, as to whether or not planning permission should be granted.

In these circumstances, and particularly given the substantial opposition that exists to it, the application for planning permission must be refused.

Comments: 21st December 2015
Letter attached.

11 Greenwood Road
Thames Ditton
KT7 0DU

Comments: 18th December 2015

Promoting the physical activity of young people is all very well, but this function is already adequately fulfilled by the park as it stands as a well kept field provides much more freedom than a restrictive BMX pump track which will almost encroach on one of the football pitches.

29 Baldwin Gardens
London
W3 6HJ

Comments: 18th December 2015

Having played cricket at Burrows Field a number of times in recent years I cannot understand why this proposal would be a good idea. The inevitable riding of bikes over to the track will result in the field becoming marsh like and no longer suitable for its primary purpose of hosting dog walkers and sporting fixtures alike.

Parsonage Road
Manchester
M20 4NU

Comments: 18th December 2015

Having visited friends from university who frequent this park on an almost daily basis to play football and enjoy the idyllic surroundings, I am fully opposed to this application.

32 Featherstone Gardens
Borehamwood
WD6 2LW

Comments: 18th December 2015

This proposed BMX pump track will bring an unnecessary disturbance regarding land degradation, overcrowding and inevitable antisocial behaviour to a peaceful community

11 Grange Farm Close
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 1NJ

Comments: 18th December 2015

While not a local I feel a strong affinity with this field as I regularly play football there in the holidays with my friends from the local area. For those in support offering vague assertions that such an installation will 'help get young people fit' I would argue that groups such as ourselves will be put off returning in future to play sports due to the landscape of the field being ruined.

244 South Croft Road
London
SW17 9TW

Comments: 18th December 2015

From having worked in Cheltenham for a number of years, the main advantage is the fact that the urban environment of the town is interspersed with beautiful pockets of rural land. To introduce a BMX pump track would be an unnecessary use of the land which would only serve to cause anguish for the local people who enjoy it for the simple beauty that it is.

18 Queen's Mews
London
W2 4BZ

Comments: 18th December 2015

From the number of occasions I have been to Burrows Field seeing relatives, I can immediately tell that this proposed BMX pump track is a woefully misguided idea. The local area sees enough disturbance at weekends from overcrowding of the car park and surrounding streets such as Arden Road without the addition of bike riders who themselves would suddenly struggle to gain safe access.

Wildacre
Grosmount
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 8EP

Comments: 18th December 2015

As someone who enjoys this park as a tranquil setting with a picturesque backdrop, I object to this application. There is no need for a BMX pump track in this particular area and it would ruin what is a beautiful plot of land. However much the supporters may deny it, anti-social behaviour will increase as a direct consequence of this being built, which is something that should certainly be avoided.

89 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0BS

Comments: 17th December 2015

I am writing to say that I object to the proposed construction of a BMX Pump Track at Burrows Field. The idea of a cycle track is a good one but Burrows Field is not the correct place for the following reasons

1. Burrows Field is a recreational field where football and cricket are already played regularly
2. Burrows Field is one of few green open spaces in Leckhampton where the general public can walk, play games with children and friends such as kite flying, frisby, rounders etc or just relax and enjoy the views and open spaces.
3. The present plan for the track is far too close to the football pitches and when both activities take place at the same time, there will be accidents.
4. There are no facilities at Burrows Field for the general public to use
5. Car parking is limited. When sport is played cars are parked in Arden Road, Moorend Grove, Merlin Way and Peregrine Way already causing congestion and frustration to the residents who find they can't park their own cars.
6. At present there is a sign at the entrance to Burrows Field car park which states that cycling on the field is not allowed.
7. Children, Teenagers and adults waiting to use the track will cycle around and across the field and this will then be churned up and become unusable for sport.
8. There are alternative sites that I feel would be more appropriate such as the Brizen Young Peoples Centre which has space for a Pump Track, car parking and facilities in the Centre.

26 Asquith Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7EL

Comments: 21st December 2015

We fully support the development of this bmx track and look forward to both our children and ourselves being able to use this great resource.

23 Vittoria Walk
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 1TL

Comments: 17th December 2015

I oppose the application. Burrows Field is a well-used open space. It is currently used by a wide variety of people, with many of the activities changing with the seasons. It is a shared space. No one area has previously been sequestered for a sole purpose in this way. I do not believe it is the right place for this new facility as it is too close to the pathways, it restricts access and it is too hemmed in.

208 Hudson Court
Broadway
Salford
M50 2UF

Comments: 3rd January 2016

As a recent resident of Leckhampton I am against a BMX track at Burrows.

I support the GREAT CRESTED NEWTS, DORMICE, BATS, OWLS and other WILDLIFE that occupy this part and other parts of Burrows, and I strongly object to anything that would disrupt their habitats.

Any suggestion of moving the wildlife would fly in the face of what this green space is all about, and could involve the erection of hideous fencing etc. Also it is important that we humans, adults and children, should continue to enjoy sharing this green space with the existing wildlife.

It is a well-researched fact that the tranquillity of green spaces is very important to the health and well being of a community. Importantly CBC's own vision for green spaces agrees with this. It states:

"Working together to ensure a comprehensive network of attractive, well used and valued locally distinct green spaces, that are accessible, safe and welcoming, which meet the existing and future needs of the community."

Please note, Burrows already is a 'distinct green space' that is most welcoming and well used. A BMX track would irrevocably change its character. The suggestion of 'urbanising' by introducing bike paths is quite unthinkable. Every blade of grass that is removed would damage the protected wildlife, and certain plant species too.

Each BMX bump and bang, every whoop from the riders, and the encouraging shouts and cheers from their friends and relatives would spell doom to the tranquillity. Bikes racing around paths, the car park, or across the sports fields would cause the green space to become very unwelcoming, and would certainly spoil the 'existing and future needs of the community'.

I advocate the building of a BMX bump track, but NOT at Burrows, because this is entirely the WRONG LOCATION. There are far more suitable sites around the town, (and there is a full sized track being build ten minutes away in Gloucester). Adam Reynolds (who shouldn't have this level of influence) must not be seen to be pandering to the pushy parents of one local child. More importantly, what is he offering to the far greater number of BMXers in other parts of Cheltenham? Many children would be put in grave danger, having to cycle across town, and negotiating roads like the A46 etc. Not acceptable.

32 Painswick Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 2HA

Comments: 13th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

The field has a certain charm all of its own and many people who visit it regularly are attracted by it's natural beauty.

Some people just come to the field to relax on the benches to take in the views of hills, hedgerows and trees and appreciate the open vista and watch the sun setting.

The playing areas require nothing more than white lines and removable posts. Nothing is permanent and there are no artificial surfaces or tracks.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field.

Presumably the proposed artificial track would be used for cyclists racing one another, creating a permanent area of activity.

Consideration should be given to:

1. Detrimental effect on the fields natural features and views.
2. Over use of field.
3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.
4. Mud on the road.
5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.
6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. Please see photo attached of overflowing car park at 2.15pm Sunday 6th December 2015 while football in progress. We already have overfull capacity within the car park, with cars blocking emergency access and onto side roads and footpaths.
7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?

8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?
9. Toilet facilities?
10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.
11. Break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used.
12. Consideration of more suitable sites. Rejected: Walk Place, Arle Road proposal was rejected which has similar problems to overcome as this site. In existence: (not exclusive) Westgate Park, Gloucester introduced a BMX Pump track and has a 50 space car park to take the extra activity. Bishops Cleeve, Evesham Road has a track Possible site: Brizen Farm Playing Field which has a car park with over 30 spaces, closer health and safety facilities and more hard surface for easy bicycle access. Also when new housing is considered in the area, space should be allocated within the curtilage of any new housing scheme, if further tracks are required.

Burrows Field is unspoilt, well proportion with regards playing to non-playing areas and is enjoyed by many. It is a natural field without the need for artificial tracks and banks. The Field is the same as it was when Mrs Burrows kindly left the Field to the community and is appreciated by all those that use the field on a regular basis.

In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

20 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HH

Comments: 15th December 2015

We would like to make the following points with regard to the proposed construction of a BMX Pump Track at Burrows Field to which we object:

Traffic and Parking: The number of parking places on Burrows Field is already inadequate. Consequently there is already considerable disruption in the surrounding residential streets particularly when football and cricket matches are being played. Cars are parked inconsiderately and on pavements. In addition it is not only difficult for residents to get to their own houses, but, more importantly, there have also been occasions when emergency vehicles could not get through to Burrows Field or to local houses. Many of those using the BMX Pump Track are likely to arrive by car, thus exacerbating the parking situation.

Access to the Track: It is not clear how BMX cyclists will get their bikes to the Track and how it will be ensured that bikes are only ridden on the Track itself. We had understood that cycling is not allowed in Burrows Field, and certainly not on the footpath.

Usage of Burrows Field: At the moment Burrows Field is a peaceful area used by people of all ages including walkers and dog walkers. Some users are elderly and Burrows Field provides an excellent place for leading a more active lifestyle and getting out into the open air. Football and cricket matches take place at limited times. However, if the BMX Pump Track attracts a large number of people including those from outside the area during all daylight hours, it will spoil the unique character and public accessibility of Burrows Field.

6 Detmore Close
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8QP

Comments: 15th December 2015
NONE GIVEN

13 Chatsworth Drive
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0AG

Comments: 15th December 2015

I am registering my support for the proposed pump track that would provide local people with additional opportunities to have fun, exercise and meet with friends in a location that is within cycling distance of their homes.

This relatively modest but professionally designed proposal would give people of all ages the chance to learn and develop bicycle skills that they would then have for life, allowing them to have more confidence on their bikes.

Burrows Sports Field is a place for all to enjoy- including footballers, joggers, walkers etc, and with this proposal, cyclists too. I believe that this pump track really could be a local asset for Leckhampton.

Weston
14 Hollis Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 6JJ

Comments: 10th December 2015

Hi, this NEEDS to be built. I am a downhill mountain bike racer for slam69 race team. This would be perfect for training and great fun for everyone! At the moment we have nothing like is within riding distance in and around Cheltenham! It will also make things fair since the only thing around at the moment is football pitches and personally I hate football so there is nothing for me to do!

It would honestly be beneficial for so many people and I am strongly supporting this build.

Thanks

101 Church Road
Leckhampton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PF

Comments: 10th December 2015

We live just by Burrows "sports" field but the only "sports" it seems to cater for is football and cricket, non of which my children like but they love having fun on their bikes and as they are getting older it is more apparent there are no facilities for them having grown out of the play area. This pump track in Burrows field is a great idea and would give our family lots more time and fun together without the need to drive to better supported areas of the county.

57 Church Road
Leckhampton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PF

Comments: 10th December 2015

As a dog walker who regularly uses burrows field ,I would like to object strongly to this proposed pump track. I think the track would be a danger to dogs and children as well as to the users of the track. I do not wish for my dog to be on the lead due to fear of bike-dog collisions, when it will be his only exercise of the day. Also I enjoy the tranquility of the field after a stressful day at work, which cannot possibly exist if the proposed BMX track goes ahead. Surely us adults are also allowed some open space to enjoy ourselves in a relaxing environment.

8 Hobby Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LP

Comments: 5th January 2016

I object to this planning application due to:

- believing that this style of entertainment will change the feel of the park that is already well used by young families, dog walkers and sports teams.
- the cost of maintaining the track to a level that is safe and clean.

6 Detmore Close
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8QP

Comments: 15th December 2015

NONE GIVEN

17 Vineries Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0NU

Comments: 13th December 2015

Need:

While I agree that children need healthy exercise, I think that parents cannot reasonably expect that specialist interests are provided at the Council Taxpayers' expense. Since BMX facilities are being constructed in Birdlip, the wish for a track is already being catered for nearby.

Support:

The support that was canvassed was biased. I personally was neither consulted in the survey, nor invited to the on-site meeting. Anecdotal evidence suggests I am not unique in this. At the recent meeting at the Somerset Arms a lot of sweeping statements of opinion were made as though they were facts backed by evidence. These statements covered what "will happen" and how "polite and considerate" all BMX riders are. Therefore I feel that any promise to deal with litter and maintenance and allied issues are not to be taken too seriously. Schemes that rely on volunteers are notoriously prone to 'enthusiasm fatigue' after a year or so.

The planning application:

In the planning application (section 14) Burrows Field is misleadingly described as being used as a "Playing Field". This is 'the truth' but not 'the whole truth and nothing but the truth'. To my knowledge, Burrows Field is also used for general recreational use including peaceful enjoyment, dog walking, quiet contemplation, social meeting and running. All of these would be adversely affected

Appearance:

Burrows Field is a delightful attractive open area with views to Leckhampton Hill, an Area of Outstanding National Beauty. The BMX track would be a serious visual blight. and costly to remove if this becomes a passing fad.

Adverse effects:

Some dogs may be inclined to chase the bikes or, conversely be afraid of them. For fear of injury, dogs might have to be kept on leads by owners who formerly would have let them run free (when the field were not being used for team sports). In the future such open spaces will become precious and rare if the nearby house building proposals are even partially allowed, so, in order to please a small group of specialist BMX enthusiasts, many existing dog owners will have to take to their cars. This seems illogical and unjust, and will have a detrimental effect on traffic.

Car parking:

Car parking will, despite unsubstantiated statements to the contrary, almost certainly become a problem. Few parents would let their young children cycle to the track alone, and the number of parents who drive their children to Leckhampton Primary school in the morning attests to how few parents are interested in cycling short distances with their children. Driving will be the access method of choice for most.

Safety:

The danger of injury, and the procedure to deal with accidents seems to have been overlooked.

Nuisance:

Whilst some BMX bikers are, doubtless, quiet calm and considerate, it takes very few inconsiderate youths to cause major noise, drink and drug problems. This will attract such people.

Summary:

It appears that under the guise of a noble attempt to provide a healthy activity outlet for children, we are facing the possibility of the provision of, to use Prince Charles's phrase a "monstrous carbuncle" in a picturesque field, with associated car parking problems, probable antisocial behaviour and litter. This will take funds away from more generally needed youth facilities.

If there has to be such a facility, why not include it in the planning requirements for one of the nearby developments?

The wishes of a few to save themselves the trouble of travelling a few miles will have a major negative impact on the long established quiet enjoyment of the majority.

I have just returned from a walk in Beeches Field, Charlton Kings which has a skate board facility that was totally unused. The BMX track will, I feel, be a similar costly White Elephant.

111 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DQ

Comments: 13th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

The field has a certain charm all of its own and many people who visit it regularly are attracted by it's natural beauty.

Some people just come to the field to relax on the benches to take in the views of hills, hedgerows and trees and appreciate the open vista and watch the sun setting.

The playing areas require nothing more than white lines and removable posts. Nothing is permanent and there are no artificial surfaces or tracks.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field.

Presumably the proposed artificial track would be used for cyclists racing one another, creating a permanent area of activity.

Consideration should be given to:

1. Detrimental effect on the fields natural features and views.
2. Over use of field.
3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.
4. Mud on the road.

5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.
6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. Please see photo attached of overflowing car park at 2.15pm Sunday 6th December 2015 while football in progress. We already have overfull capacity within the car park, with cars blocking emergency access and onto side roads and footpaths.
7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?
8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?
9. Toilet facilities?
10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.
11. Break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used.
12. Consideration of more suitable sites. Rejected: Walk Place, Arle Road proposal was rejected which has similar problems to overcome as this site. In existence: (not exclusive) Westgate Park, Gloucester introduced a BMX Pump track and has a 50 space car park to take the extra activity. Bishops Cleeve, Evesham Road has a track Possible site: Brizen Farm Playing Field which has a car park with over 30 spaces, closer health and safety facilities and more hard surface for easy bicycle access. Also when new housing is considered in the area, space should be allocated within the curtilage of any new housing scheme, if further tracks are required.

Burrows Field is unspoilt, well proportion with regards playing to non-playing areas and is enjoyed by many. It is a natural field without the need for artificial tracks and banks. The Field is the same as it was when Mrs Burrows kindly left the Field to the community and is appreciated by all those that use the field on a regular basis.

In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

16 Peregrine Road
 Cheltenham
 Gloucestershire
 GL53 0LL

Comments: 31st December 2015

I object to this proposal because - The track is in the wrong location for the town. Pittville park would be more appropriate as it contains better facilities than Burrows. For example, parking, café, toilets and would be more accessible to more people. There is not enough parking available at Burrows and no toilets.

There is no room in the field for this facility as it's too close to football pitches and could cause injury.

I would also question spending £40k of public money on a BMX pump track in this location where there is one being built at Birdlip a few miles away. Especially when the football pitches need investment and the local football clubs are considering moving as the pitches at Burrows are often waterlogged.

Also it would be aesthetically wrong and detriment the character of the field being on the fringes of Cheltenham and the semi-rural character of Burrows field.

10 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HH

Comments: 16th December 2015

I strongly object to this. I feel it will be an eyesore and spoil the beauty and tranquility of this lovely area.

261 London Road
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 6YG

Comments: 16th December 2015

Fully support this project. Bmx/mountain biking is such a good outlet for kids and adults a like. Cheltenham seems to be the only town in the south west without this type of facility.

3 Christchurch Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 2NY

Comments: 16th December 2015

We visit family regularly who live backing onto Burrows Fields and I strongly object to the construction of a BMX pump track there.

Burrows Fields is currently a fairly tranquil green space which is already congested at peak times (cricket / football matches etc) with cars parking everywhere in the surrounding roads due to a small carpark. Lots of supporters of the track are not particularly local so would need to drive, causing more congestion; therefore they could drive to Brizen Fields, Gloucester or to the new Pump Track opening in March - Flyup217. It does seem a bit excessive to have another new track so close by, at huge expense.

Pittville would be a suitable alternative, although a proposal there was refused on the grounds of anti-social behaviour, in an area that is far less residential.

People have suggested the travel distance is too far for a site in Gloucester; my daughters like climbing and we travel to Gloucester or Northleach, both are only 20 minutes away and for sports that aren't necessarily 'mainstream' we are happy to do so.

Visually the area would be affected by high ramps, and neighbouring houses will have their view affected.

Access is a concern, in terms of parking and also cycling to the track, across the field, which can get quite waterlogged anyway, but another consideration is that cycles are currently forbidden in the field. Who will monitor this?

Finally, there is the concern over bats in the area. Their habitat cannot be destroyed in a conservation area so an investigation needs to be undertaken to establish whether bats are there.

Overall there are various factors to consider and I therefore strongly oppose the plans.

26 Treelands Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DF

Comments: 16th December 2015

Excellent idea. Cheltenham is badly lacking sufficient local facilities for children and young people to play safely. Our green spaces should be multiple use and enable positive outside activity for children and young people.

2 Boleyn Close
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN5 6JZ

Comments: 16th December 2015

My kids and I regularly visit friends and family in the area on a weekly basis, and would certainly make use of the facility.

BMX, and the various other bike sports that could use a Pump track, are friendly, welcoming and keep children occupied for hours instead of potentially getting into trouble with other things

BMX is now an olympic sports, and most professional BMX athletes have started out on pump tracks.

Also, kids that get into BMX will be spending money on bikes and equipment in local shops, as well as parents and other users going into local stores and restaurants, so there's a tangible community benefit commercially to this facility

9 Halland Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DJ

Comments: 30th December 2015

I object to this application. The changes do not respond to the issues and concerns already raised. The plan is inadequate for provision of this sort of amenity: parking, public conveniences, suitable entry and exit cycle paths not provided. Existing football and sports facilities will be damaged and use disrupted. Amendments do not address this.

101 Church Road
Leckhampton
Cheltenham

Gloucestershire
GL53 0PF

Comments: 10th December 2015

We think this is such a positive contribution to the local area, in a suburb that is primarily populated by families there's currently a distinct lack of outdoor facilities for them. The field only has a small playing area aimed at younger children at the moment, this BMX track would give the older children in the area something to do as well. We have 4 children who fully support the idea and would love to use it!

7 Sandford Mill Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7QH

Comments: 13th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

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The playing areas require nothing more than white lines and removable posts. Nothing is permanent and there are no artificial surfaces or tracks.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field.

Presumably the proposed artificial track would be used for cyclists racing one another, creating a permanent area of activity.

Consideration should be given to:

1. Detrimental effect on the fields natural features and views.
2. Over use of field.

3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.
4. Mud on the road.
5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.
6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. Please see photo attached of overflowing car park at 2.15pm Sunday 6th December 2015 while football in progress. We already have overfull capacity within the car park, with cars blocking emergency access and onto side roads and footpaths.
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9. Toilet facilities?
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In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

146 Old Bath Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7DP

Comments: 13th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its

grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

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2 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LR

Comments: 13th December 2015

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4. Mud on the road.
5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.
6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. As a resident of the adjacent road we already have cars causing obstructions to near by properties most weekends and also training nights mid week. The car park is full to capacity most days.
7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?
8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?
9. Toilet facilities?
10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.
11. Break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used.
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In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

79 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 9th December 2015

I support an opportunity for young people to have a facility that promotes an activity outside that they enjoy and benefit from physically and socially. There are not many activities for young people in this area of Cheltenham and these plans seem to offer a positive contribution to the community.

Flat A, Ireton House
Pavilion Gardens
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 2SP

Comments: 18th December 2015

I would have thought that any recreational ground, promoting wellbeing would be an asset to any community. In my experience the children and adults who would use the track will respect the neighbourhood and work together to look after the track and surrounding area.

318 Old Bath Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9AL

Comments: 13th January 2016

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

What is the evidence that a BMX pump track would be used by the people of Leckhampton?

The field has a unique charm and is used by local people who do not add traffic to the overburden local roads. Some people just come to the field to relax on the benches to take in the views of hills, hedgerows and trees and appreciate the open vista and watch the sun setting.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field and reduce the use of this space by members of the local community.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field. Presumably the proposed artificial track would be used for cyclists racing one another, creating a permanent area of activity.

Consideration should be given to:

1. Detrimental effect on the fields natural features and views.
2. Over use of field.
3. Increased traffic in an area with limited access.
4. Insufficient car parking which will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, with cars being parked on the pavement. The car park is often overflowing, with cars blocking emergency access, side roads and footpaths.
5. Safety Issues caused when small children and teenagers are using the same track.
6. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?
7. Toilet facilities.
8. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.
9. Review of level of use and break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used. This will avoid an unwanted eyesore as a legacy to the community.
10. Alternative Site - Brizen Farm Playing Field which has a car park with over 30 spaces, closer health and safety facilities and more hard surface for easy bicycle access. This would seem to be an ideal site for the proposed development with good access roads and is set away from residential areas. Future development could take account of the planned facility.

Burrows Field is unspoilt, well proportioned with regards playing to non-playing areas and is enjoyed by many. It is a natural field without the need for artificial tracks and banks. The Field is the same as it was when Mrs Burrows kindly left the Field to the community and is appreciated by all those that use the field on a regular basis.

22 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LL

Comments: 16th December 2015

I oppose the application in its current form and believe that it should be rejected. However, I think it is possible for the application, which is proving very divisive, to be revised in ways that will lead

to a better outcome that attracts wider support in the local community, especially amongst those who live nearest to Burrows Field.

My objections and potential mitigations are as follows:

1. Sustainability

- a. MAINTENANCE: To remain useable and safe, the track will need regular maintenance as a result of wear from use, frost damage, occasional misuse (for example, someone taking a motorbike over it) and vandalism. The proposal does not indicate how this will be funded and simply relying on the goodwill of local people to try to patch it up is not a reliable or safe solution.

MITIGATION: estimating the annual maintenance costs based on similar developments should be straightforward and Cheltenham Borough Council should be approached to give an undertaking that they will take on the future maintenance costs.

- b. IMPACT ASSESSMENT: The application does not offer well-founded evidence on the impact of the development on wildlife and flooding (in fact sections 12 and 13 of the application may be incorrect). MITIGATION: the applicants should be able to provide an impact assessment based on information already known to Cheltenham Borough Council.

2. Access

- a. CAR PARKING: It is unclear how many users of the track will come by car, but as it would be the only facility of its kind in Cheltenham, it is reasonable to assume that the track will create car visits to Burrows Field. These visits will often coincide with the use of the Field for football matches, which will exacerbate the existing problem of inadequate parking, resulting in overflow parking on local streets that causes inconvenience, makes crossing the road dangerous for less able residents and can impede emergency vehicles. MITIGATION: (a) an increase in the number of car spaces, using cellular paving, should be investigated either to form part of the application or to be provided by Cheltenham Borough Council; (b) the proposal could include the imposition of parking restrictions in Arden Road, Moorend Grove, Peregrine Road and Merlin Road.
- b. PATHS: The application does not include a metalled path from the entrance/car park to the pump track. As a result, bikes will have to be ridden or walked across grass. If the grass is wet, then this will result in the grass, possibly part of the cricket or football pitch, being churned up and mud being transferred onto the gravelled surface of the pump track. MITIGATION: Include a wide compressed gravel path in the application. If this runs all the way from the car park almost to the southwest edge of the field, i.e. continuing between the proposed track and the football pitches, then it will be a valuable addition for multiple users, i.e. pump track users, parents watching their children play football, pre-schoolers learning to ride bikes and dog walkers who don't want to get muddy.

3. Amenity (Visual Impact)

Pump tracks are a distinctive and unnatural-looking shape and the proposed track will result in a significant change in what are currently attractive views across the Field towards the hills.

MITIGATION:

- (a) Design the track in order to minimise the impact on views across Burrows Field towards the South at the cost of views towards the Southwest, which are less impressive and already spoiled by the car park as you enter the Field; this could include banking up the north-facing side of the mound so that it is higher than the track itself and presents a relatively smooth profile that does not follow the undulations of the track, minimising the gradients of the north-

facing and northeast-facing banks and minimising the height of the highest point of the track, if this is possible by changing the gradient of the track.

- (b) size the track appropriately - the track needs to be big enough to be enjoyable for adult riders but not be simply as big as can be squeezed into the space - provision of a comparison with the sizes of pump tracks owned by other councils would be useful evidence that the track is not oversized.
- (c) Add soft landscaping into the application - the planting of large native trees and native shrubs in the vicinity of the track will soften the visual impact substantially, be much more hospitable to wildlife than the current monoculture of mown grass and provide some shade for riders in the summer once the trees have started to reach a mature size.

4. Process

a. STRATEGY:

The application does not refer to the Council's strategy for Burrows Field. The Council has demonstrated that it has a clear long term vision for the development of, for example, Pittville Park and presumably has a strategic plan for Burrows Field. The absence of reference to this in the application makes the development look ad hoc and piecemeal and possibly in conflict with the longer term ambitions for the Field. MITIGATION: It should be straightforward for the applicants to obtain a summary of the Council's long term strategy for the Field and confirmation from the Council that the track is consistent with it.

b. EXECUTION:

Burrows Field is owned and managed by Cheltenham Borough Council, however this planning application has not been adopted by them or made in their name. Nonetheless, presumably, it is proposed that the Council will take responsibility for the execution of the proposal, in order to ensure the proper stewardship of third party funds, due diligence of potential suppliers, the running of a proper tender process, site management and ownership of risk (i.e. taking ultimate responsibility for the successful delivery of the project should a contractor fail to deliver to quality or go bust before completion). MITIGATION: Although this may not be a requirement for planning permission, it is so fundamental to the success of the project that it would be a courtesy to the Planning Committee and to residents for the Council to make its position clear on this matter at the time of the application.

5 Bullbridge Mead
Halstock
Yeovil
BA22 9RL

Comments: 17th December 2015

We are regular visitors to friends in the area. The proposed BMX pump track would encourage our children to get out and have fresh air and exercise whilst staying in the area.

We have recently had a pump track 15 minutes drive from our house which we regularly visit along with many other families. A lot of the people who had objected our local pump track originally had the wrong perception and now can see that its a great way for the kids to have exercise and fun.

6 Perrys Lane
Wroughton
Swindon
Wilts
SN4 9AU

Comments: 18th December 2015

I fully support this project.

Mosely Hall
Mosely Road
Wolverhampton
WV10 7HZ

Comments: 18th December 2015

I object to this application. I wholeheartedly agree with the attached document posted on 8th December as to the reasons why building a BMX pump track at Burrows Field would be detrimental to the local area.

40 Santers Lane
Potters Bar
Boreham Wood
EN6 2BX

Comments: 18th December 2015

Any benefit that could be derived from the physical activity with regard to use of the pump track will be undermined by the disturbance to the local community and the overall physical deterioration of the field, which will result in its natural beauty being destroyed.

55 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 9th December 2015

There is not suitable access to the site for Cyclist. There has to be a much better location for this where people from all over Cheltenham can use the facility not on the far side of the town.

3 Bethesda Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 2AY

Comments: 10th December 2015

I support the idea of a local BMX pump track and having one on a local sports field seems like an excellent plan. I'd love to think that Cheltenham could be the training ground for the UK's future BMX World and Olympic champions. I know there are some really good young riders in the area and having a local facility where they can train would be enormously beneficial to them.

57 Church Road
Leckhampton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PF

Comments: 10th December 2015

While I am in favour of getting young people to enjoy the countryside and have more exercise, I am concerned about the proposed BMX application for several reasons; firstly the proposal does not provide sufficient information to evaluate the impacts of the BMX track construction and operation on the local environment in terms of ecology, landscape impact and hydrology. The following legislation is of relevance here:

'The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC), 2006 states: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". The following paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are of particular relevance: Paragraph 8 on the roles of planning in relation to sustainable development states 'These roles should not be undertaken in isolation... therefore to achieve sustainable development economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system'. With regard to paragraph 117, in order to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should: promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations; With reference to paragraph 118, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity.'

I therefore suggest that an ecological appraisal and bat survey is undertaken to assess the impacts of the proposed track (construction and operation phases) on local ecology particularly bats, which are reported to be roosting in the mature crack willows. As a professional ecologist and licensed bat worker I have inspected the area and it has potential to support roosting bats (a local wildlife enthusiast reports bats to be roosting) and from previous activity surveys, I can confirm that this dark tree-lined strip along the brook provides a valuable foraging and commuting route for bats. Bats and their roosts are protected from disturbance/destruction under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Should this proposal go ahead, it is essential that a buffer zone is left between the line of trees and the track, that this area is not illuminated and also that the track landscaping incorporate native species of shrubs, grasses and flowers. Should further surveys reveal an active bat roost near the proposed site, then it will be necessary to apply for an EPS licence from Natural England and provide adequate mitigation.

Due to the problems of flooding in the area (the field already gets waterlogged in the wetter months), it would be advisable to obtain a hydrology assessment to assess the impact of such a scheme on the local hydrology and further consideration needs to be given to what materials are proposed for the track, particularly their ability to absorb rainwater.

The proposals do not detail the landscaping and planting for the area, it would be useful to see these described to assess how the scheme will fit and enhance the local landscape.

There are other more operational concerns with the proposals, which do not seem to have been addressed. Concerns have been raised by those using the field for football that the BMX track will encourage more bikers onto the field which will lead to the destruction of the football pitches. Although the idea of hard-core cycle tracks leading to the BMX track has been proposed, there is the concern as to how cycling only in designated areas will be enforced. On this note, it is essential that bike barriers are installed at all footpath entrances/exits leading in/out of Burrow's field to ensure that cyclists dismount from their bikes on footpaths to avoid collisions with people and dogs and also avoid damage to the footpaths (which already get churned up in the wetter months).

There is also concern from dog walkers such as myself and those with young children regarding how the bikers attracted to the site will be regulated to ensure that they do keep to the designated hard-core paths and behave considerately while in Burrow's field, allowing other users to continue without harassment or injury (e.g. collisions with bikes and dogs/young children). On this last point, it will be necessary to have a fence around the track with gated entry to prevent the risk of dogs/children getting onto the track and colliding with bikers.

Other concerns relate to the increased traffic (and pollution) resulting from parents driving their children and bikes to the track, and the lack of parking and toilet facilities at Burrows field for all the extra users of the site. There are no details in the current proposals to address these concerns.

24 Moorend Park Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0JY

Comments: 10th December 2015

I think the idea for a bike track is a good one and worthy of serious consideration and support.

- 1) It needs to be somewhere children can walk or cycle to, and not "out somewhere else" where a car journey would be needed. Hence Burrows field is perfect. It is close by, yet a large open space where impact will be minimal to neighbours.
- 2) Teaching a child to cycle in Cheltenham is hard. There are a few, disconnected cycle paths, lots of uneven pavements and that is it. If we want to reduce the amount of traffic we need confident cyclists. Giving them somewhere safe to practice is a great idea.
- 3) We need to provide for all parts of society. We have a lawn tennis court, football pitch, allotments, young child's playground, but nothing for older children or teenagers.

My only question on the design would be whether a hole could be cut in the hedge so that cyclists could be encouraged to use the footpath that already exists rather than cycle across the field.

Thanks.

25 Southfield Approach
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9LN

Comments: 11th December 2015

Like many people I have only just heard about the proposal for a BMX Pump track by word of mouth. I have no idea why anyone would think that this is a good location for such a scheme. I would like to raise objection to this on the grounds of logistics and fitness for purpose.

My background is that I have lived in Leckhampton for most of my life and adjacent to Burrows Field for 30 years. My children and I all grew up using Burrows. At no time were we ever allowed to ride bikes there.

General

You have stated that there is currently no BMX Pump track in Gloucestershire. My understanding is that Gloucester BMX Club have already applied for planning consent to build a purpose built pump track. Additionally there is a standard BMX track in Bishops Cleeve and an indoor facility in Stroud.

By definition BMX Pump is a race track and is designed for people at the more experienced end of the sport. Although it can be used by all BMX bikers (and probably the occasional motocross as well), its main purpose is for racing and race training. It is an expensive solution if just local youngsters use it.

Fitness for Purpose

I see 3 possible scenarios developing from a Pump track at this location

- a) It is a great success and the users will want to hold competitive events here. A taller starting ramp will be required, larger track, floodlighting and spectator facilities.
- b) BMX expands generally, further tracks are set up around the County, and serious BMX riders will get bored of the limited facilities and the difficult access, and will go elsewhere.
- c) BMX ceases to be an Olympic sport, interest declines and the track goes out of use. The only people with the money to remove this will be developers. There is precedent for this when BMX first went out of fashion and Cheltenham BMX track closed and the one at Robinswood Hill became derelict.

If we are serious in about building a BMX facility in Gloucestershire, then this needs to be on a site near main road access, with adequate parking, and with room to expand as required. It needs facilities for spectators and competitions, and floodlights for all year round use.

Cheltenham has a history of doing things half-baked. The Price of Wales stadium does not have enough lanes for top athletic competition. Pittville Pool is not 50 metres, so cannot be used for major competition. We were told that it was only relevant for a limited number of elite swimmers. Facilities for top athletics and swimming are not available in Gloucestershire, but apparently we require this for BMX. If this is the case, then let's do it properly.

Logistics

The key target users of a Pump track will be teenagers and young adults (not pupils from the nursery as you seem to imply). These will be at school or working during the week, and as there are no floodlights, then during the winter this will concentrate the usage on the weekend.

As you are expecting riders from all over the County, then each of these will arrive in a car. The car park cannot cope with existing use of the field and when football is taking place then all of the surrounding residential streets are packed with cars. Often dangerously parked.

The increased usage will see further cars parked on Allenfield and Church Road. Not only is this a problem for locals, but will almost certainly put off those traveling to use the Pump track. The development of hundreds of new homes on 3 sites off Leckhampton Lane will also have a major impact on the traffic in these areas, making parking an even more complex issue.

Having arrived by car, the bikes will need to get to the Pump track. I'm sure that responsible BMX riders will carry them the 100 metres from the car park, or along the track from Church Road, or the 250 metres from the Merlin way entrance across the boggy ground. They will also wait patiently for their turn on the track and not cycle around the field during this time. It's the other riders that will ruin the field and tracks.

You state that the nearest house is 100 metres away. But this will not be the case when houses are built on Lott's Meadow.

This is primarily a field for ball sports. We have already lost part of it to the nursery, and now you want to add more concrete right in the direction of the view of our beautiful Leckhampton Hill.

This really should be developed on a brown field site near motorway or A road access, and not in one of the towns parks or playing fields, especially one already extremely well used such as Burrows.

I completely understand why many parents when offered a new facility will jump at the opportunity. But where will this stop? There are loads of sports in which people want to participate, but they cannot all be accommodated on every field. Let's not ruin one of the last green spaces in Leckhampton.

3 Bentley Court
Sotherby Drive
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 0FQ

Comments: 12th December 2015

Object

24 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LL

Comments: 15th December 2015

I write to register my comments and objection to the above proposal. I find the information in the application vague and sketchy. Whilst it may be a desirable facility for those teenagers and adults whose hobby this is; Burrows Field is the wrong place. My reasons are as follows:-

1. Burrows Field was given to the council as a recreation facility. Recreation is however a wider concept than organised sport/activities (see 2 below). These currently consist of football and cricket which takes place for time-limited periods at weekends and some weekday evenings. This creates the expected noise and also causes parking problems in local roads, often blocking access to/from driveways, since the roads are fairly narrow; but lasts for a few hours only. The BMX track is being promoted as an area-wide amenity, not just local; could this mean regional in due course? No information is provided as to when it will be used (days and hours) and how this will be allocated like the above sports are.
2. Burrows Field is used by a lot of people of all ages during the day/evening for a variety of recreational purposes - playing with children/grandchildren, walking with/without dogs, meeting friends, sitting on one of the several benches - in an environment where one can enjoy the open air and nature and its seasonal changes of flora, fauna and birdsong together with the view of the Cotswold hills and the adjacent fields and AONB: in other words enjoy some re-creation. The activity and noise from the BMX users will impinge on this outside of football and cricket usage times. Continuous activity/noise etc. will frighten off some of the wild life. Also bike riders and pedestrians do not easily mix with each other, especially older people and children. Some dogs love chasing bikes.
3. Burrows Field sits at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment and is affected by the water run-off, as are the adjacent fields. They can get very wet and boggy for several months of the year. Severn Trent had to abandon their attempt to replace the sewers in Peregrine Rd and adjacent roads after 3 month's work (July to October 2014) because of the nature of the terrain and the fact that their holes filled up with water from below (waist deep) which proved impossible to empty and to work in. Hence Burrows Field is slow to dry out.
4. When the ground is soft the tracks from the BMX bikes will likely damage the grass surface. This will not just be around the BMX track but very probably anywhere on the field. It is highly unlikely cyclists will confine their riding just to the track itself or any access path across the field; whilst waiting their turn there may well be practice/warm up rides, races etc. At the Open Day on Oct 3rd a youth was seen doing wheelies on the cricket square and no BMX adult seemed concerned. If cycling happens with any regularity on the sports pitches and damage results there will be some unhappy footballers and cricketers. If it happens off the pitches then walking round the field will become difficult. Also the children's play area is already a meeting point for some teenagers after school and during holidays and the bikers may be tempted to go there as well during gaps in their use of the track. The equipment and

user may be vulnerable to damage when being used by people larger and heavier than those it was designed for. Increasing the field's usage will increase knowledge of the field's existence and availability- 24 hour access in no problem.

5. What are the Supervision and Health and Safety arrangements? None are specified in the application. What if there are arguments about usage e.g. it's my turn now? What if there are accidents on the track and/or collisions between bikers and other users? What are the toilet arrangements? Are we going to have incidents/allegations of indecent exposure?
6. The school and nursery are said to be supportive. Why do they not offer to have it sited on their playing field which is large and much less widely used than Burrows Field? It also has parking and toilets. Schools seem increasingly to want to be involved with their local community.
7. The track at Arle was closed down a few years ago because of antisocial behaviour and disturbance to local residents and I can see no reason why it would have a long life here. If so it will be public money wasted. I think it would be better sited at Pittville where other sports facilities are and is more accessible. Many of the BMX supporters at the October meeting came from across town and just wanted somewhere nearer than Gloucester or Bristol. Pittville could also provide skilled oversight and toilets etc.

Comments: 30th December 2015

I write in response to your latest letter of 16 December which arrived on 21 December. I was surprised by the fact that replies had to be made by 30 December during the period when people are busy with Christmas activities and perhaps not even at home. To date I have met only one other person who has received it. It feels as if democratic consultation is lowly valued.

My comments on the revised plans are as follows:-

1. The minor change to the location of the Track is of little worth: just moving it a few feet away from the football pitches. This in no way reduces the permanent impact it will have on the character/ethos of the field generally for the users who don't play football, or the view to the hills: (which I detailed in my earlier comments of 15 December). The best revision would be to find a different site to Burrows Field.
2. The proposed footpath runs under/alongside the trees and will be affected by the large leaves which fall in the autumn. How do we know that the bikers will use or keep to it? When I walked on the field recently the ground all around the track and path site was very soft and muddy, as it usually is at this time of year; or any time of year after rain. Bikes not on the path will act like ploughs. Is it wide enough for bikers /people to pass each other?
3. Some of the trees are quite well established. What certainty is there that the protection plan won't damage roots which grow horizontally and fairly shallowly rather than deeply?

I should be very pleased if this whole project could be rethought and if a BMX track is necessary in Cheltenham it be placed elsewhere. Only a few days ago I read in the Echo comments from Cllr Rawson that Cheltenham's future finances were far from rosy and economies in essential services would be on the cards. So why waste scarce money on something which will be used by a very small but enthusiastic minority?

Comments: 12th January 2016

Yesterday my attention was drawn to the attached websites re the Flyup417 project off the A417 in the Crickley Hill/Birdlip vicinity opening in March.

<http://bit.ly/1PIX7iy>

<http://bit.ly/1PIWFlv>

The video presentation shows the development in some detail and also announces/shows the development of a world class indoor BMX Pump Track and stresses its family friendly nature.

Surely this takes away the need for a small, second rate facility on Burrows Field. This will be no further away from Leckhampton than the Leisure centre is for those who use what it provides.

We can't have everything on our doorstep.

I trust the members of the Planning Committee will be appraised of this when they consider application 15/02065/FUL so that they can make a properly informed decision.

Carlton House
Pittville Circus Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 2PZ

Comments: 13th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

The field has a certain charm all of its own and many people who visit it regularly are attracted by it's natural beauty.

Some people just come to the field to relax on the benches to take in the views of hills, hedgerows and trees and appreciate the open vista and watch the sun setting.

The playing areas require nothing more than white lines and removable posts. Nothing is permanent and there are no artificial surfaces or tracks.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field.

Presumably the proposed artificial track would be used for cyclists racing one another, creating a permanent area of activity.

Consideration should be given to:

1. Detrimental effect on the fields natural features and views.
2. Over use of field.

3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.
4. Mud on the road.
5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.
6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. Please see photo attached of overflowing car park at 2.15pm Sunday 6th December 2015 while football in progress. We already have overfull capacity within the car park, with cars blocking emergency access and onto side roads and footpaths.
7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?
8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?
9. Toilet facilities?
10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.
11. Break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used.
12. Consideration of more suitable sites. Rejected: Walk Place, Arle Road proposal was rejected which has similar problems to overcome as this site. In existence: (not exclusive) Westgate Park, Gloucester introduced a BMX Pump track and has a 50 space car park to take the extra activity. Bishops Cleeve, Evesham Road has a track
Possible site: Brizen Farm Playing Field which has a car park with over 30 spaces, closer health and safety facilities and more hard surface for easy bicycle access. Also when new housing is considered in the area, space should be allocated within the curtilage of any new housing scheme, if further tracks are required.

Burrows Field is unspoilt, well proportion with regards playing to non-playing areas and is enjoyed by many. It is a natural field without the need for artificial tracks and banks. The Field is the same as it was when Mrs Burrows kindly left the Field to the community and is appreciated by all those that use the field on a regular basis.

In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

11 All Saints Villas Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 2HB

Comments: 13th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its

grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

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Consideration should be given to:

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2. Over use of field.
3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.
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10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.
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In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

33 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HG

Comments: 16th December 2015
Letter attached.

6 Charnwood Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HJ

Comments: 22nd December 2015
Document attached.

14 Southcourt Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DW

Comments: 22nd December 2015
Letter attached.

14 Southcourt Close
Cheltenham

Gloucestershire
GL53 0DW

Comments: 22nd December 2015

Letter attached.

25 Merriville Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 8JG

Comments: 15th December 2015

Having moved from Cirencester to Cheltenham I can only see benefits to having somewhere and something to do for young people in the Leckhampton area. Cirencester recently completed an area for skateboarding, bikes, and football which has proved a great success (my father lives directly behind it) with none of the problems people initially seemed to assume would come from it. In fact to the contrary, with quite a positive community spirit being shown by the users, now supported also by a local shop in the town!

67 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0BS

Comments: 17th December 2015

I do object to the desecration of a traditional sports field on a permanent basis mainly for the benefit of non residents.

I acknowledge this is being "sold" as a facility for local people but this is disingenuous and, to be successful will require a broader audience.

The infrastructure for the traffic that will use this track is simply not there. If you ask local residents they will tell you that on football match and training sessions the car park overflows with traffic parking on pavements for 100meters outside the entrance to the car park. Church Road is over parked so that can't be a solution.

If busy this must cross over with traditional sports events.

It simply doesn't work

10 Hobby Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LP

Comments: 21st December 2015

In the last day or so, notices have been taped to lamp posts and such outlining these proposals. As a local resident I would like it known that I strongly object to both the apparent choice of site and the nature of the activity. There is little or no demand locally for this activity and the sports field as such is already well used for its' intended purpose, namely football and cricket and 'green space' appreciation. It would be good to know who is driving this application, certainly no one I have met in the immediate area, none of whom have been consulted to my knowledge

53 Moorend Park Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LA

Comments: 10th December 2015

I feel that this bmx pump track is a fantastic opportunity for kids to get into the sport and learn the sport but as well having a great time whilst learning. There's not any bmx pump tracks in Cheltenham yet and there's yet to be a good/decent skatepark, so a bmx pump track is a great alternative to this and less costly. If the bmx track does get built it will be a great attraction to all residents in the area as it will give the younger ages something to be involved in and another place for those already involved in the sport another place to do what they love. Another positive to a bmx pump track is it will get kids outside the house, off the xbox and enjoying the natural outdoors get some fresh air, it'll do good for them and it will give them a chance to make LOADS OF MATES AND FRIENDS.

I feel this is a great and fantastic opportunity for all in the community especially those looking for something to do other than football, rugby and netball. This also has the potential to produce sporting talents in bmx which could take youngsters big places! Thanks for reading and keep supporting!!!

15 Barnfield Road
Stour Port-on Severn
Worcester
DY13 0HG

Comments: 10th December 2015

There are no toilet facilities at Burrows Field. With this proposed track and the extra people from, not just Gloucestershire, but from other counties such as Wiltshire, Bath, Bristol and Avon, how do you propose to sort this out? Will there be a first aider on site? There are bound to be accidents to riders when they race each other and come off their bikes....

With the extra congestion in the surrounding roads how will emergency services get to the accident (if needed)?

Why is £40,000 of tax payer's money being put aside for this? There are other organisations that need the money more, i.e. the emergency services, the hospitals, the refuse collectors, employ someone to lock the park gates at night and still have money left over.

It seems to be an awful lot of money for a one-minute wonder that will be popular one minute and then an eyesore the next.

Lamb Flag Cottage
3 Chapel Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 2AR

Comments: 16th December 2015

I support this BMX track - it will be great for local kids.

12 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire

GL53 0HH

Comments: 9th December 2015

I wish to object to the construction of a BMX pump track in Burrows Field. The field is well used by sports people, dog walkers, children at play and people enjoying the green space. Burrows is a lovely facility. As a cyclist and former tennis and rugby coach I commend physical activity and we should all promote it. The fact is Burrows is not the right place for the track as the facilities cannot support it. The area designated has a high water table and regularly floods. The parking is inadequate and overflows into surrounding roads and the view of Leckhampton hill from the field would be spoilt. The best option for all concerned is to relocate the site to Brizen which has the facilities and the accessibility.

11 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HG

Comments: 14th December 2015

You will have received various emails discussing designs and the possibility of finding another site, perhaps at Brizen, for the proposed Bmx track, but we realise the alternative proposals suggested so far, are not suitable. So please will you help us by giving us details of the bmx track at present under consideration for this application.

In case it helps, shown below is a link to a website which shows the various types of bmx tracks, and are we right in thinking perhaps Options 2 or 3 would be the type being considered, rather than the Regional or National ones?

<http://www.bmxtrackbuilding.co.uk/options.htm>

Some guidance on the matter, (including likely costs) would be most helpful,

As time is so short, an early response would be greatly appreciated,

Comments: 22nd December

Letter attached.

21 Moorend Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0EH

Comments: 14th December 2015

I wish to object to planning being granted for the above.

The games field grass is needed for walkers, children and dog walkers. There is little enough green space in this vicinity.

A pump track will disturb the tranquility of the field.

It will disturb cricket players.

It will disturb footballers.

It will disturb allotment holders.

It will disturb local residents.

Those that want a track can drive their children to the Gloucester track.

Comments: 21st December 2015

With regard to the above amended proposal a BMX track would be very dangerous to both the riders and others using the field. A child or dog could run in front of a bike and cause an accident.

Also there is insufficient parking for anymore cars especially when people are taking children to the playschool and cars belonging to cricketers and footballers.

112 charlton Road
kingswood
bristol
bs15 1hf

Comments: 14th December 2015

I fully support the application . I lived close to Burrows when I was a child. When i visit family now we often walk over there.

change is good. Green space is for sharing, i have to put up with dogs making a noise, dogs mess on the field etc. That's life.

I would rather the youngsters had somewhere to burn off their energy, get fit and get some fresh air . Rather there than hanging around the streets. I have been to parks where there are bmx tracks,a lot of the fears of people are unfounded.

The children are our future, far better on bikes than watching the tv.

36 Chestnut Street
Worcester
WR1 1PA

Comments: 15th December 2015

I object to this application as there are all ready plenty of these tracks in a nearby locations

299 Old Bath Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9AJ

Comments: 15th December 2015

I support

78 Church Road
Leckhampton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PD

Comments: 13th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

The field has a certain charm all of its own and many people who visit it regularly are attracted by it's natural beauty.

Some people just come to the field to relax on the benches to take in the views of hills, hedgerows and trees and appreciate the open vista and watch the sun setting.

The playing areas require nothing more than white lines and removable posts. Nothing is permanent and there are no artificial surfaces or tracks.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field.

Presumably the proposed artificial track would be used for cyclists racing one another, creating a permanent area of activity.

Consideration should be given to:

1. Detrimental effect on the fields natural features and views.
2. Over use of field.
3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.
4. Mud on the road.
5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.
6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. Please see photo attached of overflowing car park at 2.15pm Sunday 6th December 2015 while football in progress. We already have overfull capacity within the car park, with cars blocking emergency access and onto side roads and footpaths.
7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?

8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?

9. Toilet facilities?

10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.

11. Break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used.

12. Consideration of more suitable sites. Rejected: Walk Place, Arle Road proposal was rejected which has similar problems to overcome as this site. In existence: (not exclusive) Westgate Park, Gloucester introduced a BMX Pump track and has a 50 space car park to take the extra activity. Bishops Cleeve, Evesham Road has a track Possible site: Brizen Farm Playing Field which has a car park with over 30 spaces, closer health and safety facilities and more hard surface for easy bicycle access. Also when new housing is considered in the area, space should be allocated within the curtilage of any new housing scheme, if further tracks are required.

Burrows Field is unspoilt, well proportion with regards playing to non-playing areas and is enjoyed by many. It is a natural field without the need for artificial tracks and banks. The Field is the same as it was when Mrs Burrows kindly left the Field to the community and is appreciated by all those that use the field on a regular basis.

In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

28 St Lukes Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7JJ

Comments: 13th December 2015

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In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

13 Grove Crescent
Worcester
WR2 5HA

Comments: 10th December 2015

Who will patrol the site at night? The gate to the park is not shut, which would mean the track would be abused by youths at night, especially during the holidays! You can not expect an over stretched police force to do regular nightly patrols.

There is a high water table where the track is proposed. This floods regularly, where would the water go?

What about the extra noise for the local people.

12 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HH

Comments: 17th December 2015

I strongly object to this proposal. Burrows is already great location for all the local residents, providing a multitude of activities already and I see no reason for the addition of the Pump Track. There are plenty of existing nearby locations which are great for Mountain Biking and BMX activities and it would be an absolute shame to ruin the stunning view of Leckhampton Hill from the field. Furthermore there are serious flaws with the proposal not least of which is the high water table and frequent flooding of the area.

111 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DQ

Comments: 13th December 2015

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In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

Waterloo Cottage
Bredon
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire
GL20 7NA

Comments: 16th December 2015

Absurd suggestion to waste valuable land currently used by a large number of dog walkers.

People will always want and need to walk dogs and there are a reducing number of locations for what is an essential for people in a suburban area.

I'm sure BMX is fun to those who pursue it but it could well be a fad that goes out of fashion in the future, leaving another carbuncle on one of the dwindling green areas in Cheltenham.

Pittville has a perfectly adequate facility for what is a relatively small number of BMX enthusiasts. There is the option to expand, slightly, the Pittville facility.

My stance on this application is one of objection.

5 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HG

Comments: 16th December 2015

I am writing to you to present my objections against the above planning proposal, for the following reasons:

The proposal is cited as being a local facility / amenity for all ages and genders. This will not be the case. The main proponents for the scheme (the Copeland / Powel family) want a training facility for their son who is involved in national / international BMX competitions. The labelling of the proposal as a local facility is just a disguise to achieve their aim of a training facility close to where they live. Their aim has been clearly stated in local press reports in the Gloucestershire Echo. It is also clearly stated in the proposal, saying there is no such facility in Cheltenham or in Gloucestershire. However, a similar track is to be built in Gloucester at Westgate Park, so the assertion that the proposal in Burrows Field will be the only such facility in the county is untrue and moreover the father of the boy whose mother is the scheme's main proponent has stated in the press that he would be willing to travel to Gloucester to the new track there. If there is a demand for a training facility it should be more centrally located in Cheltenham, at Tommy Taylor's Lane with other facilities there.

Personally I do not want local money (reportedly £40,000) intended for local initiatives used to help provide a training facility which this is really.

I do not believe the assertion that use of the facility by people of all ages - 6 to 60 plus has been mentioned in proposal leaflets - will happen. People of an 'older age' use Burrows Field for walking their dogs and meeting people for a chat or to enjoy the view of Leckhampton Hill; these people will not use the proposed track and may even be put off going there by the BMX track. I have a bike and cycle but I will not be using it. When there was a presentation at Burrows Field back in October, an 'older' lady expressed her opposition at the display table and the response from a 'younger' proponent was that the track was not going to bother her as she did not have long to live - so much for inter-generational harmony and being a facility for a wide age range.

When I did a snap analysis of the petition in favour on the change.org. web site I was only able to see at the time 54 signatures of the total (approx. 174 or so), but analysis showed that 25 (46%) were not of Cheltenham (some were from overseas, some from other parts of the UK), while of the other 29 (54%) Leckhampton was not mentioned as to where they were from (one was from Charlton Kings, another from the university). Such petitions show that the aim is not a local facility for local people and the claim for local support is somewhat exaggerated, as has been made clear to both local council and county councillors. I have not had opportunity to analyse the written petition but the same feature which I have found above may well equally apply with it, having canvassed for support beyond the local area.

Undoubtedly some potential users will use cars to bring their bikes to the facility (especially for possible younger users). I have seen this at the Churchdown BMX facility and parking is bad enough around Burrows Field - at times users of Burrows Field pitches have parked right up to the top end of Arden Road and elsewhere, both on the road and on pavements, causing inconvenience to local residents and possible access to emergency vehicles - this has happened. All this without the additional demand for parking which the proposed facility will bring. The prime time for possible use of the track could be at weekends and will therefore often coincide with other users of Burrows Field and so the parking problem will be further exacerbated, as the proposal says there will be no increase in parking spaces.

The proposal says that the track will not be floodlight and by implication it will not be used at night. This will not be the case as modern bike light are powerful and will enable riders to use the proposed facility at night - I have seen bikers at night on Leckhampton Hill who can do so because of their modern high powered lights. BMX users of the proposed track will see night time use as another attraction of the facility.

It is proposed that there will be no access track laid to the facility and that bikers will use the narrow path between the field and the allotments. In reality bikers will ride straight across Burrows Field to the track. This will mess up the Field, especially when the ground is wet and soggy as it is frequently during the winter and also at other times. The field will be churned up and then it will put off other users of the field who walk around it or take their dogs for a walk.

It is not clear from the proposal what impact there will be on local drainage and the stream nearby and if any proper assessment has been made.

Burrows Field is noted for a lack of litter which makes for a pleasant area. The proposal itself implicitly admits there will be litter, as it says this happens at other facilities such as skate parks and multi-use game areas. I have also seen this at the Churchdown facility, with discarded empty 'sports' drink bottles, despite there being litter bins in the area.

The size of the track is inappropriate, as is obvious from the plans and the indicative photograph. The Churchdown BMX facility is smaller than the proposal but nevertheless is it quite big when one actually sees it. The track will dominate the location where it will be located, including up to its maximum heights of approx. 6 foot. The track's position will dominate the corner of the field and hinder people walking around the field, and to Lott's Meadow.

Noise at Burrows Field tends to be at certain times at the weekend, and during the summer when there is only cricket the noise level is very low to say the least. The proposal is making assertions about noise which it cannot support and if the proposed facility is used as frequently as they suggest then there will be an increased occurrence of noise throughout the week and the year.

The reference in the proposal to the tennis court nearby is irrelevant to the proposal. It is not part of Burrows Field and is used by a very small number of people who frequently walk to it, and is mainly in use in the summer months only. The noise level is absolutely minimal - I have an allotment near it and it is very difficult to discern any noise from it.

Bats roost in the area near the proposed BMX track, the roosting location has been registered with the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER). What environmental ecological assessment has been made in regard to this protected mammal. Proposal section 13a does not address this issue and so the proposal should be invalidated.

In addition, proposal section 8 states the proposer is an authority employee / member, but this is not elaborated as required. The proposal should be invalidated as a result as it is not clear what 'inside' influence or conflict of interest might exist.

Please acknowledge receipt of my objections to the proposal.

Comments: 30th December 2015

please find below our comments and (continued) objection to the revised BMX track proposal which now includes a connection path from the parking area to the proposed track:

1. this is not a footpath as described by CBC in its letter of 16th December 2015 - it is a track intended solely for BMX riders;
2. it is leading to the increased 'urbanisation' of Burrows Field and of the local area, when taken in conjunction with the whole BMX track proposal.

In addition, we have the following comments on the 18th December 2015 Statement of evidence - supporting info from applicant:

1. the emphasis on the local community is over-exaggerated, as the local community in the immediate vicinity was not consulted while this proposal was in gestation earlier this year; the aim is to provide a convenient training facility for a family member while the local community is a secondary beneficiary;
2. regarding the last paragraph - any local facility must take into account the potential impact on local residents near/next to the facility (the proposer although living in Leckhampton does so away from the proposal on the other side of Leckhampton Road).

24 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LL

Comments: 16th December 2015

The failure to establish a similar facility in Arle would suggest that enthusiasm by users or local residents for such a facility is questionable. It is not clear whether users would arrive by car (parking is already problematic in neighbouring roads when sports activities occur); if so they could travel further afield to use other track venues established or proposed.

Over- usage of Burrows Field particularly by bikes, which is currently forbidden, is likely to turn it into a muddy bog due to the high water table here and make it unpleasant for other users.

A major concern must be that the site will not be supervised. It is unlikely that a sign providing safety guidance would be adequate to meet the Health and Safety needs of users of the track and the other users of the field, who are many. No toilet facilities are available or to be provided.

The lack of designated user times indicates there would be no general oversight of safe use and wellbeing. This would be particularly relevant regarding casual users, of whom there might be quite a few, since the field is easily accessible. Young people will no doubt be attracted to it, by day or night, regardless of their skill and experience which will increase risk.

The local primary schools could be encouraged to provide safe environments for younger children eager to learn to ride and maintain a bicycle, complementing their existing cycling proficiency schemes. This could be achieved without the need to cater for a specialist interest/niche market.

Whilst supporting the benefits of outdoor activity for all ages I would point out that Burrows Field already provides recreational opportunities appropriate to the local mixed - age community together with supervised team sports. The risks involved in unsupervised activities suggests that cycling, including the BMX Pump Track would be better resourced at existing sporting centres such as Pittville where there is an existing infrastructure and supervision e.g. the Leisure centre.

I notice from the Planning website that many if not most of the supporters of the proposal do not live next to or in the immediate vicinity of Burrows Field.

My purpose in writing is to object to this Planning Application. Burrows Field is not the right place.

10 The Spindles
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0QD

Comments: 21st January 2016

I refer to our concerns below and to the response received from Adam Reynolds and are still not as confident as Adam that the pitches will not be affected by cyclists.

According to the Gloucestershire FA, with 23 teams in the Cheltenham Youth Football League (289 players), we are the largest Youth football club in Gloucestershire and as such rely very heavily on the use of Cheltenham Borough Council pitches, for both matches and training. We have circa 50 youth coaches and, having discussed the matter with many of them at a recent club meeting, they have advised that they have regularly experienced cyclists riding over/across council pitches, travelling from A to B, at many of the venues we use.

The FA are currently undertaking a major audit of grassroots football facilities; the state of pitches and grounds. The idea is to help The FA and local councils to work together to protect and nurture these facilities not just for today's players but those of future generations. Over four in five pitches in England are under the control of local authorities or educational establishments.

Due to the current adverse weather, the pitches we use are in a very poor state (Burrows and Naunton Park in particular) and we would not wish to see them damaged further by such as cyclist riding across them to get to other facilities eg BMX tracks.

I am sure there are other suitable sites within the area for a BMX track to be located other than at Burrows field. Please support us and help to protect our football pitches which have been at Burrows for over 50 years.

St Brizen
Kidnappers Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0NL

Comments: 3rd January 2016

1. Ms Powell made an application for a BMX track at Burrows, whilst her partner Mr Copeland simultaneously made an application to Gloucester for a BMX track. A Gloucester full-size track has been approved, and development will go ahead at the Riverside Water Park, which is only 10 minutes from Cheltenham. Both applications say Ms Powell and Mr Copeland have to travel to Bristol, and neither mentions the existing good quality BMX track at Quedgeley, or the not so good one at Bishops Cleeve.
2. In 2016 there will be THREE BMX tracks within striking distance (Gloucester, Quedgeley and Cleeve), i.e. more than sufficient for the very limited number of BMXers living in Leckhampton.
3. Adam Reynolds (of Cheltenham Green Space Division), has told me he is determined to spend his budget on putting a BMX track on Burrows, irrespective of the fact that this would be near to people's homes and beside a stream that houses endangered great crested newts and other protected wildlife.
4. Whilst THREE tracks will be readily accessible to the Gloucester side of town, not counting Burrows, those people on the other side of town would be disadvantaged by distance. Surely in fairness to the whole Cheltenham population, (rather than one seven-year-old in Leckhampton), it would be far more appropriate to direct the funds towards a new track on the opposite side of town, (Pittville Park, Agg Gardeners, Arle), where it would be a far more appreciated amenity.
5. Cycling is not permitted on the paths at Burrows, so BMXers would be cycling across the football pitches, which is not acceptable (even though Adam Reynolds tells me he thinks it is acceptable). On the other hand, if new paths for BMX bikes were installed, as he now suggests, the green environment would be severely compromised for those who enjoy Burrows in the true way that Mr Burrows intended when he left the field in trust; and furthermore the protected wildlife would be irreversibly damaged.
6. The Quedgeley BMX proposal gave major consideration to the issue of noise. Their words were "By the nature of the proposed use there will be some noise arising from the BMX track". This was referring to the nature of the tarmac and crushed stone bumps and jumps, as well as the noise from the BMX riders, their crashing bikes and their supporters. For those living right next to the proposed Burrows site, and for all of us who enjoy the tranquillity of this important green space, this must be considered a major issue.
7. Ms Powell claims that the number of supporting messages will be the significant factor in swaying the planners, and Adam Reynolds actually confirms this. Alarmingly this aspect unfairly creates an unlevel playing field. Those against are locals, yet hardly anyone in Leckhampton received notification of the plan, (leaflet for Oct meeting received 31 December after complaining to Adam Reynolds). By contrast, support will flow from BMXers all over the country, because the message below, which suggests a foregone conclusion, was sent out to hundreds of people via the national BMX clubs internet, encouraging people countrywide to

send in their support. There is also a biased poll produced by the applicant (which should be disregarded).

"Our BMX friends in Cheltenham are fighting to get a quality BMX pump track on Burrows Fields near Leckhampton. They have been given the funding and subject to planning they have been granted the land. If you want to see this track happen please follow the following link to CBC planning site and give your support. You may already filled in a survey pledging your support but none of these will count, the only thing that counts is registering your support via the link! Please share wherever possible! Thanks

8. Burrows is a tranquil green space that is demonstrably important to the local community and further afield. It is important to retain its essential character, just as Mr Burrows intended.

Comments: 6th January 2016

In response to 91 Pilley Crescent:

1. Hundreds of people who use Burrows live on the Kidnappers Lane side. None of us knew about this application until December, and we have never seen tick box posters.
2. Leglag's database IS the local community, not a powerful outside body! The 800 people they informed are the people you should have informed.
3. Most people living right next to the proposed track, in Moorend Grove etc, did not get a flyer.
4. The momentary bark of a dog and the call of its owner could hardly be compared to the continuous banging and shouting coming from a BMX track! (Dog walking has always been part of the normal environment of Burrows).
5. One major concern is that the jobs responsible for the anti-social behaviour that closed down Arle, will be looking for a new venue.
6. Any location on Burrows would create noise pollution, and is especially relevant to the people walking there. It is significantly relevant to those people living nearby as they can't escape from it.
7. I agree that Cheltenham needs something of this kind, but it should be in a much safer and more amenable place. There are communities that seriously need this facility but this not one of them. How many BMXers are there in Leckhampton apart from your little boy and his friends?
8. Burrows is uniquely surrounded by a web of busy main roads, and children from afar will cross these on their bikes. (Not all children consult their parents, and not all parents are responsible). Imagine how a child would get to Burrows from say Arle, or St Marks, or Pittville?! The school holidays would be a nightmare for their parents.
9. This facility needs to be centralised, which might be inconvenient for your small group, but far more fair to the greater community of BMXers in Cheltenham.

Comments: 12th January 2016

Letter attached.

8 Hobby Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LP

Comments: 5th January 2016

With the information supplied I am compelled to object to this application. The proposal appears incomplete without the necessary business plan in place to support investment of time, land and effort. I can say this with confidence given that I have been involved with a previous application for a BMX facility in the Cheltenham area. I would like to raise the follow areas which appear to be missing or incomplete:

1. Maintenance: Even the most basic facility needs some maintenance, even if it is just rubbish clearance. I am aware that there are some well-meaning people offering voluntary help but for a facility like this to be usable into the future there needs to be some formal contracts in place for up keep.
2. Liability: BMX cycling involves inherent risk and the potential for injury. Who will be taking on this liability?
3. Parking: Parking is very limited in this area, particularly when the sports fields are in use. I am surprised that additional facilities can be added without allowing for extra parking. The intention may be that users cycle to the facility but in today's world parents appear to prefer to drive their children to events.
4. Financing: There does not appear to be any supporting documentation on financing of this facility nor does there appear to be any quotes for the facility. I understand that the council will be contributing £40,000 - from my previous experience a facility of this type will cost in excess of £40,000, so where will the additional funding come from.? Additionally, as stated above, there are very likely to be maintenance costs, who will cover this? This may seem irrelevant to a planning application, but I am concerned that as this is an investment of tax payer's fund that there is not an obligation to ongoing commitment of further funds.
5. Anti-social use: It is unfortunate that facilities of this type tend to attract anti-social behaviour. As has been highlighted by others there are a considerable number of elderly and young families live in this area who could be troubled by such behaviour. BMX riding can sometimes appear as quite boisterous and intimidating which would change the feeling of burrows field.
6. Submission Form Irregularities:
 - a. Section 8 "Authority Employee/Member", has been ticked as "Yes" but the required box for additional information has not been completed.
 - a. Section 12 "Assessment of Flood Risk, Is the site in an area at risk of flooding?" has not been completed. I would suggest that this assessment is essential as the identified location can get very water logged at time and any increase in "hard surfacing" could cause flooding issues either in this location or nearby.

My closing comment is probably the most critical. If Cheltenham Council really does have £40,000 in funds available for a cycling facility then let's make it one that is accessible to all, from the youngest to oldest and from the highest level of ability to those just starting out. If the right facility is built you may even find there is additional funding available from other groups (such as cycling organisations and private businesses). This is all the more important when considering the fact that there will be an ongoing liability for maintenance which it would appear rests with the council. I grew up in the east end of London and enjoyed the considerable benefit provided the Eastway Cycling Centre, Hackney, a facility that appealed to a broad spectrum.

111 Leckhampton Road

Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DQ

Comments: 13th December 2015

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The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

The field has a certain charm all of its own and many people who visit it regularly are attracted by it's natural beauty.

Some people just come to the field to relax on the benches to take in the views of hills, hedgerows and trees and appreciate the open vista and watch the sun setting.

The playing areas require nothing more than white lines and removable posts. Nothing is permanent and there are no artificial surfaces or tracks.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field.

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2. Over use of field.
3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.
4. Mud on the road.
5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.
6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. Please see photo attached of overflowing car park at 2.15pm Sunday 6th December 2015 while football in progress. We already have overfull capacity within the car park, with cars blocking emergency access and onto side roads and footpaths.

7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?

8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?

9. Toilet facilities?

10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.

11. Break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used.

12. Consideration of more suitable sites. Rejected: Walk Place, Arle Road proposal was rejected which has similar problems to overcome as this site. In existence: (not exclusive) Westgate Park, Gloucester introduced a BMX Pump track and has a 50 space car park to take the extra activity. Bishops Cleeve, Evesham Road has a track Possible site: Brizen Farm Playing Field which has a car park with over 30 spaces, closer health and safety facilities and more hard surface for easy bicycle access. Also when new housing is considered in the area, space should be allocated within the curtilage of any new housing scheme, if further tracks are required.

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Lingham
The Reddings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 6RT

Comments: 13th December 2015

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6 Detmore Close
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8QP

Comments: 15th December 2015
NONE GIVEN

28 Bafford Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8DL

Comments: 15th December 2015

In that case I'd just like to say that I am in strong support of any opposition to the proposed BMX pump track, as I feel it really would be detrimental to Burrows Field. Not only would it be an eyesore, but it could potentially be disruptive to others wanting make use of the space, such as people playing football, cricket or simply going out for a walk; there are many other more suitable locations for such a development.

36 Croft Road
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8LA

Comments: 16th December 2015

This should be a welcomed addition to Burrows field. Too much is made in the media that children should be outdoors more and be active. What it key to making this happen is having a varied range of facilities available to all children so that they can spark interests and new hobbies that encourage them to become more active. The olympics in 2012 was enjoyed by all ages, with all local schools taking a keen interest. These type of events inspire children and we have a responsibility to ensure that they have the opportunity to get into new sports.

Burrows sports field already caters for main stream sports such as football & cricket. The implementation of this new pump track would not add any more to the disturbance in the area other than what is already there. This new facility would not have lights so would only be used in the day time.

As a society we must be able to use local government funding to invest in new sporting activities for today's youth. Investing in youngsters now is key for our future society and that's why I'm fully behind this proposal.

Bishops Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 4TA

Comments: 20th December 2015

It will be great for Cheltenham to have this facility, so positive. I can't understand why people would object, give it a chance.

40 Hawthorne Street
Sheffield
S6 5AU

Comments: 5th January 2016

I am AGAINST a BMX track on Burrows

1. Reasons for not siting a BMX track at Arle or Pittville...

ARLE - closed down because of "anti social behaviour and disturbance to residents".

PITTVILLE - objected to for the same reason.

2. It is not 'narrow minded' to have concern about protecting this green space from litter, parking overflow, grass damage, noise, loud youth gatherings, loss of wildlife, effect of lack of toilets, and NO supervision plan whatsoever.

3. BMX tracks are NOT for "all ages and genders". It is a MINORITY activity almost exclusive to boys and young men. It is highly unlikely that mature local residents of all genders, and their teenage daughters, will rush out and buy BMX bikes!

4. Local demand consists of the applicant, and a few of her neighbours. People from the national BMX website give support, (easily identified as they just say they support BMX tracks).

5. Public consultation has been lacking, with most local residents not informed, and many still unaware. A questionnaire, allegedly addressed to people in Bath Road, has been filled in by BMX contacts.

6. Dogs off their leads combined with kids jumping around on bikes, is not a healthy combination, and could be dangerous. Dog walking is a very important activity in this community, and the dogs were here first!

7. BMX tracks are to be commended. However I know Burrows well, and for dozens of reasons I believe this is not the right location. I speak as a keen mountain biker, and the parent of a child with a BMX bike, plus a dog.

8. Has anyone suggested Hatherley Park yet? ...

40 Merlin Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LU

Comments: 17th December 2015

Letter attached.

Brantwood Road
The Vicarage
Chalford Hil
GL6 8BS

Comments: 17th December 2015
Letter attached.

St Brizen
Kidnappers Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0NL

Comments: 17th December 2015
Letter attached.

17 Merlin Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LS

Comments: 17th December 2015
Letter attached.

45 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0BJ

Comments: 13th December 2015

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2 Peregrine Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LR

Comments: 13th December 2015

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4. Mud on the road.

5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.

6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. As a resident of the adjacent road we already have cars causing obstructions to near by properties most weekends and also on training nights mid week. The car park is full to capacity most days and therefore this would additional development will cause even more parking chaos.

7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?

8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?

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32 Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HA

Comments: 14th December 2015
Letter attached.

25 Merriville Road

Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 8JG

Comments: 18th December 2015

This is an excellent project - it will provide a great outdoor sports activity for young people. And it is a great addition to the play fields, which are meant for sport - social activities.

50 pilley crescent
Leckhampton
Chelt
GL53 9es

Comments: 30th December 2015

I fully support the Pump Track I think it's a great idea. There are limited facilities for people who like to do this sport in Cheltenham and Burrows field would be a ideal location. My family have a dog and we are very lucky in Leckhampton to have a choice of lots of different places to walk our dog. Only one of my parents drive so I am limited to where I can go to ride my bike I would love to have something like this closer to where I live as at the moment I have to travel to be able to do anything I enjoy which is very unfair. Charlton kings have ramps. Pittville have ramps. Brizen have ramps. Leckhampton have nothing. Great idea for a great location a pump track in Burrows field.

8 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HQ

Comments: 14th January 2016

Letter attached.

6 Treelands Drive
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DB

Comments: 14th January 2016

Letter attached.

133 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DQ

Comments: 17th January 2016

I've tried to put myself in the position when my children were young, and indeed the principle of a BMX track nearby would have been attractive, however, I really think that Burrows fields is the wrong location.

The majority of Burrows fields is already taken up by playing fields in the form of Football and Cricket pitches. Also, as has already been pointed out, none of these are permanent - just a few white lines and posts as and when required, with the changing of the seasons. There is also a very pleasant band of land all around the pitch areas which has some beautiful trees and hedgerows and provides some more-rural feel, quiet tranquility in these areas. This amenity is well used and enjoyed by people out for a walk or a run and especially by local and responsible dog walkers.

The area proposed for the new track is set right in the heart of one of the most important of these edge areas, on the south-eastern edge, where there is an existing footpath between hedges, running alongside its very compatible neighbour, the local allotments. This stretch of parkland has been well maintained and recently older trees have been replaced by new, which suggest that it has a special character worth retaining. Visually, all this will change with the construction of the proposed Pump Track, which will dominate this important area

I agree that Brizen Farm is perfectly set up for this sort of activity, having the necessary car parking already in place to cope with the obvious increase in traffic. There is also a skate park in place at Pittville Park. Surely one of these would be an ideal spot for a BMX Pump Track and the skate park and BMX Pump Track would also complement each other?

This part of Burrows fields is also an important (and necessary refuge from cricket balls in the summer), and pleasant, more natural walking route to and from the Arden Road end entrance and Lotts Meadow, which opens up into the more rural landscape towards the south-west of Leckhampton.

16 Upper Park Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 6SB

Comments: 16th December 2015
I'm a keen cyclist of all disciplines.

I recognise that a facility such as this within an existing amenity area will provide a fantastic facility for kids to discover cycling in what will be a healthy & social environment.

I hope to see it built!

122 Swindon Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 4BN

Comments: 16th December 2015
NONE GIVEN

13 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 17th December 2015

I think this is a great idea because we need an area where children of all ages can go to develop skills on a hobby that they enjoy i.e biking. We don't have enough facilities in the area for young children to do outdoor activities.

Romney Cottage
Gordon Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0ES

Comments: 17th December 2015

Proposed plans for a BMX track on Burrows Field, Leckhampton.

I wish to show my objection to the above proposed plans and offer the following considerations.

1) the permanency of the proposal.

At present the field is used by football and cricket teams. Goal posts only stay up for a limited period of time and do not have a strong detrimental impact on the field.

The teams only meet on certain days and for short periods of time and so their impact is limited. The cricket pitches have no visual impact and are only used at certain times.

Both activities have a limited audio impact. Goal post are removed at end of football season and cricket leaves no permanent visual eye sore anyway. Neither activities change the geography of the field. The BMX track will permanently change the geography of the field and as it is likely to be used at any time there will be both audio and visual impact on the field for longer periods of time all year round. Once there it will be costly and difficult to remove and may set a precedence for further geographic change.

2) The atmosphere of the field

At present the field is visually fairly tranquil. The activities (with the exception perhaps of football) are fairly gentle and calming especially to the majority of elderly people who use it. The visual stimulus is conducive to reflection and peace of mind, especially important in the world we live in of hustle & bustle.

Green is proved vital to people's contentment. We need unadulterated green spaces. Why are we as a society very keen on destroying that which is good for our mental health?

I do NOT want the pleasantness and enjoyability of my surroundings spoilt. I enjoy the calming, tranquil, contemplative nature of this open piece of ground and hate the idea of it being infiltrated and spoilt. At present, with the exception of short periods when football is played, I and many others can look forward to this enjoyment virtually all the time. If the BMX track is allowed that certainly will not be the case (please note my comment below re. influx of people).

3) Increased litter and erosion.

Already we have a problem with litter on the field left behind by youngsters (up to late teenage and possibly early twenties) which is constantly being removed by well meaning and older members of the local community. Inevitably there will be an increase in litter. I can foresee this development acting as a magnet to many not just the very enthusiastic supervised BMX riders. There is no guarantee that undesirable elements won't be drawn and no guarantee that litter will be picked up by them.

There will be an increase in soil/grass erosion by bikes being ridden over the field with no guarantee that the rest of the field will be safeguarded. If bikes are allowed in one area there is no stopping them from going elsewhere. The planned area already suffers from excess water and gets muddy. That will not change but could get worse.

We can foresee cycles being ridden from the entrance to the field all the way to the site which will end up in erosion of the protective grass layer.

4) Parking

The car park is small and already gets crowded at times. BMX activity will increase the parking requirement. What about the effect on the neighbours?

Again visual and audio disturbance.

The BMX track will encourage an influx of people from outside the immediate local area of Leckhampton and will have a detrimental effect not only on the field but in the surrounding area. One can only imagine the dreadful parking problems especially at weekend when football is also taking place. Is the next stage in this imposition to be the enlargement in the parking area at the cost of losing an area of the field?

I consider Burrows field to be unsuitable for such a development as the above considerations show. Surely there must be an area away from a residential area, such as Leckhampton, where the impact would be less significant and which, if planned properly and comprehensively, would provide a more conducive site for this activity and any further development it may require in the future.

Hiatt Baker Hall
Bristol
BS9 1AD

Comments: 18th December 2015

I strongly object to this application. Having visited this field many times when seeing friends a BMX pump track would ruin the natural beauty of the park, especially the view from across the field looking at Leckhampton Hill.

6 Frobisher Grange
Finningley
Doncaster
DN9 3TA

Comments: 18th December 2015

This park has always meant a lot to me. Whenever I'm in Leckhampton I always take my grandparents to Burrows Field, as it is a tranquil environment with a lovely natural turf. The whole beauty of this park is the fact that unnecessary overcrowding of land use is avoided, something which would unfortunately be compromised by such a proposal.

47 Caernarvon Road
Cheltenham
GL51 3JT

Comments: 7th January 2016

Letter attached.

2 Somerset Road
Leeds
LS28 7LN

Comments: 7th January 2016
Letter attached.

40 Hawthorne Street
Sheffield
S6 5AU

Comments: 7th January 2016
Letter attached.

5 Frank Brookes Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 0UW

Comments: 17th December 2015
leckhampton hill is an asset for mountain biking and a nearby child-safe pump track would be positive for cheltenham and promote family cycling.

Flat 1 Henley Court
Montpellier
Gloucester
GL1 1LT

Comments: 17th December 2015
Being a city-dweller myself, I appreciate the opportunity to provide space and amenity for all walks and age groups. Schemes such as these should be encouraged, introduced and supported as well as possible. The outcome can only be positive, despite opinions to the contrary and the negative statements forthcoming to date demonstrate, in my opinion, the narrow-mindedness of some of the locals in their refusal to accommodate and nurture outdoor activities for all. Support this cause.

13 Chatsworth Drive
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0AG

Comments: 9th December 2015
I am writing to register my support for this proposal for a fun, up-to-date and free to use bike facility in a great location within cycling distance for local people to enjoy with family and friends.

By adding to the mix of sport and recreation opportunities, this proposal will contribute to improving health and well-being in our community in accordance with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

This type of local facility should be embedded in every community where possible to encourage cycling and help to promote active and healthy lifestyles.

Thank you to the Applicant, Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council and all involved in this proposal for giving our community a chance to have a pump track in Leckhampton!

36 Croft Road
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8LA

Comments: 17th December 2015

Definitely in support of this proposal. The space is open and available to all, not just dog walkers. Its a great idea for introducing new people to sporting activities.

Bownhill Farmhouse
Woodchester
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL5 5PW

Comments: 17th December 2015

i support the new facility

57 Justicia Way
Up Hatherley
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 3YH

Comments: 17th December 2015

I'm in support of this proposal as it's great for the local children and encourages outdoor physical activity. Fun to watch too!

318 Old Bath Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9AL

Comments: 17th January 2016

As a long time resident of Leckhampton, I would like to register an objection to this proposed development.

Burrows Field is an Open Space for diverse recreational activities, and was intended to be kept as such when left to the local community. A permanent, highly specialised sports track is out of keeping, would only be of value to a very small section of the community and would detract from the flexible amenity space currently provided.

The site is wholly unsuitable for this purpose. We have an outstanding area of open space suitable for off-road cycling in Leckhampton Hill, where the space is shared with other users. There is no need for an unsightly permanent race track within the village area.

50 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire

GL53 9ET

Comments: 15th December 2015

I fully support the BMX Pump Track proposal i think it is a great idea and will benefit the whole community. This will give children of all ages the chance to learn new bike skills.

You DO NOT need toilet facilities just because you have a BMX pump track if people are worried about this then they need to be provided now as there is a park there.

I was present at the open day and i saw alot of people from the local area and only a few from outside of Leckhampton.

There are already small skatepark facilities (which is not what is being proposed) in Pittville and Charlton Kings for there local community why should Leckhampton be any different we have nothing in Leckhampton and WE NEED THINGS IN LECKHAMPTON NOT SOMEWHERE ELSE.

People have voted from other areas as they have these facilities in there area and they have seen how this has benefited there local community, they wont travel from other areas as they already have these, they are voting as they think this is a great idea.

Arle was turned down for a Regional Track which is totally different to what is being proposed this is NOT a race track.

How dare people tell me i can drive my child to Gloucester, who do you think you are I DO NOT DRIVE so my son misses out. Being part of the local community i think that is very bad to suggest. The local area is already inundated with cars driving here there and everywhere i think that less driving is better for everyone especially in the local area.

It would be nicer to see people put there own comments and not send the exact comment that has already been sent maybe that is due to people being influenced by other people to vote. That is interesting.

20 Courtenay Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 4LR

Comments: 17th December 2015

What a great thing to have for all the youth in the area, to be able to get out in the fresh air on bikes in a controlled and safe environment, locals and people from far and wide will benefit with this much needed pump track, great!

Cumberland House
Oriol Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 1BB

Comments: 17th December 2015

Full support of this new facility!

Astell Rest Home
Overton Park Road

Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 3BT

Comments: 18th December 2015

I wish to object to the plan for a BMX track in Burrows Field.

I lived in Merlin Way for over 30 years, only recently moving in to a care home. I obviously know the area very well, indeed Burrows is probably my favourite place in town! I have spent so many happy hours with my late husband sitting on the bench dedicated John Lloyd Curtis, looking over the wonderfully peaceful Field to Leckhampton Hill. It must be the the most beautiful view in Cheltenham, and to think it will be badly scarred by a bike track is a terrible thought.

I also feel so sorry for my old neighbours in the streets that surround the Field. There is simply neither enough parking nor facilities to cater for the influx of visitors that this track will attract. There will be accompanying noise too, in what is a very peaceful quiet area with many old and vulnerable residents. And I wonder who will really supervise the track. If a lot of older teenagers and adults use it will the younger local children, for whom it is intended, be intimidated and prevented from using it? And in the summer months will there be responsible adults supervising the track late into the evening? I rather doubt it.

Finally, having read all the comments, it does strike me that most of those who support it live nowhere near Burrows Field. They regard the Field as a facility to exploit without real understanding of this truly beautiful oasis of calm in the middle of Leckhampton, a target these days for so0 many builders and developers.

37 St Lukes Place
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7JL

Comments: 21st December 2015

I am in full support of this pump track. Cheltenham is long overdue such a facility, with many other sports facilitated by the council, yet cycling beyond recreational level is not properly catered for.

In response to previous comments; there are many cyclists who will use this facility, in the same way that many people use football pitches for a 'kickabout'. Whilst what they are doing is not an organised event with a registered participation, they are still indulging in their chosen recreational activity. Similar to this, there are many cyclists who would happily use such a facility as an accessible leisure outlet. I, as well as many cycling friends, will not be counted in the numbers for BMX competitors across the UK however, we have used many similar facilities on our travels and welcome this to Cheltenham.

32 Merlin Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LU

Comments: 22nd January 2016

Letter attached.

29 York Crescent
Wilmslow

SK9 2BB

Comments: 30th December 2015

Please committ to supporting outdoor activities for the youth of Cheltenham and surrounding area. There is a high demand for this BMX facility.

13 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 17th December 2015

Fully support this application, children need somewhere to be outdoors instead of sat in front of computers and the location is perfect

Weston
14 Hollis Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 6JJ

Comments: 10th December 2015

This project is extremely important for our kids and young adults. All of us will benefit from this type of leisure activity.

Camellia Walk
Quedgeley
Gloucester
GL2 4GB

Comments: 17th December 2015

This is exactly the kind of facility that's needed to keep kids occupied and hopefully away from trouble.

14 Castle Oak
Usk
Gwent
NP15 1SG

Comments: 17th December 2015

Pump tracks are an amazing way to get kids active and out on their bikes in a safe and controlled environment (away from roads). They take up a realtively small area (compared to football pitches) and are accessible for everyone - boys, girls and adults. There should be more of them....and it seems to me that the organisers of this have found the perfect location which will support the local comminity. We regularly visit Cheltenham and it would certainly add to the enjoyment we have when visiting - and even make us come more often!

75 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 10th December 2015
NONE GIVEN

15 Cedar Close
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8PF

Comments: 30th December 2015
Definitely in support of this. Good to get make more outdoor activities/facilities for youngsters.

Romney Cottage Gordon Road
Cheltenham
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0ES

Comments: 18th December 2015
Proposed plans for a BMX track on Burrows Field, Leckhampton.

I wish to show my objection to the above proposed plans and offer the following considerations.

1) The permanency of the proposal.

At present the field is used by football and cricket teams. Goal posts only stay up for a limited period of time and do not have a strong detrimental impact on the field. The teams only meet on certain days and for short periods of time and so their impact is limited. The cricket pitches have no visual impact and are only used at certain times. Both activities have a limited audio impact. Goal posts are removed at end of football season and cricket leaves no permanent visual eye sore anyway. Neither activities change the geography of the field. The BMX track will permanently change the geography of the field and as it is likely to be used at any time there will be both audio and visual impact on the field for longer periods of time all year round. Once there it will be costly and difficult to remove and may set a precedence for further geographic change.

2) The atmosphere of the field

At present the field is visually fairly tranquil. The activities (with the exception perhaps of football) are fairly gentle and calming especially to the majority of elderly people who use it. The visual stimulus is conducive to reflection and peace of mind, especially important in the world we live in of hustle & bustle. Green is proved vital to people's contentment. We need unadulterated green spaces. Why are we as a society very keen on destroying that which is good for our mental health? I do NOT want the pleasantness and enjoyment of my surroundings spoilt. I enjoy the calming, tranquil, contemplative nature of this open piece of ground and hate the idea of it being infiltrated and spoilt. At present, with the exception of short periods when football is played, I and many others can look forward to this enjoyment virtually all the time. If the BMX track is allowed that certainly will not be the case (please note my comment below re. influx of people).

3) Increased litter and erosion.

Already we have a problem with litter on the field left behind by youngsters (up to late teenage and possibly early twenties) which is constantly being removed by well meaning and older members of the local community. Inevitably there will be an increase in litter. I can foresee this

development acting as a magnet to many not just the very enthusiastic supervised BMX riders. There is no guarantee that undesirable elements won't be drawn and no guarantee that litter will be picked up by them. There will be an increase in soil/grass erosion by bikes being ridden over the field with no guarantee that the rest of the field will be safeguarded. If bikes are allowed in one area there is no stopping them from going elsewhere. The planned area already suffers from excess water and gets muddy. That will not change but could get worse. I can foresee cycles being ridden from the entrance to the field all the way to the site which will end up in erosion of the protective grass layer.

4) Parking

The car park is small and already gets crowded at times. BMX activity will increase the parking requirement. What about the effect on the neighbours? Again visual and audio disturbance. The BMX track will encourage an influx of people from outside the immediate local area of Leckhampton and will have a detrimental effect not only on the field but in the surrounding area. One can only imagine the dreadful parking problems especially at weekend when football is also taking place. Is the next stage in this imposition to be the enlargement in the parking area at the cost of losing an area of the field?

I consider Burrows field to be unsuitable for such a development as the above considerations show. Surely there must be an area away from a residential area, such as Leckhampton, where the impact would be less significant and which, if planned properly and comprehensively, would provide a more conducive site for this activity and any further development it may require in the future. Health and safety issues need also to be considered and have further implications for this proposal in this particular place.

77 Finlay Road
Gloucester
GL4 6TW

Comments: 17th December 2015

I think that a BMX track can only be a good thing! Kids need something to do that is positive.

87 Pilley Crescent
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9ES

Comments: 17th December 2015

NONE GIVEN

10 Mainsail Lane
Hempsted
Gloucester
GL2 5GJ

Comments: 17th December 2015

I think it will be a great idea and keep all the youth occupied

1 Great Norwood Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 2AW

Comments: 17th December 2015

The field is not large enough for the proposed BMX track. The field currently has four football pitches, a cricket pitch, a play area and a nursery. Parking will become an issue and will potentially be pushed out on to the roads in surrounding areas. The idea of a BMX track in what is a beautiful open space would not be in keeping with the greenery of the field. Also, there are a lot of bats that inhabit the proposed area and it would be a shame to spoil this habitat.

Leckhampton Hill is a stones through away and is a lot better suited to this sort of activity. I would suggest development of some of the existing BMX tracks there.

111 Leckhampton Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0DQ

Comments: 17th December 2015

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and Broadlands pre-school within its grounds. Two free unencumbered parts of the field adjacent to the Copse and the proposed isolated area leading to Lott's Meadow compliment the field and allow families or groups to engage in activities of their choice, including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, other unorganised sports or just enjoy meeting up and having a walk or a picnic.

The field is fully used and is well balanced with regards the proportion of organised playing areas to grassed areas that can be used by all when required, or left free to give the whole field a feeling of well proportioned space.

The field has a certain charm all of its own and many people who visit it regularly are attracted by it's natural beauty.

Some people just come to the field to relax on the benches to take in the views of hills, hedgerows and trees and appreciate the open vista and watch the sun setting.

The playing areas require nothing more than white lines and removable posts. Nothing is permanent and there are no artificial surfaces or tracks.

It would be a shame to over burden this field. The free space, which is available at the moment, compliments the other playing areas, keeping the whole field well proportioned.

The Planning application for a BMX pump track would completely change the unique character of Burrows Field.

I understand that a high ramp / bank is required to propel the bikes into action. This alone would be a scar on the field.

Presumably the proposed artificial track would be used for cyclists racing one another, creating a permanent area of activity.

Consideration should be given to:

1. Detrimental effect on the fields natural features and views.
2. Over use of field.
3. How would the cyclists reach the proposed area? Would they be banned from cycling across the playing surfaces, cricket squares etc. and who would enforce this? The grass has the potential of being churned up by cyclists in wet conditions.

4. Mud on the road.

5. No cycling is permitted along the footpath. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 prevents anything other than pedestrian access along the footpath from the main entrance leading directly to the proposed BMX pump track.

6. Insufficient car parking will encourage more parking in surrounding roads, which already exists, with cars being parked on the pavement. Please see photo attached of overflowing car park at 2.15pm Sunday 6th December 2015 while football in progress. We already have overfull capacity within the car park, with cars blocking emergency access and onto side roads and footpaths.

7. Would small children and teenagers be using the same track?

8. Would a First Aid point be set up for the inevitable crashes that would occur, when cyclists race each other down the bank and around the track?

9. Toilet facilities?

10. A written lease in place for a number of years including the requirement to keep the track in good condition so that it did not become an eyesore ie. weeds growing through the track surface, track and bank deterioration.

11. Break clause to allow removal of the track and bank and reinstatement of the grass when it becomes worn out or not sufficiently used.

12. Consideration of more suitable sites. Rejected: Walk Place, Arle Road proposal was rejected which has similar problems to overcome as this site. In existence: (not exclusive) Westgate Park, Gloucester introduced a BMX Pump track and has a 50 space car park to take the extra activity. Bishops Cleeve, Evesham Road has a track Possible site: Brizen Farm Playing Field which has a car park with over 30 spaces, closer health and safety facilities and more hard surface for easy bicycle access. Also when new housing is considered in the area, space should be allocated within the curtilage of any new housing scheme, if further tracks are required.

Burrows Field is unspoilt, well proportion with regards playing to non-playing areas and is enjoyed by many. It is a natural field without the need for artificial tracks and banks. The Field is the same as it was when Mrs Burrows kindly left the Field to the community and is appreciated by all those that use the field on a regular basis.

In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

Pinewood
Green Lane, Upton-Upon-Severn,
Worcester
WR8 0PY

Comments: 18th December 2015

Open spaces should be for the benefit of all. Burrows Field was donated to the local community for recreation. Therefore, the construction of a BMX Track for the use of the younger generations who have very few places for recreation in the area is a good idea in my opinion.

2 Somerset Road
Leeds
LS28 7LN

Comments: 6th January 2016

I visit Burrows regularly with my family, and I object for the following reasons:

1. NO public consultation. People NOT informed, NO leaflets. Manipulated questionnaire. Applicant's use of national BMX network to drum up support from people who have never set foot in Burrows or even Cheltenham.
2. Determination by Mr Reynolds of Cheltenham Green Space to ride roughshod over local opinion; public money already pledged.
3. This is purely to provide a practice track for one local aspiring seven-year-old.
4. The real threat of anti-social behaviour and disturbance to neighbours, as shown at Arle, that being the reason for closing down their track.
5. The destruction and disturbance of protected wildlife habitats.
6. The proximity to people's homes and significant noise from track, bikes, kids. NOT researched, purely personal opinions of Ms Powell (Applicant) and Adam Reynolds (CGS).
7. Exercise for dogs and people would be curtailed. For safety of the bikers dogs would be constrained on leads. Local people would have to drive their dogs to other places for a run about.
8. The urbanisation of a magnificent semi-rural facility. A duck pond would be a better alternative!
9. This "local" green space would be subject to "non-local" invasion, including from out-of town. Youths (mostly male), bikes, cars, music, litter etc.

Brynsworthy Environment Centre
Roundswell
Barnstaple
EX31 3NP

Comments: 30th December 2015

Reading through the comments made so far, there appears to be a great deal of misunderstanding about what a pump track is, and who will use it. I think the BMX reference is causing some of the confusion. Whilst the track will be popular with BMXers, it is simply an undulating track that anyone with a bike can use for fun.

Pump tracks are being built weekly across the UK as it is recognised that they provide a fun, family friendly and safe location for people to ride their bikes. Children from as young as 2 can ride safely without having to worry about traffic or pedestrians.

At a time when over one third of children aged 2 - 15 are overweight or obese, the community should be embracing a new facility for families and young people to exercise together.

9 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire

GL53 0HG

Comments: 18th January 2016
Letter attached.

6 Arden Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0HQ

Comments: 18th January 2016
Letter attached.

Ragstones
Kidnappers Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0NT

Comments: 18th December 2015

Currently there is the Flyup 417 Project being built a few miles away, is there really a demand for another BMX track, how as this demand been measured, if at all?

Also of concern is the lack of joined up long term thinking for this area and how infrastructure demands will be improved, maintained and managed? There are a lot of practical reasons this would not work without consideration for the overall development of the area (hinder walking, noise, traffic, pollution)

8 Whitehall Close
Minster Lovell
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX29 0SB

Comments: 17th December 2015

Cycling is a sport enjoyed by a large percentage of people. As cyclists who live in and around this area, we find ourselves without local facilities for our children to ride.

In objecting to this you are denying the kids the opportunity to partake in a fantastic sport.

36 Croft Road
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8LA

Comments: 17th December 2015

Great idea for the local community. Lots of comments about travelling to Gloucester or Pittville, why cant the children of Leckhampton have something that's on their doorstep? Having read some comments that are objecting I dont think many people have actually fully reviewed the plans. This proposal is for a pump track and not for something with large ramps. The design of the track has been created with the aesthetic of the park in mind with low grass verges and not large metal ramps.

Lets get kids active - good luck with the proposal!

23 Thompson Drive
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0PJ

Comments: 17th December 2015

we all need somewhere for are children to play, especialy as more homes are planed for are area, and as we havent anywhere else for them to ride their bikes local. and its a track that all ages can ride play on.thanks you .i fully suport this to go ahead.

26 Rowanfield Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 8AG

Comments: 18th December 2015

I support the application. it will be great to offer children somewhere to enjoy new outdoor activities.

Top Of The Hill
Post Office Lane
Cleeve Hill
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 3PS

Comments: 17th December 2015

I strongly support this application because it offers a much needed sports facility for young people.

19 Javelin Way
Brockworth
Gloucester
GL3 4RQ

Comments: 17th December 2015

It will be fun and will keep me fit!

Brindley House
Moorend Grove
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0EX

Comments: 8th January 2016

I think that the addition of a BMX Pump track to Burrows field would cause far too much traffic to the quiet area of Burrows field. There is only a very small carpark at the park, and this is already overflowing at weekends when the park is used for football matches. The streets in the surrounding area become dangerously congested with parked vehicles, and I am sure that the BMX track would bring a substantial amount of additional cars, I therefore object to the proposal.

10 Hobby Close
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0LP

Comments: 21st December 2015

I feel an environment impact check is needed, in particular a flood assessment. The corner of the field is often water-logged, not helped by lack of maintenance regarding the stream, Moorend Brook(?).

Further, we are concerned that due process has not been adhered to. Public consultation has not been thorough and local residents have not been fully informed. Many are consequently unaware that this activity has been proposed for what has always been a sports field catering for football and cricket and as an open space for local people.

The character of the field will be adversely affected by an activity for which there would seem to be little local demand. Supervision and control over the use of such a 'track' would fall to whom?

Extra 'sports' facilities to cater for an established need, i.e. younger people or fitness for more mature persons, could take place within the present context of activity without altering the local character of the area.

BMX enthusiasts could be more appropriately accommodated elsewhere should an actual demand exist.

We doubt very much such a demand exists in Leckhampton should sufficient effort be put into establishing residents opinions. Clearly, this has not been the case.

Ragstones
Kidnappers Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0NT

Comments: 18th December 2015

Currently there is the Flyup 417 Project being built a few miles away, is there really a demand for another BMX track, how as this demand been measured, if at all?

Also of concern is the lack of joined up long term thinking for this area and how infrastructure demands will be improved, maintained and managed? There are a lot of practical reasons this would not work without consideration for the overall development of the area (hinder walking, noise, traffic, pollution)

The design and access statement of the proposal states there are no other provisions of this kind within Gloucestershire area. As we speak Flyup 417 Project are building a facility which will cater for most riding styles and bikes, They will have an indoor pump track as well as indoor and outdoor dirt jumps, which will be accessible for BMX. They will also have a dual slalom which is

suitable for any bike. The facility will open to the public from 14th March 2016. Location, off the 417 near Birdlip.

So due to the fact this facility will open early next year, close to Leckhampton, do we really need another track.

Like the other objectors I have concerns with the noise and potential anti social behaviour a facility like this may cause.

Parking around this location is limited, at weekends the surrounding roads are filled with cars, this facility will only add to the problem.

No Toilet facilities are available to the general public, which could lead to Anti social behaviour.

Please listen to the residents who back onto the field as this will affect us the most.

49 Union Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 2JN

Comments: 16th December 2015

I fully support the proposed BMX pump track in Leckhampton. It's great to see a local community working together to provide better recreational facilities and to see such a commitment to promoting active lifestyles. As a recreational space, Burrows Field currently only facilitates a limited number of activities: football, cricket, dog walking. Building a pump track there enhances the field's status as a recreational space and ensures it caters to the needs of a greater number of users, of all ages.

Pump tracks are an ideal facility for cyclists of all ages and abilities, enabling development of both skill and fitness. The point of a pump track is not to pedal, but to use the skill of 'pumping' to get around it. 'Pumping' requires mastering, which means a users speed is determined by their skill level, making pump tracks very safe for children to develop bike skills. Pump tracks also require efficient cornering, another essential skill for cyclists which can be developed in the safe environment of a pump track. Riding a pump track is very high intensity exercise which limits the length of a rider's session; hence users will not require toilet facilities to be built any more than the local dog walkers do.

I can see a few people are objecting to the visual qualities of the proposed pump track, please note it will take up a small proportion of a recreational playing field. This is a grassed field designated for recreational sports, it's touching that many consider it a beautiful place, but this is not its primary purpose. Cheltenham has some beautiful countryside surrounding it, with superb access, indeed for those who feel they will be visually offended by the pump track, please consider walking slightly further afield and enjoy the vista from Leckhampton Hill.

8 Barnfield Way
Batheaston
BA1 7PW

Comments: 17th December 2015

This is an excellent proposal to allow children to participate in a popular and beneficial form of exercise. Sports fields and recreation areas should cater for everyone, not just very young

children and dog walkers. There is a rather abhorrent "not in my back yard" tone to most of these objections but I'm sure the benefits of this track would outweigh these narrow minded objections.

7 Fairfield Avenue
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7PN

Comments: 4th January 2016

I object to the above application for many reasons firstly for the loss of this valuable open space the BMX will spoil the landscape and country side jeopardise wildlife and the tranquility of this beautiful public open space.

The car parking area is small there are no facilities ie. toilets and this field is one of the last places the public can enjoy walking, dog walking in a safe environment, play cricket and football being a level field although the drainage is not good gets very water logged. There are many other places this could be built also there are already areas like this.

Please do not spoil this beautiful area.

Olivers Stables
Cheltenham Road
Painswick
Gloucestershire
GL6 6TP

Comments: 17th December 2015

hopefully there is good access for wheelchair users.

14 Francis Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7NY

Comments: 10th December 2015

I'm fully supportive of this initiative. We live less than a mile away and have two children, one at Naunton Park school and one at Bournside and the idea of having such a facility an easy and safe walk away would be of such benefit to their health and well being.

We've taken them to the Quedgeley pump track, which is the best example of what is being proposed here, a number of times. My kids love it down there but don't get chance to visit as it is such a distance away.

I believe the amount of people who would use such a facility would be similar to the volume of people who use the other sports facilities on this site. The fact it will be popular indicates how much value this will provide to the community. Plus it's a great way for all ages to safely enjoy an entry to this sport and build up bike handling skills.

If this facility is properly planned and consideration given to the local residents concerns (for example: mud = hard wearing access path / noise at night = no floodlights etc) then this should be no more of an issue as the current infrastructure in place. I'm sure the local council will discuss this plan with those in Quedgeley to get a balanced view of the impact on the local community. I'd also recommend that those who have concerns visit Quedgeley and see for yourself how beneficial such a facility would be.

This is something positive and different to anything in place in Cheltenham and I fully support it.

49 Upper Park Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 6SB

Comments: 16th December 2015

That would be great for the area ! they are a huge success in other areas.

The Vineries
Kidnappers Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 0NP

Comments: 18th December 2015

This idea is not possible. If granted there should be a hefty charge to use it, otherwise all and sundry will gather and it will become another intimidating unsavoury area.

Also free for all attracts accidents. How will an ambulance reach it. Will the cricket and football pitches already there be ploughed up by ambulance or freewheeling youth on bikes. who have no regard for their surroundings.

This is not a good idea it is a quiet peaceful area at the moment enjoyed by old and young alike. The neighbouring allotments may suffer also.

Please give this application a lot of thought