

32 Moorend Grove  
Leckhampton  
CHELTENHAM  
Glos. GL53 0HA

11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

For the attention of Tracy Crews  
Planning: Environmental & Regulatory Services  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
P.O. Box 12  
Municipal Offices  
Promenade  
CHELTENHAM  
Glos. GL50 1PP

Your ref. 15/02065/FUL

Dear Madam,

**Proposed construction of BMX Pump track at Burrows Sports Field**

Can I please make the following points with reference to the above proposal which I object to for the following reasons.

**Disturbance.** This track is in one of the remaining open spaces in the area where people can get some fresh air and enjoy the freedom to roam in a safe environment. So many of the local fields are being swallowed up with developments now so this one is very precious. Taking part of the land for this track would deprive people of this open space.

**Traffic.** Traffic is already a problem in the area with cars having to be parked in surrounding roads, which causes great difficulties.

There has already been a case where an ambulance could not get to Burrows field because of congestion in the roads. This poses a threat to the health and safety of not only people/children using the field but to local residents as well.

Moorend Grove is a dead end and the only access to it is via Arden Road, Moorend Park Road and Moorend Road. All three of these roads are residential and have cars parked on both sides of the road causing problems and Moorend Park Road speed bumps as well.

The only other access to the site is via Church Road which always has a horrendous problem with parked cars, one which will be made worse when the housing developments locally are completed. The way to the field from there is a pathway which was surfaced fairly recently but is already totally covered over because of the extremely muddy conditions in the field.

I understand that perhaps the local children involved will cycle to the track but if they are escorted by parents that doubles up the number of cycles arriving at the track or else they will be coming by car.

As there has also been interest from places miles away so cars will be used for the visitors to the site. The present car park is only very small and to extend it would take a further amount of the grass area which is totally unacceptable.

**Access** As well as access to the site there is the question of how the cyclists will get from the car park to the track. The most direct route is across the cricket pitch which would cause a major disruption to any cricket match when youngsters are not aware of the "don't move behind the bowler's arm" rule. There would also be a danger not only to the cricketers themselves from the bikes but to the cyclists who would not be aware of the danger from the cricket balls being hit in their direction.

You cannot move the cricket pitch as it takes years for the "square" to be properly prepared and this one has been in use for well over 50 years. There is also the likelihood of the bikers going across the square.

Cyclists riding across the grass would also churn it up as it is a very wet area. This would cause difficulties for the walkers, cricketers and footballers.

There is also the question of the cyclists not actually on the track, where will they be? I cannot imagine they are going to be standing still to await their turn and will be cycling around in other areas of the field.

**Visual Impact** The whole idea of building a very large construction on an otherwise flat field is bound to have a great visual impact. People do not want their pleasurable walks to be distorted by such a building.

**Amenity** I do understand that the young people need local amenities but Burrows is not the place to put it not only for the reasons noted above but the fact that there are no toilet facilities or other amenities for them to enjoy. Surely a track at Brizen Farm with its infrastructure would be far better in all respects.

**Public Liability Insurance.** I know it is necessary for the football and cricket teams to have such an insurance. Can we be assured that this will happen with the track. The mixture of children, young people, adults and dogs is an accident waiting to happen. I have been told that only competitive sports need such insurance but surely once this track is established they will want to host events so such insurance would be needed.

The thought that they might be expecting so many extra visitors only makes all the points made above more relevant.

**Upkeep and maintenance.** What plans would be made for the upkeep and maintenance in the long term for this track. Without this being put in place it would quickly become an eyesore. It will obviously impinge on the grass cutting in the area anyway,

**Covenant and bye laws.** I am sure that there is a covenant on the land when it was given to the Council. Has this been checked for what is allowed to take place there? I believe there is a bye law prohibiting cycling on the field, if so the track is a non starter.

There is also the worry that people might start cycling up the footpath in the front of the houses which is also designated as a non cycling footpath.

**Environment** Before any development of this nature is considered the question of its impact on the environment should be taken into consideration. There is lots of wild life in the area including bats which are a protected species so their habitat must be preserved. An investigation into the impact on these animals must be made by a specially qualified professional at an appropriate time of year before the decision about the building of the BMX track is made.

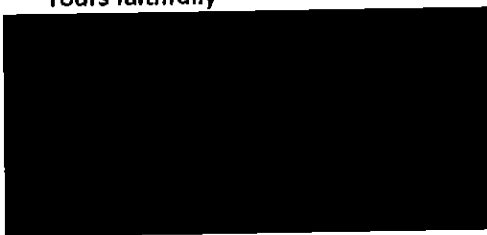
**Usage of field** Burrows Field is a delightfully peaceful field and is used continuously by walkers, with or without their dogs. The dogs are free to run off their leads which will, of course, pose a problem when there are cyclists around.

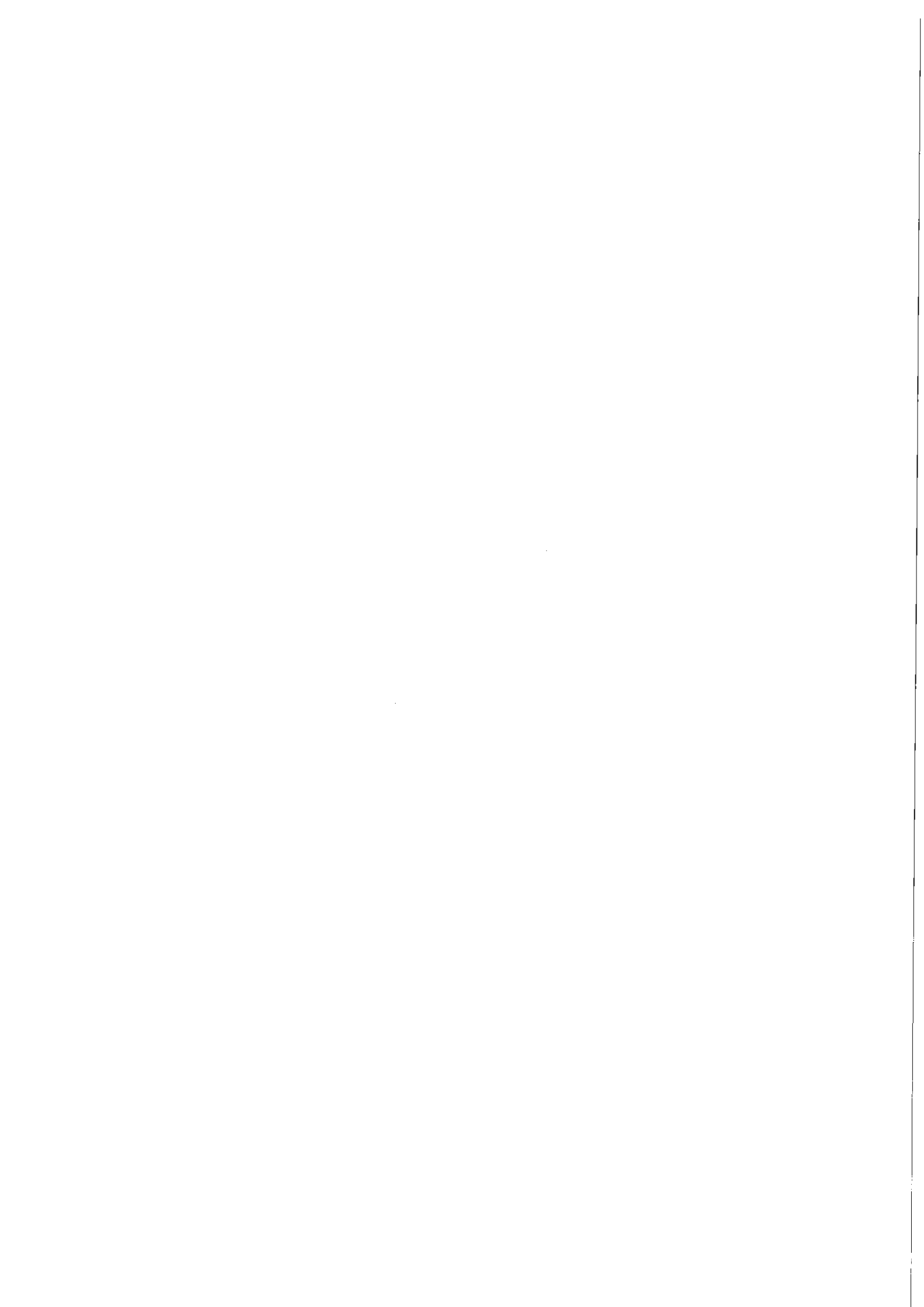
I trust that all these points will receive your due consideration as they are important facts to be taken into account when the application is brought for a decision to be made.

With reference to the handling of the proposal by the Council I would like to point out three facts.

1. There has been no notification of the application anywhere at the access points to the field.
2. Very few local people received the notification letters
3. The letter says that the names of local Councillors are on the reverse but this was not the case.

Yours faithfully

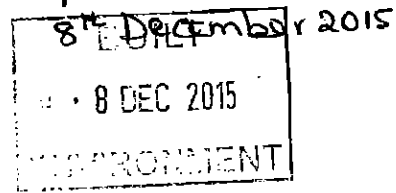




①

3, Chamwood Close,  
Heckhampton,  
Cheltenham,  
GL53 0HL

The Planning Department  
Cheltenham Borough Council,  
P.O. Box 12  
Municipal Office  
Cheltenham.



Dear Madam,

We would like to raise our concerns regarding the proposal to construct a BMX Pump track at Burrows Sports Field, Merlin Way, Cheltenham.

These are our main concerns:-

- 1) Parking: There ~~are~~<sup>is</sup> only limited parking in the field and on the weekends and when there are events in the field, the parking around the local roads, including our close, gets very congested. There have been occasions when we have returned home on a Saturday or Sunday and not been able to get through because of double parking in the roads, especially Arden Road. We have had to turn back and go up Moorland Park Road to get home. On an occasion recently an Ambulance could not get to a resident in Chamwood Road because of parking.

If this plan goes ahead something has to be done regarding parking in local roads. We already have to put up with parking

②  
by Parents who go to Heckhampton School, and think it's their right to park at the ends of our drives on school days, we put up with this because it is short stay, most of the time, but this proposal will certainly add to the problem. Parents will obviously bring their children in cars to this track, although at the meeting we went to last evening, they said they would cycle, but that won't last!

②  
The Green Spaces in Heckhampton:

With all the building that is being proposed in Heckhampton, we need to keep the "green spaces" that we have, green. A large part of the field will be taken up by tarmac, rubber, or whatever this track is going to be constructed from. We all realise that children need to have plenty of exercise. At the moment, children who come to Burrows can run free (except on match days) and enjoy their games. Lots of local residents and others use the field as a social place to gather, chat, walk their dogs. We have lived here for 39 years and it is a lovely, quiet place to walk and admire the views, and sit and watch the children playing. This will change because it will attract people from all over the town and from far and wide. Some will come unsupervised so there will be cycles everywhere! Not safe for young children and dogs!!

③ Lack of communication regarding this proposal.

We heard on the "grapevine" a couple of months ago that this might happen.

(3)

It was not until last evening that we realised that it might happen soon. We were told that it would go before planning in January! Why haven't we been told officially about this before now? The person who has put the application forward said that she had put leaflets in doors, but none have been put in our door or any of our neighbours, we were given a copy of a Cheltenham Borough Council letter yesterday by a neighbour.

We think this proposal is being rushed, local residents need more time to get used to the idea if it happens. More thought has to be given to the environment, especially the "Bats" that may be in that area, the parking issues that already exist and will get worse, and the loss of green space, which is already being taken away with building works in Leckhampton.

Could this track be situated at BM5en where there are facilities ~~sw~~ already and more parking. Or perhaps it could be added to recreation facilities when the new housing estates are built.

Burrows Sports field needs to stay as it is, a lovely green space for all to enjoy. There is a Bylaw that states that there is no cycling on the field. There will be more cycles on the field which will spoil it forever.

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(4)

As a local resident we feel that the Burrows field is the wrong place for this facility. Perhaps Brijen would be better or even added to the facilities at Pirville.

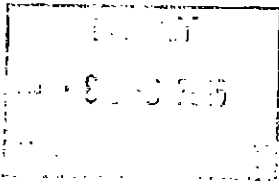
Our roads around Burrows Field are very narrow. It only takes a few cars to cause big problems.

Thank you for reading our concerns.

P.S. If this has to go ahead, double yellow lines need to be added to one side of the roads in all areas around Burrows e.g. Arden Road, Melin way, Moorend Grove, Charnwood Road and close. Or Free residents parking only, given to the area. There are a lot of older residents in these areas, so there must be access to all roads at all times for Utilities, Ambulances and other main Services. This is not the case at the moment so with extra cars it will get worse.



Your ref: -  
15/02068/FUL



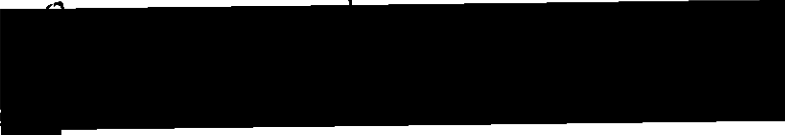
6, Merlin Way,  
Cheltenham.  
GL53 0LT.  
December 6<sup>th</sup> '15

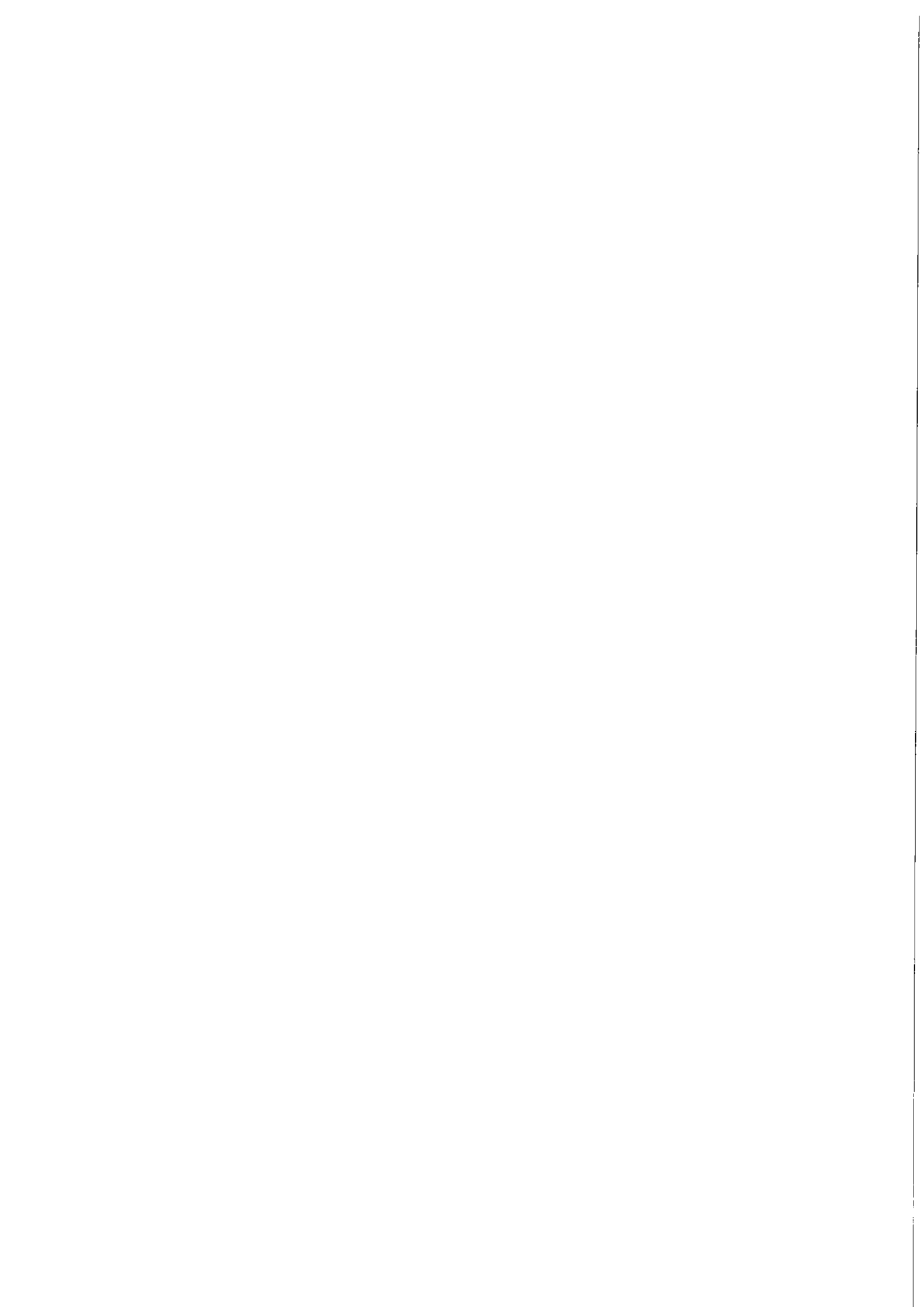
Dear Ms Crews,

I refer to your communication re the proposal of the construction of BMX pump track at Burrows Sports Field, Merlin Way and wish to register my opposition to such a plan.

I am not against this form of sport but am positive that it should be sited more closely to similar sports - such as go karting etc on a purpose built "arena" and not at a quiet field that is not only enjoyed by a childrens play area, football, a cricket participants but also dog walkers, ramblers, & people who appreciate the quietude & surrounding views.

Yours sincerely,





[REDACTED]  
111 Leckhampton Road  
Cheltenham  
GL53 0DQ

06/12/2015

Burrows Field

Burrows Field has 4 football pitches, 2 cricket squares, a play area, a Centenary Copse of 10 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

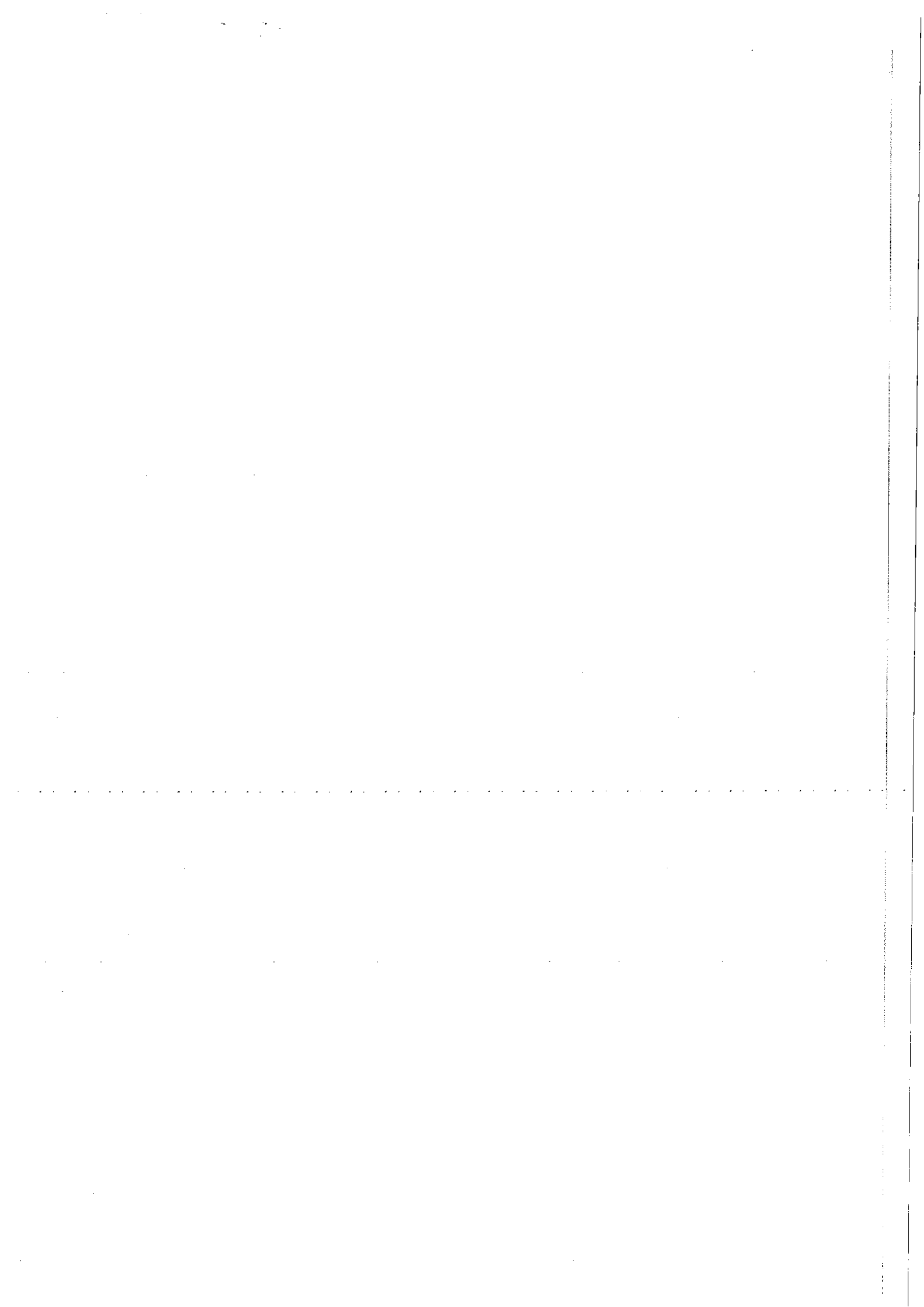
Burrows Field is unspoilt, well proportioned with regards playing to non-playing areas and is enjoyed by many. It is a natural field without the need for artificial tracks and banks. The Field is the same as it was when Mrs Burrows kindly left the Field to the community and is appreciated by all those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

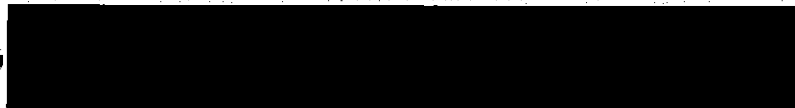
In our opinion the introduction of a BMX pump track will ruin the unique character of Burrows Field.

Yours Faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]







Ms Tracey Crews  
Head of Planning  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
PO Box 12  
Cheltenham GL50 1PP

18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**By email**

Dear Madam,

**Objection to planning application 15/02065/FUL  
Construction of BMX pump track at Burrows Sports Field, Merlin Way, Cheltenham**

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<sup>1</sup> (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<sup>2</sup> 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,

<sup>1</sup> See [http://archive.sportengland.org/research/active\\_people\\_survey.aspx](http://archive.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.sportscotland.org.uk/Documents/Participation/Cycling.doc](http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/Documents/Participation/Cycling.doc)

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 suggest 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)<sup>3</sup> 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

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<sup>3</sup> At [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

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:

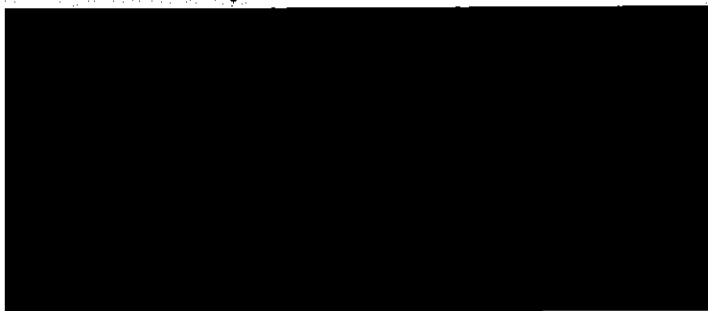
- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development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

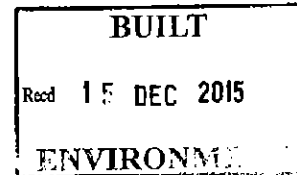
Until such time as these assessments have been made it is impossible to say whether or not the need for the track exists or to make a balanced judgement, taking into account the environmental and other considerations, as to whether or not planning permission should be granted.

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

Yours sincerely



**Greenways  
33 Arden Road  
Leckhampton  
Cheltenham  
GL53 0HG**



Ben Hawkes, Planning Officer  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
PO Box 12, Municipal Offices,  
Promenade  
Cheltenham GL50 1PP

14 December 2015

Dear Mr Hawkes

**Proposal: Construction of BMX pump track at Burrows Field Sports Field Merlin Way  
Cheltenham (Ref: 15/02065/FUL)**

I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed construction of a BMX Pump Track at Burrows Field Leckhampton for the following reasons:

#### **PARKING**

1. Parking at Burrows Field is already a great problem. Main access to Burrows Field is in Moorend Grove, a small narrow road. There is very limited parking at Burrows Field and people using the field park their vehicles in the surrounding roads of Moorend Grove, Arden Road, Peregrine Road and Merlin Way, causing congestion and a huge problem to residents. There are four football pitches and a cricket pitch on Burrows Field. All the pitches are well used, at weekends for matches and during the week for practice. Recently an ambulance was unable to access Burrows Field because players and supporters cars blocked the road. If a BMX Pump Track is built on the field many children and their parents will come by car from other areas of Cheltenham to use the facility and so increase the parking problem.

#### **CYCLING**

2. Children and teenagers riding BMX bikes over the field could render the cricket and football pitches unplayable. There is also a Byelaw on Burrows Field which states that there should be no cycling.

#### **FLOODING**

3. The water table is very high in the area of the field where it is proposed to site the BMX Track. It becomes extremely water logged and is a quagmire when it rains heavily.

#### **GREEN SPACE**

4. Burrows Field is a vital green space in Leckhampton. The young and the elderly,

people of all ages use the field, it is used for walking, for walking dogs and a place for children to play. Young children and teenagers riding BMX bikes across the field to a BMX Pump Track would completely change the character of the area and completely spoil a beautiful open green space.

### **COST AND MAINTENANCE**

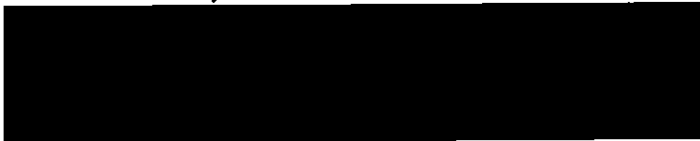
5. In times of austerity how much will this proposal by a private individual cost the council and how will it be sustainable in the future ?

### **UNSUITABLE SITE**

6. I am fully aware that children should be encouraged to exercise but I believe Burrows Field is the wrong place to site a BMX Pump Track. Brizen Farm Youth Centre, in the parish of Leckhampton and Warden Hill, would seem a more suitable site. It also has facilities which Burrows Field does not have. Burrows Field is a totally unsuitable site for a BMX Pump Track.

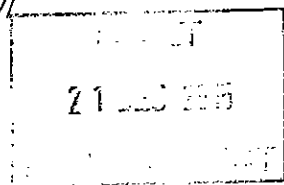
I would be grateful to have an acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

To The Ch. of Planning Officer

No 6 CHARNWOOD RD



LECKHAMPTON

CHELTENHAM

GL53 0HS

14/12/2015

REF BURROWS FIELD & BMX

APPLICATION N° 15/02065/FUL

Dear Sir

I am writing to you to register my opinion that the above application should be refused.

My reasons are as follows:-


- ① Loss of tranquil during most times - It has been a tremendous aspect of Burrows field.
- ② Mixing dogs running loose & young bikers will be accidents waiting to happen
- ③ Lack of sufficient car parking space - There is already a problem from current activities leading to surrounding street being clogged especially at week-ends & holiday periods
- ④ Lack of toilet facilities
- ⑤ Total lack of consideration for those that live around the area - leading to houses blocked in by users.
- ⑥ Most of the young bikers have to travel by car so any area that does receive permission will make no difference
- ⑦ There will be BMXing at the same time as football/cricket
- ⑧ The area being suggested is very very wet & will get totally cut up

⑨ There will be extra pressure on the wild life that  
make the area their habitat.

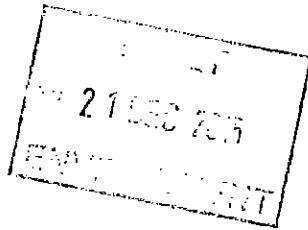
I think it is important that there should be  
space made over for ~~to~~ youngsters to pursue their  
activities & there must be other spaces that will  
not involve ruining a well loved & used area  
that does serve many people. I do not think this  
is a 'value added' proposal.

It may be practical to include a BMX track at  
somewhere like Buzzer as they already have a Youth Centre.

Yours faithfully



14, Southcourt Close  
Leckhampton  
Cheltenham  
GLOS  
GL53 0DW



17.12.15

Planning for BMX Pump track Burrows Field Leckhampton

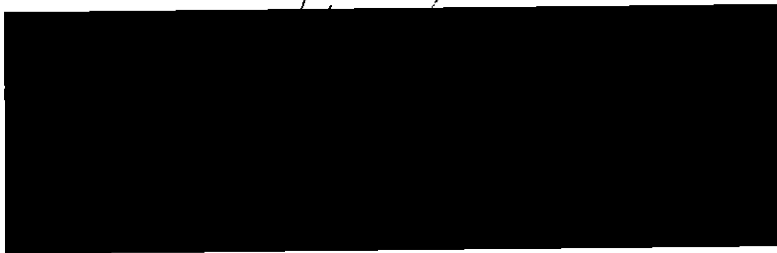
Your Ref 15/0265/FUL

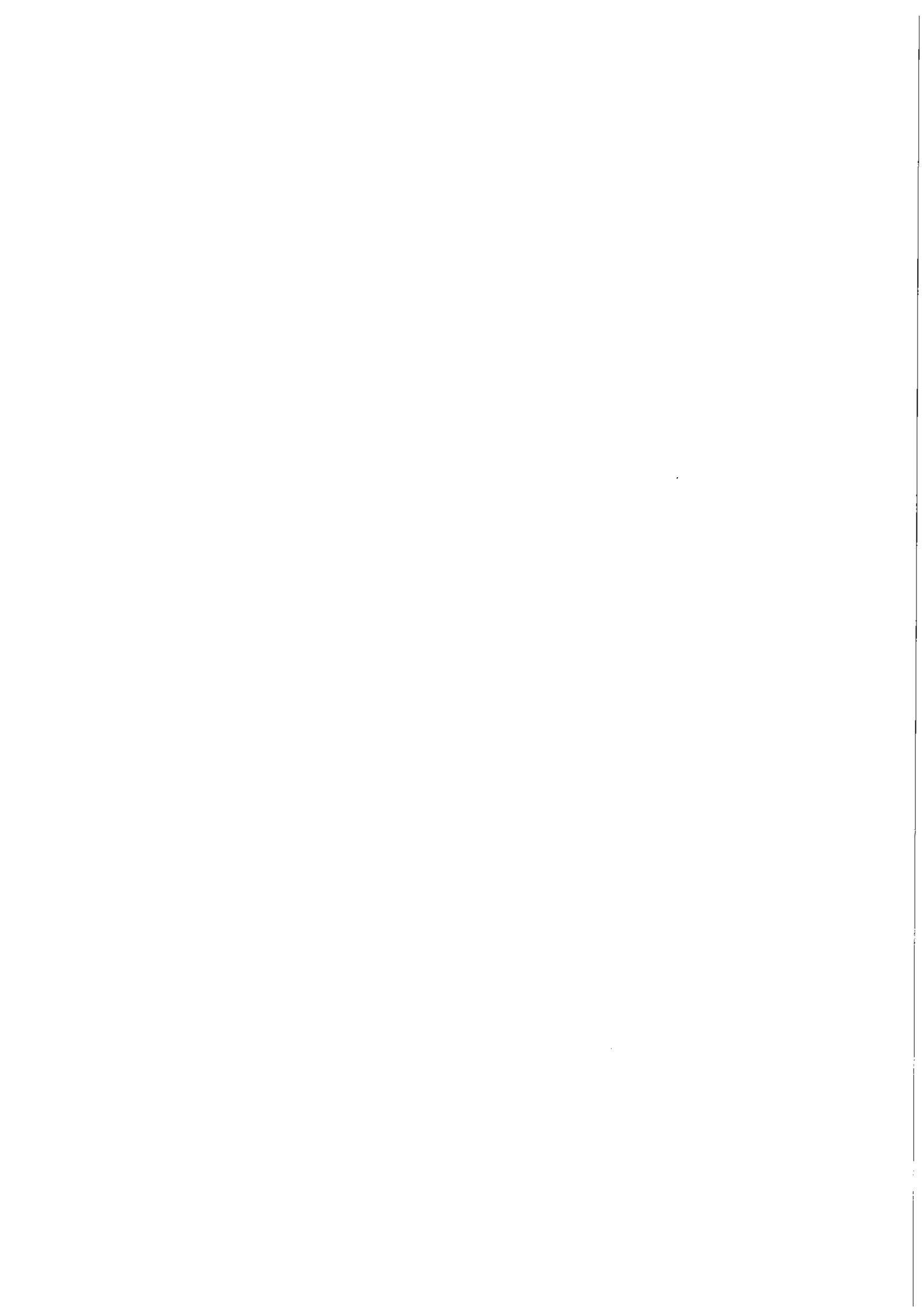
Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the proposed BMX pump track on the Burrows field.

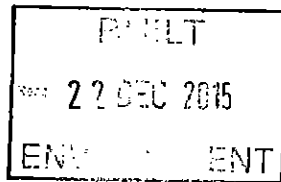
1. It will spoil the open aspect of the field.
2. It is in the wrong area of the field. It is a poorly drained part of the field.
3. A necessary hard path across the field could be a danger for children and dogs.
4. It will be noisy and cause disturbance to wildlife and visitors to the park and the allotments.

Yours faithfully









11 Arden Road,  
Cheltenham,  
Glos  
18<sup>th</sup> December, 2015

Cheltenham Borough Council  
Planning Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Cheltenham,  
GL50 1PP

Dear Sirs,

Re: Application No. 15/02065/FUL

As a very close resident to the proposed Bmw track at Burrows Field, I object most strongly to this proposal for the following reasons:

1) Parking provision at Burrows Field is very limited, especially on match days and road access is poor compared to other potential Leckhampton sites. Already on match days, cars are parked along Moorend Grove, Peregrine Road, Arden Road, and others spilling onto the pavement, and would make access for emergencies onto Burrows almost or totally impossible.

Also, emergency services would have to gain access, ( through a barred gate which is kept locked at present) and drive right across the grass to reach the bmx site, when the inevitable crashes and injuries occur.

2) The people living alongside Burrows already contend with noisy and unpleasant behaviour on occasions, and invade their privacy and the granting of this Bmx site will exacerbate this problem, especially on the long Summer evenings.

3) Burrows Field is a very wet area in the Winter (and sometimes Summer) months and although a byelaw exists to prohibit cycling across the grass to protect both the football and cricket pitches, we fear WITHOUT SUPERVISION, the pitches would quickly get damaged by people waiting for a turn on the track and riding out onto the grass. These pitches have been used for 50 plus years, and they could very quickly become unfit for their purposes.

4) I strongly request that an independent Ecologist looks at the Summer roosting area which is close to the proposed bmx site, BEFORE the matter goes to the Planning Committee. Natural England should also be consulted. More than a TPO could well be required.

5) Burrows is used extensively for people walking with their dogs playing ball off leads, and I foresee frequent problems with people, cyclists and dogs getting entangled,

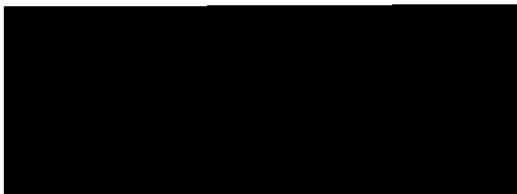
and the older local residents, feeling unsafe with cyclists twisting in and out amongst them which will happen with NO SUPERVISION.

6) Most importantly, Inspector Paul Clark in his recent walkabout commented on the tranquillity of Lotts Meadow, which will be severely degraded on the eastern part of the meadow with the proposed track location sited adjacent to the bmx track.

7) There are no toilet or refreshment facilities at Burrows, which will be needed when youngster and others spend much of the day on a bmx track during the longer daylight hours.

8) Burrows is the last quiet refuge (at most times) for many people to sit and silently gaze and be mentally and physically refreshed by the glorious scenery of Leckhampton Hill.

Yours sincerely,



EMILT  
17 DEC 2015  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

40 MERLIN WAY  
CHELTENHAM  
GL53 0LV

14<sup>th</sup> DEC 2015

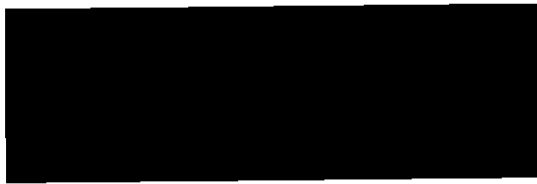
PLANNING APPLICATION Ref No 1502065/FUL

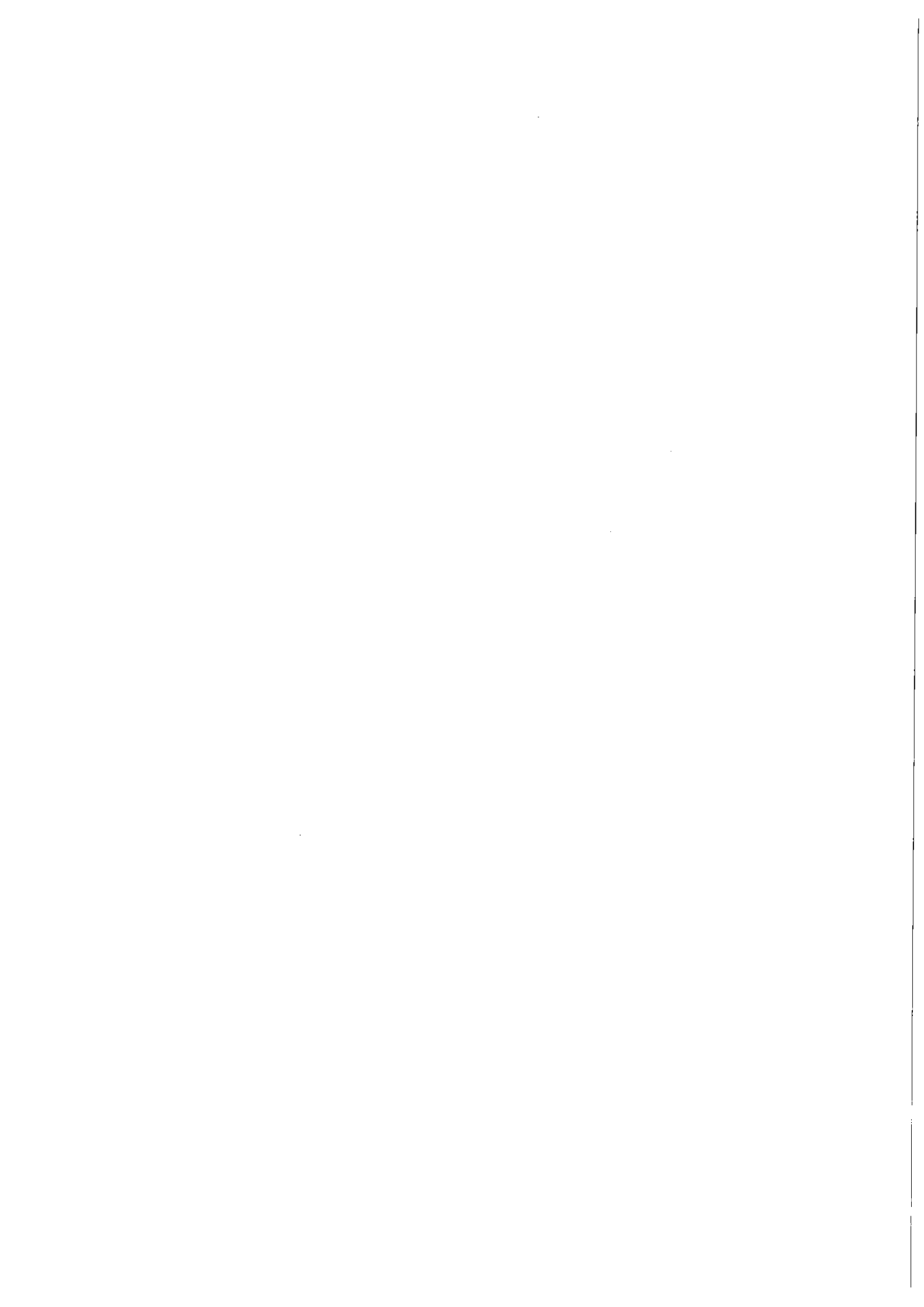
I object to the creation of a BMX Pump Track  
in Burnmoor Playing field.

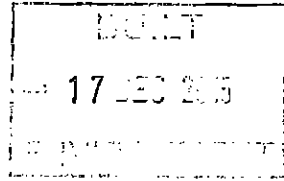
Parking in the surrounding area is already  
a problem when football and cricket are  
being played. There are no toilet facilities.

Noise may be a problem especially in the long  
summer evenings.

A much better site would be at Pitville  
Park where facilities are available







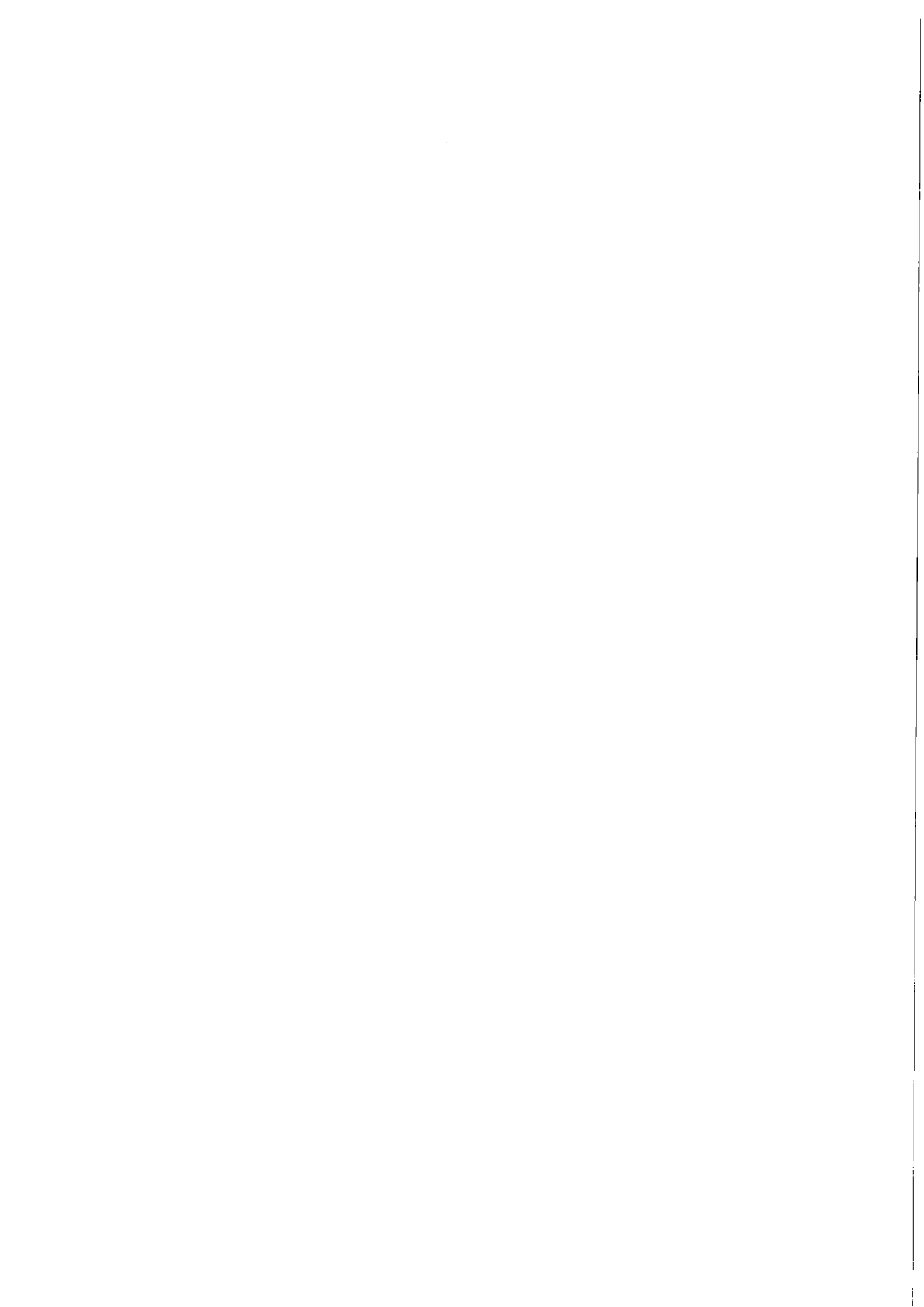
Brantwood Road  
The Vicarage  
Chalford Hill  
GL6 8BS

I am a disabled person who is in a wheelchair and can not walk at all. I travel all over the country watching people of all ages riding there bikes. I go to inside skate parks, outside skate parks, BMX Pump Tracks, National and Regional Race tracks. These are all completely different. The proposal is for a BMX Pump Track which will not bring hundreds of people into the local area. I for one will be coming to watch people riding there bikes if this gets the go ahead I think this is a fantastic idea.

I feel that a path in the field leading up to it would be perfect as at the moment it is very difficult for me to use the playing field and may I add that is without the BMX Pump Track so people who think this may be a eye sore to the area I am sorry but I have just as much right to use it as the dog owners who I keep hearing about have. As for dog owners I wasn't aware that this community field was for the purpose of just dog walking but looking at the comments I see this is what people feel. This for the community.

I strongly support this proposal and would love to spend time watching individuals of all ages and abilities playing on this Track.  
Pittville already has facilities for different ages this would be great to see in Leckhampton.

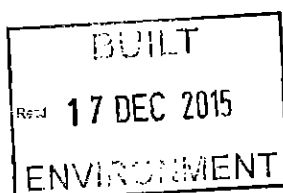




St Brizen, Kidnappers Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NL

12 December 2015

Planning Department  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
PO Box 12, Municipal Offices  
Cheltenham, GL50 9SA



Dear Town Planner,

**Burrows Field and BMX no. 15/02065/FUL.**

I object to the above application on the following grounds.

1. Burrows Field (BF) is probably the finest green field amenity in the whole of Gloucestershire. It has produced a stream of benefits over the years dating from 1930 and long may it continue to do so. The introduction of a bmx pump track will replace benefits with detriments **on this particular site** which is unique and catered for the well-being of generations. I understand that the BMX activity creates benefits but it also creates detriments if wrongly located.

2. The Brizen Young Persons Centre (B) facility would be much better – it has successfully accommodated a skate park and dog walkers. However, a location at the swimming pool end of Pittville lake area with close proximity to Agg Gardeners recreation ground is well established as a major recreational area for Cheltenham. The benefits of BMX could flourish in this area with its parking facilities, toilets and centrality giving easy access from all sides of Cheltenham. It would avoid the imposition of detriments upon an amenity that has been unrivalled and preserved for generations thanks to the original generosity of the Burrows family and local authority protection. b

3. Local BMX support groups have campaigned on the ability of bmx to improve social behaviour. It worked for example, in Vauxhall (South London). **However, Leckhampton has not got a behavioural problem so the argument has no relevance whatsoever in the matter of BF.** What is relevant is allowing BF to continue in providing an unrivalled open space where, inter alia, young mothers can take their children, elderly people can stroll in a tranquil environment, where families can meet up and where football and cricket can be played without a blot on the landscape.

4. BF is simply not the right spot – it has very limited car parking space, no facilities such as toilets. It would change the ambience and character of this beautiful public open space that is open 24 hours a day without becoming a meeting place for trouble causers.

5. **BF has beauty, history, recreation, sport in the shape of cricket and football, tranquility, and wildlife.** There is a popular play area for young children close to the car park (26 car capacity). Tranquility is not to be under-estimated as a social benefit –as indicated it provides the backdrop for social inter-action and enhances the relaxation process. Further lack of parking guarantees to put

this scenario at risk. Local residents have written to you with the full picture as to the parking situation which is a good enough reason in itself to find an alternative site.

6. BF has a pavilion that houses changing rooms and a 'tea room' for the cricketers. The field is level grass, ideal for cricket and football and hopefully not to be jeopardised by inappropriate changes if the sporting mix changes. Football, cricket and dog walks, and walks in general is a mix that works in this beautiful environment. It would be folly to change the mix (one that works) by adding a completely different type of sport, bmx that belong elsewhere, e.g. Brizen Young Persons Centre or Pittville area.

7. The real cost of BMX at BF is not financial. It will be the loss of a valuable open space benefits, for which there is no equal in the surrounding area. BMX supporters in this instance have conducted an unsatisfactory piece of research. Their leaflet drop avoided houses close to BF thereby knowingly missing the people most likely to be affected by the proposed change e.g. Moorend Grove, Arden Road. This red flag had raised its head when no notice was given to nearby houses of the early October open day. Presumably this 'failure to inform' followed a conscious decision that swept aside the interests of the residents. You had a much better chance of being notified if you had race club connections at Gloucester and more distant places. The results of the survey and open day should be ignored. There is a strong case for allowing young people and their families to continue to experience the benefits as they currently enjoy them. The benefits are spread across all ages and a wide range of interests.

8. The planners need to take account of **the long term**. Initially the bmx team will apparently accept a ban on flood lights. This is not in keeping with their ambitions. A reference in an email to the Gloucestershire Echo on 5 March 2012 included a reference to 'a great little successful track that could potentially form the basis of a **great regional facility**, with the huge added benefit of parking, changing and wc facilities, as well as being far less intrusive to local residents'. This particular track was at Bishops Cleeve but the ambition is transferable to BF. The impression one gets is of relentless day-long racing accompanied by **noise, loudspeakers, and public address systems, with loud commentaries which are great in the right places. BF is not that place.** At least that is what it looks like on You Tube, Gloucester BMX 1985 (Cheltenham 1985 included).

9. Having abandoned a planning application based on Arle, bmx cycling club chairman (Alan Williams) stated 'There is still a real need for a BMX track in the town and we want to make it happen. We've got 300 riders looking for a place to use, so the demand is there'.j

10. Paragraphs 6 and 7 indicate this is likely to prove a busy track with persons travelling regionally not just locally. The likelihood is that most races are accompanied by commentaries with the aid of loudspeakers.

Please vote against the application. Hopefully the council will find an alternative site for the enthusiasts of bmx.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]



St Brizen, Kidnappers Lane, Cheltenham  
8 January 2016

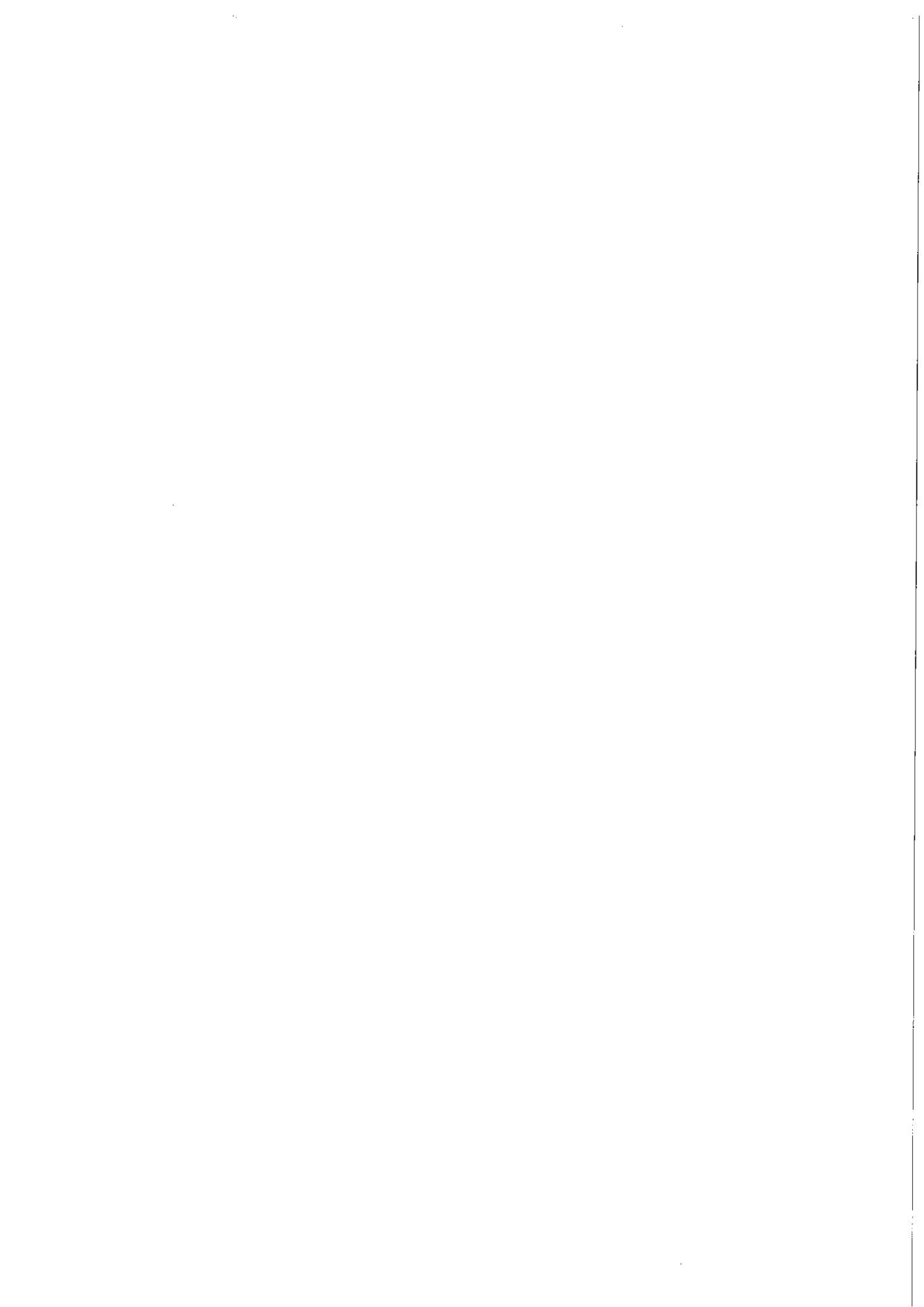
SECRET  
11 JAN 2016  
ENVIRONMENT

**Objection to 15/02065/FUL**

**Is this what we should look forward to on Burrows?**



**Loudhailers? Music? Litter? Accidents? Quarrels? Shouting? Cheering?**



# **BMX PUMP TRACK**

## **To everyone who enjoys Burrows Field**

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

... a proposal has been put forward for a large BMX Pump track in Burrows Field? (Just Google 'pump track', if you want to see what one really looks like.)

... that this has been described as a local facility for local use, but it is being promoted by BMXers from across the country and is now being referred to as the BMX track for Cheltenham.

... that it could be as large as 50m x 20m in size (162ft x 65ft) and that's not including gravelled access routes.

... that its construction would require importing tonnes of soil and gravel and that its curved banks would be at least 1.6m (5ft) tall.

... that it might require dogs on a leash restrictions to be imposed.

... that it's likely to impact on the use of the field for football and cricket, not just when BMX events are being held there and not just by making a bad parking situation much worse

... that the cost being quoted for this includes up to £40,000 of public money, which won't then be available for other sports and activities.

Many young people from across Cheltenham and from further afield will really enjoy a BMX pump track. BUT Burrows Field is a quiet residential area, with very little parking, no toilet facilities and in the furthest corner of the town. So, is Burrows Field really the right location?

Surely, the right location is Pittville Park? It already has a skateboarding / BMX area, swimming pool, tennis courts, pitch and putt golf course and all the supporting infrastructure of toilets, cafés and parking. It's also central, so the whole town can enjoy the facilities - after all it is being partly funded with taxpayers' money.

The pump track will be a big and permanent change to Burrows Field. The organisations who want to put it there have run a very professional campaign. But do you feel your voice has been heard?

If you would like a say in where the pump track goes, a good start would be make our local representatives aware of your views to help them decide the best response to the proposal:

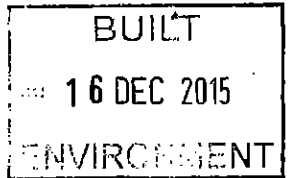
Leckhampton Borough Councillor: Andrew Chard: Email: [andrew4leckhampton@gmail.com](mailto:andrew4leckhampton@gmail.com).

TEL. [REDACTED]

Name [REDACTED] email or phone number.....

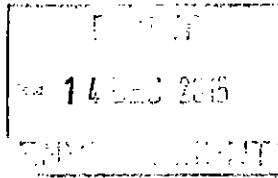
17. Merrin Way

Please put Yes if you are for it or No if you are against it ..... No .....



Have lived in Merlun way for 51 years  
bought no. 17 + moved in 4th June 1964  
having watched the property grow from the  
foundations. Bmx totally unsuitable for this  
area, my children went to Beckenhampton School,  
enjoyed the facilities of Burrows field, watched  
cricket in the summer months + football in  
winter, dog walking (still walking dog twice  
daily). lovely chestnut trees to sit by -  
plenty of cones to gather. Bmx requires more  
room further away from houses where suitable  
facilities can be provided (i.e. adequate parking  
spots, lighting, supervision) and keep Burrows  
field as we have known it for many years.

[REDACTED]  
17 Merlun way



32 Moorend Grove  
Leckhampton  
CHELTENHAM  
Glos. GL53 0HA

13<sup>h</sup> December 2015

For the attention of Tracy Crews  
Planning: Environmental & Regulatory Services  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
P.O. Box 12  
Municipal Offices  
Promenade  
CHELTENHAM  
Glos. GL50 1PP

Your ref. 15/02065/FUL

Dear Madam,

**Proposed construction of BMX pump track at Burrows Sports Field**

I would formally like to record my objection to the above mentioned BMX pump track (reference as above).

Your letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> November gives some typical headings under which comments may be taken into account.

**Traffic –** The car parking off Moorend Grove is limited and the local roads are already congested when cricket and football matches are in progress. Any additional traffic caused by visitors to the BMX track will only make matters worse.

**Visual impact –** Burrows is a delightfully peaceful field and this track will visually detract from this.

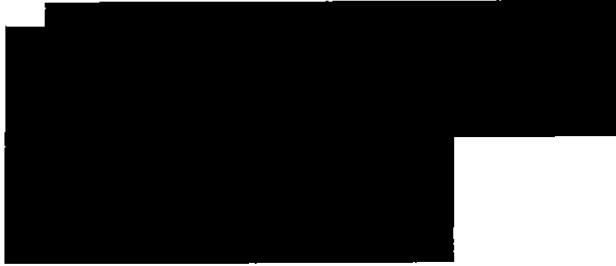
**Amenity –** The field is generally used, at all times, for dog walking. Dogs are free to run off their leads without causing annoyance to other users. Will it be necessary in future to insist that all dogs are retained on a lead to avoid conflict with cyclists going to and from the BMX track?

It has also been suggested that the bats in the area will be disturbed in their natural habitat. Surely, if by any stretch of the imagination, the planning committee feel disposed to approve the track, such approval should be deferred until such time as an investigation into the bat situation be carried out by a well qualified person at the proper time of the year.

There are numerous other objections to the proposal but your letter gives details that various subject will not be considered.

I note from your website on the track that you are totting up the number of comments you receive for and against the proposal. Presumably you will discount any observations which do not fit into your particular criteria for objections. Can you please let me know what your criteria are for considering approval of the BMX track.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

8 Arden Road Westhampton  
GL53 0HQ 12.01.16

Mr Ben Hawkes  
Planning Dept  
Cheltenham Borough Council

Dear Sir

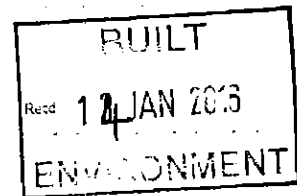
Proposed construction of BMX  
pump track, Burrows Field  
Merlin Way

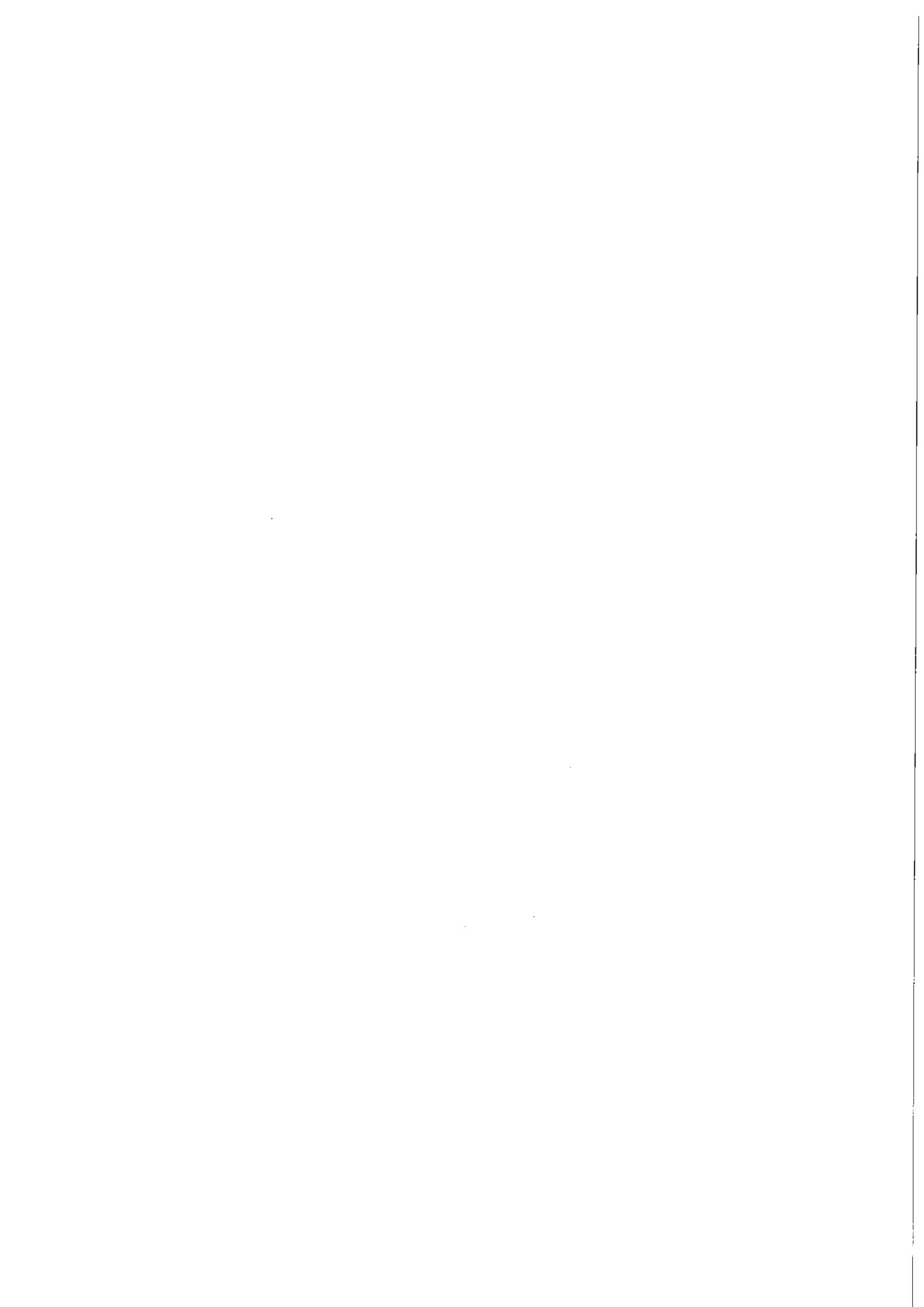
Such a large construction will  
be an eye sore to Burrows Field and  
to those living nearby. As there is  
a youth centre already at Strife  
please consider that site as more  
effective for BMX-ers and the local  
community.

Equally, Arden Road already suffers  
from over parking of the cars of  
users of Burrows Field.

Yours faithfully


[Redacted signature]

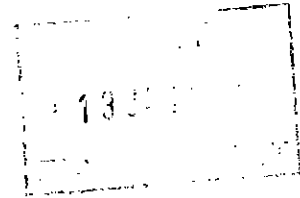






From:

  
6 Treelands Drive  
Leckhampton  
GL53 0DB



To: Mr B. Hawkes  
Planning Officer  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
Municipal Offices  
Cheltenham

Ref: Proposed B.M.X. track at Burrows Field, Leckhampton (15/02065/FUL)

Sir,

Before this application is considered I ask that my name be removed from the list of names supporting the application.

I now consider that the installation and constant use of this facility would cause irreparable damage to the grassy surfaces of Burrows Field, particularly during periods of wet weather.

The size and scale of this track leads me to believe that it is not suitable for general use, as suggested at the presentation, but more suited to use by more accomplished riders.

I do not believe that the 'No Cycling' order in force on the public footpath will be observed, nor so on any footpath installed, leading to conflict between walkers and riders.

Three, frequently used, seating areas will be affected.

There are no public toilet facilities.

Any increase in litter would not be dealt with by park users and lead to abandonment of current 'good will' cleaning by park users.

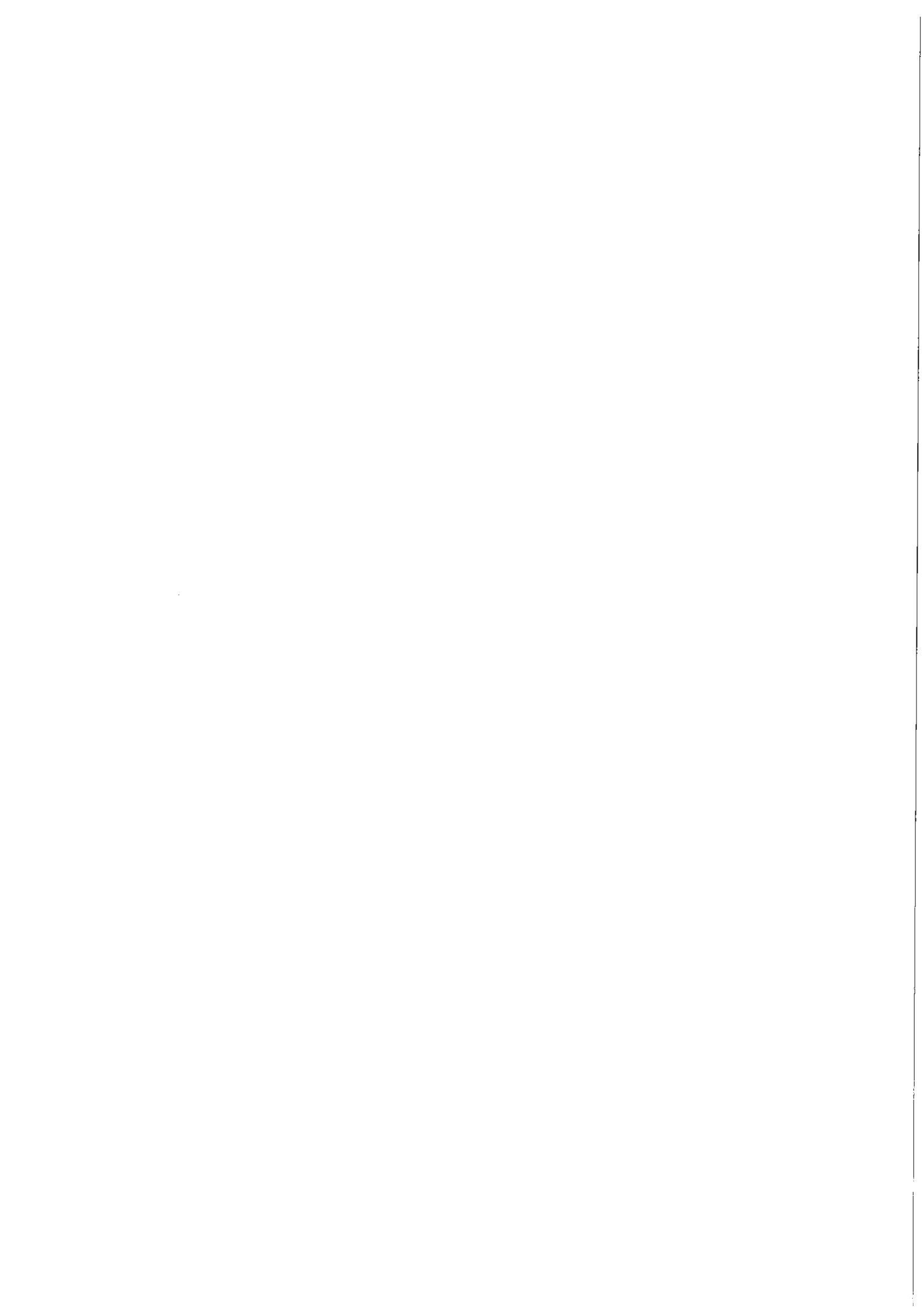
Demands on the car park already create problems locally and the emergency services access is already regularly blocked.

This development will cause damage to the beautiful views and the calm of this field forever.

The hope the committee will reject this application considering the views of local people above the support given to this application by people who have never, and probably will never, visit Burrows Field.

Many thanks





47 Caernarvon Rd, GL51 3JT  
31 December 2015

Dear Sir

**Ref:15/02065/FUL**

**I am AGAINST a BMX track on Burrows Field, for the following reasons.**

**This is what it says in Cheltenham Borough Council's vision for green spaces –**

*"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."*

**At this moment Burrows is a 'unique locally distinct green space',** and is considered a unique asset. The original vision of Mr Burrows agrees exactly with the council's vision, and this green space has offered benefits to the health and wellbeing of the local community for many generations. This has been widely acknowledged and appreciated by everyone in Leckhampton and areas nearby, who believe that Burrows continues to meet *'the existing and future needs of the community'* perfectly.

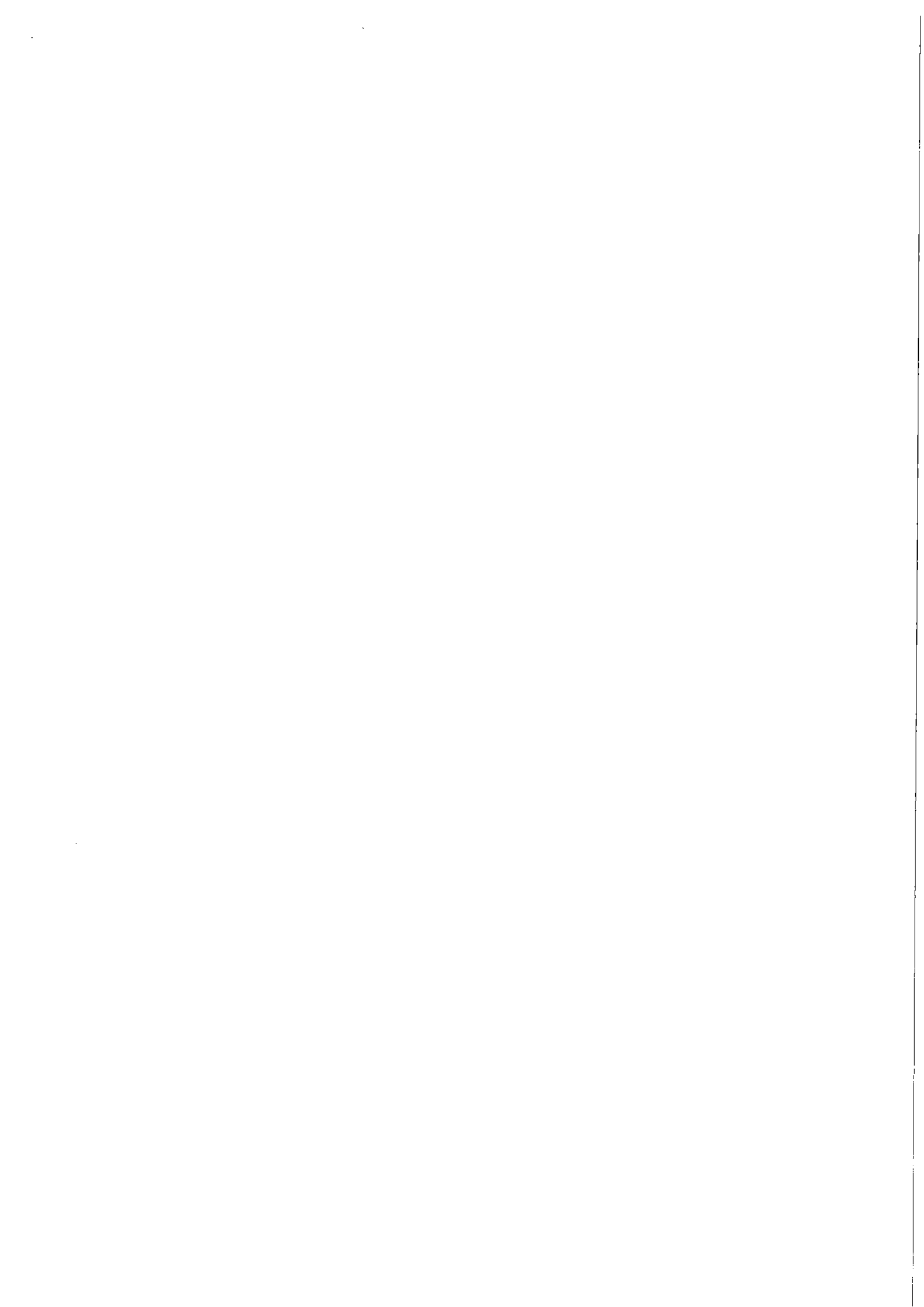
**Ms Powell and her partner are parents of a small boy being prepared for BMX greatness. They want a nearby practice track for their son,** and they seek to spoil a community asset in the process. Ms Powell's partner has already obtained planning for a full sized BMX track in Gloucester that will be ten minutes from their home. Apparently they take their son to Bristol twice a week, thus driving straight past the good BMX track at Quedgeley!!

**As the three tracks (Quedgeley, Bishops Cleeve and the new Gloucester one) do not come under CBC, Adam Reynolds of Cheltenham Green Space Division, is seeking kudos by funding a track inside the borough.** However it seems he couldn't think of a more suitable location!!!? Under his guidance Ms Powell has made a planning application, and been left to conduct publicity that is less than honest, including an allegedly 'local' questionnaire, that has actually been filled in by people on the national BMX internet circuit (as shown by the words in a recent email sent out to encourage BMXers nationwide to access CBC's website to lodge support). About ten leaflets were distributed to nearby houses, but most people in Leckhampton were kept in the dark. It seems Adam Reynolds cares little about the needs of the local community or the rare wildlife. He is managing a fund (public money) and wants to use it to ruin the *'well used and valued locally distinct'* nature of Burrows.

**A BMX 'bump' track would live up to its name,** with bumps and bangs, kids yelping, adults coaching, music, and gatherings. The track location is far too near houses and would seriously affect people living in the vicinity. There is no position in the field that would be far enough away from houses. In addition, the noise would ruin the atmosphere for all the other people trying to enjoy the peace and atmosphere of Burrows.

**The track would draw young children and teenagers, mostly boys, from all over the town.** As a result the community balance of people using Burrows would be seriously compromised, and this fabulous green space would no longer be *'safe and welcoming'* for everyone.





2 Somerset Rd  
Leeds  
LS28 7LN

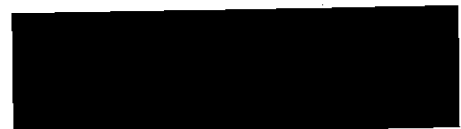
CBC Planning, Municipal Offices, Promenade

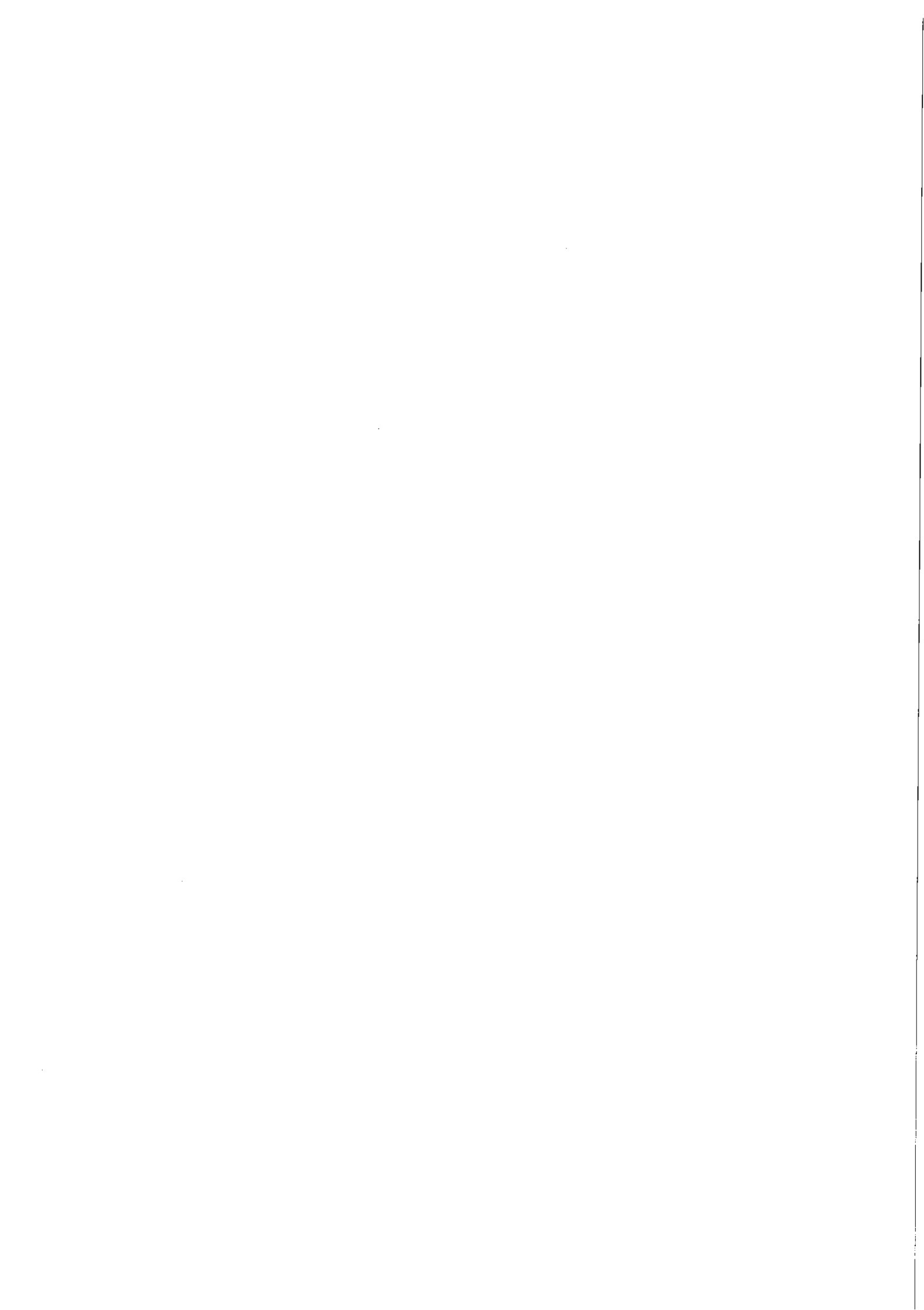
2 Jan 2016

**AGAINST BMX track on Burrows Field. 15/02065/FUL**

**A BMX track on Burrows field would be a most unwelcome intrusion.**

1. Noise. The planned proximity to nearby houses raises serious concern about echoing bumps and bangs from the tracks and BMXers' shouting. Given the echo situation of this whole area this has to be a major issue for consideration. For example, events taking place in Brizen Young People's Centre, and school activities on Warden Hill can be heard right across Leckhampton.
2. An influx of BMX cyclists (who could be in danger crossing all the main roads), and others coming from from further afield by car, would affect the safety of the children who currently use the field. My siblings and I innocently spent our childhoods exploring the wildlife of Burrows and playing games in the field. I remember the stream with toads and newts, and having 'jungle fun' amongst the trees. At the moment it is a truly safe and magical place that does not attract strange people, but this sense of safety could be seriously compromised once a population from afar is drawn in.
3. Girls would be unfairly disadvantaged and could be unsafe. By its nature BMX attracts mostly boys and young men. Girls playing in the green space could feel threatened, and might be bullied or even attacked and abused.
4. There appears to be no consideration or plan in place for the known protected species such as bats and crested newts. It would be wrong to destroy their habitat or to move them just to accommodate a noisy and out of character BMX track.
5. Laying new paths just for BMX riders would change the essential character of the area. Currently no one is allowed to cycle on the paths, and cycling from the car park over the playing field with fat tyres would soon ruin the ground. It would be impossible to enforce pushing or carrying bikes to the track!
6. Why should the people who love and enjoy Mr Burrow's gift in trust have their pleasure spoiled for the sake of one small boy in Leckhampton?
7. The boy's father ( [REDACTED] ) has already achieved planning for a brand new full size BMX track in Gloucester, just 10 minutes from Leckhampton.
8. Also there is an existing BMX track at Quedgeley, so there is no need to travel to Bristol as stated in this application. Two tracks close by should be quite enough!
9. It is positively dangerous for children from other parts town to travel by bike to Burrows, as it is surrounded by a network of extremely busy main roads. Children do not always have parents in tow! There are far more appropriate sites such as Pittville, Agg Gardeners, etc. that would be much safer for the majority of BMX bikers to access.





40 Hawthorne St  
Sheffield  
S6 5AU

Planning Dept  
Municipal Offices, Cheltenham

5 Jan 16

Dear Sir

**AGAINST**  
**15/02065/FUL BMX Track at Burrows**

I have known Burrows all my life, and visit it regularly with my little boy. I find it hard to believe that planners might give any consideration to putting a BMX track in such a quiet, attractive and semi-rural area.

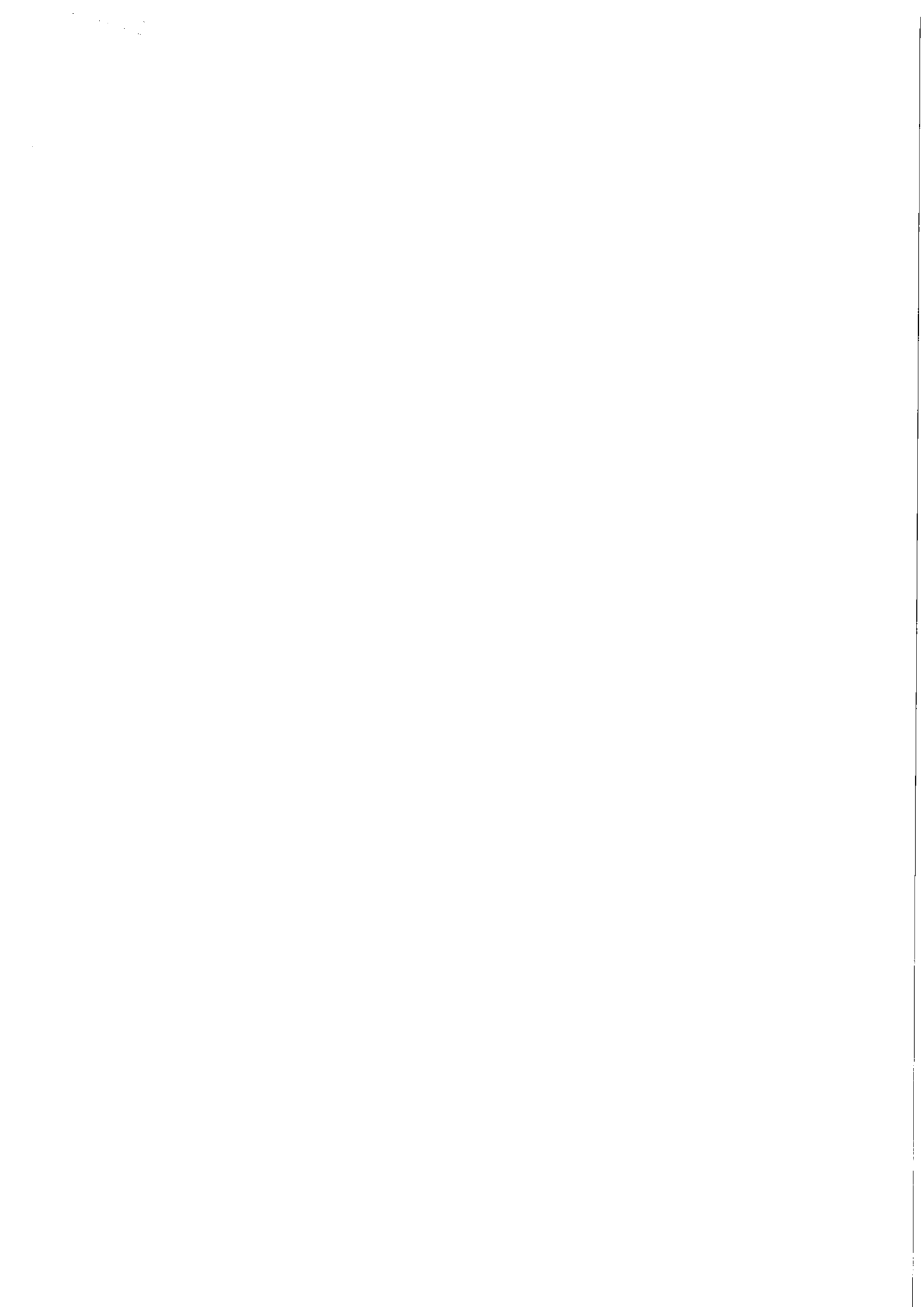
My husband is a keen mountain biker and we have just bought a BMX for my son. As a family we often attend BMX events with friends and their children. The noise, when the kids are competing or practising, is extremely loud. Bangs come from the track itself, and loud cheers and shouts come from the families and riders. Sometimes loud hailers are used, and even lights get rigged up. Youngsters waiting to get on the track 'burn rubber' in the car parks and on the footpaths, and they skid around on the grass. BMXers enjoy a nationwide network, and internet messages are sent out for planned gathering. Big groups arrive together from long distances, bringing picnics, dogs, babies, prams, bikes and bikers. All this is jolly fun for the families, i.e. it is a good club-type activity that promotes health, togetherness etc. However, such club activity is not suitable for the enclosed echoing space of Burrows. People living nearby would suffer from sounds multiplied by the surroundings. There is definitely no location on Burrows that is far enough away from nearby houses. Also the whole character of the space would change, and sadly this would cause the community that currently uses Burrows to feel unwelcome in its own green area.

Mr Burrows bequeathed this green space for the enjoyment of people in the areas nearby, and not for nationwide use. It is much loved and well used, and local people give quiet thanks to Mr Burrows for having had such foresight. The key is in the words 'green space'. It must therefore be the duty of the council to keep faith with Mr Burrows' Trust.

Given the modern pace of life this green area is more important than ever. I hope to continue bringing my son to have adventures in the overgrown willows and trees, and to search for the newts and frogs that live in that corner. I would be very upset to hear bikes banging around in the background.

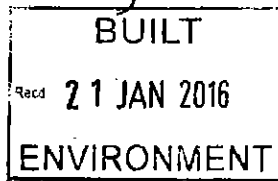
Yours faithfully







Cheltenham Borough Council,  
Municipal Offices,  
Promenade  
Cheltenham GL50 9SA



32 Merlin Way  
Leckhampton  
Cheltenham  
Glos. GL53 0LU

Attention: Mr Ben Hawkes

19th January, 2016

Dear Mr Hawkes,

Re: Burrows Field Petition / Proposed BMX  
Track / Application I 510265IFUL  
?1 1, ?1

It's extraordinary and disgraceful that this application has even reached this late stage.

We used to have a dog and took her walks in Burrows Field - the Lott's meadow side of the field was damper than the tree-lined side so could get 'churned-up' more and even the 'drier' tree lined side could become damaged by increased use thus spoiling the beauty of the field.

I understand that there is a bye law prohibiting cycling - can this be guaranteed?

Where will they park? We can see on match days that the surrounding roads by us are used and the turning from Moorend Grove to Arden Road is more hazardous (visibility up Arden Road is reduced until you are around the bend near the Moorend Grove junction).

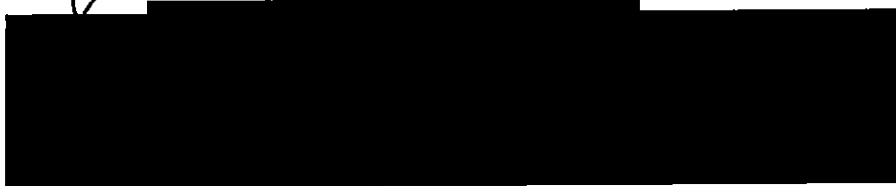
I understand that there is an alternative place, Brzen Youth Centre. I do

not know much about it or have been there but understand it has better facilities than at Burrows Field.

Why spoil Burrows Field and at the same time need increased control on dog poo for everyone's safety and <sup>the</sup> interaction of everybody using the field. Why create problems unnecessarily? Simply reject the proposal for a BMX track on Burrows Field.

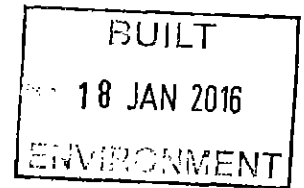
Thank you

Yours sincerely,



9 Arden Road,  
Cheltenham, Glos.,  
GL53 0HG

11.1.16.



Mr. Ben Hawkes,  
Planning Officer,  
Cheltenham Borough Council,  
Municipal Offices,  
Cheltenham, Glos.  
GL53 0HG

Dear Mr. Hawkes,

Planning Application No. 15/02065/FUL - Proposed Bmx Track at Burrows Field.

Having seen the possible size , height especially of the proposed track, it will be totally out of keeping with the rest of Burrows Field, and a complete eye sore, in an area which is known for its present backdrop of trees and open green space, looking towards Leckhampton Hill. There would be nowhere in the Field that your eye could evade the intrusion of the track.

Burrows Field is already extensively used by all sections of the community, especially for playing football and cricket, and the installation of a Bmx track, with youngsters, riding their bikes across the field in all directions, without supervision, will quickly make the already well established pitches, unfit for purposes.

Parking already on occasions, when games are in progress on the field, already almost blocks entrances and exits to all the houses along and around my road.

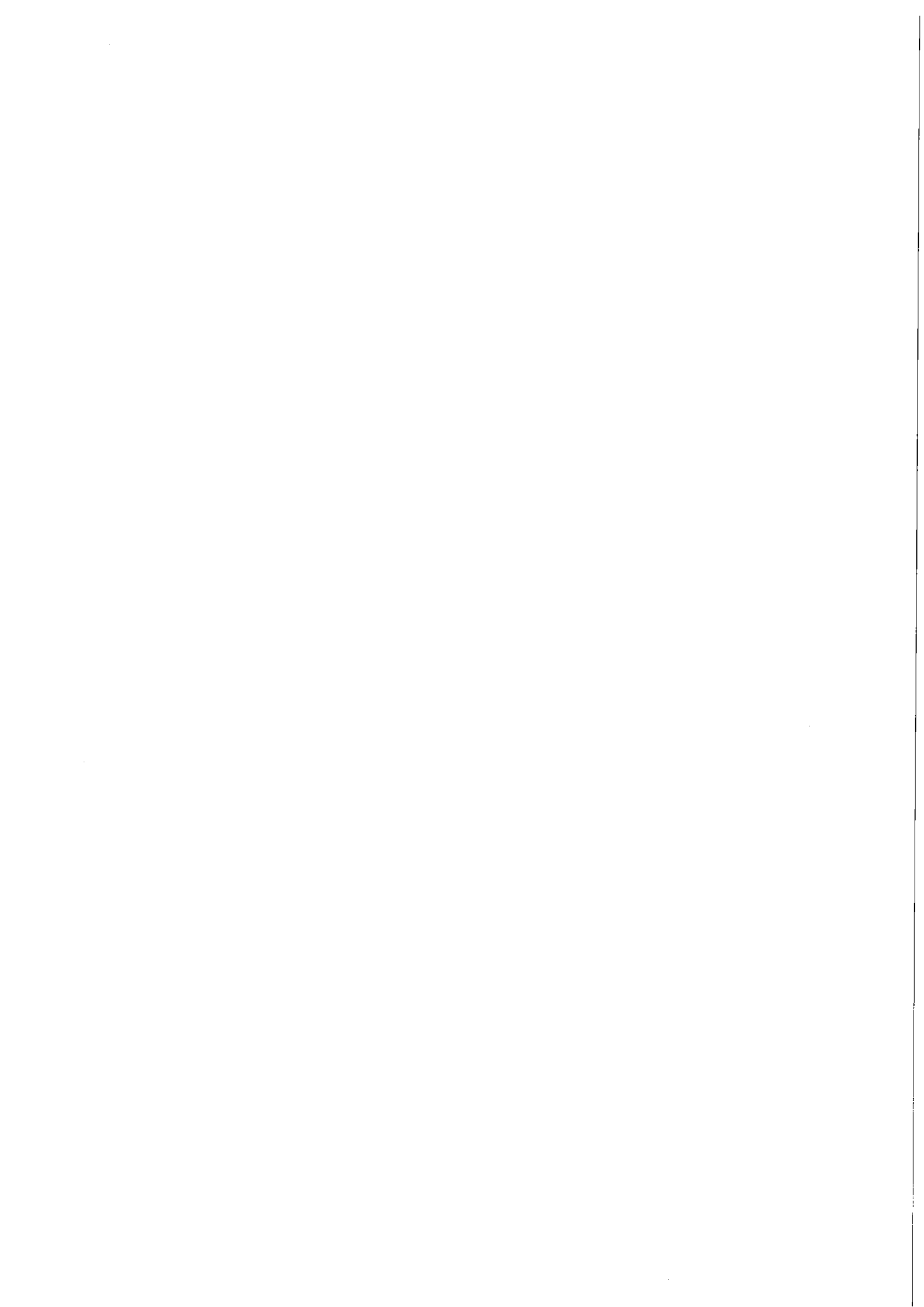
It is strongly requested that although there are at least 3 bmx sites not too far distant, that somewhere like Brizen Youth Centre, would be far more acceptable and far better place for an additional place for children and youths to practice their fun, but noisy pastime.

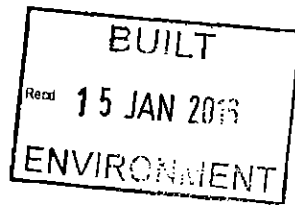
Please reject this application and look for an alternative and more acceptable place for the track.

On line that there are more objections to this application than in favour, and there is also a local paper Petition, signed by a large number of local people, who use the field regularly and live close to the site, and not at distances as far apart as Yorkshire and Gwent.

Yours truly,

Close resident





6 Arden Road,  
Cheltenham,  
Glos.  
13<sup>th</sup> January, 2016-

Planning Dept.,  
Municipal Offices,  
Promenade,  
GL50 1PP

Attn: Mr. B. Hawkes.

Dear Sirs,

Application no. 15/02065/FUL - Burrows Field – and Bmx Track

I have just heard about the proposed Bmx track for Burrows Field, and after seeing the details I must object very strongly to this proposal.

Firstly, the track set against the beautiful backdrop of Burrows, will be unsightly, and totally inappropriate for such a lovely field with the green trees and Leckhampton Hill in the background. Wherever you stand on the field, your eye will be hit by the unsightly track. It is totally the wrong place.

As a resident in Arden Road, we already have an overflow of cars on occasions when the football matches for the youngsters are in session. Burrows and the surrounding roads do not have the capacity for any further cars. Already on occasions, I have difficulty getting out of my drive.

Added to this I foresee the present football and cricket pitches being damaged by constant use by cyclists. A bye law there might be to say do not cycle across the grass, but who will stop the youngsters?

Such a facility, great for the young people, should go somewhere such as Brizen, which is already a Youth Centre and will be totally in keeping with the area.

Yours truly,

