

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Bemerton Heath Pump Track
Committee : Full Council
Date : 4 November 2024
Author : Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from Full Council to proceed with the installation of a Pump Track (a purpose built track for cycling) at Bemerton Heath.
- 1.2. This project is a collaboration between Wiltshire Council (WC) and Salisbury City Council (SCC), designed to enhance local recreational facilities and provide a sustainable, low-maintenance outdoor space for various users.

2. Background:

- 2.1. As part of ongoing community engagement through "Community Conversations" initiatives, the Bemerton Bright Ideas Panel identified the Pump Track as a valuable recreational asset.
- 2.2. A Pump Track is a purpose-built track for cycling, featuring rollers and banked turns, which can be ridden by generating momentum through body movements. These tracks are cost-effective, low-maintenance, and cater to a wide range of users and skill levels.
- 2.3. Officers from both WC and SCC have worked collaboratively to assess the technical, financial, environmental, and community considerations of the project.

3. Key Project Considerations:

3.1. The following factors have been identified during the project development:

- **Technical:** Suitable land has been identified within Bemerton Heath, considering ownership, proximity to housing, utilities, and access requirements.
- **Financial:** WC will fund the construction through internal funding and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. SCC will assume ownership post-construction, with ongoing maintenance costs estimated at £10,000 over ten years.
- **Environmental:** The Pump Track will contribute to Salisbury's sustainability goals by promoting active travel and reducing the need for car journeys. Minimal lighting and drainage considerations have been incorporated to mitigate environmental impacts.
- **Community Engagement:** Local residents have been consulted, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Accessibility requirements and anti-social behaviour have been key focus areas.
- **Planning:** The project requires planning permission, which has been provisionally supported by SCC's Planning Committee.

4. Lifecycle, Warranties & Maintenance:

4.1. The Pump Track is expected to have a minimum lifespan of 15-20 years. Suppliers have indicated a surface warranty of 5-7 years, with the potential for extension up to 10 years. Routine maintenance, such as litter picking, grass trimming, and inspections, will be minimal and aligned with SCC's current maintenance schedules for public spaces.

5. Recommendations

5.1. It is recommended that the Committee:

- Approve the project proposal for the Bemerton Heath Pump Track.
- Agree that Salisbury City Council will assume ownership and maintenance responsibilities following project completion, subject to planning approvals, and warranties provided by suppliers.

6. **Wards Affected:** The project is based in Bemerton Heath but will be accessible to residents from all wards.

7. **Background Papers:** Community Conversations Bemerton Heath Pump Track Presentation from WC

8. Implications:

8.1. **Financial:** Initial funding provided by Wiltshire Council, with ongoing maintenance costs for SCC as detailed above.

8.2. **Personnel:** Nil in relation to this report.

8.3. **Environmental Impact:** Positive contribution through active travel promotion and low ecological impact

8.4. **Equalities Impact:** The track will be accessible to users of all abilities.