

## **Stow Pump Track Community Consultation**

We are gathering feedback on the preferred location for the Stow Pump track. If you were unable to make the community consultation event on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, you may find the following information helpful before completing the feedback form.

### **What is a pump track?**

A pump track is typically a circuit of rollers and banked turns (berms) designed to be ridden by 'pumping' (weighting and unweighting the bike) to generate momentum without pedalling. They are suitable for small wheeled children's bikes, BMX and mountain bikes and can be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Pump tracks develop bike skills and confidence but ultimately provide a fun activity for all in a safe off-road space. A professionally designed and built pump track is suitable for all ages and abilities.

They are considered to be low risk as all features are rollable. Considerable skill is required to develop the speed required to 'jump' features.



### **Benefits of a pump track**

- Accessible for all ages and abilities
- Develops bike skills and confidence
- Provides progressive challenge for more experienced riders
- Low risk
- All weather use
- Positive impact on health and wellbeing

### **Benefits for Stow**

We had a very positive response to our survey in September; 85% of 144 respondents thought that a pump track in Stow would be of benefit to the community.

A pump track in Stow would provide an off-road cycling facility that can be used by our young (and older!) people in all weathers. It will potentially attract visitors, increasing numbers to support our local businesses. There are plans to develop a club to offer coaching opportunities for all. It will also compliment the development of the cycling hub within the Station House to promote cycling for all within our community.

### **Options appraisal**

An initial options appraisal considered eight sites. The sites were assessed for visual impact, impact on residential properties, safe access, central location/close to existing village amenities, availability of parking, land ownership, size available.

Only 2 sites were identified as feasible locations to take forward for this consultation.

## Two sites for community consultation

**Site 1** – Land between Bowling Club and Mill Lade

**Site 5** - Land in corner of park where Stow Sports week tents located (adjacent to Mill Rd and Mill Lade)



### Site 1 (land between the Bowling club and Mill Lade)

Site 1 is the bigger of the two sites, is a naturally enclosed site and will have limited impact on existing park users. It is over-looked by two residential properties but the impact on these properties could be mitigated by appropriate planting to screen the site. It is also adjacent to the Bowling club. Site 1 is being currently developed as an outdoor classroom/garden area by the school. The school has put their development plans on hold whilst discussions take place with the community as to whether this is the preferred site for a pump track. Stow Parish Trust has said that the school, if they wished, could use some of the Quoiting Green for the outdoor classroom if site 1 was the preferred site.

### Site 5 (corner of park where Stow Sports week tents located -adjacent to Mill Rd and Mill Lade)

Site 5 is close to the football pitch and would be a minimum of 2m from the pitch. The football club manager has asked that entrance would be from Mill Road to avoid bikes cutting across the corner of the pitch. The tents for Stow Sports week would have to be relocated but in principle Stow Sports Committee have acknowledged that this could be accommodated. Site 5 will have a higher visual impact as it is a narrower site and therefore will necessitate a more compact design which results in less green space within the track and a less natural appearance.

### Flood risk

Both sites are in an area at risk of flooding. The Mill Lade borders both sites. SEPA have advised that the design must have a neutral impact on flood risk and not create a road hazard. An appropriately designed pump track that does not increase flood risk is possible to build (Hawick Community Pump Track have recently got permission to build on land with the same flood risk as Stow). A pump track in either site1 or 5 has been discussed with SBC Flood Protection Officer. Any design will go through the planning process; SBC Environmental Department and SEPA will be consulted as part of planning.

### Comparison of sites

	Site 1	Site 5
<b>Location</b>	Land between Mill Lade and Bowling club	Land in corner of park where Stow Sports week tents located (adjacent to Mill Rd and Mill Lade)
<b>Ownership</b>	SBC	SBC
<b>Size</b>	47m x 29m (682m <sup>2</sup> )	51m x 23m (587m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Central/Close to amenities</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Safe access</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Parking close by</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Visual impact</b>	Low	Medium
<b>Impact on properties<sup>1</sup></b>	Low/medium	Low
<b>Flood Plain</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Impact on current park users</b>	Currently being used as outdoor classroom by school <sup>2</sup> ; their plans to develop garden area are on hold until outcome of consultation	Close to football pitch. Access to be promoted from Mill Road park entrance to avoid cutting corner of pitch. Tents and spectator area would need to be relocated for Stow Sports week.

<sup>1</sup> Planting of appropriate screening could mitigate any impact on the properties that overlook site 1

<sup>2</sup>Parish Trust has proposed that the school could use the Quoiting Green for the outdoor classroom if site1 was the preferred site for the pump track.

We really need your feedback with respect to preferred location. Please fill in the form on the next page and return to Stow Post Office or email [stowpumptrack@gmail.com](mailto:stowpumptrack@gmail.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

# Stow Pump Track Consultation

To help with the consultation we would be grateful if you could answer the following questions. Once completed please put this form in the boxes provided.

## 1. Which town/village are you a resident of?

Stow ☐

Fountainhall ☐

Heriot ☐

Lauder ☐

Clovenfords ☐

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. What is your age?

Under 12 years ☐

12 – 18 years ☐

19 – 34 years ☐

35 – 64 years ☐

65 + years ☐

## 3. Are you...?

Male ☐

Female ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

## 4. What is your preferred site for the pump track in Stow?

Site 1 - Land between park and bowling club ☐

Site 5 - Land in corner of park where Stow Sports week tents located ☐

## 5. Why is this your preferred site?

Please turn over....

**6. Would you and/or members of your family use a pump track in Stow if it was developed?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

Maybe ☐

**7. If you have any further comments on the proposed pump track in Stow, please use the space below.**

**8. If you would like to be kept up to date with future developments on the pump track in Stow, please provide your email address below. By providing your email you are giving permission for us to contact you regarding the pump track.**

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***Thank you***

Please return to Stow Post Office or email [stowpumptrack@gmail.com](mailto:stowpumptrack@gmail.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.