

## **Stow Pump Track Community Newsletter update February 2020**

A huge thank you to all the people who came to the Stow Pump Track Community Consultation event in December. It was great to see so many people turn out on a Friday only two weeks before Christmas. Both the afternoon and the evening sessions were well attended and we had 75 responses to our consultation questionnaire. The purpose of the community consultation was to provide more information about the plans to have a pump track in Stow and to ask the community what their preferred site was. Only two sites had been identified as potentially feasible for a pump track from an options appraisal of 8 sites. Site 1 is the land between the Bowling Club and Mill Lade and Site 5 is the land between the football pitch and Mill Road (where the tents are for Stow Sports week). The results from the community consultation identified Site 1 as being the preferred site (84% of respondents preferred this site).

Both sites are on the flood plain as identified by SEPA. Early discussions with SBC's Flood Risk Engineer informed us that it is possible to build a pump track on a flood plain provided that it does not increase flood risk. Hawick Community Pump track recently have been granted planning permission and funding to build a pump track on a site with the same flood risk as the Stow sites.

We have had further discussions with SBC and now have permission to undertake the surveys, pump track design and flood risk assessments that would be required to assure SBC, the pump track group and wider community that the pump track, if built on Site 1, would not increase flood risk. This information will also be required for a planning application. We are also looking to see how we could, if possible, reduce the existing flood risk at Site 1. We have applied for funding to cover the costs of the surveys, design fees, flood risk assessments and planning application.

If successful in our funding application a user group will be formed to input into and be consulted on the design stages. We already have a number of young people who have volunteered to be part of this group but the group is open to anyone who has an interest in the pump track design. Please email [stowpumptrack@gmail.com](mailto:stowpumptrack@gmail.com) or message the Facebook page (@Stowpumptrack) if you would like to be part of this group and we will keep you informed. There will also be a further community event to provide an opportunity for anyone interested to see the final design.

Thank you for all the interest and support that has been shown for the pump track to date. We will provide further information on our Facebook page and the Stow Community Trust website ([stowhub.co.uk](http://stowhub.co.uk)).