

## **Response to Questions / Comments by Members of the Public at the Full Council Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at Seth Ward Community Centre, Bunters Suite**

Members of the public were concerned with the recent planning application submitted by Buntingford Town Council to site a pump track at Norfolk Road Playing Field. The following questions and comments were made:

Question / comment

Who decided the proposed site of the pump track which originally was going to be sited behind the MUGA.?

**Answer**

**A small working group investigated and assessed the aspiration and advice was sought from a market leader in pump track design. Following a resolution from the Full Council, the current site was selected as the only viable option. Additional locations at Norfolk Road Playing Field, Seth Ward Playing Field, Hare Street Road Playing Field and the feasibility of purchasing an additional plot of land were all explored.**

Question / comment

The planning application states that the track is 40m from the nearest houses when in fact, it is 19m.

**Answer**

**As previously acknowledged at our recent Council meeting, please accept our apologies for this error on the application.**

Question / comment

Disgraceful that the four properties across the road, opposite the proposed site, were not consulted.

**Answer**

**When it was established, after seeking advice from the EHDC Planning Dept, that a full planning application was required. Public consultation forms part of this planning process.**

Question / comment

Has a Risk Management Plan been put in place to cover a track being close to skate ramps and a toddler's playground.

**Answer**

**If Planning Permission is granted, a Risk Management Plan will be in place prior to opening the facility and prepared in association with the designer / builder who will also provide a Risk Management Plan for the construction phase. The existing opening between the Young Persons Activity Area and the Pump Track Site will be sealed. The proposed pump track will be inspected on a regular basis by a RoSPA approved Inspector.**

Question / comment

Has safeguarding issues been identified and noise pollution assessed.

Answer

**The proposed location has “unofficial surveillance” of the site from the users of the many other activities conducted on a regular basis. The Town Council is in the process of upgrading the Cricket Pavilion CCTV to give much improved coverage of the area.**

**It is not possible to measure noise pollution but noise has not been raised as an issue from our research process.**

Question / comment

No thought for parking, Bowling Green Lane is not safe, increase in traffic movement.

Answer

**Herts Highways are a statutory consultee as part of the planning process, any concerns will be raised should they feel it appropriate.**

**Should the need arise the existing car park which will be unchanged can accommodate up to 30 vehicles. There is also a public car park to the south of the site.**

**We have no control over parking in Bowling Green Lane and it is evident that vehicles park there already.**

Question / comment

Hedge is not continuous and not in the ownership of BTC.

Answer

**The hedge is continuous except for a short section where there is an access gate. It should be noted that at the time of preparing the application the hedgerow was at least 2 meters high and in leaf. It has recently been cut back by Hertfordshire Highways contractors**

Question / comment

The proposals contradict BCANP Page 56 – loss of existing facilities and green space.

Answer

**The Town Council does not consider the proposals contradict any policies with the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Question / comment

Promotes an unsafe area, is this the right position, consultation and surveys should have been undertaken.

Answer

**Previous answer cover these points.**

Question / comment

Like the Council to withdraw the planning application, confident it will be refused.

Answer

**The Town Council will await the outcome of the decision by East Herts DC Planning and comply with any conditions imposed should planning be granted.**

Question / comment

Other land should be considered.

Answer

**As stated above, other land and sites were considered/investigated.**

Question / comment

Fair has been coming for a long time, where will it go.

Answer

**The Town Council will endeavour to find a new venue for the fair for its 3-day annual visit**

Question / comment

Facility only serving a minority.

Answer

**Of 349 responses to the provision of Outdoor Sports survey carried out in March / April 2021, 120 respondents suggested the provision of a Pump Track. The Town Council supports many "minority" sports.**

Question / comment

Increase in noise pollution and will be used during anti-social hours.

Answer

**There is no evidence that this type of facility is any more or less likely to encourage anti-social behaviour.  
The facility will not be floodlit.**