

Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath Grant Application

Project name:

Bath BMX Track

Organisation:

Bath BMX Club

Project location:

The Tumps, Odd Down Bath

Locality or Ward which will benefit from this project:

Odd Down Bath, Southdown Bath, The City of Bath

Target start date:

Spring 2023

Target completion date:

Winter 2023

Have you or your organisation previously applied for funding from Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath?

No

Description of project:

Bath BMX Track is located at The Tumps in Odd Down and Bath BMX Club have used the track since the early 1980's. The site is adjacent to, although completely separate from the Odd Down Sports Ground which has a high quality criterium style race track.

The BMX track needs investment to bring the ageing infrastructure up to date, so that the club can grow engagement with the local community and continue to host regional level events. The track is currently open to users 24 hours a day and the club do not want to change that however they do wish to improve the fencing around the site to make it more secure from vehicles such as motorbikes, electric scooters and remote controlled vehicles entering the area and damaging the surface, which currently happens frequently. The Club also wish to replace the start hill and start gate both of which are very old and in desperate need of upgrading.

The club has 52 members and despite being one of the smaller clubs in the South West we consistently produce World, National and Regional champions.

The outcomes and objectives of this funding are as follows:

- Upgrade the start gate and start hill to ensure the club maintains its regional status. Recent CIL funding investment at Bristol, Burnham and Cardiff's (complete new facility) highlight the limitations of the Bath track.
- Provide facilities such as toilets.
- Protect the track from use by inappropriate vehicles thereby preserving the track for all cyclists of all abilities
- Keep the track open and free to use by Bath residents
- Develop the club to offer advice, support and coaching to all; teaching core cycling skills to as diverse a range of people as possible and develop future champions.

Reasons for supporting this project:

The BMX Track at The Tumps is one of the oldest surviving tracks in the country it has been free to use by the local community since its construction in the early 1980s. The current start gate was installed, second hand in the early 2000s and is showing signs of age. The club have hosted 10 regional level race events since 2014 and is a popular South West race with over 250 riders attending. However, our ability to continue relies on upgrading the start hill and repairing and modifying parts of the track particularly where the tarmac berms are compromised by plants.

The track has no toilet facilities; a barrier for many wanting to visit the track and participate.

The track is a great community asset maintained entirely by volunteers and Bath is one of very few cities in the country to have a fully working regional level BMX race track.

Cycling is great for wellbeing and fitness and BMX, is a relatively cheap sport to get involved in. The skills that a cyclist of any age can learn on a BMX track will improve their bike handling skills on any bike and the track offers a small and safe environment to learn.

BMX, an Olympic Sport is growing in popularity. Races are categorised by age with families participating at the same event gaining points for their club. Bath came 4th in the SW (of 19) and 26th Nationally (of 54). The club offers coaching and practise to introducing the sport to as many people as possible. The rest of the time the track is free to use by the public.

There is real potential to promote a cycling hub within Bath with such great facilities as Odd Down cycle track and Entry Hill bike park.

Is this a new project or does this project link into an existing project?

No, this is a new project, broken down into 2 to suit funding availability:

Core project

Items considered minimum to upgrading the track; replacing the aging start gate, increasing storage, permanent race pens and sustainable toilet facilities (£59,390).

Full ambition

Our full ambition is to replace the whole start hill rather than just the gate, enhance training with race timing equipment, provide community assets for all to use in the form of bike tools and pump (available 24/7), additional gazebo shelters, loan equipment for all to access BMXing and portable lighting to increase track use in the winter (£105,304).

Breakdown of how you plan to allocate the funding

Core project

Item	Amount
Start gate	£47,297
Fencing improvement	£5,806
Race holding pens	£927
Composting toilet	£1,500
Track repair and signage	£860
Additional storage	£3,000
Total	£59,390

Full ambition

Item	Amount
Start gate	£47,297
Fencing improvement	£5,806
Race holding pens	£927
Composting toilet	£1,500
Track repair and signage	£860
Additional storage	£3,000
Start hill	£32,779
Race timing equipment	£5,000
Community tools and pump	£1,500
Promotional material	£300
Shelter and power	£2,080
Free loan race bikes	£2,550
Loan safety equipment	£705
Portable floodlighting	£1,000
Total	£105,304

Club members volunteering needs to be accounted for at a rate of £12 per hour which we as a club will contribute (not actual cost but our contribution in kind)

Project milestones and targets:

Milestone	Date
Improve facilities (toilet/storage)	April 2023
Extend fencing	May/June 2023
Start hill work	June/July 2023
Track improvements	October/November 2023

Targets are:

- Conclude all track works by December 23
- Hold Regional event in August 23, utilising the new start hill/gate
- Recycle all materials on site.

If planning permission is required for this project, has it been granted?

Awaiting council advice on whether replacing the start hill requires planning permission

How does the project address the specific impacts of the new developments from which the funding has been generated?

There are many major developments taking place across Bath, the nearest to the track being the development at Sulis Meadow which is providing over 170 new homes. There is also the development at the nearby Fox Hill and Mulberry Park which aims to provide over 700 new homes on the former MOD site.

These two developments alone will see Baths population grow considerably, many of these new residents will be families looking for activities they can participate in locally and at relatively little cost. The BMX track at The Tumps is something that these new residents will be able to enjoy and access by walking/riding to without the need for using vehicles or public transport. They can either choose to use the track for free when the club are not holding events and sessions or join the club. Being walkable and rideable means this facility can continue to provide a healthy wellbeing facility in the city thus helping to address the climate emergency.

The construction of BMX style tracks have been linked to decreases in crime rates within many councils across the country including North Lanarkshire in Scotland and at the Trehafod tracks near Porth in South Wales. The facility is extensively used by the local population and by improving the current infrastructure will be seen as a positive in the community.

How does the project provide links to the locality in the area where development has taken place?

The club is located in the heart of Odd Down and is close to other wards such as Southdown Twerton, Combe Down and Moorlands. Being the only regional track for some distance the club also attract members and riders from all over BANES and beyond. The club continue to reach out to the whole of the city of Bath in order to attract more riders from the city and these improvements will enable outreach events within local schools and community groups.

The track is located on the edge of the Odd Down playing fields and is easily accessed by foot from much of the city. Bath BMX club use the track as their home facility and welcome riders from a diverse set of backgrounds. Our recent club racing series has seen a significant increase in ladies starting BMX to improve skills and fitness and BMX racing offers the opportunity for the whole families to ride together and represent their local club and city at race events across the region, country, Europe and the world.

Being able to wear the club jersey and ride for bath give youngsters and adults a feeling of pride to represent the City of Bath. The track being open and safe to ride also benefits the local community as a place to go to exercise, meet friends and develop new skills for free.

Please provide evidence which shows how the community has been listened to and what support exists for your project:

Bath BMX Club published an online survey between 03.09.22 and 01.10.22 inviting responses from members and the local community.

The following information was shared with stakeholders as part of the survey:

Bath BMX Club are requesting support from members of the local community and organisations in order that we can pursue a Community Asset transfer (CAT) and a Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

This would allow Bath BMX club to:

- Gain certainty over the duration of the lease to ensure it is long enough, so that the club can raise funds to manage the maintenance of the facility throughout the term of the lease.
- Improve facilities at the club including the start gate, track, and safety fencing.
- Ensure that the track is fit for purpose and provides further opportunities for the local community to use the facilities.

We would appreciate your support in completing the survey below.

The survey was shared through social media and had 86 responses in total. The responses are overwhelmingly supportive.

Results

Do you support Bath BMX club in applying for a- A 'Community Asset Transfer' (CAT) in order to improve facilities at the club?

100% - yes

0% - no

Do you support Bath BMX Club in applying for a grant from the 'Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in order to improve facilities at the club?

100% - yes

0% - no

Would improved facilities at Bath BMX club increase the likelihood of you or your family members using the track?

97.5%- yes

2.5%- maybe

0%- no

Please email any further support, comments, or questions to Info@bathbmxclub.com

Examples included:

- The Club has become an important part of our family life. We would love to see the club receive some funding so that facilities can be improved.
- Bath BMX has become such a huge part of our family and watching our son blossom in confidence on and off the track because of all of the training, support that the club and our new BMX family provide is just amazing. Best club ever!
- I ride every week. I wish we had toilets and a place to go when it rains.
- As a new lady rider, it's been great to be able to join such a welcoming club and have a hobby that I can share with my daughters

We also have a letter of support from Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, a large Multi Academy Trust with 17 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and 1 special school.

The project must show that it either supports the development of the relevant area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area:

Bath BMX Club are committed to maintaining this facility in spite of rising costs to operate. Entirely run by volunteers, time and investment maintains the track in its current condition but funding is required to improve and upgrade the track.

In 2019/20 717 volunteer hours were spent at the track, 48hrs in 20/21 (significantly impacted by Covid but time was to repair damage), 588hrs in 21/22 and 685hrs so far in 22/23. Time spent maintaining the track surface, club loan bikes and safety equipment, start gate, running events and training.

As a small club, FY21/22 accounts show a total Club loss of £1.47 (total income £2,985.30; total expenditure £2,986.77)

However, the club have used events, such as Regional Races, open days and sponsorship to raise funds to contribute £5k to the project.

The start gate at the track is over 20 years old and every year the club undertake extensive maintenance and repairs to keep it operational. This includes replacing the hinge pins, welding vandalised joints and replacing rusted components. This cannot be continued forever as there will come a time when the gate won't be able to be repaired. The funds that the CIL will provide will replace key infrastructure and breathe new life into the track for another 20 years, improving the facility enormously and benefiting the wider community, long term, in the process.

By adding a more secure perimeter fence we can protect the track from vehicles that regularly damage the surface, protecting what must be seen as the core infrastructure at the site, namely the track itself. The fence will be designed so that it can still allow legitimate users to enjoy the facility for free when the club has not organised activities

Total cost of project:

Core project - £59,390

Full ambition - £105,304

Amount of funding sought from Neighbourhood Portion of CIL Fund:

Core project - £59,390

Full ambition - £105,304

Does this project benefit from any source of matched funding?

Not currently, although bid writing is taking place

Additional Funds which have already been agreed:

£6,000 (from previous Club fundraising)

Other fundraising activities are ongoing

Funds which have been applied for but are awaiting a decision:

None

Volunteering hours:

Estimated at 300 hours

Breakdown of the costs for the delivery of this project

Core project

Item	Amount
Start gate	£47,297
Fencing improvement	£5,806
Race holding pens	£927

Composting toilet	£1,500
Track repair and signage	£860
Additional storage	£3,000
Total	£59,390

Full ambition

Item	Amount
Start gate	£47,297
Fencing improvement	£5,806
Race holding pens	£927
Composting toilet	£1,500
Track repair and signage	£860
Additional storage	£3,000
Start hill	£32,779
Race timing equipment	£5,000
Community tools and pump	£1,500
Promotional material	£300
Shelter and power	£2,080
Free loan race bikes	£2,550
Loan safety equipment	£705
Portable floodlighting	£1,000
Total	£105,304