

Skate and pump meeting note 03.02.23

MPC Councillor Madge Bailey

Adam Sherring, Kingsbridge Town Councillor and Kingsbridge Skate Park

Kye Forte from Forte Trailscapes who have built many pump tracks in the region

Key points from Kye

There is sufficient area to build a pump track – excellent space without compromising the footballers or woods.

Surface the short path from the cycle path to the skate park and run it around the back to keep bikes off the skate park and provide easy access to the pump track without getting wheels on the grass. This also provides the opportunity to create flow (safely) between the skate park and pump track, with for example a skill zone for beginners.

Skateboards, scooters and BMX bikes use pump tracks.

The skate park does not need a large expansion but better use of the existing space by adding features, plus slight extension of the edge and corners which would link to the pump track. (Adam: the Kingsbridge skate park is now a major facility costing £250k so it makes more sense to enhance the Malborough skate park and create a regional facility of the pump track).

Rough estimate for the pump track is £60k but allow another £10k for increase in costs by the time the project breaks ground.

Add another £20k - £30k for the skate park enhancements.

Include a seating hub in the design.

Pump tracks are cheaper than skateparks per square metre because they use tarmac not concrete. Ongoing maintenance is very low. Warranty 1-2 years.

Construction - will require lorry loads of stone and materials. Potentially they can come through the wide vehicle gate at the cycle path. They would re grade and re-seed any damage and know it is essential to avoid the football pitches. They could look at loading onto smaller vehicles in the car park and bringing them around the field.

Kye's company has all the relevant accreditation for working on council funded projects and public land. The earliest he could start would be early 2024.

Kye will produce a basic estimate and plan of the pump track in the next two weeks (for free).

Tendering

Tendering would be required. Also check with Fields in Trust.

Kye and Adam can provide other relevant companies to tender.

Planning permission

MPC to check. Potentially this could be done under permitted development since it is not a change of use of the land i.e. playing field. However this needs confirming with SHDC. NB: if planning permission is required this will significantly extend the time scale and extra cost using architects/planners.

Funding

Assume the total is £100k.

Adam suggests grants might be available from British Cycling (they gave £5k to the skate park!) Sport England and other smaller charities. MPC's S.106 provides excellent leverage. We should also liaise with Salcombe for S.106 since these will be excellent facilities for the wider area and are joined by the cycle path.

Councillor Bailey has experience of grant applications and will provide this input.

Tennis Courts / Basketball

Kathy Harrod (MPC Clerk) and Councillor Bailey met Jon Jevans from Malborough Village Hall and Playing Fields to discuss a proposal for the courts which is:

Turn the tennis court nearest the playground into a multi-use area for basketball, netball, kicking about etc. The net would be removed, the existing lines covered over and replaced with either/both basketball and netball lines. Install basketball posts. Netball posts can be inserted when the group uses the court.

This multi-use area is Open Access (gate is always open) for anyone to come and use at any time.

Kingsbridge basketball club who train at the leisure centre would be keen to hire the new court at Malborough (weather permitting) and believe there is potential to run youth sessions. A local child has also requested the installation of a basketball hoop.

CCTV could be installed on the roof of the pavilion to deter anti-social behaviour and deal with any problems.

The income from the hire fee could be used for maintenance and litter-picking.

To ensure at least one tennis court is available at all times we have the option to fence in the far court to protect its use.

The old tennis courts were recently refurbished for around £40k in favour of the provision of a multi-use games area. These proposals would ensure that they continued to cater for a variety of local leisure and sports demands.