

Barlow Parish Council - Pump Track Research

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Research**
- 3. Noise Survey**
- 4. Barlow Primary**
- 5. FAQ**

1.Introduction

History

In March 2019 a resident raised the possibility of playing field improvements, the suggestion was a Skate Park, this was something specifically suggested for older children.

April 2019 the council resolved to take forward the idea of a bike park. It was initially suggested to use the land owned by Drax adjacent to the existing playing fields, however following feedback from residents, in addition to the fact the Parish council didn't own the land, it was agreed the placement would best fit the playing field. The social media post on the 24th June 2021 had a majority positive response.

On the 29th June 2021 there was a parish council meeting where some residents raised concerns about the following, notably noise, anti-social behaviour and parking. The Parish Council has since mitigated these issues.

What is a pump track?

A pump track is a track for bicycles, when ridden properly does not require pedalling or pushing but a "pumping" action to maintain momentum.

Will the pump track be made of Tarmac?

No. The structure will mainly be made from soil with a topcoat of crushed stone.

What is the size of the pump track?

The proposal is 75m x 40m, the playing field measures 214m x 105m – this does not include Drax land.

How far away will the pump track be from houses?

We expect at least 45m if not more.

2.Research

Research – four key concerns

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Noise Impact
- Motorbikes / Quad Bikes
- Increased Traffic

It was decided to contact a selection of Pump Tracks to research any concerns below are the findings.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Haverill – No complaints other than litter

Ingleton – Bike shelter/ shed have been vandalised other than that no issues. A really valued recreation site. Its isn't flood lit so not used after dark.

Waverton – Not had any concerns – Pump track is visual and is not hidden.

Wychavon – Initial spike after installation though quickly dropped off, the site already had anti-social behaviour though so it is difficult to say these incidents wouldn't have happened anyway.

Trumpington – We have had no reports of any additional ASB in the recreational area.

Noise

Haverill – no noise impact other than children playing

Ingleton – Little noise

Waverton – No issues.

Wychavon – Initial reports when opened but nothing since

Trumpington – No reports of noise impact to local residents some of which are 30m away.

Motor Bikes / Quad Bikes

Haverill – Fenced off with kissing gate – impossible for motor vehicles to get on.

Ingleton – No one has ever tried to take a Quad or motorbike on it to their knowledge.

Waverton – No Reports

Wychavon – No reports

Trumpington – No reports – remote control cars on occasion – one report of a youth on a moped (in nearly 3 years of use this is good).

Increased Traffic

Haverill – most riders come on bikes – no complaints about parking

Ingleton – People often ride to the track or park in the village car park , wouldn't say it has created more traffic.

Waverton – Not caused any issues, we do have a car park. Smaller children tend to go in a morning, older children in the afternoons.

Wychavon – The park already attracted people and therefore difficult to measure, it is fair to say to start with people came far and wide to use it but now it is almost exclusively used by local users.

Trumpington – Unlikely/very minimal – 3-4 parked cars at most during good weather/weekends.

Other Feedback

Haverill – It has definitely been a massive hit.

Ingleton – Overall huge bonus for the village, local children use it all the time promoting physical exercise and keeping healthy.

Waverton - Resounding Success – Pump track feedback found on their website under latest news – www.wavertonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Trumpington – Trumpington track is within a socially deprived area and has had no reports of increasing any anti -social behaviour – I can only see minimal impact to your village.

Research undertaken by Thames Valley Police on a national basis indicates that where provision is made for young people (including bike facilities) there is a 30% drop in vandalism and petty crime in the area. Though the fears by residents are usually those of anti-social behaviour the opposite happens and normally there is a reduction in crime in the area.

3.Noise

Noise Survey

At approximately 20.30pm on the 26th May a noise comparison was completed on the recreational area to ascertain to decibel level local to stable road residents should a very loud noise occur in the vicinity of the proposed pump track. The purpose was to provide a worst-case scenario noise level of the pump track. NB The test doesn't account for the proposed installation of a noise barrier (i.e. Hedge).

Two teenage girls were asked to scream as loud as they could local to a Sound Level Meter the repeat when a distance away from the meter. The two recorded values were witnessed by a now Barlow PC representative.

The PC have a copy of the Sound Level Meter Certificate of calibration.

Results

Location of Meter: 1ft from girls

Location of Girls: 1ft from Meter

Reading 105db

Example equivalent noise: Jet plane flyover at 100ft

Results

Location of Meter: 9ft from Stable Road House Boundary

Location of Girls: Local to the proposed location of Pump Track (back of field)

Reading 65db

Example equivalent noise: normal conversation

4.What Barlow Primary have to say

All children voted in favour of the Pump Track.

Barlow children commented the following;

1. There isn't much to do in Barlow, children who are bored may be more likely to get into trouble.
2. Some children have a bike at home which they rarely use. They felt they would use it a lot more if there were facilities to suit.
3. Children will spend less time at home on their phones
4. Children would be out in the fresh air more, getting more exercise. This would result in a positive impact on mental health.

5.FAQ's

Other question we have been asked in relation to the playing field redevelopment.

Why aren't our roads being prioritised?

The roads are not the responsibility for the parish council, the proposed new road (when completed) will cost millions. The Highways continually review the H & S of the roads and when required they complete works.

Flood lights?

We have not intention of adding floodlights to the playing fields, though this had been discussed.

What about Dog Walkers and Horse Riders?

The playing field is a recreational area. Horses are not permitted on the playing field. Dog Walkers should always have their dogs on leads. We are lucky that Barlow has many more options for dog walkers in and around the village.

Insurance Cover?

Of course, the pump track will have adequate insurance which is already a cost to the Parish Council.

How will the pump track be maintained?

This will be the responsibility of Parish Council though we already have a group of resident volunteers, the upkeep will be minimal.

Who will be able to use the pump track will it just be children?

Absolutely not, adults will also be able to use the pump track.

What about parking?

We are very lucky to have a large car park at the Village Hall/Club, we do not envisage any parking issues.