

## **Poulton Recreation Ground and The Strips, Bradford on Avon**

### **Project Brief**

#### **Background**

Poulton Rec is an important recreational asset and open space serving the communities on the south side of Bradford on Avon.

In 2012 the Rec was designated a 'Queen Elizabeth II Field' and its ownership was transferred to Fields in Trust for safe-keeping in perpetuity. Wiltshire Council, through its contractors, remain responsible for its maintenance and upkeep.

Funding is available through the QEII Fields Fund with grants of up to £ 25,000 available for physical improvements to facilities and fields. Other local funding may also be available from the Area Board and the Town Council, amongst others.

The Youth Advisory Group has for some time been wanting to see improved skate ramp facilities at the Rec and has already secured £ 2,850 for these purposes from a local charity, the Colonel Llewellyn Palmer Educational Charity. Consultation with users and residents is underway to seek the wider views on the future for the skate ramps.

The Rec also includes recently built bike ramps, although these are not well used and feedback from young people suggests that the design does not meet their needs.

An area of woodland called 'The Strips' is used by BMX cyclists and users have constructed their own jumps and track using the natural landscape.

The 'Friends of The Strips' (FoTS) have prepared a Management Plan for the woodland near the Scout Hut which includes an area earmarked for more formal bike jumps using natural materials and the natural topography of the land. The YAG are forming a project team to develop the detailed plans for this site. The Management Plan is on display in the library and a public meeting will be held by the FoTS on Tuesday 7 May 2013 to discuss it.

#### **Why?**

- To achieve improvements to Poulton Rec which will address recurring issues such as poor skate ramp and bike jump facilities for young people, dog fouling, lack of changing facilities for sports clubs etc, by way of the preparation of a Management Plan to manage and maintain the existing facilities and to attract funding to invest and upgrade
- To involve users and residents in the long term management of this important recreational asset and through regular community events and fundraising
- As a spin-off project, to achieve a BMX track for young people within the woodland at The Strips which is acceptable both in ecological terms and to local residents

## **What?**

- Facilitate the creation of a group – ‘The Friends of Poulton Rec’ (FoPR) – made up of relevant stakeholders, including users (such as young mothers, dog walkers, skaters, bikers, sports clubs) and local residents (who over-look or live in the immediate vicinity)
- Involve and consult with all stakeholders on an ongoing basis and through special community events, to prepare a vision and plan for the future management and funding of improvements to the Rec
- Involve the Youth Advisory Group and other young people who attend the nearby Youth Development Centre in the management of this community project and develop their role as community leaders on behalf of young people locally
- Facilitate the creation and smooth operation of ‘The Strips Project Team’ led by the Youth Advisory Group

## **How?**

- Use existing community events and occasional public meetings to publicise the project and to recruit community members to the FoPR
- Use online consultation and ‘vox pop’ film interviews as well as more traditional paper-based survey methods to gather opinions
- Film users of the Rec with mobile phones using a microphone for better audibility
- Make use of social media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and local web and blog sites to consult with young people and the wider online community
- Manage the project team through existing channels – e.g. YAG, Area Board – rather than create a new bureaucracy

## **When?**

Timeline May - September 2013:

1. 7 May 2013 – public meeting at The Strips - to discuss the Management Plan
2. 11 June 2013 - Youth Advisory Group at Holt Village Hall – to report back on findings from the consultation with users and residents regarding improvements to the skate ramps at Poulton Rec and bike jumps at The Strips
3. 19 June 2013 – Bradford on Avon Area Board at Westwood Social Club - to notify the area board of the project
4. 7 September 2013 – ‘Poulton Party’ fringe festival event - an opportunity to consult with users and residents regarding their ideas and to seek their involvement with FoPR

Outcomes by May 2014:

1. Regular meetings of FoPR established
2. Management Plan for Poulton Rec approved
3. Funding sources investigated and resources secured
  
4. Proposals for a BMX track at The Strips consulted upon and agreed

## **Who?**

A Project Team to include:

Peter Dunford, Community Area Manager – project management and funding

Kath Brownlee, Youth Development Worker – project management and support to YAG

Youth Advisory Group – stakeholder engagement and consultation

Frank Smith, BoACAN – stakeholder consultation and audio-visual record

Jim Lynch, BoACAN – stakeholder engagement and consultation

Colin Brown, Play and Leisure Strategy Officer – facilities and management of the Rec

Leo Wirtz, Countryside Ranger – woodland ecology at The Strips

Alfie and Jan Windsor, The Friends of The Strips – stakeholder engagement and consultation

## **Consultation Findings**

### **Poulton Ramps:**

Between mid-April and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 the YAG made available a consultation flyer which was delivered to houses around the Poulton area surrounding the ramps, it was also circulated at the Youth Development Centre and on Facebook, Sparksite and Bradford on Avon's blog.

13 people supported refurbishing of the ramps as an interim measure, while funds were raised for total reconstruction of the ramps

3 people supported total reconstruction only

7 people supported refurbishment only

Action (to be discussed/agreed by the YAG): Confirm the design and cost of refurbishment and raise the required funds (topping up £2,850 funds already received from Colonel William Llewellyn Palmer Educational Charity) whilst continuing to develop the long term goal of reconstruction.

### The Strips:

Between the beginning of April and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 The Friends of the Strips made available a consultation questionnaire which sought to consult on their woodland management plan (which included the development of BMX ramps). They made this available at the local library and at a public meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

In relation to the development of the BMX ramps the following was received:

4 strongly disagreed to the principle of developing the current user-made BMX ramps in the Strips

3 had no view

8 agreed or strongly agreed

Action (to be discussed/agreed by the YAG): Develop a BMX ramps design in consultation with the community and Leo Wirtz (Senior Countryside Ranger, Wiltshire Council) then re-consult with the community.

**Project Brief prepared by Peter Dunford and Kath Brownlee**

**May 2013**