

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
BUILD SKILLS LOOP AND JUMP TRACK PROJECT**
Meeting: BO'NESS COMMON GOOD SUB-COMMITTEE
Date: 22 JUNE 2016
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND HOUSING SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An application has been received from the White Lady Mountain Bike Community Interest Company for funding towards the development of a "Build Skills Loop and Jump Track" in Kinneil Woods, near the car park.
- 1.2 For a number of years enthusiasts from Grangemouth and Bo'ness have built informal bike trails throughout the woods. These trails were popular, but did not meet safety standards and most of the trails have been erased by the 2015 forestry work.
- 1.3 The project is to establish a jump track and skills loop designed by well known trail builder, Pete Laing, who has delivered many projects around Scotland. The project has been endorsed by Falkirk Community Trust, Bo'ness Community Council and Friends of Kinneil. Planning permission has already been granted in April 2016.

2. JUMP TRACK AND SKILLS LOOP

- 2.1 The development of the Jump track and skills loop in Kinneil Woods would provide a high quality purpose-built facility for the local community and general public to use. The bike trails project is a key development within the Kinneil Masterplan and will improve the amenities of the woods, promote their use and encourage people to visit the area.
- 2.2 The site is part of Kinneil Estate which is open to the public at all times. There will be no fees or charges to use the bike trails. The trails will be built sympathetically to blend in with the existing natural environment.
- 2.3 The project is due to commence in August 2016 and be completed in November 2016. It is expected that around 250 people will use the bike trails per week (on average). The facility will be operated and maintained by the White Lady Mountain Biking CIC on completion.

3. PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING

3.1 The cost of the whole project is in the region of £45,000. Funding for 50% (£22,298) has been granted by Sports Scotland although this must be used in 2016 following an extension. An application to match this funding (£22,298) has been submitted to Environment Body Scotland. This application requires a 10% third party contribution and it is this sum, £2,600 (including fees) which has been requested from Bo'ness Common Good Fund.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The balance of the Bo'ness Common Good Fund is currently £55,769. Income of approximately £575 is expected during the year. The last award was made in April 2014 for Newton Park legal costs of £5,800 with no grants made in the three years before this.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That Members consider awarding £2,600 from the Bo'ness Common Good Fund towards the development of a 'Build Skills Loop and Jump Track' in Kinneil Woods.

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Director of Corporate & Housing Services

Date: 17th June 2016

Contact Officers: Hilary MacArthur (01324 506354)

Ref: AAL220616 – Application for Financial Assistance Build Skills Loop

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application received 14th June 2016 from Robert Archer, Chairperson, White Lady Mountain Biking CIC.