**Bishopston Community Council**

**07.05.2025**

**Meeting Re Proposed Pump Track Murton Green Road with Swansea Council and Curve Studios**

Present.

Kenneth Waggestad-stoa Curve

Gareth Govier Swansea Council

Jeremy Donaldson Curve

Cllr Lyndon Jones Ward Councillor

Clive Scott Community Councillor

Sian James Swansea Council

Sam Etheridge Bishopston Skatepark Project

Elliot Wadeley Bishopston Skatepark Project (online)

Julie Jones Community Councillor

Julie Jones opened the meeting by offering the apologies off the Clerk who was away from work unwell; but had messaged her to take minutes.

There were numerous discussions regarding the background to the applications and proposals which have been exhaustively examined and re-examined at Community Council level due to some historical land use issues and strenuous local objections to the land attached to the Community Centre being used for such activities.

There have been many meetings and discussions, along with numerous site visits using local knowledge (of the area) and of local young people with a great deal of preparatory work has been done for the proposed pump track which has more recently following a protracted period been redirected to the parcel of common land inside the catchment area known as Copley Woods adjoining Murton Green Road and Northway.

Cllr Lyndon Jones confirmed with Sian James that funding has now been signed off for the project with a match funded budget of 70% by Swansea Council and 30% by Bishopston Community Council equalling £56 and £24 Thousand pounds respectively to a total of £80,000 following a very positive meeting with Cllr Robert Francis Davies earlier in the year.

Cllr Jones advised that the additional funding may be pursued via the proposed Active Travel Track funding and via land sale by the Community Council to allow the said Active Travel Track which will circumvent the proposed pump track and run along Clyne Common and down Murton Green Road on the same side as the proposed development.

Certain reports which have already been carried out by the Skatepark Project were discussed and will be made available to Curve for their perusal and consideration in the planning and design stages, including an Ecology Report, a Topographical Survey and drone footage of the then partially cleared proposed site four years earlier. Jeremy from Curve enquired about utilities on the site, but they were considered to be unlikely given the nature and location of the redesignated and now agreed parcel of land. Preplanning and considered a host of issues regarding the site previously and it was agreed that the outcomes of those deliberations can be made available for the benefit of the new proposals/project. There was some discussion regarding pre-planning and deliberations by the Planning Department about this submission including multi use permeable surfaces for mixed pedestrian and wheeled traffic and the vision of a wider nature reserve with the pump track as the first part of a wider project to bring this area of unused scrub-land into sympathetic use for all ages and abilities within our local community.

Jeremy and Kenneth felt that the wider vision met and fitted very well with the ecological standards required if such projects going forwards and that improving access, functionality and biodiversity in the process were all to be embraced.

An issue which prompted consideration was the crossing points of what can be two busy arterial roads – it was felt that much of the leg work on such issues will be encompassed within the Active Travel path plans; however it was felt that it would be a worthy exercise for the Skate Park Project to look at optimal crossing ‘desire lines’ with local children who would most likely visit the site most often. It was also agreed that there should be work to be done with schools, carers and parents to ensure that they also are encouraged to attend, by making the space attractive to others with benches and features to attract local use by all ages and groups – within the vision for the whole site it was suggested that families and groups use the area for picnics and the like, take a stroll or use the regenerated areas for exercise and relaxation whilst their young people enjoy the use of the facilities – making anti-social behaviour less likely with a busy area was felt to be best in terms of self-policing.

There is also improved lighting and CCTV coverage in the Community Centre Car Park of late, at the request of local residents as the area has regrettably been an attractive haven for nighttime anti-social behaviour which since their introduction has largely tailed off. It was agreed that the various stakeholders would network between themselves to bring the project to the village at the earliest possible convenience once all required elements have been met.

There was discussion about the SUD (Sustainable Urban Drainage) investigations which are a pre-requisite of all such projects and how that might be brought into the procurement model at an earlier stage to stave off unnecessary delays in running the two processes separately – it was felt that this approach may well be feasible and one that Curve and Gareth Govier of Swansea Council would further investigate to shorten the administrative time lag between processes.

**NEXT STEPS:**

* It was agreed that as a division of project labour that Curve would take forward the tendering procurement and planning requirements with Swansea Council. Gareth will look at procurement shortcuts if attainable with Curve and ways to get the SUD’s addressed as a priority and that Swansea Council would take ownership of the procedural and administrative matters with Curve.
* Sian James will consult with Cllr Lyndon Jones and Elliot Wadeley/BSPP on matters of funding. Cllr Jones made the point that we are all anxious to see the pump track become a reality without further delay, and that he would like it ‘done yesterday.’
* The Skatepark Project will work alongside Curve on the design model and Sam Etheridge will facilitate with the Skatepark elders and local schools to arrange a brainstorming session around the design to make it their own vision of what they would like to see, use and play upon. Cllr Clive Scott suggested that this should be the young people’s design without need for officialdom taking a view on what they should be getting.
* It was agreed that the role of the Community Council would be a facilitating one, with use of resources space and meeting to assist wherever is necessary in the process.
* It was acknowledged numerous times that the project has taken many twists and turns over (too) many years and that it is closer now to becoming a reality is a testament to the tenacity of our young people and the determination of local adults to improve upon the immediate offering for young people in our village for socialisation, occupation, sport and exercise in a safe and supportive community venture.
* It was agreed that should the design and vision cost more than the allocated budget that the Skatepark Project will seek out funding from grant and charitable means as was always intended and that Sam Etheridge and her associates will endeavour to source additional revenue streams with organisations such as SCVS, Sport Wales and A Place for Sport and that once funding ahs been located and/or agreed that the Skate Park Project meet with the Community Council to Pool resources with a measurable audit trail towards the final cost.

The meeting was adjourned with a further walk of the site taken by Gareth Govier Clive Scott, Kenneth and Jeremy from Curve.

BCC/JJ 07.05.25