



Eastburn Playing Field Steering Group

Notes of a public meeting held 6.30 p.m. Monday 1 October 2007
at Eastburn Junior and Infant School

Present:

Councillor Dianne Lear (Chairman), Councillor Lorraine Harding, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council

Elizabeth Pratt, Headteacher, Eastburn Junior & Infant School

Louise Hargreaves, Youth Worker, Bradford Council.

24 Members of the Public

Cheryl Brown, Clerk, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council

Apologies:

Councillor Gladys Emmott.

About 20 young people gave a demonstration of the skills that they want to practice on the playground of the school.

Shelley Smith gave a presentation on behalf of the bike group to show how the sport is developing and the type of activities involved in the sport. She stressed the need for a local place for the riders to have access to and outlined the positive outcomes for children taking part in this sport.

The Chairman explained to the meeting that this part of the plan for the development of Eastburn Playing Field would be paid for by the bikers themselves and there would be no financial cost to the local community. The bike group has already secured some funding. Bradford Council has agreed to take over the maintenance and liability insurance of the area once the project is completed as it would be covered by their 'umbrella' public liability insurance.

A wide ranging discussion ensued, the main points of which were:

Problems:

- The possible dangers to small children from bikers riding at speed across the park to the area.
- Possible dangers to young children of the features installed (e.g. high rocks)
- The area would attract more undesirable youngsters to the park after the bikers have gone home.
- The area may need planning permission
- Increased litter
- Parking problems on Sun Street if bikers are attracted from a wider area and bring their bikes in cars.
- Increased noise especially at night
- Safety issues with bikers coming out of the park on to Sun Street.
- Motor bikes being brought to the park to use the skills area.
- The ancillary costs involved e.g. having to build an access path to stop bikes being ridden over the football field
- The proximity of the area to houses at the southern end of the field.
- No plans of what the area will look like.
- Lack of police enforcement of anti-social behaviour in the park currently.



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- Poor maintenance of the facilities available in the park now so residents were concerned that a commitment to maintenance by Bradford Council is not reassuring.

Benefits:

- The presence of these youngsters may deter anti-social behaviour
- The presence of these youngsters may make it safer for younger children to use the park
- The increased activity in the park may deter troublesome users from using the park
- The activity itself promotes good qualities in the youngsters taking part
- Many youngsters will not be practicing these skills on the roads, on the pavements and on private property but in a safe environment
- Many families are involved in the sport and the presence of responsible adults will make the park safer
- Proper access gates are planned in the wider scheme which will not allow the access of motorbikes.
- Tree planting and screening will be incorporated in to the wider scheme.
- The field is a community resource that should be used by all sections of the community.

It was decided to hold a site meeting to look at where the proposed skills area will be located and other locations in the park which could be considered. Plans of what the area will look like will also be available. The site meeting will take place on Saturday 6 October at 4.00p.m. at Eastburn Playing Field. A note to this effect will be delivered to every house on Sun Street and a notice will be put in the parish council notice-boards.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.40p.m.

Cheryl Brown
Clerk, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council