



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
3 APRIL 2019**

Responsible Officer: Gary Farmer, Operations Manager

BMX FACILITIES

Purpose of Report

Further to Full Council dated 14th January 2019, a sum of £40,000 has been included in the capital programme to upgrade BMX facilities. Prior to any allocation of funds, a review has been requested by councillors of the existing facilities.

The Town Council is currently responsible for 6 BMX tracks located at Upton Lane, Mary Webb Road, Greenfields, Little Harlescott Lane, Shorncliffe Drive and Springfield Recreation Ground.

1. Upton Lane

Historically this is the oldest established track which, during its development, has been redesigned on two occasions. The track has proved to be well used and popular with BMX riders. More recently the area has attracted anti-social behaviour with groups of youths attracted to the prominent start/finish mound and tarmac berms. This predominately is during the summer months. Youth Outreach workers and the Police have frequently attended this location.

The track's construction consists of a combination of tarmac berms (raised corners) and traditional crushed stone surfacing forming humps and jumps.

This facility was discussed in detail at Recreation & Leisure dated Wednesday 10th October 2018 under agenda item 30/18. A sum of £1,500 was approved from LJC funding to appoint a specialist BMX consultant to consider options to deter the anti-social activities. A number of options have been provided to the ward councillor and officers for future consideration and consultations with the BMX community via our Youth Workers.

2. Mary Webb Road

Similar to Upton Lane, this facility is long established, and the track has been redesigned and upgraded on two separate occasions. This is a traditional track containing a number of jumps and corners consisting of base type 1 stone and a crushed stone surface.

3. Shorncliffe Drive

The most challenging track in Shrewsbury Town Council ownership, consisting of a very high mounded start/finish and larger jumps. A corner berm of tarmac and access to the start is via a very steep tarmac path which is badly worn. The jumps consist of base type 1 stone with a crushed stone surface.



4. Greenfields

The track was upgraded in 2012. This consists of a stone surface, smaller jumps and berms. This is designed more for beginners and is not as challenging for advanced riders.

5. Little Harlescott Lane

This is a well-used, stone-based track. BMX users have taken a very active interest in requesting improvements and have actively engaged with Youth Services. Shrewsbury Town Council officers have held site meetings to discuss surface improvement and raising a corner berm to make the track more exciting.

LJC funding has been secured.

6. Springfield

Completed in 2012 this track has low level humps, jumps and berms. This facility attracts younger riders who are developing cycling skills. The track is stone based.

7. Other Facilities

Two alternative facilities are available at Sundorne Sports Village which is a purpose-built skateboard park that also attracts scooters and BMX stunt riders. Bayston Hill Parish Council also offer a facility off Lythwood Road which is for older children.

Annually independent RoSPA inspections

1. Upton Lane Recreation ground

- Shared start / finish – potential conflict
- Re-design
- Signage required
- Edges and cracks in tarmac berms to repair
- Top up re level surface dressing
- Consider removing berm – due to anti - social behaviour problems and reduce height of start to reduce risk of anti-social activities.

2. Springfield Recreation Ground

- Surface dressing top up. Particular focus along the high point of berms and jumps exposing sub base.

3. Shorncliffe Drive

- Resurface tarmac berms cracking at the top
- Consider separate start/finish point
- Directional signs required
- Top up and level the surface dressing



4. Mary Webb Road

- Check position of information sign
- Start and finish markers
- Consider re-profiling some of the jumps
- Direction signs
- Surface dressing exposed sub base
- (Skate bowl)
- (Excavate blocked drain) possible new soakaway required
- (New drain cover)

5. Little Harlescott Lane

- Remove link path from the finish to the start
- Surface dress exposed sub base
- New advisory sign required
- Increase the height of the berm as requested by user group
- Re-dress surface

6. Greenfields Recreation Ground pump track

- New advisory sign required
- Surface dress exposed sub base
- Re-dress surface

Proposals

1. Upton Lane Rec Ground

That consideration is given to re-designing the track to reduce concerns over anti - social behaviour.

Subject to consultation with users and youth services that tenders are sought in conjunction with the BMX consultant who has prepared a design brief and specification.

2. Mary Webb Rd, Greenfields, Little Harlescott Lane & Springfield Recreation Ground

The track surfaces are re-laid using a crushed stone surface.

That the berm on Little Harlescott track is re-designed and heightened.

3. Shorncliffe Drive

The tarmac access path and berms are top-dressed, and the track crushed stone surface is replenished.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That subject to tender, as a priority all BMX track surfaces should be re-laid. Leaving Upton Lane as the last track to be upgraded as any remaining budget balances can be spent on track modifications to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- (ii) Installation of a new track – Moston Road / Meadow Farm Drive

That further consideration over the demand positioning and design is co-ordinated via Youth Services and Councillor Parady.

That the £40,000 approved in the capital programme 2019/20 is focused on the upgrading of the current facilities. That any new track proposals and initiatives supported by Councillors and user groups are considered sepertely by the Recreation & Leisure Committee when such demands arise.