

Velodrome Meeting

Thursday 17 October 2013

Chaired by Councillor J Kenyon

Collation of comments and editor of this document, Tracy Morriss

The purpose of this meeting was to explore the potential for the installation of a velodrome in Hereford and discussions covered a variety of considerations such as speciality, different forms of velodrome, most suitable type of velodrome, construction, management and maintenance costs and potential suitable sites within Hereford for construction. Consideration of a suitable site should allow for future expansion of the project.

The consultation exercise to collect comments from those present at the meeting was delivered via Planning for Real and World Cafe mediums.

The favourable option was to consider a closed circuit cycling track which would be suitable for all ages and abilities to use.

Attending the meeting were specialists in velodrome construction and representatives from professional cycling teams, British Cycling Association, Hereford and Worcester Sports Council, Hereford Triathlon Team, Hereford BMX track, National College of the Blind, Halo Leisure, local cycle business owners, Pedicabs, Press and other interested parties. In total 29 people attended the meeting.

The main point of contact in relation to anything relating to this meeting or potential future meetings, correspondence, advice etc is:

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Comments collated from the consultation processes at this meeting are as follows:

Location

Race course x 3

Hereford – stop over for John O’Groats to Land End

1, Key point

As close to City Centre as possible. Race Course ideal. On major road route act as focal point for passers by.

Race course as other facilities are already there. Access off Roman Road good. Make multi use of site.

Link to Greenway – Rotherwas land already Council owned.

No more than a couple of miles from City Centre.

Race Course forms a natural and complimentary location.

Race course already has the facilities to cope with cyclists attending the Velodrome. For example changing rooms and more. There are lots of things to consider just like other facilities around the race course, maybe we have to stop the golf around the race course to fit in the velodrome.

Should be somewhere that can be monitored/maintained by existing organisation – HALO.

Easy access, possibly bus links.

In town disruption could cause more opposition such as the new complex build.

Close Circuit venue – open space by new cycleway bridge.

Belmont and Haywood Country Park – Good cycle links in SW – track/velodrome would link in really well.

College Green.

Aylestone Park.

Hollywell Gutter Lane.

Funding

Ask Stourport Sports Centre

Foundations. Grant funders/charitable trusts. Sports grants. Public – sponsor a seat/piece of track.

Support from British Cycling similar to Stourport Closed circuit.

Build a hotel next to or onto track. Rent to Travel Lodge.

What will be the cont?

Who will we get the funding from?

Who would maintain and manage?

Public or private ??????

Grants and funds from the EU (If we are still in it)

Lottery

Support from local business' (Sponsors)

Cycle industry

Continued maintenance

Local enterprise partnerships (Marches Area) Hereford, Shropshire, Telford, Wrekin.

Funding via: 1. NHS to improve fitness and health 2. Armed Forces 3. Shared costs via horse racing if shared site use 4. Potential shared management reduces cost.

Who runs it after being built.

Should a velodrome or cycling circuit be placed in the Belmont and Haywood Country park near the Sports Academy School it may be possible to pull down some funding towards the facility via the school.

Benefits

Catchment would extend east as far as Birmingham, SW as far as Bristol/Swindon, N as far as Shrewsbury/Cholster, W into Wales = very large.

Raise the profile of Hereford, cycling for sport, health and enjoyment.

Bring People to Hereford.

Create new jobs.

Cycling festival and tourism opportunities. More possible with a focus.

Bringing cycling to the people.

Might force Herefordshire Council cabinet to consider cyclists and pedestrians for a change. Good for all.

Closed Circuit – doesn't need specialist bikes or training – open to much bigger use group. (See Stourport)

Hereford Profile – bring in users from wide catchment. (Abergavenny – big cycle club but no closed circuit or Velodrome)

An outdoor enclosed racing circuit would be a great thing. Easy and low cost to build. Low maintenance, very popular and still growing.

Indoor Velodrome – winter use – benefit.

Cycling festival

Multi function venue

Great outing for creating healthy lifestyles.

There are no sporting facilities south of the City. What a fantastic boost for families and kids to have a facility like this that they have not got to travel across Hereford to go to if placed on Belmont and Haywood Country Park.

Hereford already has a high % of cycling journeys in City.

Improved economy

Fitness

It can be used by everyone

Closed circuit – training facility for all age groups and schools

Multi use – runners, roller skaters, Nordic skiers

Safer – young people can learn to ride responsibly

No other similar facility locally – wide catchment area – nearest Newport.

Would fill a big gap in Herefordshire – young people want to cycle but facilities are lacking.

Safe facility for families to learn and train and an achievable route or way to follow in the footsteps of Hoy, Pendleton et al.

Safe place to ride for kids.

Helps to develop Hereford in to a cycling City – possibly making it safer on the roads through awareness.

Could bring in big events and funding in to Hereford

Helps local teams to develop.

Should a velodrome or cycling circuit be placed in the Belmont and Haywood Country park near the Sports Academy School they could maybe manage the facility as part of the schools facilities.

Pitfalls

Funding and Location

Too many vested interests on potential sites.

Funding – current economic climate

Sustainability + 1

Is and indoor Velodrome too specialist for our catchment

White elephant?

Slow moving Council

Herefordshire being too conservative in trying something new

Access from other areas – Hereford not best place to get to

Hereford Traffic congestion could very well put people off coming

Will it help the economy

Need to find an area best for everyone and accessible for all

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Look at viability of suggested locations.
- Meeting to identify prospective funding providers and amount of potential funding that could be secured via those identified organisations.
- Look in to the viability of a tour of Herefordshire similar to that delivered in Worcestershire.
- Look in to the possibility of having the Tour of Britain end in Herefordshire to raise awareness of this group and what they are trying to achieve.
- Compile a list of cycle groups/clubs within a 50 mile radius of Hereford.
- Look at plans to develop racing on the BMX track in Whitecross.
- Look in to potential for having mountain biking at Queenswood Country Park and/or Hoff Woods.
- Date for next meeting to be confirmed in January 2014.