

## **BIKE BATH PARK @ ENTRY HILL - WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY**

We wanted to get in touch with local organisations at the first possible opportunity to outline our intentions for engaging with the local community, to let you know a bit about us and encourage you to be a part of the process that will see a unique facility developed on the former golf course at Entry Hill in Bath.

From day one our plans for Bath Bike Park have always had a strong community element. At the heart of our business is a deep belief that cycling and mountain biking are great tools to bring people together to make the good stuff happen. We have also been very aware from early on, that the beautiful green site, nestled in a residential area should be developed sensitively. We will look to offer much to the local community and wider Bath area as well as the mountain bikers who will want to use the bike park.

### **First we'll talk about cycling...**

In Bristol we have worked with local charities, schools, volunteers, youth and active ageing organisations to create hundreds of free and affordable opportunities for people to get out on bikes. We also developed a very successful trail maintenance strategy that engaged hundreds of volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds. This sought to deliver a cost effective maintenance plan for Bristol City Council, whilst creating a sense of ownership for local people and getting them outside and active! The mental and physical health and wellbeing benefits of cycling are well documented. More specifically mountain biking is an exciting sport that appeals to young people and keeps them engaged with exercise through enjoyment and community. Mountain biking brings fun to health and fitness, and it's this that makes it such a great sport for creating lifelong healthy habits.

We have always wanted our projects to have a focus on those people who would not normally get the opportunity to ride or who would not normally see themselves as a cyclist or a mountain biker. This has at times been challenging, but through this we have learnt a lot about the main barriers to participation and we will bring this experience to Entry Hill. A key component of our project will be to have specific people employed at the site to engage and develop our community strategy.

It was clear when working through the tender process that our values are closely aligned with those of B&NES. Our priorities for engagement will be with children and young adults, those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, people with disabilities and older adults. Our purpose will be to use the bike park and site as a whole to address health inequalities in B&NES. Our drive within cycling and mountain biking is to create a culture of inclusivity in a sport that is often perceived as elitist.

### **It's not all about cycling...**

Cycling and mountain biking is our passion and our area of expertise. However, when creating our project proposal we wanted to address as many elements of the consultation as possible. If you have not already seen our concept park designs we'd love you to take a look: [www.pedalprogression.com/bbp-news/](http://www.pedalprogression.com/bbp-news/)

There are some specific projects and spaces that we have identified as perfect opportunities to work with local community organisations. There are plans for a nature garden with a pond at the centre, community food growing space and potential for outdoor art installations. We also have plans for the planting of new trees and grasses, to not only ensure that we protect the habitats that are already present but seek to improve the biodiversity of the site. Our current home at Ashton Court has shown us that we can create an amazing cycling facility alongside preserving wild spaces and endangered species.

We want the process of creating this exciting new facility to be collaborative, we want to create a space that as many people as possible can visit and enjoy, we want to listen and bring the community along with us. We are passionate about getting people active outdoors and if you want to get involved or have ideas or areas of expertise that could enhance our vision we'd love to hear from you, please drop us an email.

We can't wait to meet you and see you at the park!

Ollie and Matt