

#SNODLANDPUMPTRACK

GREAT NEWS FOR SNODLAND!

£43,500 “PLACES TO RIDE” FUNDING FOR SNODLAND PUMP TRACK

A **£43,500** grant has been awarded to Snodland Town Council for **Snodland Pump Track**, after a successful application to British Cycling’s **Places to Ride** fund. This figure is in addition to the **£45,000** already raised through **Snodland Town Council**, **Snodland Partnership** and **Clarion Futures** and means project lift-off!



All this means a top-class facility is on its way to Snodland, which will be sited on the grounds of the Community Centre in Paddlesworth Road.



Community Cycleworks (a local Community Interest Company, who specialise in youth biking projects) were approached by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Kent Police during 2019 after multiple reports of anti-social biking in the area.

With a remit to engage with the riders and get to the root of the problem, they found that most of these young riders just wanted somewhere to practise their skills away from public roads.

Community Cycleworks started **Snodland Bike Club** with the help of the kids themselves and the instances of anti-social riding were seen to reduce. From this, the idea of a Pump Track evolved – a safe space for bike riders to develop their skills. The facility won’t just be for teenagers however, it will provide a free, open-access cycle track for children and adults alike and be an asset for the whole of the local community.



This award is the culmination of a lot of visionary thinking and even more hard work. Also supporting the project are **Kent Fire & Road Safety**, **Kent Police**, **Mitie**, **Kent Youth Service**, **Salus Group youth clubs**.

Stewart Vanns, founder of **Community Cycleworks** said: “We are a not-for-profit organisation that works to promote cycling to young people and their families. We are excited and proud about the announcement of our successful award of match funding. What started as a project to engage young riders will see them take an active role in the design of the track. This will create something positive out of the pandemic: a place where people can enjoy fun, physical activity each day.”

Tracey Crouch, MP for Chatham and Aylesford said: “Absolutely thrilled that Community Cycleworks bid for funding was successful. This is a much-needed project that is being done in conjunction with younger members of the bike community to provide a track, where there is currently nothing. The team behind the bid deserve huge congratulations for identifying the need, proposing a solution, and successfully bidding for funding. It will be a fantastic asset for Snodland and surrounding communities.”

Karen Sowten, Chief Executive of **Snodland Town Council** said: “Snodland Town Council are absolutely delighted that £43,500 has been successfully awarded for this amazing and exciting project. This project would not have happened had it not been for the hard work and determination of the Steering Group (made up of **Community Cycleworks**, **Snodland Town Council** and **Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**). The Town Council would also like to thank the following for their financial contribution towards the project - The Snodland Partnership (made up of **Tarmac**, **Smurfit Kappa**, **Snodland Town Council**, **Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council** and **Berkeley Homes**), **Clarion Housing Group**. This is a great good news story to come out of the Pandemic and we look forward to seeing the Pump Track up and running.”



Matt Parsonage, Head of Communities at **Clarion Futures** said: “We are delighted to be a partner in this exciting legacy project in Snodland. Our support demonstrates Clarion’s commitment to investing in the communities where we provide homes and working in partnership with local organisations to provide opportunities and resources for residents.”

Andy Farr, Head of Business Planning and Transformation at **British Cycling**, added: “Community Cycleworks is doing great work to get more people cycling in the Snodland area, so we are pleased to support their efforts to bring the community together and help build a Pump Track for Snodland through **Places to Ride**.”

Charles Johnston, **Sport England** Director of Property continued: “Sport England is proud to be delivering, in partnership with British Cycling, the single biggest government investment into community cycling facilities the country has seen in recent years.”



Luke Anderson, **British Cycling’s Cycling Delivery Manager for the South East**

“I’m delighted to be supporting the delivery of this pump-track and Learn to Ride space for the Snodland community. We’ve really enjoyed the opportunity to support Community Cycle Works and Tonbridge & Malling Council and we’ve already seen great engagement with young people in the area.

“The enthusiasm in the area is fantastic and we’ve got brilliant local stakeholders investing time and effort, and we are now looking to build on this through the creation of a new Go-Ride Club this summer and forming links with Cyclopark and Wigmore CC.”