TATTENHAM & PRESTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE



SPRING 2023

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE AGM OF THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT TATTENHAM CORNER LIBRARY, TATTENHAM CRESCENT, KT18 5NU ON THURSDAY 23rd MARCH 2023 AT 7.30pm

AGENDA

- 1. TPRA Chair's Report
- 2. Approval of minutes from the last AGM held on 14th March 2022
- 3. Treasurer's Report
- 4. Election of the RA Committee
- 5. Adoption of the Association's Borough Council election candidate for the May election
- 6. Councillors' Reports and questions: Jill Bray, Bob Harper and Nick Harrison
- 7. Any Other Business

Please send any nominations for the Committee to the Chair at kjchattelle@hotmail.co.uk

The formal part of the meeting will be followed by light refreshments and the opportunity to meet your Committee and Councillors to ask questions and discuss local issues.

ALL RESIDENTS OF TATTENHAM CORNER & PRESTON WARD WELCOME

Committee Members Chair Kathryn Chattelle 11 Chetwode Drive KT18 5TL kjchattelle@hotmail.co.uk 6 Sherborne Close KT18 5UU Vice Chair Martin Beard 01737 216655 Hon. Treas. Richard Mantle 27 Shawley Way KT18 5PB 01737 357055 27 Shawley Way KT18 5PB Hon.Sec. 01737 357055 Jill Bray Committee Caroline Baldock 32 Watermead KT20 5HB 01737 377525 Bob Harper 68 Upland Way KT18 5ST 01737 211315 Nick Harrison 105 Tattenham Crescent KT18 5NY 01737 215405 Asad Jamil 1 Oaks Way KT18 5PU 07544 939240 John Kemp 82 Upland Way KT18 5ST 07941 672561 1 Heathside Place KT18 5TX Ian Mockford barassie@gmail.com John Smith 16 Merland Green KT20 5JB 07767 362088 Tim Snuggs 31 Great Tattenhams KT18 5RF 07956 405063 **Borough Councillors** 27 Shawley Way KT18 5PB cllr.bray@reigate-banstead.gov.uk 01737 357055 Bob Harper 68 Upland Way KT18 5ST bhms.harper@gmail.com 01737 211315 **County & Borough Councillor**

Nick Harrison 105 Tattenham Crescent KT18 5NY nicholas.harrison@surreycc.gov.uk 01737 215405

To contact the Residents Association Committee - email: info@tandpr.org.uk

Chair's Report - March 2023

Dear Residents...

Change can always be challenging but also allows us to review how we do things as a committee. This will be a very different year for us as Councillor Jill Bray, after many years serving the borough, is stepping down and Tim Snuggs will be our prospective RA candidate for the forthcoming election in May. He brings a wealth of experience and skills and has already been very active on the committee.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd March at 7.30 pm at Tattenham Community Library where you can meet Tim. We are not having a guest speaker as it will give Tim time to introduce himself and to discuss what he will bring to the role of councillor if elected, and also provide a group vision for the future and how to best support Tattenham Corner and Preston residents.



Roads

Our roads within the borough were in a good state of repair unfortunately the cold snap has damaged them. Already Councillor Harrison has reported the worst areas, but if you have a road that is causing you concern you can report it - please go to "Our Streets" on the RA website, www.tandpr.org.uk for the link to report a road in poor repair.

On its website Surrey County Council want to reassure residents that they are doing all they can to manage an unprecedented demand to fix potholes. They ideally have a 5 working day and 20 working day target for pothole repairs depending on their severity. However due to the volume of work these timescales are being stretched.

Hedge on Preston Lane

The hedge on the junction of Marbles Way and Preston Lane that was causing sight issues for drivers has been cut back. It looks quite dramatic, but sufficient hedging has been left to support wildlife and a picket fence has been installed where the hedge has been removed.

Planters

We have received new planters from Raven Housing Trust for the flagpole area at Tattenham Corner. These will be planted up by Jill Bray and myself and should be looking good in time for the first days of spring.

Free Older Persons Bus Pass

Parking is getting more expensive in our towns so for those residents over 66 you may be entitled to a free bus pass - details on line https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses Complete the application on line or go to Epsom Library for an appointment to do it.

John Edwards

It is with sadness we report the death of John Edwards. John had been a stalwart of the Residents Association for many years and was Chairman for quite a number of these. In the early years he advised and gave direction on many practical issues of running the RA. In November and December of last year he continued offering help supporting both the British Legion and the RA. Personally I will remember John for his kindness, support and his great sense of humour, which he enjoyed sharing. We will miss you.

Jill Bray to stand down

Gosh, it doesn't seem possible that nearly 20 years have passed since I left Barclays and was scouting around for some things to do that would use my grey matter!

I can remember setting myself three goals: -

- To be more involved in my local community.
- To volunteer at the Princess Alice Hospice in Esher.
- To offer my services at the Beacon School as a School Governor.

All three were accomplished, but it was the first that has really involved me over the last 18 years. My attendance at the Local Residents meeting quickly led a year or so later to my election as a Reigate and Banstead Borough Councillor representing the Tattenhams ward.



To say that I have really enjoyed the last 18 years representing you would be a complete understatement. During my time as a Ward Councillor, I have been the Council's representative as a non-executive board member at Raven Housing Trust, chaired their audit committee as well as the Council's, and have been almost a permanent member of the Council's Employment Committee.

I guess though the major challenge and most rewarding role has been on the Council's Planning Committee. It is never a Councillor's role to stop "back garden" development but alongside my fellow ward councillors we have scrutinised all applications and ensured that either amendments have been made to make them more suitable for our patch or with your help we have worked to defeat inappropriate developments, with some notable successes!

It was my complete honour and privilege to represent this Borough as Mayor last year and I have many happy memories. I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to undertake this role before standing down as your local representative. And now all good things must come to an end!

Tim Snuggs comes with an excellent pedigree and I am thrilled to have found such an energetic candidate to replace me. He is a local man living within our ward and as such will have his finger on the pulse to ensure good things continue to happen. He has my full support as well as that of the Residents Association committee members who have voted for him to be our "candidate elect" in the Local 2023 election. You will have the opportunity to meet him and hopefully ratify our decision at the AGM in March!

Thank you so much for all your support during my time as one of you Borough Councillors. I will continue to be a member of the Tattenham and Preston Residents Association – working to keep our area a wonderful area to live in!



Thanks again - Jill

Welcome Tim

I am 60, father of two girls, one of whom lives with me in Great Tattenhams. I first moved into the area in 2000.

Whilst I am now retired, I spent 30 years in the Metropolitan Police Service much of which was in the CID in London's West End, my final twelve years were spent as a Detective on the Murder squad.

Following this I spent three years with Surrey Police as an investigator based in Guildford, 18 months on a sexual offences team for Hampshire Police working out of Basingstoke and latterly a position with Kent and Essex Police, also as a civilian investigator. Running alongside this for the last five years I have also worked as an estate agent in Shere.



Currently I am Vice Chairman and Poppy Appeal organiser with the Banstead and District Branch of the Royal British Legion. This means that I organise the poppy appeal in Banstead including Tattenham Corner and Preston.

I am privileged to be the Chairman of the highly successful "Music in the Park" which holds a concert every summer in Nork Park. I have held this position for the past 10 years. It is wonderful to be part of the interaction between generations of that community, I am keen to bring this type of spirit to our community, here in Tattenham Corner and Preston I also act as secretary for the Nork Business Guild.

In the past I was chairman of the Board of Governors of Epsom Downs Primary School from 2006 to 2017 and Chairman and founder member of the Beacon School Parents Association before becoming the Chairman of the board of Trustees for the Beacon Friends Association. In my spare time I also stood on the committee of Downswood Lawn Tennis Club.

My personal interests include the theatre and I currently play for a cricket team based near Guildford. I also enjoy walking and playing golf.

To sum up, my objective if elected as your future Councillor for Tattenham Corner & Preston is achieving and maintaining a safe, clean and orderly environment.

To me this is about having respect for the area we live in - we share this space with others - so if we value it, we can in time be more considerate and more compassionate, we can look after the area around us with less noise, air, and light pollution. In liaison with the police and in consultation with residents we can make this area safer not only crime wise but, on the roads as well - for example reducing our speeds. I shall outline more on these points in the coming months. I believe we all want to live in a community and go about our daily lives safely, orderly and be proud of where we live.

I hope to meet residents soon as the Residents Association's AGM is on the 23rd of March and I will be canvassing in the area prior to the election in May. I hope that I can count on your support.

Tim Snuggs

Prospective Residents Association Candidate Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Stolen Tractors at Burgh Heath

Over a period of three weeks around Christmas two stolen tractors and an agricultural quad bike were stolen and left in the Burgh Heath woods awaiting pickup by thieves. These woods are under the management of the Banstead Commons Conservators (BCC). The vehicles entered from Chetwode Road, the thieves simply removed the barriers which are supposed to prevent vehicle access. The image below shows the entrance after the first intrusion. Unfortunately the first tractor was moved on by the thieves before the police could be notified. The other two vehicles were recovered successfuly.





One of the tractors left in Burgh Heath



The new barrier now installed

Since the building of the path in 2015 from Chetwode Road to Reigate Road, both the path and the entrance have been the responsibility of the Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (RBBC). After this most recent illegal access, and two years since the problem was first highlighted by the Residents Association, the council has now installed a substantial barrier system to help secure the woods from intrusion by determined persons. In 2015 travellers entered the woods and after 8 days moved on leaving behind some tons of rubbish which cost over £10,000 to remove.

Banstead Commons Conservators Financing Update

The Banstead Commons Conservators (BCC) are responsible for the management of 1350 acres of Commons land. Although the land belongs to the RBBC an Act of Parliament gives the Conservators the responsibility for maintaining the environment and ecology. Funding has been historically a combination of external grants and council grants. The relationship between the Conservators and RBBC is sometimes problematic and recently the council have been slow to grant the BCC the funding required to enable them to carry out their duties competently.

Due to Brexit an important EU sourced grant is being withdrawn and the council have only in the past few months authorised the Conservators interim funding to allow their current work programme to progress.

From the RBBC Annual Budget: Banstead Commons Conservators

"Central budgets include an increase of £25,000 (in 2023/24 only) in the Council's contribution to the work of the Banstead Commons Conservators. This is in addition to the £85,500 allocation that was previously reported as a service budget item. This additional funding will assist the Conservators in delivery of current operations while they seek additional external sources of income and funding for 2024/25 onwards."



Our recycling sites can quickly become hot spots for fly tipping – attracting large volumes of commercial and trade waste. We use mobile CCTV to deter or catch offenders dumping rubbish at our recycling sites. Leaving non-recyclable items at these sites is a criminal offence and you risk prosecution. In just 12 days over Christmas dumped rubbish led to 12 fixed penalty notices for fly tipping or littering at The Mound car park, Tattenham Corner.

Dangerous corner improved thanks to the Residents Association

For some time residents in the Preston Lane / Marbles Way area have been complaining about the dangerous "sight lines" resulting from the growth and lack of maintenance of the hedge adjoining the green behind Longfield Crescent and adjacent to Preston Lane. It was not possible for vehicle drivers to see round the corner and it was particularly difficult for disabled people using mobility scooters or wheelchairs to cross to the shops.

The hedge was put in place some years ago with saplings supplied by the Woodland Trust and planted by residents. It was a mix of a number of different species and had grown in a disorganised way. The land is owned by the Raven Housing Trust and after pressure from your Residents Association they agreed to make changes to the dangerous corner. This recent photograph shows the hedge replaced with a low fence.





Shawley Way School Planning Application

Shawley Primary School – now independent of the County Council and managed by the Leo Academy Trust – has submitted a planning application to lay out a new artificial grass pitch with associated perimeter fencing and LED sports lighting. The main aim is to improve the sports provision at the School.

The application (which can be accessed on the Borough Council's website under reference 22/02601/F) has received more than 150 comments from the public with objections slightly outweighing approvals. The website is still open for public comments should you wish to give your opinion.



The school did run a public meeting – before the plans were submitted to the Council - to present the proposal and listen to comments and objections, but unfortunately the audience was limited to homes bordering the School and so it wasn't publicised as widely as it could have been.

As with all major applications that affect the residents of our ward we took the necessary steps to really understand the impact of it. As well as arranging a meeting with the planners at RBBC we met with the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Trust as well as the headteacher of the school.

During the meeting we took the objections that had been raised in turn with particular attention to the out-of-hours community use which appears to be the major concern. The School's response to the issues is shown italics.

• Size of the Sports Pitches – with a large pitch, overlayed by 3 x 5 a-side pitches.

The application was for a 9-a side pitch and under the Football Association rules this is suitable for children aged 12 and under. The main pitch will be lined up with 3 x 5 a-side pitches and in the main they will be used for PE lessons during the school day. A maximum of 2 pitches will be available for hire at other times again with the same age restrictions. To provide additional reassurance to local residents they are looking to limit the number of children on site when the facilities are rented out.

Our further comment: This is an important constraint as the impact of teenage or adult clubs using the facility would be much more severe.

• Hours of Use – The application proposes use on Monday to Friday 8:30 to 21:00, on Saturdays 10:00 to 19:00, and Sundays/ Bank Holidays 10:00 to 16:00.

Leo agreed that given the ages of the children using the facilities the use up to 21:00 hours was not necessary. They now propose external lets on Monday to Thursday would finish at 8:30pm, with no external lets on Friday or Sunday, with Saturdays from 8:30 to 13:30.

Our further comment: The management and control of the facilities out of hours is vital, particularly ensuring the use is only by under 12's. This needs to be incorporated into the planning application, with a full management plan for how external hires will be managed.

• Traffic and Highways Safety – caused by large numbers of cars visiting the site.

The School has taken on board a suggestion made by an objector to the scheme and are looking at extending on-site parking into the main playground. They have now commissioned a consultant to develop a School Travel Plan and Car Park Management Plan.

Our further comment: We are concerned if the main entrance to the facility were directly up the service road on to the School field as this would encourage parking on the road and not in the School's car park.

• Light Pollution and Overspill - into neighbouring properties.

The Academy explained that this issue had been addressed after the consultation meeting and that the proposed lighting had already been scaled back to eliminate overspill into any of the residents' gardens. We asked them to be specific in the lighting proposals so residents have a better idea of the impact. Leo have said they are confident that the proposed lighting system has less overspill than the lights at the Downs Wood tennis club – residents might like to look at these lights to get an idea of the impact.

Our further comment: Moving the facility further into the school grounds would also lessen the impact, which would also accommodate the running track which is marked out in the summer.

• Noise and Disturbance – from whistles and player shouting.

When the facilities are rented out the players will be for 12's and under so the School felt this was not so much an issue.

Our further comment: This constraint would need to be incorporated into the planning application.

• Drainage Issues - with certain properties suffering from recent downpours.

This issue was raised by us as we are aware of the water run off from the school playing fields – they will take this issue back to the consultants to ensure this development does not exacerbate the problem.

• Construction Issues and Disturbance from the degree of levelling required for the pitches.

Leo acknowledged that the service road into the playing fields needed improvement and they are having a separate meeting with the residents that are specifically affected.

Lack of Changing Rooms and Toilet Facilities.

The School have said that the early years unit and the breakfast club room would be open for changing and toilets during times when the facilities are rented for community use.

• Need for the Sports Pitch given other nearby facilities, for instance at the Tadworth Leisure Centre. Leo reiterated that the main objective was to provide the School with a 9 a-side pitch for the under 12's and an as additional benefit the school would also have 3 x 5 a-side pitches to use during PE lessons.

During the meeting we also expressed the view that the application had been prepared on a theoretical basis, particularly the transport study which indicated a high percentage of users would arrive using public transport. Interestingly they also presumed the site to be located in Epsom & Ewell borough! Leo admitted that they had perhaps over-relied on consultants to put the bid together, and had not provided sufficient direction.

We have shared our observations with the council planners. We are expecting Leo to amend their planning application - particularly for the use outside of school hours - to make the application more acceptable to residents. Conditions need to be added to the application to make the amendments binding and enforceable commitments. This all needs to be done before this controversial application is ruled on by the Council's Planning Committee of 15 councillors.

Cllrs. Nick Harrison and Jill Bray

County and Borough Council Budget Update

Both the County and the Borough Councils are raising council tax by 3%. The Police are raising their charge by just over 5%.



County Council

Councillors at the County, which takes the lion's share, three-quarters, of your tax, voted for the 3% increase. This is despite the government loosening the reins and expecting councils to levy a 5% increase to pay for social care for the elderly and disabled.

Residents Association Councillors supported the lower increase because the council has a contingency in the upcoming budget and unused funds from this and prior years, totalling £60 million. Plus a general fund of £48 million on top.

However, in reviewing the detailed spending budget, Residents Association Councillors disagreed with the cuts and savings which are planned, preferring to find efficiencies elsewhere or to use some of these contingency funds. In our view the proposed savings are a combination of the unachievable and the undesirable.

There are cuts and savings of £19 million in the **Adult Care budget.** This is in the context of inflation, pay increases for care staff and added demand as the numbers of elderly grow, and are on top of the pressing need to get patients out of hospital. We thought this too much given that the Council is overspending by £18 million in care packages in the current year. The Council team itself describes this as "challenging" and agreeing there are diminishing opportunities for savings.

In the **Children & Families budget** there are £11 million of savings planned, with the largest saving in the budget for children in care, with half ominously described as a "stretch target". Again, in the current year the Council is overbudget by £4 million, and in our view there will be the same issues this coming year. The Council should not be implementing this level of cuts for these vulnerable and growing number of children, particularly as there are national difficulties in finding suitable accommodation, and OFSTED has yet to rate the service as good. There can be no more worthwhile cause than properly supporting our children in care.

Borough Council

The Borough takes a little over 10% of the total council tax. The council tax increase and the budget were supported by Residents Association councillors. The budget panel and scrutiny committee, both chaired by a Residents Association councillor, made a forensic review of the budget, and thought the extra spending and planned savings are achievable and realistic, and will not have a serious impact on services.

Some reserves will be used to balance the books, but this is much less than last year, and will offset specific added costs, rather than used as a plug figure. The council agreed to put 1% of the increase to fund economic pressures helping with the rising cost of living for residents and homelessness costs.

The Council rejected an amendment from Green Party councillors to spend an extra £500,000 of reserves in a plethora of extra projects. This would have cost the equivalent of an extra 3% on council tax.

Cllr. Nick Harrison

Action on Flooding



Residents may remember the huge summer downpours in 2020 and 2021. The local drainage systems just couldn't cope, and water flowed from roofs, gardens and roads into gardens downstream and in some unfortunate cases into garages and homes. The highest point round here is near Tadworth Leisure Centre and water flows to the north through Tattenhams, Nork and on to the Drift Bridge. Our highway drains are not linked to the Thames Water drainage system, and water is captured through gullies, into giant soakaways, and then seeps into the underlying chalk.

Surrey Highways are planning three additional soakaways to capture and store more water during storm events. The first of these is under construction in St. Mark's Road by the church.

Larger and more hydraulically efficient gully grates will also replace those on existing soakaways. Collectively this should ensure more water is caught along the flow route, reducing water flow to the low point and beyond, so decreasing the frequency and severity of flooding. More engineering studies are being finalised further down the flow route.





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The Tattenhams Community Library lives to fight another day!

Readers will recall we reported last year that The Tattenhams Community Library celebrated ten years' service as a voluntary manned library. This originally came about because Surrey County Council wanted to close some of its smaller libraries to save money but following pressure from local residents and RA Councillors, a plan was developed for Surrey to maintain the premises and supply the books and for the community to provide unpaid volunteers to run the library.



This has worked well for the past ten years but recently Surrey Council approached the library for more cuts to help reduce a budget shortfall.

The Surrey Library Service wanted to reduce costs in volunteer run libraries by:

- Not providing any new books
- Discontinuing the children's Summer Reading Challenge
- Stop providing daily newspapers
- Remove the van delivery service that enables readers to borrow and return books from other libraries and reserve books not available at Tattenhams.



The library volunteers went into fighting mode because these proposals made no sense and would severely impact on the service provided by Tattenhams Community Library. They contacted other libraries affected and met with the local RA councillors. Whilst appreciating that cost cutting is a necessary evil, the library volunteers felt Surrey County Council's proposals had been poorly thought out and needed to be opposed.

In response to the opposition these proposals raised, the Council has backed off and promised that no cuts would be made to current budgets. Thank you for the fighting spirit of our local library volunteers who have ensured that our local library continues to provide excellent service for all.



You will need Photo ID to vote at the May Elections

When voting at the next Council Election voters will have to show photo identification before receiving their ballot paper.

This follows a new government act, The Elections Act 2022 requiring photo identification for all in-person voting with effect from this election.

Acceptable forms of identification are:

- a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport
- a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence
- some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card.

Voters will be able to use expired identification provided they are still recognisable from the image shown. If you do not have any of the required forms of Identification, you can apply for a free voter authority certificate. You will need a recent photo and your national insurance number to apply for this. It is important that if you do not have one of the approved forms of identification, you apply for your certificate as soon as possible to ensure that you are able to vote in May.

Please also note that you must also be on the local authority's electoral role to vote.









Chavecroft Project Update

You may recall that Raven Housing Trust has permission to build a mix of houses and flats for social rent on the old Chavecroft site between Long Walk and Broad Walk. The old buildings were initally bedsits for the elderly. Over time the housing could not meet modern needs and standards and the site could only be used on a temporary basis for those without permanent accomodation which unfortunately brought issues with anti-social behaviour. We were therefore pleased when the redevelopment scheme came forward, although we had to fight to ensure that the number of parking spaces was increased to meet the agreed standard.



The hoardings went up last summer, but since then very little progress has been made, and the original contractor left in the autumn. With inflation hitting construction costs we imagine the budgets are looking challenging for Raven, and the design and scope are being reviewed. We believe there will be some changes to keep cost down, but the intention will be to deliver the same number of new properties. There may need to be revisions to the planning permission, and residents will of course be consulted. We would expect demolition to commence soon.

We are disappointed that the project is dragging on with extended disruption for local people, particularly for residents in Chavecroft Terrace who have lost their parking spaces for the time being.

T ε P R 🖯 NEWS

We produce a monthly electronic newsletter **T&PR eNEWS**, which is circulated by email on the first of each month. It is totally free and ensures you keep up to date with what is going on in Tattenham Corner and Preston. All you need to do is subscribe via our website. You can do this by scanning the QR code or go to:

https://tandpr.org.uk/e-newsletter/

Scan this QR code for T&PR eNEWS





Fight back against the expanded ULEZ boundary has started

London Mayor Khan has decided to extend the ULEZ limit to the borders of Greater London from 29th August 2023. It is estimated that 160,000 cars and 42,000 vans will be impacted facing a daily fee of £12.50 to access the enlarged ULEZ area.

This is clearly an unpopular decision, and a number of actions are underway to attempt to resist Mayor Khan's plan.

Firstly, the move could face a legal challenge from the Conservatives in the Greater London



Assembly. They claim that 60% of respondents to Khan's consultation opposed the expansion which was subsequently voted through by the Greater London Authority by 14 votes to 9.

Another legal challenge is being considered by a new campaign group called Action Against ULEZ Extension. It currently has more than 18,000 members and is reviewing the possibility of a crowdfunding judicial review.

Outer London boroughs are threatening to refuse planning permission for the installation of ULEZ cameras. Sutton Council is one of the London Boroughs planning to block the cameras. Sutton Liberal Democrats argue that the scheme will negatively impact small business owners and key workers in the area.

Surrey County Council has said it will not allow cameras on the Surrey roads ahead of the London boundary, and is looking for the car scrappage scheme to be extended to Surrey residents. It is also seeking exemptions for key workers, people travelling to school and travel to NHS appointments in St. Helier and Sutton hospitals. Surrey is linking up with the outer London boroughs to launch a legal challenge.

The Prime Minister has registered his concerns in the House of Commons. Whilst reducing air pollution is essential, this implementation is possibly not the best way. There will clearly be opposition to Mayor Khan's proposals and developments are ongoing.

The Preston Park skatepark upgrade is underway

A £150,000 upgrade to the skatepark in Preston is underway. The funding comes from the Council's Preston regeneration programme.

The finished skatepark is intended to be a sociable and safe place for skateboarder, BMXers and wheelchair motocross and will be much larger than the current facility. It is anticipated to be well used by local young people in the area. Work on the site is expected to start soon.



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