

06 May 2008

Hadley Boyce



Dear Mr Boyce

**DUAL SLALOM MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACK; 1 MT ALBERT ROAD –
REPOSE TO E-PETITION**

In response to the above submission presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee on the 17 April 2008, officers are generally supportive and have been recommended to refer to the e-petition as part of their on-going work.

We acknowledge the success of the 4 x/Dual Slalom mountain bike event in February, and the positive feedback the track has received from many of the mountain biking community and the local community.

We also recognise the concerns of other users of the area; primarily people exercising their dogs. The current track is within a designated dog exercise area and complaints have been received via the contact centre from local dog owners. There is the potential to review the dog exercise area as part of the current Dog Control Policy Review, scheduled for public consultation later this year.

Another concern is the limited space for car parking at the start of the track. Either a car park upgrade or signage directing vehicles to the existing car parking facilities may be required.

Please also note that further work would be required before the track can be made permanent and compliant with WCC standards, including track surfacing, signage and some structural work. The maintenance of this asset requires specialised care and a collaborative approach would be needed between the Council and the local mountain bike community.

Council officers plan to proceed by:

- Consulting with the Friends of the Town Belt regarding the retention of the track.
- Subject to the above consultation, the dog exercise area is reviewed and considered for re-configuration to minimise user group conflict.
- Work with the local mountain bike community in developing an agreement regarding the on-going maintenance of the track.

We will be working through the first two points, but in the meantime are keen to discuss with you how a potential agreement could work. To this end, we would appreciate it if you could contact either me or Steven Peters, Senior Park Ranger.

Yours sincerely

Amber Bill

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