# Background Information

The Dorset community, led by a group of passionate local families, first highlighted the need for a bike park facility in early 2019 when a group of residents first advocated for its delivery by circulating a petition through the community. A Labour Election Commitment was subsequently made to build a Pump Track. A Liberal win meant the project stalled.

In 2021 Council employees held an informal community discussion at Nugget Sellers Pavilion, Scottsdale. Discussion was focused on location, style of facility and community wants/needs. Attendees included parents, teenagers, young children and grandparents. This information was used to inform the project concept.

A budget of $80,000 to $100,000 was tentatively established and quotes were formally requested. A budget item of $30,000 towards a Scottsdale based bike park was included in the 2021/2022 budget. A funding application for $50,000 towards a Scottsdale Bike Park was successful through the Premiers Fund for Children and Young People. A community member then donated a further $30,000 towards the project.

By 2022 the project was ready to commence and new quotes were required and requested in order to commence the design and construction process. Due to the huge boom in the mountain bike construction industry only one company was able to quote and deliver on the project. A draft Concept Plan was acquired for a dirt Jumps Park with steel and timber features (wall ride, jumps etc) with costings showing that the material costs had increased exponentially since the funding application with costings now three times the budgeted amount for the Jumps Track. Once again the project stalled while options were considered.

A staged approach was identified as a possible way forward with a skills development/learn to ride track being identified as Stage 1 to utilise the current funding, and further funding acquired to realise the more expensive Stage 2 – a pump/jump track.

The location was a key deliberation as part of the project. Due to the style of bike park facility that the community was wanting (eg. skills development and pump/jump) the chosen location needed to have the space to achieve the required footprint. Several locations were discussed with just one meeting all the needs: Northeast Park.

# Community Consultation

A community consultation period occurred in regards to the priority order of the Scottsdale Bike Park project for 2 weeks from 24 August to 7 September, 2023.

The aim of the consultation period was to:

* ascertain community response to moving the skills development track up in priority
* identify elements that the community would like to see in a future skills park
* identify elements that the community would like to see in a future pump/jump track
* general comments on the project

An online feedback form was made available during this time and requests for comment forwarded to key stakeholders.

A total of 51 responses were received during this time:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **17** | | | **Supportive of the project** | |
| **24** | | | | **Supportive of the project but the location should change** |
| **1** | **Supportive of the project but the priority order should change** | | | | |
| **9** | | **Do not support the project at all** | | |

Overall support for the project was 41 people vs 9 who were against the project completely. Reasons for non-support centred around the view that there was no need for any more bike projects in Dorset. Of the 41 in support of the project the majority (24) were supportive as long as the location changed from Northeast Park. This was predominantly because of a perception that it was an unsafe place for a facility being so close to the main road , particularly with the main access route being down the highway. A location closer to town was seen to be preferential.

17% of the responses were from under 19’s with the majority from the 20-49 age bracket.

Of the responses indicating inclusion from the under 19 age bracket there were 6 supportive of the project (3 from Scottsdale, 2 from Bridport and 1 from Ringarooma), 2 supportive of the project but not the location (both from Scottsdale) and 1 who did not support the project at all (from Scottsdale).

In addition to the above there has been a lot of social media traffic in relation to the project with the above viewpoints being extensively reiterated and concerns centring very strongly on the location.

# Current Project Status

With the significant number of people against the location of the project Council staff have been reviewing options.

With no other site having the footprint availability as Northeast Park the scope of the project has been undergoing review as to what is achievable at other locations across Scottsdale. By changing location we would need to separate the older children targeted pump/jump facility from the younger children targeted learn to ride facility as the footprint of both is unlikely to be able to be accommodated anywhere other than Northeast Park.

Discussions have commenced with key stakeholders and are continuing in regards to locations in Scottsdale that may suit one or the other stages of the project. It is hoped that an alternative location/s will be able to be determined by the end of November to enable the project to move forward as soon as possible.