

Survey Report - Proposed pump track at Valley Gardens, Harrogate

North Yorkshire Council are proposing to install a pump track above the play area in Valley Gardens, Harrogate. A pump track is a looped circuit using the natural bumps and bends of the land with a compacted hardcore surface for bikes and scooters. This would complement the play area and skate park giving additional activity for children up to the age of 10 years. This new facility would be approximately 2000 square metres and would replace the existing pitch and putt golf course.

The online survey was open from Friday 20 October until Thursday 30 November 2023, available on North Yorkshire Council's consultations web page. Posters were put up in the notice board in Valley Gardens, on all the play area gates and on lampposts on Harlow Moor Drive adjacent to the proposed site. The Games Pavilion in Valley Gardens displayed posters and had paper copies available. Details of the survey were sent to local primary schools and posted on Valley Gardens Facebook page which was shared widely by local organisations such as Friends of Valley Gardens and The Stray Ferret.

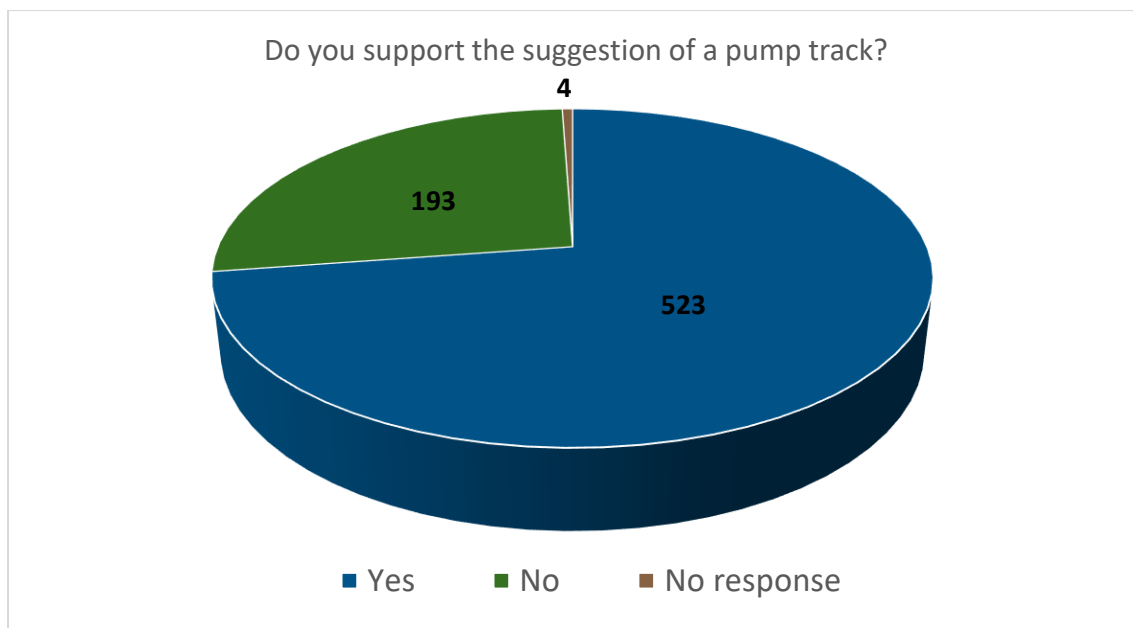
Headline results

- 720 respondents in total
- 502 were aged between 20 and 60 (more likely to have children of the age using play facilities) (70%), 142 were aged over 60 or no response (20%) and 76 were under 20 (10%)
- the majority claim to live/work within 20 minutes walking distance of Valley Gardens (73%)
- 524 claim to have never previously used the existing pitch and putt golf course (73%)
- 523 support the suggestion of a pump track (73%), however, 197 **do not** support the suggestion of a pump track or didn't specify (27%)
- 238 stated they would never use the pump track if installed (33%), whereas 312 said they would use it often or all the time (43%)
- most people would prefer to use the pump track with family or with a few friends (66%)
- respondents travel quite a distance to use other pump tracks at Wetherby (11 miles and most popular), Leeds (20 miles) and Skipton (23 miles), including Stainburn Forest (8 miles), Sutton Bank (29 miles), Dalby Forest (51 miles) and other places further afield
- 606 people rated the facilities in Valley Gardens for children as excellent, very good or good (84%)

While 73% of respondents support the suggestion of the pump track there are many comments about why others **do not** support the proposal. The main concerns appear to be a preference to keep the green spaces rather than reduce them, better for wellbeing and helps to protect the wildlife habitats and biodiversity. There are also concerns about spoiling the park and peaceful nature of the gardens and suggesting that the location is not appropriate. There were comments that people feel it is likely to attract anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, drug use and littering, as well as increase traffic and parking issues. Other concerns relate to it attracting more cyclists, potentially cycling through the Valley Gardens. There are some supportive comments about the pump track which suggested it should be open to all ages, not just the under 10s.

The pitch and putt area is an open space where people of all ages can enjoy golfing, walking, dog walking, picnics and nature. Some people feel a pump track restricted to under 10's would spoil the green open space available to all ages. Some comment that if the pitch and putt golf course was improved and maintained to a better standard then maybe it would be used more. Some believe this is the wrong location for a pump track and suggest the pitch and putt golf course should remain and build the pump track elsewhere so both are available. It appears that people may be confusing the pitch and putt golf course with the crazy golf course and may also be confusing a pump track with larger cycle tracks or bike parks, especially in relation to the surfacing.

Do you support the suggestion of a pump track?

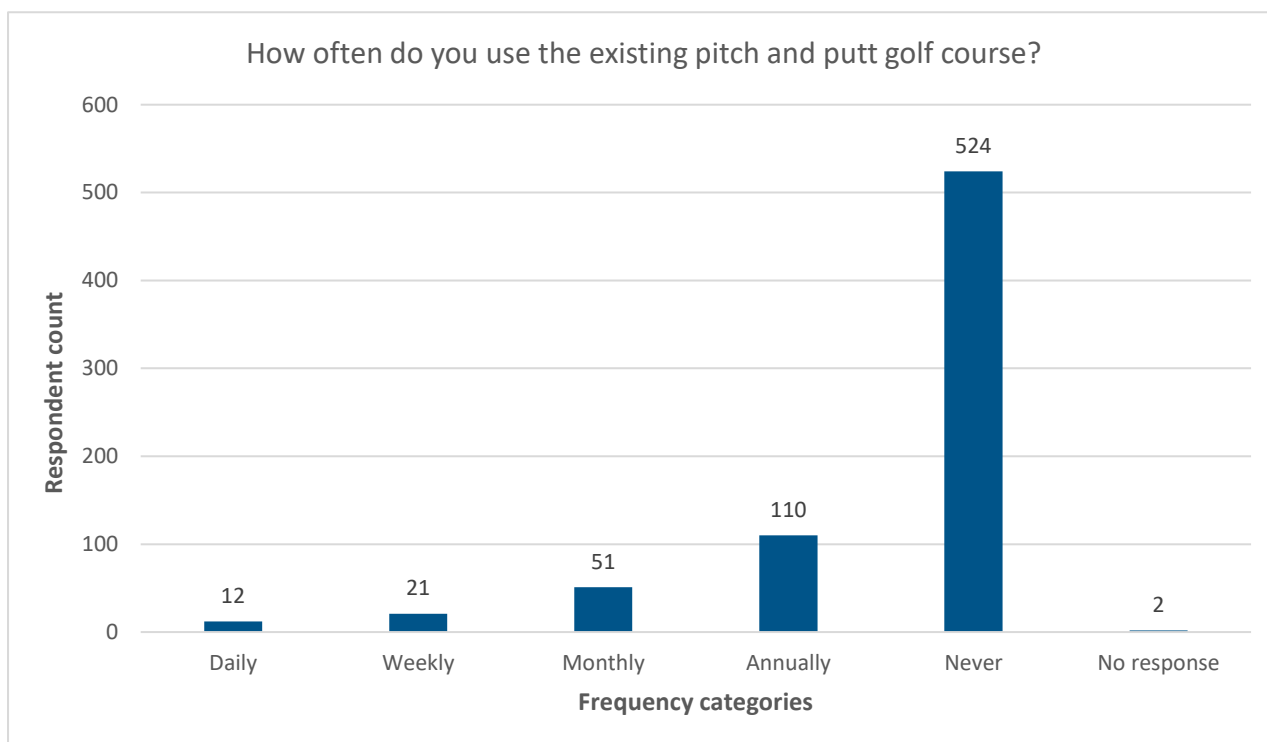


If people were not supportive of a pump track why not, these are the reasons given for **not** supporting the suggestion of a pump track (a total of 496 responded to this question).

Prefer green spaces	62
Location not appropriate	54
Keep pitch and putt for the families that use it	48
Noise nuisance/ASB/lack of policing/drug use/littering	46
Enjoy walking across the area	37
It will ruin the park	34
Dangerous to build it in that location which people use for walking and picnics	33
Other	31
More cyclist in the gardens	22
Not compatible with peaceful gardens	19
Wrong age group - need more for over 10's	16
Concern re landscaping	15
Gardens/facilities need better maintenance	15
Consider protecting the habitats/biodiversity instead	12
Concern re accidents	12
Cost	8
Traffic and parking concerns	6
Golf promoted better would be better attraction	5
Green spaces better for wellbeing	4
Find an out of town site instead	4
Crazy golf concern	4
Shouldn't restrict the age	3
Unlikely to be well used	2
Lack of inclusivity	2
Not attractive to tourists who won't have bikes with them	1
Cycling will lead to congested roads	1

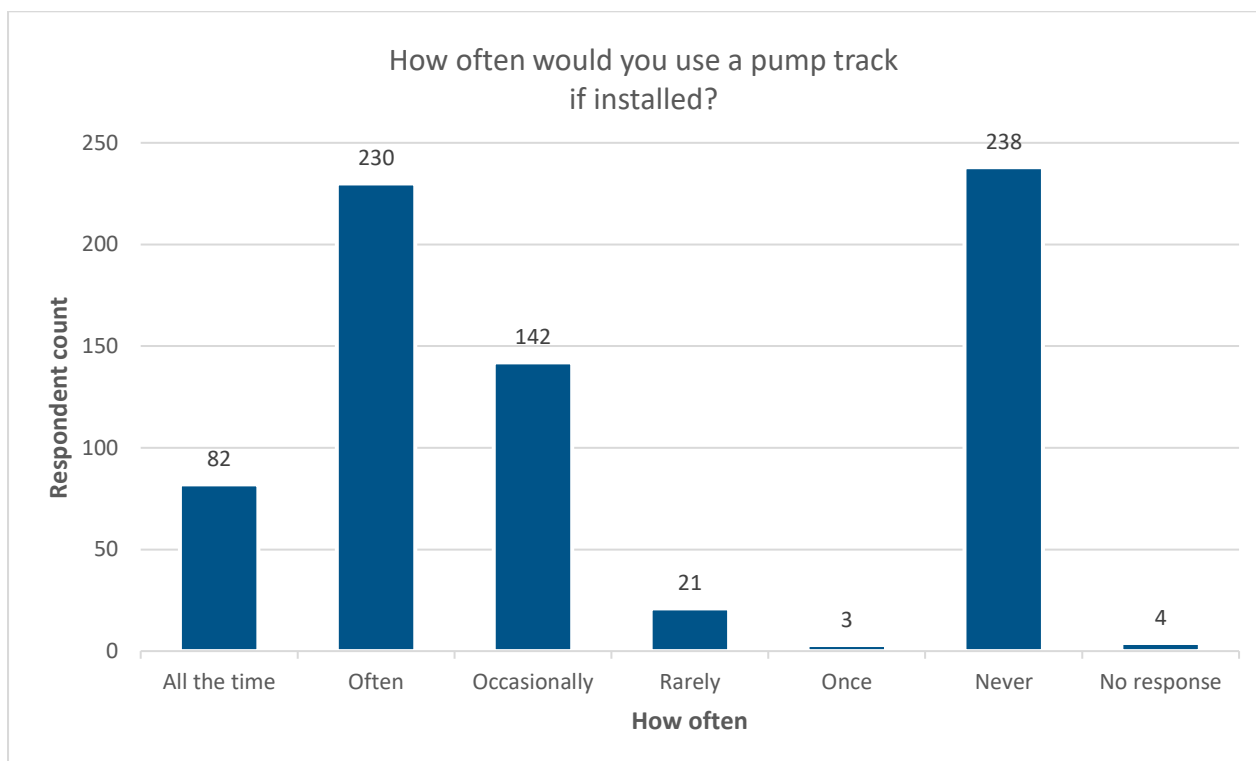
Further detail about why respondents stated they would not support the pump track can be found in the Appendix on page 11.

How often do you use the existing pitch and putt golf course?



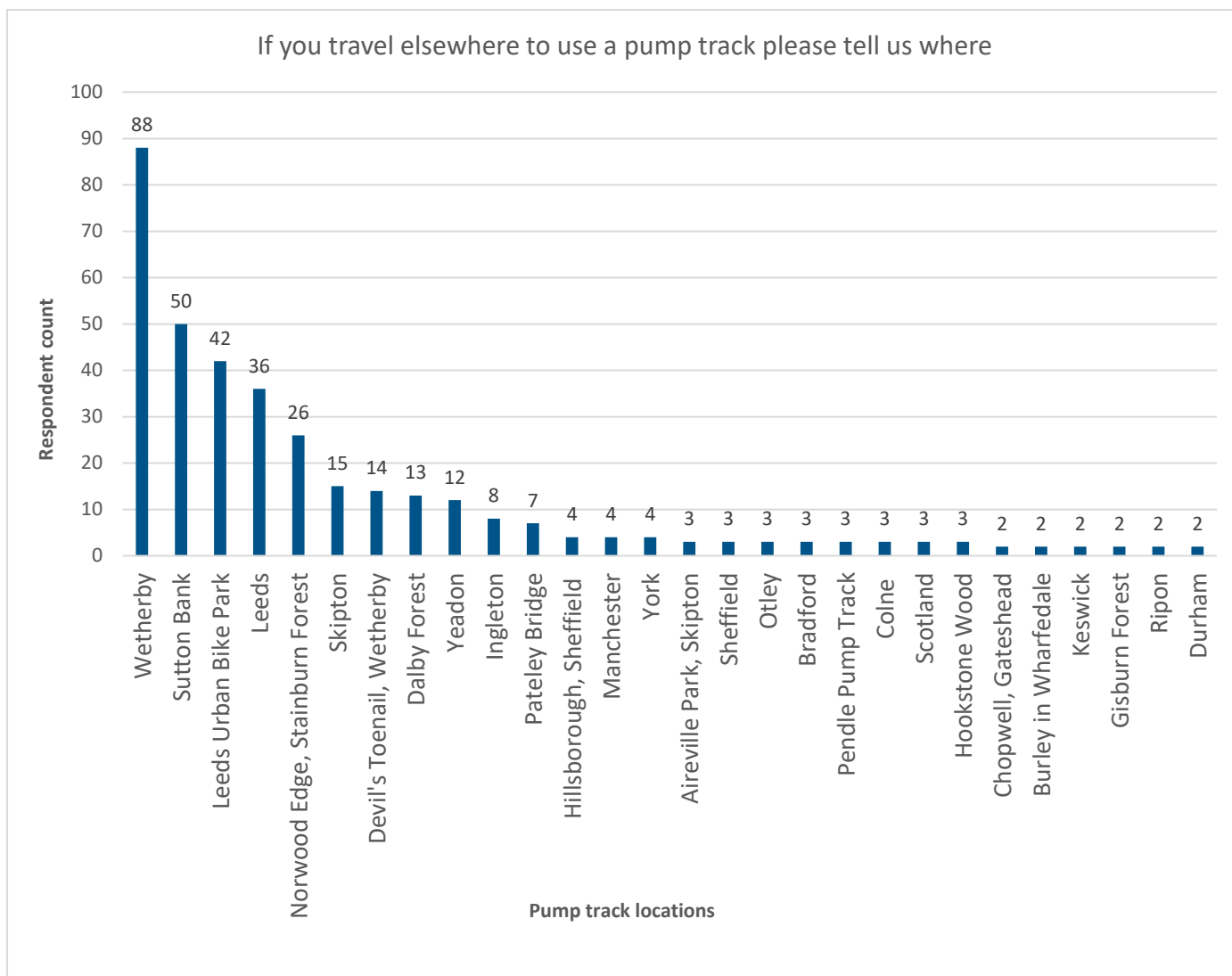
Comments about removing the pitch and putt golf course can be found in the Appendix on page 8

How often would you use a pump track if installed?



There is a clear split between those who would use the facility more frequently (312) and those who would occasionally/rarely/never use the facility (404).

If you travel elsewhere to use a pump track please tell us where



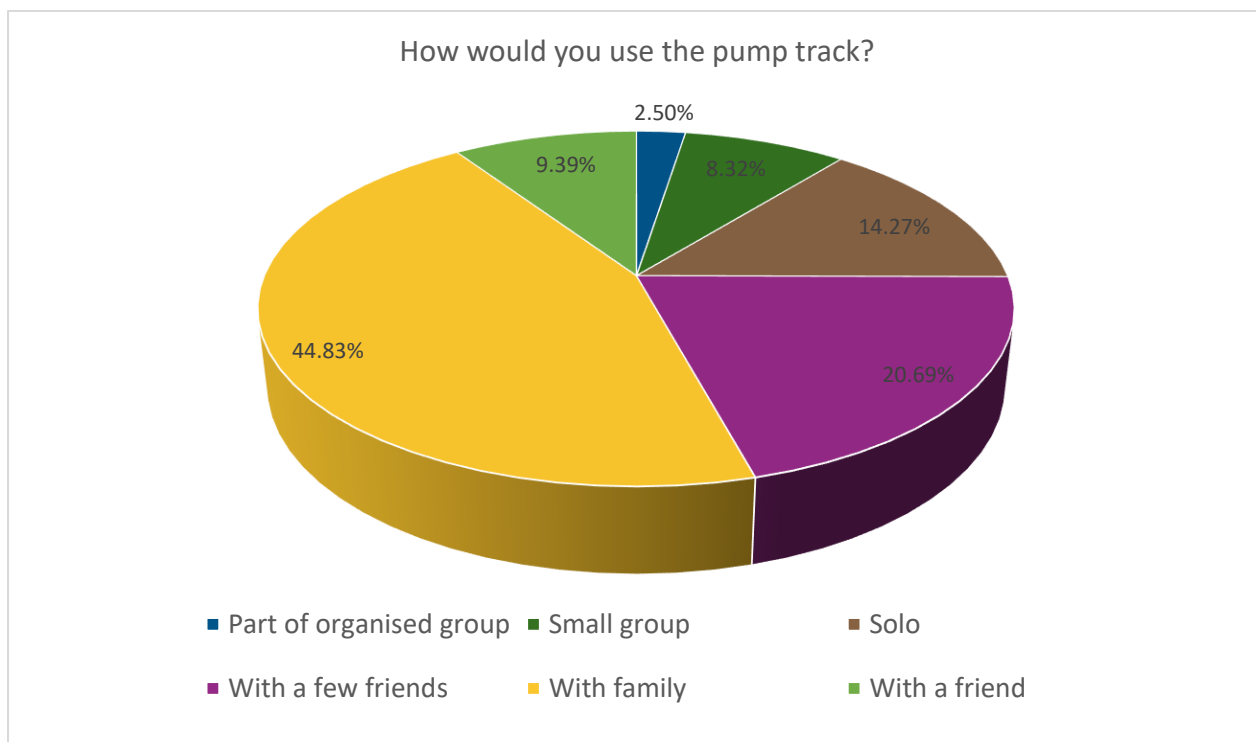
In addition to the above locations respondents also mentioned the following pump track locations once...

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Barnard Castle | Fewston Reservoir | Nelson |
| Bilton | France | Newhaven pump track |
| Blackpool | Glossop | Peel Park Bradford |
| Burnley | Hamsterley | Peel Park Manchester |
| Cheltenham | Hartlepool | Pudsey |
| Chevin | Leamington spa | Skelton |
| Darley | Middleton Park Easingwold | Wales |
| Derby | Milnshaw Park Accrington | |

It appears that people may be confusing a pump track with larger cycle tracks or bike parks.

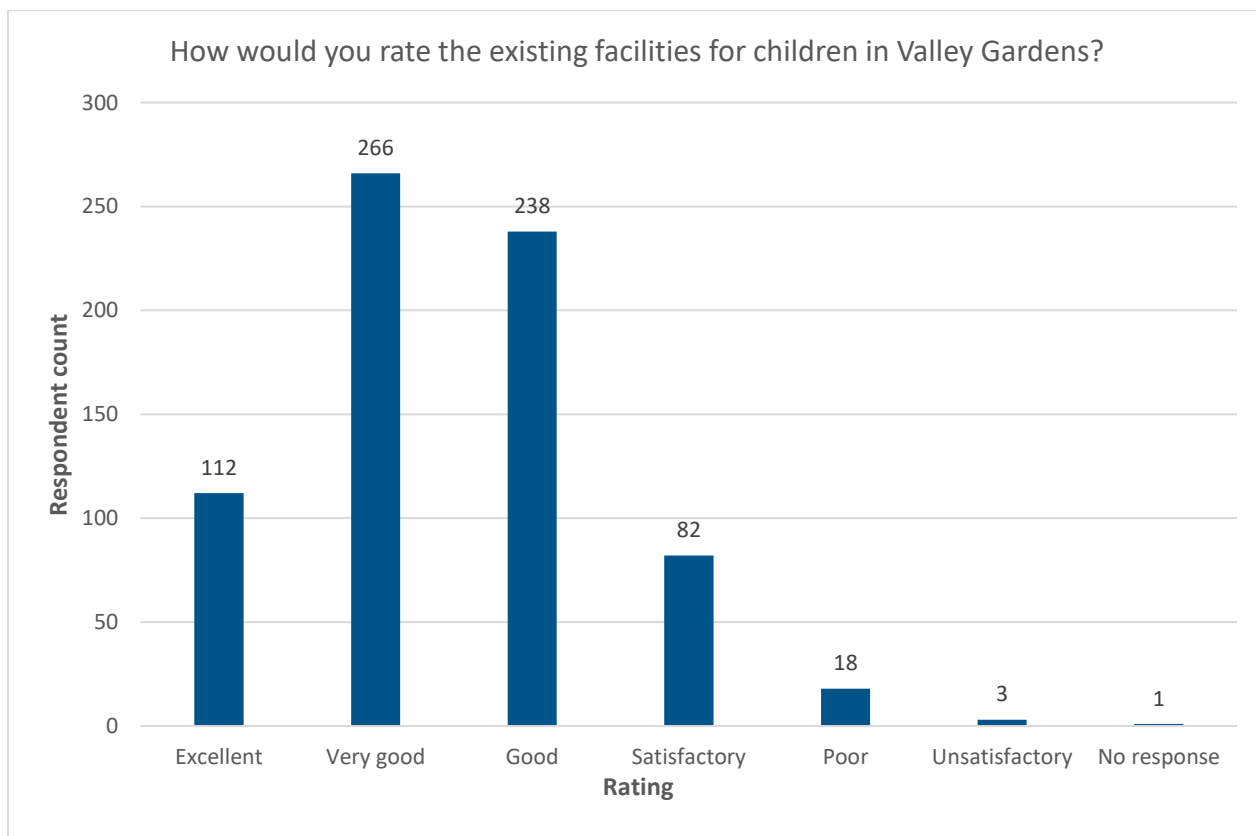
Further detail about other locations and general pump track comments can be found in the Appendix on page 20.

How would you use the pump track?



As the majority have responded with family this might suggest a mixture of ages would be wanting to use the pump track together not just those under 10 years of age.

How would you rate the existing facilities for children in Valley Gardens?



Respondents were also given the opportunity to comment why they have rated the current facilities for children as poor or unsatisfactory, only 15 comments were provided as shown below.

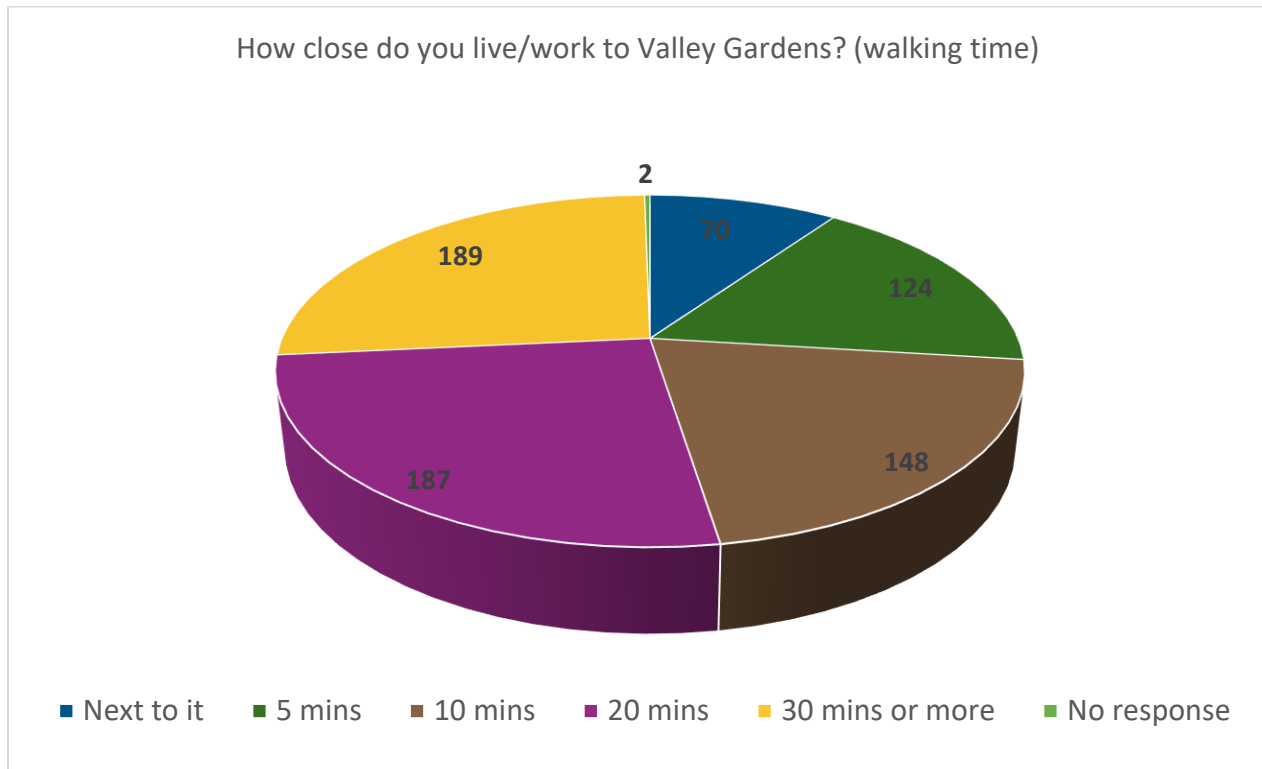
If 'Poor' or 'Unsatisfactory' please specify:
I've come across groups of rowdy youngsters drinking and even police told me not to let my daughters go unescorted when they were younger so I rarely go but would love to.
More needs to be done for the youth.
Not enough.
Not enough facilities.
Not imaginative.
Nothing for teenagers do.
Only wood climbing frame that is free.
Plenty for under 5s and teenagers but nothing in between and from teenagers to adult.
Skate park could be much better. Play areas could be better. Tennis and crazy golf ok.
The skate park is insufficient for teenagers.
The skate park is poor design and not challenging enough for children wanting to push limits.
There is no equipment ie. golf balls, tennis rackets and frisbees.
There needs to be a decent pump track for all ages and a better skate park. It's great for dog walkers and that's about it.
There needs to be more for teenagers.
They are not great.

Do you have any other comments about the Valley Gardens in Harrogate and its facilities?

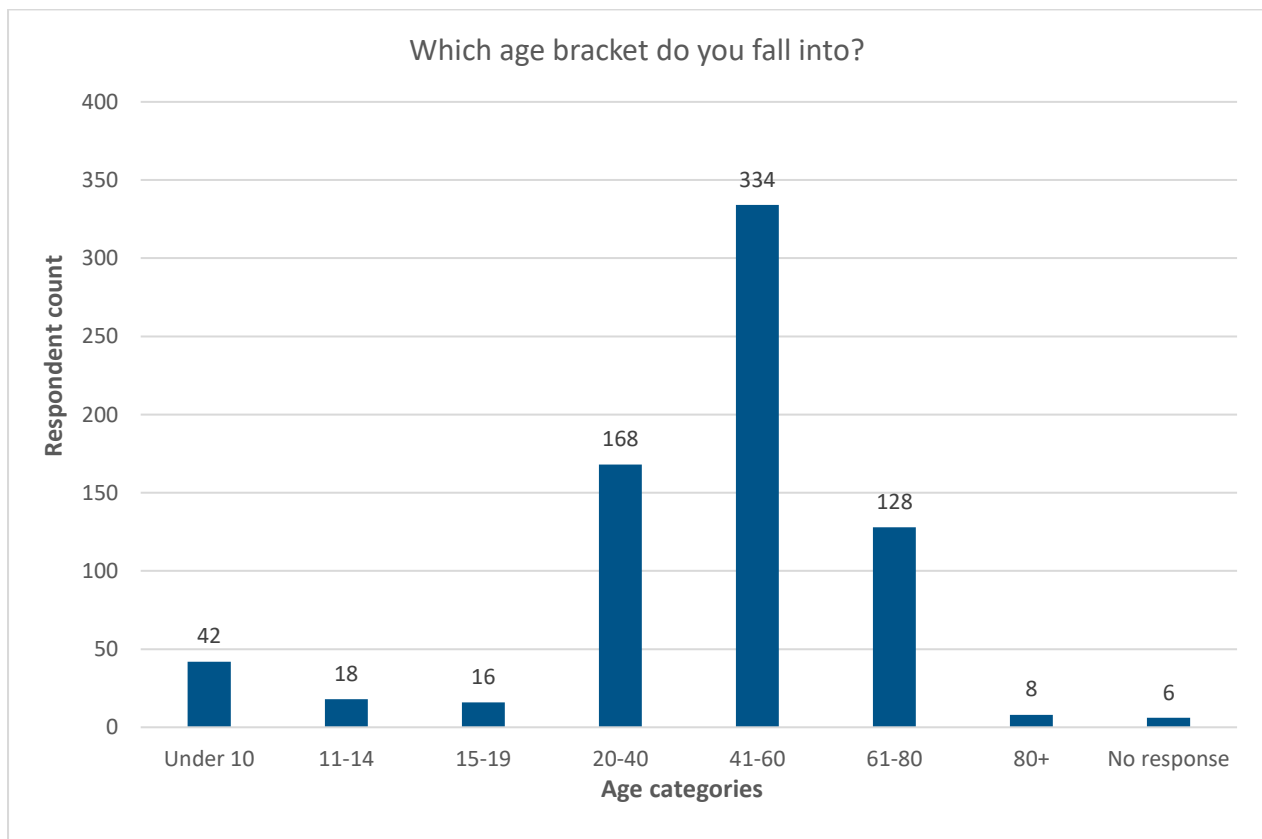
We have categorised these (504) comments as shown below however, a full list is available in the Appendix on page 21.

Recommendation re pump track	88
Positive re pump track	85
Complimentary re gardens	66
Negative re pump track	42
Toilets comments	13
No/no comment (not blanks)	13
Keep Pitch & Putt	11
Dog comments	10
Negative re gardens	9
Positive re children's play	8
Negative re children's play	7
Games in Parks improvements	4
Recommendation re gardens	3
Comment re children's play	2
Other comments	143

How close do you live/work to Valley Gardens? (walking time)



Which age bracket do you fall into?



Appendix

Comments about removing the existing pitch and putt golf course?

I would support if this was not at cost of removing pitch and putt. Build it somewhere else
I'd rather the existing grass and pitch and putt were there
I do not like the destruction of grassland to be replaced with hardstanding. I also think an alternative site should be found for Pump Track so the pitch and putt amenity can be retained.
The pitch and putt course is fun for families to be involved in. A pump track wouldn't be suitable for the whole family. You should invest in maintaining the pitch and putt
Would be very sad to lose the Pitch and Putt course
The proposed pump track would ruin the existing green space. I have 2 children under 10 and a dog. We use the space where the pitch and putt is daily to walk and play with the dogs and children. It's a wonderful space currently which we use daily to play ball games, frisbee, chase with the dog and it fits in well with the gardens. A pump track would be an eyesore at 2000sqm. The current skate ramp is excellent because it is small and well hidden, this would be the opposite. I'm all for more facilities for children but I feel this would ruin the beautiful gardens.
Taking away the green space, not just the pitch and putt. Less space for walkers and dogs. The kids already have a huge playground and the skate park.
There are already two tracks in Wetherby so this would actually be a reduction in facilities for children and families to lose the pitch and putt course
Lots of people (myself included) walk their dogs across the pitch and putt area. Would it be possible to design the pump track so there are still routes to walk between Valley Gardens and Pinewoods. Would it be possible for the pump track maximum age to be increased from age 10 as I think a lot of the teenagers that use the skate park would also enjoy using a pump track.
The pitch and putt has been a staple of valley gardens for as long as I can remember. It seems a shame to cover up such a large green space with more compacted hardcore surfaces, environmentally horrendous and an eye sore too.
It's good to build the pump track, however please also keep the pitch and putt golf! The pump track suitable for active people and the putt golf is really good for elderly and less active people!
I'm all for new recreational facilities for youngsters. They deserve all the breaks they can get. Not in valley gardens though. Valley gardens is packed and overused already. This facility should go to a part of forgotten Harrogate that needs the facility. Spend the money where it's needed rather than Valley Gardens. The pitch and putt maybe underused but why not leave it as open space. How much will this facility cost to construct, maintain and supervise ? Someone has had an idea as usual. Here we go again.
Pump tracks can be a wonderful way for young people to learn to ride bikes and scooters in a way that is safe and diverse. it also eases pressure and congestion on skateparks, making them much safer. I would HIGHLY recommend this be considered for Ripon as part of the skatepark/basketball/leisure centre area that is seriously lacking any considerable development for young people. As for valley gardens and its facilities, they are abundant and well maintained. Pitch and putt is dated and an activity that costs money in a time when families are desperate to find free activities. Pumps tracks can be an amazing feature to any town/city, big or small. I would actively encourage creating a pump track that could also be seen as a destination for cyclists such as BMX's as well as 'under 10's' I would be very happy to be contacted regarding this josephgay@hotmail.com
This would be a further degradation of the once attractive upper area of the Valley Gardens. While I agreed with the inclusion of the skate park next to the tennis courts, I do not agree with the change of use of the pitch and putt course. On most days of the year the majority users of the Gardens are not children, but rather older residents / council tax payers, I trust that these views will be properly considered.
The existing pitch and putt course is sympathetically landscaped and provides an area (not only to pitch and putt) but also to walk among the beautiful trees, sit on the numerous benches and enjoy excellent views of Harrogate and appreciate nature. It is generally a quieter and wilder area than the more formal gardens and the busy playground, tennis court, skateboarding, crazy golf area which provides fantastic facilities for young families. The facility suggested is only for those up to 10 years old and will prevent the area as it stands being enjoyed by other age groups. Valley Gardens should provide enjoyment for all age groups and currently does.
I am a very keen cyclist, outdoor enthusiast and teacher. I think the idea is great but the site is not appropriate at all. Valley gardens is a family friendly site with a high degree of history, however the nature of this type of cycling is so out of keeping with the immediate surroundings that it would detract from the nature of the park. I don't believe it would be used anymore than the pitch and putt because of where it is to be placed. Brilliant idea but absolutely the wrong site.
There is already good bike/scooter provision at Valley Gardens, and other facilities for under-10s. The pitch and putt course is an excellent introduction to golf, some more investment into this and the existing disc golf facilities would be a worthwhile use of funds in my opinion.

<p>Is it possible to do both? For example, a smaller pitch and putt or target golf, alongside a track? The track seems more intrusive on the green space, as the bottom of the gardens move nicely through the peaceful green area of the P&P course towards the Pinewoods, whereas the track would seem to extend the play area over the current peaceful green space. Would be good to have something more for that age group though.</p>
<p>My issue would be doing away with the existing pitch and putt course which is a lovely addition to the valley gardens activities. It's something you rarely find away from the seaside towns these days. It's always well used when I walk through. I think it's good that adults and children can play together, even the very young. When I get grandchildren I would definitely use the pitch and putt and would object to its removal.</p>
<p>I live opposite the pitch and putt course and know from experience that the children's play area is often used by youths at night, the same thing would happen with the pump track, causing an unacceptable level of disturbance</p>
<p>Would prevent children from trying pitch and putt as a cheap way to try the game of golf. Pump track would spoil the pleasant grassland at the top of the Valley Gardens which is used by many people for picnics, sunbathing, walking etc</p>
<p>I use the pitch and putt green area for walking my dog and playing frisbee with my sons and exercise. It's a beautiful green area with lots of trees slopes and flats for running around on with the dog and my sons. It's lovely with all the different trees and a habitat for wild life. In winter when it snows it's lovely place to play sledge make snowmen and snow angels. There are benches to sit and take in the beautiful view and a lovely place for picnics and just relaxing with family or just sit quietly and meditate. A cycle route as described would spoil the natural environment and habitat and use of the area. It states it for up to ten year olds but it will definitely be used by older teenagers and youths and even adults who will supervise it's use? And what about accidents involving under 10s and older people mid using it or for anyone that skids off and ploughs into a squirrel, a person walking their dog or hitting a dog as they are allowed of the lead once up the hill so the dogs can run n chase a ball. It will look awful and I just don't think this habitat is the place to do it. A purpose built area in land that otherwise could not be used would be better to provide a safe place for children learning to cycle and for older children adults to do dirt biking tracks would be safer and more feasible use of both land resources and the wide environment. Valley gardens is not the place to build it. It will cause carnage.</p>
<p>The pitch and putt is much needed family entertainment. Something for all ages and for the whole family to enjoy across generations encouraging much needed quality family time. A pump track will encourage teenagers to hang out and cause trouble. It will be used by the few not the majority of Harrogate</p>
<p>I'm outraged by the idea! The pitch and putt is an integral and traditional part of the Valley Gardens. It's family inclusive and fun! A pump track there would be noisy and intrusive! Absolutely against this! And I bike!</p>
<p>When my grandchildren visit we go to the pitch and putt regularly - probably 2-3 times a year. Your plan only caters for up to 10 year olds. Pitch and Putt has no age barrier.</p>
<p>I think Harrogate Council should promote its pitch and putt courses more. It is an excellent facility and visitors and holiday makers are generally unaware of the pitch and putt facility in Harrogate and Knaresborough. We talked to the staff at the Putting Green at Knaresborough Castle in September and they said they were being asked by people if there was pitch and putt in Knaresborough and they were telling them 'no' because they didn't know about the Hub at Chain Lane opening up the Pitch and Putt at the Kiosk. The people manning the Kiosk had a lot of complaints because the grass was rarely being cut and people were spending ages looking for their ball in the long grass. This is not encouraging people to use an excellent facility in Knaresborough</p>
<p>Prefer it to remain a pitch and putt course</p>
<p>I understand the pitch and putt is in need of some modernisation. In the 1980's I often used the pitch and putt with my children and we all enjoyed it but for a while now I've said it needs modernising. Children up to 12 years would enjoy it. Turn it into crazy golf maybe. I've nothing against a place for kids to ride their bikes. Although a lot of elderly people sit on benches around there and they could easily get knocked over by the bikes.</p>
<p>I suspect your stated target audience are not the ones most likely to use the facility. Query would this not attract antisocial behaviour. Consider placing elsewhere in HG2 however within a Landmark tourism location is at best unwise not in keeping with 'brand' Harrogate. I fear within a short period of time this would become a white elephant. Indeed had parks and gardens not wilfully run down the pitch and putt I am sure it would attract more usage. I am not against a pump track but suspect a location such as Harlow Hill or brownfield land would be a better location.</p>
<p>I enjoy the pitch and putt course with my family.</p>
<p>This is a very bad idea. Replacing grass and greenery with an ugly hard surface is environmentally bad. The track would encourage older teenagers to gather there in the evening. In wet weather the site would become very muddy caused by bike wheels. Encouraging the use of bikes in the Valley Gardens is counter-productive - bikes should be kept out of the Gardens. Pitch and putt is far more family-inclusive. Noise would also be an issue.</p>
<p>While I appreciate that many people don't use the pitch and putt I can assure you that very many people use that area for dog walking, playing, picnicking and general relaxation. It is one of the great places on this side of town for a little peace and quiet. A naturally wild and wonderful meadow. We with many other dog owners enjoy our daily walks, collective meet-ups and runs, with our dogs happily unleashed until we reach the public area where we respectfully leash our dogs, go to the valley garden cafe and have a cup of coffee. Please don't spoil this by turning it into another activity area. It's already perfect for so many people.</p>

It's not pump track I object to, it's the loss of the pitch and putt. I'm not actually a resident of Harrogate but holiday here once a year (staying in a hotel in the town) and enjoy the pitch and putt and so would be disappointed if it was to close.
The pitch and putt area is currently an open space on which any number of activities are carried out by people of all ages. It is particularly busy in the summer, and on warm days there are people out pinicking, playing frisbee, dog walking etc. The installation of a pump track would benefit relatively few at the expense of many people's enjoyment of VG. Children and teenagers currently already have access to the skate park and play area. The lower half of VG is beautifully tended with its plants and flowers but the upper end is a more welcoming, and peaceful, space for many. It would be a great shame to lose it to one particular group, who may well bring more noise and litter (judging by the state of the skate park after a weekend).
I am shocked that the Council who doesn't have money to replace recently damaged benches in Valley Gardens and the Pinewoods have found money for one of the most dangerous and noisy activities. The proposed pump track above the play area, will ruin the last calm place in Valley Gardens where families can enjoy the pitch and putt golf course, have picnics, where disabled people access Valley Gardens on mobility scooters and love being without interruption from bicycles and crowds. Riding bicycles is not allowed anywhere in Valley Gardens but the Council refuses to stop this. Building the pump track will bring cyclists from far and wide who will be riding all over Valley Gardens causing mayhem and further damage.
We need quiet areas in Valley Gardens as well as activity areas for youngsters. Children already have the excellent playground and paddling pool and older youngsters have the skate park. The pitch and putt area appeals to adults of all age groups and many families bring children to have a go at pitch and putt, as a precursor to taking up an interest in golf in later years. It would be unfair to create another noisy, man made area in a beautiful green space. Pitch and putt provides good exercise and mildly competitive recreation for an age group that is not otherwise catered for. I implore you to maintain some kind of inter-generational balance in terms of what is on offer in Valley Gardens.
The Valley Gardens is being continuously ruined Cut the grass so we can use the pitch and putt!!!. From pleasure gardens to tatty recreation ground. Please stop.
If there is an identified need for this sort of new facility, particularly for younger visitors, then I would support meeting that need, however it should not be at the expense of an existing facility which is used by all ages. Sadly, the decline in use of the pitch and putt is as much down to the standard of the course and its unavailability during the winter months. With better upkeep and a more flexible approach to opening hours it would be more widely used.
Please do not remove the pitch and putt!
It would burden the police with more anti social behaviour and vandalism that happens daily in the valley gardens as I walk daily in the valley gardens I see first hand the broken glass from drink bottles litter ,broken trees and plants broken lights around the skate board park and the sun pavillion pergoda areas which are a congregation areas for this damage after using the skate board park. .The existing skateboard park still attracts users who skateboard and scooter through the valley gardens intimidating pedestrians who come to enjoy the beauty and peace of our beautiful valley gardens A cycle track would encourage cycling through the valley gardens as well.The vandalism is not good for visitors and tourism to our town and valley gardens and spoils the amenity of residents of harrogate.Finally the removal of the pitch and putt greenery is removing the attractive greenery of the park.
I don't support the removal of green space and an existing amenity. I feel this project could be persued more sympathetically to limit the impact on the upper field of the park and not result in the removal of the pitch and putt.
We use the pitch and putt as a family and when we have visitors it's one of the things we do when they come to see us. Can the pitch and putt course be relocated? It would be shame to loose this simple family friendly game. In the warmer months it's often being used and the benches along the path in between are also busy with people enjoying this path towards the park. I walk down there with my 2 year old all the time. Will this path have to go? Can the bike track pump track be located in the area behind the current bike track with the ramps? This area is often boggy in winter and is not well used. Could this area be regenerated instead?
The reason that the pitch and putt course is underused is due in a large measure by the very poor maintenance of the course. The fairways are generally indistinguishable from the surrounding gras. The greens are in worse condition still often with several holes and hard to distinguish from the surrrounding grass. Thee proposed pump track will require maintainance which, judging by the P&P course it will be unlikely to receive. Attention will be required for children hurt in falls on the track and care will br required to providea "crash Friendly" surface to minimise the effects of the inevitable falls. What attention will be given for the site to become a noisy attraction space for older children.
VG is the jewel in the crown of Harrogate; a lovely amenity enjoyed by all ages. Young people are well catered for but the proposal will have a detrimental effect on all other users of the gardens. The pitch and putt area could be landscaped and planted with trees and plants suitable for a wet area; it doesn't have to be accessible 12 months of the year to be enjoyed.
Keep the pitch and putt facility. It's far more appropriate for this environment. There is the risk that this track would encourage cycling generally through the gardens and reduce the enjoyment of other users.
It would block off the footpath between the pitch and putt areas

We love the pitch and putt. I don't want to lose it. I feel there has to be a middle ground. Perhaps the bike track could be put in another part of the Valley Gardens?
Such facilities are a magnet for young jobs and criminals. Crime will definitely increase. Golf is a better option as the opportunity for criminal acts is negligible. A pump track would also increase noise levels spoiling the tranquility of the gardens for others.
Other than tennis and golf, there is no other provision for older children. Outdoor gym equipment is popular or other play equipment for use by teens .provision of equipment for the wheelchair user should also be included to make play equipment ccessible and inclusive for all
Who will check that it is used only for under 10s? And will the area still be safe to walk through NYC and previously HBC seem very keen to tarmac over nature! And if this is cost saving, why not just close the golf course and leave it as a place of nature to be enjoyed by everyone and not just under 10s
The putt course is very unique and a wonderful addition to Valley Gardens. I would not support losing that. I also would not like. A pump track so close to the walking path. Elsewhere, perhaps above near the disc golf course might be a better option.
My three year old son loves golf and can already ride his bike in the skate park, just above the tennis courts. More cycling options at the cost of golf being removed would be such a shame.
There's plenty of space for this and the golf.
If the golf course is replaced then it must be duplicated elsewhere within the gardens. Our family (especially our son) loves the golf course and visit the gardens specifically to play. If the course is removed we will have no reason to visit. It is acknowledged that the existing course needs some TLC, and we would support a pump track if the golf course could be either repaired or provided in another part of the gardens. But if the intent is to remove the course altogether then we cannot support this proposal.
The Valley Gardens are an English Heritage Grade II Listed garden. Why is it deemed appropriate to compromise this space by the dreadful idea for a cycle track. What does it matter the golf is underused - leave it as a green space to walk on or make it into more gardens. Harrogate Valley Gardens are not a theme park, people use this space for walks and to see plants - who wants to see and hear the noise from some cycle track.
The old golf course is an open walking area which should be left open for all to use
It's not in-keeping with the environment at Valley Gardens and having a pump track could have a significant impact on people quietly enjoying the space. The golf course space is used by people, especially in summer to relax and hang out. It's a wonderful open green space. A pumpt track with spoil the enjoyment of this area.
Why only under 10's. You say you are keen to not remove an activity without replacing it, however replacing the golf facility, (which can be used by the whole family) with something only under 10's can use. Most parents won't be happy allowing their under 10s to use a a bike track unsupervised. Also I won't be able to ride it with my 6year old son! Completely flawed. Either open it to all age ranges, or simply don't waste the time on money on a flawed scheme. Also how long would it take for it to become vandalised with graffiti. Not sure our picturesque valley garden would appreciate explicit writing & images within it. Are you prepared for the constant expense of graffiti removal? Please reconsider your target audience!
I feel the golf is always busy when we play, my nephews love it! I think it just needs a revamp. The pump track sounds a good idea but not in that area
pump track seems to be for smaller group of children at particular age bracket whereas golf is more family friendly and for any age...! My 3 year old loves it!
An activity for only under 10s is restrictive. There's no draw for tourism as people don't generally bring bikes on holiday. The golf could be/was something for visitors to get involved in
Wrong location. The golf course is green and blends in. A bike track does not and would be an eyesore.
There are enough play area for children. The golf is meant for everyone. It is not used mostly because of the condition is not fit for purpose. If the council do not wish to maintain it then let someone else do it. Valley gardens needs exercise machines and other facilities which are suitable for all age groups. Other councils offer much better facilities than Harrogate. It also keeps people out of hospital. Also the top part of valley gardens should be cordoned off for dogs to keep the golf course clean. The grass too on the golf course is often too long to play. The main golf courses in Harrogate are too expensive but this one is open for all as it should be...
Such facilities are a magnet for young jobs and criminals. Crime will definitely increase. Golf is a better option as the opportunity for criminal acts is negligible. A pump track would also increase noise levels spoiling the tranquility of the gardens for others.

Do you support the suggestion of a pump track?

If 'No' please specify:
1. Although I don't use the grass as a pitch and put course, I do walk across and around it every day, as do many other local residents. 2. Just because an area of green space doesn't have a disignated purpose, please don't make the mistake of believing it isn't valuable. All green space cools the surrounding atmosphere and provides habitats. We need less hard landscaping, not more.

A cycle track would be extremely dangerous to pedestrians who like to walk on the grass and those who like to sit on the grass with friends. Many people living close by, live in flats without gardens. This area is SO important to their well being. THERE WILL BE CYCLING ACCIDENTS
A pump track would not be compatible with the serene gardens and pinewoods.
Activities are needed for the 10+ years age group. there are plenty of activities for under 10's at the gardens.
Already too much traffic on Valley Drive and nearby roads making parking impossible .
An activity for only under 10s is restrictive. There's no draw for tourism as people don't generally bring bikes on holiday. The golf could be/was something for visitors to get involved in
Aren't there any brown field sites that could be used for this track. Rather than digging up grassland.
Being able to walk over this area is wonderful .Dogs can run freely here but need to be on leads on the area east of Back Lane. The loss of this area to a Pump Track will be very disappointing to walkers especially the dog walkers and the older generation.
Bio diversity. Please do not cover up the existing green space in any way.
Children encouraged into cycling will grow into road cyclists who clog up road space and cause congestion.
Children under 10 gave plenty to do already, having more to do for older kids is more needed. The putt putt coarse is one of the few things that the entire family can enjoy in the gardens.
cost ?
Could it be a nuisance for houses opposite in an evening? Over 10's will use it of an evening. Proposed to replace pitch and putt how big is it going to be ??? More grass under tarmac!
Destruction of natural environment. We should provide an wild adventure playground or something not be pouring concrete or other building materials with huge carbon footprint into the earth
Do not ruin the park
Drugs are smoked at the current skate park, litter is a problem, I help pick litter every morning from skate park, the summer is bad for it, we will get the older children hang around, graffiti, they will not look after it, we the tax payers will have pay to maintain it, we like it how it is, walking and meeting local and visiting public
Garden like Green space is what makes the valley gardens and harrogate special / unique . This proposal undermines those qualities which make harrogate so attractive
Great idea but NOT there! So many dogs are walked there etc - the greenery - surely there's somewhere else that it could be sited more suitably?
I am a shift worker and bought my house because overlooking the park meant no noise pollution. This proposal sounds like it would create a great deal of noise right under my bedroom window and make life very difficult for me. The skatepark can be bad enough and that is much further away than this proposed track. It would also ruin the aesthetic nature of this wilder part of Valley Gardens and prevent people from using the proposed area to sit out on the grass.
I am a very keen cyclist, outdoor enthusiast and teacher. I think the idea is great but the site is not appropriate at all. Valley gardens is a family friendly site with a high degree of history, however the nature of this type of cycling is so out of keeping with the immediate surroundings that it would detract from the nature of the park. I don't believe it would be used anymore than the pitch and putt because of where it is to be placed. Brilliant idea but absolutely the wrong site.
I am disabled and unable to cycle but do get some enjoyment from playing crazy golf with my grandchildren. I personally feel that having a bike track within the beautiful Valley Gardens, would spoil it and attract youths etc to gather there. It could become intimidating for those people who like to enjoy the peace and quiet and may stop them from feeling safe walking through there on their own. I certainly would miss the crazy golf - there is very little within Harrogate for disabled people to do
I am not in the least against the idea of a pump track, but do not think Valley Gardens to be an appropriate site. I feel the suggestion that it would be for the under-10s is unrealistic and it is likely very quickly to be 'taken over' by older teenagers whose presence would deter younger children from using it. Is it not likely that most users would simply cycle through the rest of the Gardens to reach their goal causing problems with pedestrians??
I am shocked that the Council who doesn't have money to replace recently damaged benches in Valley Gardens and the Pinewoods have found money for one of the most dangerous and noisy activities. The proposed pump track above the play area, will ruin the last calm place in Valley Gardens where families can enjoy the pitch and putt golf course, have picnics, where disabled people access Valley Gardens on mobility scooters and love being without interruption from bicycles and crowds. Riding bicycles is not allowed anywhere in Valley Gardens but the Council refuses to stop this. Building the pump track will bring cyclists from far and wide who will be riding all over Valley Gardens causing mayhem and further damage.
I do not like the destruction of grassland to be replaced with hardstanding. I also think an alternative site should be found for Pump Track so the pitch and putt amenity can be retained.
I don't think it would get much use.
I don't support the removal of green space and an existing amenity. I feel this project could be persued more sympathetically to limit the impact on the upper field of the park and not result in the removal of the pitch and putt.
I enjoy the pitch and putt course with my family.

I feel it needs something that would benefit both children and adults - something more versatile/multi use green and sustainable. as a dog owner as well as parent to the area as is has been enjoyed by both as well as an elevated area allowing for picnic and lovely views towards Harrogate.
I HATE that you'd be taking away so much green space.
I have multiple children born in Harrogate and attended local schools. NYCC strategy appears to be to remove green spaces in Harrogate with concrete or hard surfaces. Valley Gardens is iconic. It is not about the pitch and put but the space it allows between the planted areas and the pine woods to Harlow Carr. I am actually a land owner to the West. The denegration of Harrogate and its infrastructure is quite marked.
I imagine there are other areas of Harrogate council which could be transformed into a pump track without losing an excellent Pitch and Putt course which needs more promotion. If people don't know about it it will not get used. Please do not put the pump track there and start some good promotion for the pitch and putt course.
I like the pitch and put and don't want to loose it
I live opposite the pitch and putt course and know from experience that the children's play area is often used by youths at night, the same thing would happen with the pump track, causing an unacceptable level if disturbance
I prefer the existing putting course. Also new pump track would be too close to the pedestrian path
I support the idea of providing facilities for younger children but this plan will lead to further littering, noise and antisocial behaviour from a demographic outside the proposed younger people, such as we unfortunately already see in Valley Gardens.
I suspect your stated target audience are not the ones most likely to use the facility. Query would this not attract antisocial behaviour. Consider placing elsewhere in HG2 however within a Landmark tourism location is at best unwise not in keeping with ,brand' Harrogate. I fear within a short period of time this would become a white elephant. Indeed had parks and gardens not wilfully run down the pitch and putt I am sure it would attract more usage. I am not against a pump track but suspect a location such as Harlow Hill or brownfield land would be a better location.
I take my children to play under the trees and have done for years, we run up and down the little slopes and find pine cones and lady birds. Not only would it ruin our fun, it would damage insect habitats.
I think a pump track is a good idea if it's used correctly. Accompanied children and not groups of teenagers using it when they shouldn't. I think if it is monitored and locked at night or hours of darkness then it's a good way to bring Valley Gardens into the modern era. There was a skate park In knaresborough and this was abused and was removed. If the pump track was more controlled, monitored when in use and locked off at night then I wouldn't have any objections. But to be just left open at all times then I think it's asking for trouble.
I think the idea is great HOWEVER it has 2 flaws- it should be larger & open to all ages, not just under 10's, therefore I'm not convinced it should be located in the VG's. There is so few activities for preteens/teenagers in this town and I do believe the Council is failing them on that front.
I think there would be too many bikes on the walkway through the gardens causing accidents
I understand the pitch and putt is in need of some modernisation .lain the 1980's I often used the pitch and putt with my children and we all enjoyed it but for a while now I've said it needs modernising . Children up to 12 years would enjoy it . Turn it into crazy golf maybe . I've nothing against a place for kids to ride their bikes . Although a lot of elderly people sit on benches around there and they could easily get knocked over by the bikes .
I use the pitch and put daily for walking my dog, he loves running around here every morning so I worry that the pump track would take up too much of it?
I use the pitch and putt green area for walking my dog and playing frisbee with my sons and exercise. It's a beautiful green area with lots of trees slopes and flats for running around on with the dog and my sons. It's lovely with all the different trees and a habitat for wild life. In winter when it snows it's lovely place to play sledge make snowmen and snow angels. There are benches to sit and take in the beautiful view and a lovely place for picnics and just relaxing with family or just sit quietly and meditate. A cycle route as described would spoil the natural environment and habitat and use of the area. It states it for up to ten year olds but it will definitely be used by older teenagers and youths and even adults who will supervise it's use? And what about accidents involving under 10s and older people mid using it or for anyone that skids off and ploughs into a squirrel, a person walking their dog or hitting a dog as they are allowed of the lead once up the hill so the dogs can run n chase a ball. It will look awful and I just don't think this habitat is the place to do it. A purpose built area in land that otherwise could not be used would be better to provide a safe place for children learning to cycle and for older children adults to do dirt biking tracks would be safer and more feasible use of both land resources and the wide environment. Valley gardens is not the place to build it. It will cause carnage.
I use this area to exercise my dog. The track would be an eye sore. The pitch and put course is not maintained to a standard that attracts players. Golf is more popular now than it has been for years.
I walk across the pitch & putt course most days with the dog, it's a wonderful undulating area of grass
I would support if this was not at cost of removing pitch and putt. Build it somewhere else
I'd rather the existing grass and pitch and putt were there
I'm all for new recreational facilities for youngsters. They deserve all the breaks they can get. Not in valley gardens though. Valley gardens is packed and overused already. This facility should go to a part of forgotten Harrogate that needs the facility. Spend the money where it's needed rather than Valley Gardens. The pitch and putt maybe

underused but why not leave it as open space. How much will this facility cost to construct, maintain and supervise ? Someone has had an idea as usual. Here we go again.
I'd be inclined to support this but more information is needed. Will it be free? How will use be restricted to under 10's? Will it be fenced off to prevent dog fouling like the play park is? Will it prevent the Gardens being used for sledging in the snow? If the intention is to attract new users to the Gardens, where will they park?
If the golf course is replaced then it must be duplicated elsewhere within the gardens. Our family (especially our son) loves the golf course and visit the gardens specifically to play. If the course is removed we will have no reason to visit. It is acknowledged that the existing course needs some TLC, and we would support a pump track if the golf course could be either repaired or provided in another part of the gardens. But if the intent is to remove the course altogether then we cannot support this proposal.
I'm outraged by the idea! The pitch and putt is an integral and traditional part of the Valley Gardens. It's family inclusive and fun! A pump track there would be noisy and intrusive! Absolutely against this! And I bike!
Is it possible to do both? For example, a smaller pitch and putt or target golf, alongside a track? The track seems more intrusive on the green space, as the bottom of the gardens move nicely through the peaceful green area of the P&P course towards the Pinewoods, whereas the track would seem to extend the play area over the current peaceful green space. Would be good to have something more for that age group though.
It is crucial to understand the potential negative impacts that a pump track may have on the park's natural environmental and the overall experience for all visitors. A pump track will certainly alter the park's landscape and disrupt its current aesthetic and tranquility. Not to mention increased noise levels and increased activity around the pump track. I encourage a thorough assessment of alternative locations for a pump track.
It is not inclusive at all. The pitch and putt is inclusive for all ages and is fun for all the family encouraging quality family time. A pump track is for kids to hang out and potentially cause trouble. We have enough of this in Harrogate already
It is suggested that this area is for under 10 s but is likely to attract a teenager /young adult. How is this going to be managed. It could attract antisocial behaviour particularly on evenings
It will be an eye saw and how can you monitor who uses it? It is suggested for up to ten year olds, older kids will definitely want to use this too.
It will mean cycling all over Valley Gardens because they will not just stay on the track. As a deaf person I can't hear cyclist behind me so I would not feel safe walking in the Gardens. Do you honestly believe that it can be restricted to under 10 years old use. It will become a hangout for the unruly teenagers who use Valley Gardens now.
It will replace the lovely open green space. People love to use it in summer for sunbathing and reading. It's would be nice if the disc golf was better maintained and the area left as a open space. There's already a skate park and pump tracks in the area. Valley gardens is not suitable for large numbers of cyclists
It will ruin Valley Gardens, tarmac over beautiful green space, end up being a mud bath and overall spoil the beautiful green parkland and stretch of grass, trees, for ever. Children teens and adults often sit out on the grass under the trees and hang out. It will no longer be a green spot, close to amenities, to sit and enjoy and linger. And it won't be used several months of the year in the rain and cold. And it will be slippy and slimy. Terrible idea!
It will spoil the look and feel of the valley gardens
It will take away amenity space for the majority for the same of a minority. What's wrong with a bit of open green space ? Valley Gardens has more than enough children's entertainment. Facilities such as this circuit need to be away from other facilities because of the noise, litter, parking issues, at al. What about other parts of Harrogate that are devoid of recreational facilities. Absolutely typical of this council not look at forgotten Harrogate. Spend some money where it is needed for once. And look beyond Valley Gardens.
It will undoubtedly attract youngsters on bikes which will be ridden through the Gardens causing danger to pedestrians. My wife and I have been hit once by skateboarders and had two near misses. Signs asking for consideration to pedestrians are ignored and patrols are rare. Bikes will be a greater , more dangerous problem.
It would be a complete eyesore; creating tarmac paths over 2000 m2 of the existing park. Some kids already ignore the no cycling signs as do some dog owners who let their dogs off the lead. I fear there would be many more instances of those out for exercise or simple enjoyment of the gardens having to watch out for additional hazards. If you abolish a revenue-generating activity into one which would presumably be free, how will you make up the impact on the budget, or indeed, pay for the creation of the pathways?
It would be dangerous for people walking in valley gardens and is completely unnecessary. Just leave it as an area to walk, picnic, play games ie an open area. A bike track would be a complete waste of money just like the bike lanes installed in Otley Road.
It would be dangerous with crowds. The hill is very wet in winter....
It would be out of character and noisy and could be dangerous to those walking in the area. There is enough noise and traffic associated with the existing facilities for children and will only further encourage people from out of the district to come and increase pollution and congestion. Harlow Moor Drive is already difficult to use and it will only be time before there is a serious accident. The needs of older people of whom there are many in Harrogate seem to be bottom of the list whenever anything is done locally. No action will doubtless be taken to enforce any rules for the

use of the proposed facility - you only have to look at the number of dogs not on lead in the lower part of the gardens to see how no one obeys rules and how they are not enforced here.
It would block off the footpath between the pitch and putt areas
It would burden the police with more anti social behaviour and vandalism that happens daily in the valley gardens as I walk daily in the valley gardens I see first hand the broken glass from drink bottles litter ,broken trees and plants broken lights around the skate board park and the sun pavillion pergoda areas which are a congregation areas for this damage after using the skate board park. .The existing skateboard park still attracts users who skateboard and scooter through the valley gardens intimidating pedestrians who come to enjoy the beauty and peace of our beautiful valley gardens A cycle track would encourage cycling through the valley gardens as well.The vandalism is not good for visitors and tourism to our town and valley gardens and spoils the amenity of residents of harrogate.Finally the removal of the pitch and putt greenery is removing the attractive greenery of the park.
It would encourage more anti social behaviour which is already a concern.
It would look terrible, and the bikes wouldn't just stick to the tracks. It's the Valley Gardens. The clue is in the name "gardens". The skate park works ok because it's confined to a neat area
It's not within the character of the valley gardens and as such is not a suitable location
It's a bloody ridiculous idea to have such a facility in a tranquil public park. Build more tennis courts, and reduce the price, which is extortionate, if you want people to use the space. The courts and crazy golf aren't well maintained and let the gardens down by looking neglected. What state would this stupid idea look like in a year?
Its diabolical that prime sports facilities like pitch & putt are being destroyed and being replaced by a dangerous "bike track", that will over time attract the "yob" element.
It's for a very limited age group which is already very well served with the Play Park and the BMX/Scooter park.
It's not in-keeping with the environment at Valley Gardens and having a pump track could have a significant impact on people quietly enjoying the space. The golf course space is used by people, especially in summer to relax and hang out. It's a wonderful open green space. A pumpt track with spoil the enjoyment of this area.
It's not pump track I object to, it's the loss of the pitch and putt. I'm not actually a resident of Harrogate but holiday here once a year (staying in a hotel in the town) and enjoy the pitch and putt and so would be disappointed if it was to close.
Just think how many pot holes could be repaired with all that hardcore/tarmac.
Keep the pitch and putt facility. It's far more appropriate for this environment. There is the risk that this track would encourage cycling generally through the gardens and reduce the enjoyment of other users.
leave the Valley Gardens alone. It is beautiful as it is, we love the greenery - don't want to see more green areas turn grey to concrete
Lots of tarmac, why not make a 1km cycle route that can also be used to running, see both Hesslington and the Brownlee Bike Tracks. There are 3 big clubs in Harrogate alone for running and a safe, lit space would be perfect for both, with various time slots.
Magnet for unsocial behaviour- already issues with aggressive behaviour spilling out to the playground from the skate park
My issue would be doing away with the existing pitch and putt course which is a lovely addition to the valley gardens activities. It's something you rarely find away from the seaside towns these days. It's always well used when I walk through. I think it's good that adults and children can play together, even the very young. When I get grandchildren I would definitely use the pitch and putt Snd would object to its removal.
My three year old son loves golf and can already ride his bike in the skate park, just above the tennis courts. More cycling options at the cost of golf being removed would be such a shame.
No it will ruin the greenery and the size is absolutely ridiculous. It would take up far too much room as is currently planned. up far too much space. There are better alternative areas of town it could built.
No mention has been made to possible cost, and that should be of primary importance, especially when the Council is seeking the views of the public with regard to cost cutting measures..
Noise level too high for nearby residents. More youngsters on bikes in the gardens - they ignore the no cycling notices.
Not a suitable location for this type of facility
Not an appropriate setting in my opinion. If a pump track is considered appropriate for the council to provide then I suggest a better venue can be found than the Valley Gardens
Not for me may be good for younger children
Not only would it remove the well used, well loved pitch & putt and green space used by people strolling through the gardens, it would also be an eyesore. It would be impossible to police the 'Under 10 year olds' rule and would attract youths riding dangerously whilst small children are using the playground. How would the under 10's get there safely with their bicycles? The boating lake has already been ruined by the installation of a pathetic water fountain. Leave the beautiful Valley Gardens alone and find an alternative suitable location for a pump track
Not sure it would be fully utilised. Waste of money.
Not sure it's the right thing for older teens (who need more things to do) as compared with younger children who are already well catered for.

Not the right place for it - people walking will have to avoid speeding kids on bikes. Will also create a hang out after dark for local hooligans & bullies.
Obtrusive and noisy in the area where the gardens merge into the woods, popular strolling/dogwalking/picnic place and peaceful.
Our son enjoys using the skate park with his friends. The green space (pitch and putt area) is an area we use daily for dog walks. We are concerned that this development would urbanise the area and impact wildlife.
Parking is now a big problem on Harlow moor drive and Valley drive, this would add to that and also not improve the look of Valley Gardens
People like to sit, picnic and walk around this area. The iconic views of the Valley Gardens would be ruined. It would also increase antisocial behaviour. No form of landscaping could integrate facilities of this kind without altering the beauty of the park in a negative way.
Pitch and putt is open to all ages. A family activity from the very young to grandparents.
Pitch and putt not used as no one knows it's there. Pump track would be ugly and detract from the green appearance of the gardens. Children up to 10 already have the very excellent playpark which we frequently take our grandchildren to.
Play facilities for kids already extensive. Concerned it is highly likely to attract older teenagers and encourage them to linger at night. It is unacceptable to replace a lovely green space in listed gardens with a tarmac track.
Prefer it to remain a pitch and putt course
pump track seems to be for smaller group of children at particular age bracket whereas golf is more family friendly and for any age...! My 3 year old loves it!
Putting in cycle facilities in a park filled with children and the elderly and known for strolling is a recipe for disaster. The skatepark already means pedestrians have to watch out for people skateboarding on the paths, the cyclists will not observe the rules and it will create a dangerous situation. There are other parks more suitable for this. Additionally, there is the expense. I don't want to encourage cycling in Valley Gardens and I VERY much DO NOT WANT council tax rates to increase as spectacularly as they did last year.
Stupid idea from stupid people
Such facilities are a magnet for young jobs and criminals. Crime will definitely increase. Golf is a better option as the opportunity for criminal acts is negligible. A pump track would also increase noise levels spoiling the tranquility of the gardens for others.
Taking away the green space, not just the pitch and putt. Less space for walkers and dogs. The kids already have a huge playground and the skate park.
That area is used as a dog park and I walk my dog twice daily there.
The existing pitch and putt is part of the beautiful landscape of the valley gardens. The pump track would be a eyesore in my opinion. I go frequently to the valley and the pinewoods to walk my dog. I feel it would be a terrible shame to build pump track. Surely there is somewhere else to build it ??
The existing pitch and putt course is sympathetically landscaped and provides an area (not only to pitch and putt) but also to walk among the beautiful trees, sit on the numerous benches and enjoy excellent views of Harrogate and appreciate nature. It is generally a quieter and wilder area than the more formal gardens and the busy playground, tennis court, skateboarding, crazy golf area which provides fantastic facilities for young families. The facility suggested is only for those up to 10 years old and will prevent the area as it stands being enjoyed by other age groups. Valley Gardens should provide enjoyment for all age groups and currently does.
The grass area is currently used by everyone not just under 10's
The green space and pitch and putt add to what the Valley Gardens can offer locals and visitors.
The money would be better spent on facilities for the OVER 10s. It would spoil the visual environment. It would increase water run off.
The old golf course is an open walking area which should be left open for all to use
The park is already overrun with bikes and scooters causing a nuisance and danger racing around the park despite all the signs saying no cyclists...why attract more bikes into the park
The paths running through Valley Gardens are designated "no cycling". It is inevitable that, to get to the proposed track, users will ignore the "no cycling" signs and cycle through the gardens. This already happens occasionally and is often dangerous as they cycle past at speed. I fear that cycling through the gardens will become the norm and this will lead to antisocial behaviour. I suspect the reason the pitch and putt is not used is because it is not well advertised and there are no pin flags out to alert passers by. I have lived nearby for several years and did not know it existed. I would suggest improving advertising rather than invite more cyclists.
The pitch and putt is part of Harrogate's history and is in keeping with the area. Don't ruin it.
The pitch and putt area is currently an open space on which any number of activities are carried out by people of all ages. It is particularly busy in the summer, and on warm days there are people out pinicking, playing frisbee, dog walking etc. The installation of a pump track would benefit relatively few at the expense of many people's enjoyment of VG. Children and teenagers currently already have access to the skate park and play area. The lower half of VG is beautifully tended with its plants and flowers but the upper end is a more welcoming, and peaceful, space for many. It would be a great shame to lose it to one particular group, who may well bring more noise and litter (judging by the state of the skate park after a weekend).

The pitch and putt course is fun for families to be involved in. A pump track wouldn't be suitable for the whole family. You should invest in maintaining the pitch and putt
The pitch and putt has been a staple of valley gardens for as long as I can remember. It seems a shame to cover up such a large green space with more compacted hardcore surfaces, environmentally horrendous and an eye sore too.
The pitch and putt is much needed family entertainment. Something for all ages and for the whole family to enjoy across generations encouraging much needed quality family time. A pump track will encourage teenagers to hang out and cause trouble. It will be used by the few not the majority of Harrogate
The proposal would affect a large part of the Valley Gardens, it's appearance and noise quality, as there would be a smaller grassy area left, and it would benefit only a very small age range of the population of Harrogate. There are already lots of facilities children of that age can enjoy in the park.
The proposed pump track would ruin the existing green space. I have 2 children under 10 and a dog. We use the space where the pitch and putt is daily to walk and play with the dogs and children. It's a wonderful space currently which we use daily to play ball games, frisbee, chase with the dog and it fits in well with the gardens. A pump track would be an eyesore at 2000sqm. The current skate ramp is excellent because it is small and well hidden, this would be the opposite. I'm all for more facilities for children but I feel this would ruin the beautiful gardens.
The putt course is very unique and a wonderful addition to Valley Gardens. I would not support losing that. I also would not like. A pump track so close to the walking path. Elsewhere, perhaps above near the disc golf course might be a better option.
The reason that the pitch and putt course is underused is due in a large measure by the very poor maintenance of the course. The fairways are generally indistinguishable from the surrounding grass. The greens are in worse condition still often with several holes and hard to distinguish from the surrounding grass. The proposed pump track will require maintenance which, judging by the P&P course it will be unlikely to receive. Attention will be required for children hurt in falls on the track and care will be required to provide a "crash friendly" surface to minimise the effects of the inevitable falls. What attention will be given for the site to become a noisy attraction space for older children.
the skate park has not been looked after, rubbish on a daily basis and vandalism, so expanding it would be expanding the problem!
The skate park is sufficient- a pump track is not required or in keeping with the surroundings.
The skate park provides a similar activity. Valley gardens has already become a hub for underage drinking and whilst the suggestion is that the track would be used by children up to 10 it's far more likely to attract teenagers. Whilst there is a pitch and putt course the areas more frequently used by dog walkers and for people to sit and have picnics with families etc. Using the green space to have bikes riding about is a bizarre suggestion. The irony of this is that the pinewoods has been used as a bike track and the council is constantly blocking it up. The pinewoods is a far better location for a bike track (as shown by bikers making one there). Keep the green space and put a track in the pine woods
The use and noise would be in conflict with the gentle ambiance of the Valley Gardens and spoil the experience for the very many people who use this area for walking, family activities picnicking etc in the better weather
The Valley Gardens are a quiet and calm space in the main. There are few places left where you can walk in a traffic free area and the provision of the cycle track here is inappropriate. Why is there such an obsession with entertaining people like this? Leave the valley gardens as they were intended to be.
The Valley Gardens are an English Heritage Grade II Listed garden. Why is it deemed appropriate to compromise this space by the dreadful idea for a cycle track. What does it matter the golf is underused - leave it as a green space to walk on or make it into more gardens. Harrogate Valley Gardens are not a theme park, people use this space for walks and to see plants - who wants to see and hear the noise from some cycle track.
The Valley Gardens are as the same states gardens and not a recreational park. It would be preferable for such a facility to be installed somewhere like Killinghall Country Park for children from Jennyfields, King Edwin Park both sizeable housing estates in addition to others on the Persona and Bellway Estates off the A59
The Valley Gardens is already full of cyclists ignoring the no cycling instruction. This will just encourage more of the same. I've seen enough incidents and near misses in there to know it's a problem.
The Valley Gardens is being continuously ruined Cut the grass so we can use the pitch and putt!!!. From pleasure gardens to tatty recreation ground. Please stop.
The Valley Gardens is established valuable green space which forms an integral part of the character of the town. From the Pinewoods in the west toward the town centre, Valley Gardens creates an invaluable green wedge used daily by local residents of all ages for walking, games, picnicking etc. and this most certainly includes the area otherwise recognised as the pitch and putt course. The loss of this green space to a surfaced, enclosed activity for a limited age group would seem perverse in planning terms and undemocratic in broader consideration. The scheme may be well intentioned, but is ultimately flawed and should be rejected.
The younger kids love pitch and putt especially with family
There are already two tracks in Wetherby so this would actually be a reduction in facilities for children and families to lose the pitch and putt course

There are enough areas in the Valley Gardens for children to use. Lots of people walk around this area and will no longer be able to. I would rather see a picnic area with tables and chairs for people of all ages.
There are enough play area for children. The golf is meant for everyone. It is not used mostly because of the condition is not fit for purpose. If the council do not wish to maintain it then let someone else do it. Valley gardens needs exercise machines and other facilities which are suitable for all age groups. Other councils offer much better facilities than Harrogate. It also keeps people out of hospital. Also the top part of valley gardens should be cordoned off for dogs to keep the golf course clean. The grass too on the golf course is often too long to play. The main golf courses in Harrogate are too expensive but this one is open for all as it should be...
There is already good bike/scooter provision at Valley Gardens, and other facilities for under-10s. The pitch and putt course is an excellent introduction to golf, some more investment into this and the existing disc golf facilities would be a worthwhile use of funds in my opinion.
There will be too many bikes in the park. People already don't follow the no cycling rules outside of the skate park.
These gardens are used and enjoyed by many different generations green space is vital to well being there is already a skate park this is not necessary green space is never replaced
This area is lovely for picnics in the summer and busy as a dog walking and exercise area and this would be lost if the area was used for a different purpose.
This area is the only grassed space where we can walk dogs off the lead in Valley Gardens, it is an area used for picnic by families.
This is a highly valued green space enjoyed by all ages with wonderful trees and plants which bring visitors and local people to the park everyday.
This is a very bad idea. Replacing grass and greenery with an ugly hard surface is environmentally bad. The track would encourage older teenagers to gather there in the evening. In wet weather the site would become very muddy caused by bike wheels. Encouraging the use of bikes in the Valley Gardens is counter-productive - bikes should be kept out of the Gardens. Pitch and putt is far more family-inclusive. Noise would also be an issue.
This is an important open grassed area enjoyed by many walkers and also provides the planting ground for a growing number of commemorative trees for local deceased residents. It must be preserved and respected.
This would be a further degradation of the once attractive upper area of the Valley Gardens. While I agreed with the inclusion of the skate park next to the tennis courts, I do not agree with the change of use of the pitch and putt course. On most days of the year the majority users of the Gardens are not children, but rather older residents / council tax payers, I trust that these views will be properly considered.
This would ruin the beautiful character of the Valley Gardens landscape. It's would look ugly and stop people from being able to walk over it. I am sure there are other more industrial places to add to this kind of park. Each time I am in the gallery gardens there doesn't seem to be many children on the skate park. It will attract and older age group and the problems that can bring. It is them one less green space for families as a whole to enjoy not just one age group of children. It will ruin Harrogate's Heritage of having beautiful gardens. Why not make into a beautiful garden for people to walk around and explore with all of their family. It feels like a lazy idea to satisfy the need of a tiny percentage of the Harrogate population.
This would seriously damage the beautiful open green space which is there now and I strongly oppose it as massively detrimental to the look and character of the gardens. We have two children, now grown up, who enjoyed greatly what the gardens already offers for children. Further, cyclists will undoubtedly ignore, as they do now, the no cycling signs on their way to the track
Too specific for children only not multigenerational enough. Would cause hazard when walking.
Totally out ok keeping with the eautiful valley gardens. The serenity of the gardens will be destroyed by yht noise of over excited youngsters
Ugly and not in keeping with the Valley Gardens. Go somewhere else please. Don't destroy a beautiful park.
Unless it is supervised it will not be a good addition.
Valley Gardens is a great local resource that is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. It has great facilities for younger people, including a large playground, a skate-park, crazy golf, a boating lake & 4 tennis courts. However enjoyment of the park is sometimes spoiled by 2 specific activities, both of which the council has indicated are not appropriate. They are cycling in the park & allowing dogs off their leads in the central park area. Although there is signage stating this, it is not signage which communicates the message well, and as a result the signage is universally ignored by people. Allowing more cyclists into the park to use a new cycle facility will only add to these problems.
Valley Gardens is a valuable green space within Harrogate so installing a concrete pump track would severely undermine the history of the gardens and would have a highly negative impact on bio-diversity.
Valley Gardens is one of the big attractions for residents and visitors to Harrogate and is not suited to this facility which should be installed in another location if it is in fact needed
Valley Gardens needs its green spaces. Would prefer a flatter cycle track. Area could be used for anti social behaviour.
We are loosing so much green space. We should be looking after our grassed areas
We are losing too many green spaces and it represents a wonderful contrast in Valley Gardens to the beautiful formal gardens

We have under 10s and feel existing provision is sufficient. Placing hardcore over grassed area, especially one prone to bogginess seems an environmentally detrimental suggestion, impacting wildlife, water run off and peaceful use of the grassy areas of the park. Ludicrous waste of tax payers' money when there's already plenty to entertain children in that area of town and the more pressing healthcare, education etc issues facing Harrogate which need investment,
We love the pitch and putt. I don't want to lose it. I feel there has to be a middle ground. Perhaps the bike track could be put in another part of the Valley Gardens?
We need quiet areas in Valley Gardens as well as activity areas for youngsters. Children already have the excellent playground and paddling pool and older youngsters have the skate park. The pitch and putt area appeals to adults of all age groups and many families bring children to have a go at pitch and putt, as a precursor to taking up an interest in golf in later years. It would be unfair to create another noisy, man made area in a beautiful green space. Pitch and putt provides good exercise and mildly competitive recreation for an age group that is not otherwise catered for. I implore you to maintain some kind of inter-generational balance in terms of what is on offer in Valley Gardens.
We use the pitch and putt area as an area to sledge in during the winter, a place to roll down in spring/summer autumn. Personally I do not want to lose this green space from the valley gardens
We use the pitch and putt as a family and when we have visitors it's one of the things we do when they come to see us. Can the pitch and putt course be relocated? It would be shame to loose this simple family friendly game. In the warmer months it's often being used and the benches along the path in between are also busy with people enjoying this path towards the park. I walk down there with my 2 year old all the time. Will this path have to go? Can the bike track pump track be located in the area behind the current bike track with the ramps? This area is often boggy in winter and is not well used. Could this area be regenerated instead?
We walk across the proposed area nearly every day and this would spoil the whole tranquil open feeling of Valley Gardens. It would ruin the beautiful green open space which is used by families for picnics in the summer. There would be far too much noise in Valley Gardens for residents and surely there is a much more needed way of using these funds. Spend it on improving the facilities and care of the much-neglected Pinewoods. People travelling from outside the area would also have to park somewhere and there is no space for this. Harlow Moor Drive is like a racetrack sometimes with cars traveling very fast because it is narrow and there are no passing places. Usually, I am not in favour of 20mph zones except at schools and hospitals etc, but Harlow Moor Drive should definitely be 20mph because it is very dangerous for families to cross the road here because of speeding cars. Also, designate parts of the road as passing places. This would get worse if more families are traveling to use this unnecessary facility. If it was decided to install such a facility against the wishes of local residents the only place it could be put would be directly adjacent to the skate park at the very bottom of Valley Gardens. Having said that, the other problems it would bring would still have to be considered and addressed by the Council. Please don't ruin our beautiful Valley Gardens
We want to keep the green area
What about something for teenagers in the area? Surely under 10's are well catered for
When my grandchildren visit we go to the pitch and putt regularly - probably 2-3 times a year. Your plan only caters for up to 10 year olds. Pitch and Putt has no age barrier.
Where will the dogs be able to walk and what about wildlife? Put cycle tracks on parts of The Stray for children.
While I appreciate that many people don't use the pitch and putt I can assure you that very many people use that area for dog walking, playing, picnicking and general relaxation. It is one of the great places on this side of town for a little peace and quiet. A naturally wild and wonderful meadow. We with many other dog owners enjoy our daily walks, collective meet-ups and runs, with our dogs happily unleashed until we reach the public area where we respectfully leash our dogs, go to the valley garden cafe and have a cup of coffee. Please don't spoil this by turning it into another activity area. It's already perfect for so many people.
Whilst I welcome the plan to improve facilities for children, the proposed location does not seem appropriate for reasons of aesthetics and noise (a pump track would hold less visual appeal and attract more noise than the current open grass). An assessment should be made of how the facility may be damaged by sledging when it snows.
Who will check that it is used only for under 10s? And will the area still be safe to walk through NYC and previously HBC seem very keen to tarmac over nature! And if this is cost saving, why not just close the golf course and leave it as a place of nature to be enjoyed by everyone and not just under 10s
Who will oversee the age restriction placed on it? Cycling isn't allowed on paths in VG so how will it be managed that all of the people using the pump track will push their cycles to it and not cycle? This will encourage more cyclists on paths and I'm not sure who will control this. I think that the area would be better used by adding something else other than catering to cycling. Why encourage cycling in a no cycling area? All weather table tennis tables or even an outdoor exercise station would be better than a bell for leather cycle track in the middle of a no cycling zone. And you can't impose a cycle restriction on age unless there is somebody there enforcing it. Bad idea.
Why spend so much for under 10s? There is already the play area with the seasonal paddling pool, plus the skate park. I think it will attract more visiting families, which isn't necessarily bad except for the parking issues.
Why spoil the beauty of Valley?

Will it not ruin the beautiful 'green' view there currently is. Also, the skate park can be quite daunting for young children due to the older ones who hang around it so won't this encourage more of the same?
Would be only for under 10s, meaning that teenagers who would want to go on it would cause serious risk. Teenagers are much more likely to use it than under 10s.
Would be very sad to lose the Pitch and Putt course
Would create too much noise and antisocial behaviour such as drugs, alcohol and littering.
Would prevent children from trying pitch and putt as a cheap way to try the game of golf. Pump track would spoil the pleasant grassland at the top of the Valley Gardens which is used by many people for picnics, sunbathing, walking etc
Wrong location - This proposal will destroy the natural environment, disrupt existing park facilities & significantly degrade the area. There are plenty of other suitable locations.
Wrong location. The golf course is green and blends in. A bike track does not and would be an eyesore.
X
You are digging up green space and replacing it with artificial or gravel surface. You will also get teenagers ruining this area, as there is already an issue with this lot after hours in the existing play areas: vandalism etc etc. better things to spend money. I strongly object!
You have given NO details of costing and NO details of landscaping and noise control. No details of security of bikes/ scooters often targets for crime.

If you travel elsewhere to use a pump track please tell us where?

Other comments about other locations, also includes general feedback about pump tracks
As a life long cyclist it would be fun!
Hi, I work in the cycle industry, 20 years, I am in national sales and marketing so I get to see many different facilities on all scales. I would say that there is a fine line between getting it right and getting wrong, it's not down to amount of money spent, more the design and how it works when riding a bike. My advice would be to consult riders and track / trail designers that have experience in this area. I am well connected and would like to help you as I'd love to see this work out for the best, many thanks,
Who wants a pump track. Take all the family fun away and fill it with shit. That's what the council love to do
As an adult I travel to use skatepark and pump track facilities. The 'velosolutions park at ChopWell are an exemplary facility. See also 'Newhaven'. Hillsborough in Sheffield have created an entire community around their pump track, holding events and creating a safe environment that helps slowly educate younger individuals how to use skatepark facilities safely. These areas are rarely designed solely for a certain age bracket and I would encourage you to not label it for 'under 10s' as this serves as a point of dispute and a reason for parents to argue with other users that wish to use a free council facility. Of which there are NONE in this area.
Don't know what one is
Hi, I work in the cycle industry, 20 years, I am in national sales and marketing so I get to see many different facilities on all scales. I would say that there is a fine line between getting it right and getting wrong, it's not down to amount of money spent, more the design and how it works when riding a bike. My advice would be to consult riders and track / trail designers that have experience in this area. I am well connected and would like to help you as I'd love to see this work out for the best, many thanks,
I do not use a pump track. However I do skate at valley gardens skatepark very regularly, the amount of children it attracts can occasionally be a problem as it has been built next to a childrens park. This poses an issue for myself and the other more committed riders. I think a pump track would be a fantastic addition to valley gardens, especially above the childrens park as they just like to pump around the existing skatepark anyway, without doing or trying tricks. Therefore having a pump track built would be great for them to have somewhere to do this without getting in the way of the older riders, putting them out of harms way. I would also like to add a comment about putting one or two floodlights on the existing skatepark and to have them turned off after 11pm, as I understand if they were on later it could attract the wrong crowd. This is so that riders can have extended exercise sessions. We have petitioned for this before but to no avail. Thank you
I'm not aware of any in the area
Leeds urban bike park or Stainburn. Would very much more local purpose-built MTB tracks suitable for kids & adults. Not just pump track.
Leeds urban bike park, Ingleton, lots dotted all over the country but there is none in North Leeds, Ilkley, Harrogate area
I've travelled the world to ride my bike and always make an effort to ride quality pump tracks every where I go.
Leeds is the closest official public pump track which is about an hour's drive away
Leeds to take my son and daughter who are both in their early teens.
Leeds, it's too far!
Lots all over the country from Manchester to the Highlands.
Me and my family travel widely over Yorkshire to various cycling facilities

My son has been to wetherby and Leeds Urban bike track, would be keen for it to be suitable for older children too
Sometimes to Leeds as the kids live using it so much but it's so far to travel. Having one closer we would use it weekly.
Stainburn to ride my mountain bike where I also use the pump track, swinsty skills loop, wetherby and Sutton bank also Leeds urban bike park
Sutton Bank. Also please note that there is no BMX track in North Yorkshire which is a real shame given that it is an Olympic Sport and we have a number of GB representative BMXers who live in North Yorkshire including myself.
The closest one we've been to is in Wetherby, which is a proper effort/ requires planning.
The pitch and putt is in a shocking state. We tried to use it, the poor lady was beside herself due to teenagers stealing the flags and sitting on the playground equipment stopping little ones from having fun. She just got cheek. The park needs monitoring. I was nearly knocked over by kids on bikes.
There are such facilities in Wetherby, a 20 minute drive away, or Leeds, I understand. Are we turning the tranquil valley gardens into a theme park? What next? A helter-skelter or London Eye type eyesore permanent fixture? A bungee jump thing? The average age of the residents, and indeed the visitors to Harrogate is the retirement community. As a volunteer gardener in the valley gardens we get many visitors and townfolk complimenting the gardening team on the beauty of the gardens. Many reminiscing that they come annually to Harrogate on holiday, or those who live here make a point of coming through the gardens if they don't have one. They always visit the 'beautiful peaceful gardens'. My goodness, how to spoil such a beautiful space with kids screaming, and crying as they have accidents on such a foolhardy idea! Why not put it on 'brown land' instead of building hundreds of unaffordable houses, that Harrogate doesn't need? Aren't we 300+% over our new housing quota anyway? The greedy building sector has bled Harrogate dry. This kind of noisy facility has no place in a quiet public garden. Whoever thought of it being a good idea here needs their head looking at!
We take my son to skipton as they have a great junior pump track, absolutely brilliant watching him learn new skills
We use the bike path from Starbeck to Ripon
When visiting family in Leamington Spa, Warks where there is an excellent new track in the town which my 4yr old grandson loves

Do you have any other comments about the Valley Gardens, Harrogate and its facilities?

A basketball court would be good too
A beautiful green space for the majority of visitors and residents not a minority.
A beautiful place to walk around, well maintained by the volunteers. The playground end is rowdy enough without adding to the chaos. Pitch & putt adds a touch of nostalgia and should remain.
A beautiful place very safe and great safe play area and skate park. Unfortunately there are always people who abuse what's there like leaving rubbish burning bins by the skate park but the people who work maintaining the whole of valley gardens do a great job and always clear n things these things; maybe CCTV in the skate park might help or a big bright lights so on a night those up to no good will move on as they are too easily seen ! and
A bike pk with technical features would be good also as well as a pump track for bmx.
A brilliant idea.
A credit to the town
A pump track for under 10s would be great. Much safer than the skate park for littler ones. There are a few unofficial bike tracks in Harrogate which are unsafe with broken glass and rubbish all over. Our little boy loves pump and bike tracks so we would use this weekly.
A pump track is a fantastic idea, my son is 9 and deaf but loves to ride his bike, this would be ideal.,
A pump track would be a great idea but think I think it should include facilities for teenagers as they are not well catered for anywhere in the Harrogate area. Also updating the crazy golf would be a good idea as this gets well used but is tired and uninteresting
A real asset for all people
A wonderful amenity for residents and visitors alike. I worry the turfing over of several flower beds near the cafe could be the thin end of the wedge
Additional activities would be beneficial and I would hope these would be available for older children (for example, 10-14) for whom the play area is too young. My main concern is aesthetics and that it is done in a manner in keeping with the lovely natural surroundings.
Allow the pump track for all ages please
Always been so good and very good to learn in nature wise for the little ones and play of course
Amazing
Amazing idea what a great addition to the park!!
Any facilities to keep children and young adults outside and active is worthwhile
As a parent if you g children I value the playground, skate park and crazy golf very much.
basketball facilities please

Believe this shouldn't be limited to up to age 10. This would complement if available for older children as well. If available for older children would be used more by more people. How will you even police the age use?
Best idea you've had for a long time
Better maintenance is needed of the environment and measures should be taken to discourage vandalism, especially of the colonnade. I don't think the use of the pump track is worth the expenditure.
Better maintenance of what here already, park bench's paint the lap posts more tree planting
Bit muddy
BMX track too
Brilliant. The skate park was a large part of my youth and it positively benefited me and my friends in so many ways.
Build bike infrastructure on Harrogate's Roads
Cafe could be better and offer better opening hours
Can it be all inclusive to young people not to 10 !
Can this not include older children too?
Check out Bike Track. They installed the best tracks. Bike-track.com
Cleaner toilets in the park would be super. A pump track suitable for multiple skill levels would be key to a successful track, not just for beginners
Concerned that children over the age of 10 would perhaps use it in a dangerous manner. The Valley Gardens must remain as an attractive family park.
Concerned that this would cost more than £2000 to install. I know how much it costs for a skatepark to be installed well, so either I need to lower my expectations on how fit for purpose this will be, or I would suggest a budget review to include design and not just materials and installation by an in-house team. Concerned that its aimed at children aged up to the age of 10, as an adult (female 49) I enjoy bike parks and trail centres and would love a facility like this in Harrogate.
Could do with the toilets at the playground to be open every day
Could the track be considered for older than 10 year olds?
Couldn't use the pitch and put golf over summer as grass wasn't cut, and was way too long to even play football never mind golf! Also couldn't see the holes as they didn't have flags in. So expensive given the port maintenance as well
Crazy golf appeals to older generations as well as children. Pump track is great but don't loose the crazy golf. You already have a large playground for under 10s. We need something for older children and adults
Do it
Do not spoil the character and beauty of the park. My four children have grown up in the town using the facilities within the Valley gardens with friends and family making memories.
Dogs not on leads MASSIVE problem
Dont make people pay to get in and make it so you can use it at any age
Electric scooters are not suitable for a pump track. H&S issues, silent, to fast, not controllable to same standard as bikes, suitable for over 17yrs only not young people. Keep it free.
Encouraging cycling at specific areas will help reduce cycle traffic elsewhere in the park. Look to Wetherby for inspiration in how they've included cycle facilities in public open spaces. Build it, the kids and parents will love you for it.
Enough already
Ensure CCTV monitoring is in place
Everything is being geared to encourage young people to the Gardens why does safety for the vast amount of elderly people who want to just go for a walk and admire the flowers and wildlife thought about. The Gardens are quickly becoming a no go area for a lot of elderly people.
Excellent facilities which are well kept.
Excellent facility
Excellent idea to install a pump track.
Expand the skatepark too. Too many small kids on scooters preventing people serious about skating - little kids are a hazard
Fabulous space - dont spoil it!
Fantastic facilities, lovely beautiful gardens, friendly helpful staff. Really well organized and well looked after.
fantastic facility - credit to district
Fantastic idea! Yes please.
Fantastic idea. Something really aimed at teenagers. Making the park more inclusive and also promoting cycling.
For a major improvement to the gardens, community and town, an open air swimming pool/lido would be fantastic there. Even if only small (compared to ilkley) it would be something that could generate income to support the upkeep, as well as being a fully accessible facility for all ages and abilities.it would also be in keeping with the spa town and garden theme, and be a tourist asset to the town. I could go into detail, but that's the basics of it.
Fountain back on!

From observation I believe the Pitch and Putt facility is under-utilised and believe the proposal would be a wonderful addition to the existing facilities for children as well as attracting more families to the Gardens. A brilliant idea!
Generally it's absolutely brilliant. You do a great job. It is so well used. A real joy.
Good facilities, not enough for teenage girls though - the skate part is very male/boy dominated. The pump track will be great for all sexes but please also think about facilities - swings, hang-out areas etc, for teen girls who are often left out and un-catered for in public parks and end up having to go to cafes all the time which are expensive and also not sporting/athletic/outdoorsy. Thanks!
Good idea to extend the play area and another free activity for children to have access to
Got to give kids active stuff to do and a pump track would be good. Assume it's not an Olympic standard job and more of a hardcore track in the grass. Should be good.
Great
Great addition that would revitalise the pitch and putt area that's not well used.
Great as they are but money could be spent to combat antisocial behaviour and vandalism in the esplanade.
Great facilities and well maintained. Hello
great facilities overall - thank you!! best play park and fortunate to have it so close by.
Great idea
Great idea and facility especially is I can't remember the last time I saw somebody using the pitch and putt?!
Great idea but do not use the pitch and put course ! That would be crazy. Use the land behind the tennis courts or the land adjacent to the existing skate park
Great idea to expand the facilities for kids. The existing park is very busy, as is the skate park (this would benefit from less marijuana smoking). The pitch and putt doesn't seem well used.
Great idea to install a pump track. My children would use it regularly
Great idea!
Great opportunity to make the top of the valley gardens a really active place with a good cafe that looks across it all so parents can relax and kids can play. Used to live in the Netherlands and they do these set up so well. Encourage people to cycle there as well to enjoy the facilities
Great park and facilities. Would support a pump track but not if it was limited to 10 years and younger. I think there needs to be more for teenagers to do. Would like to see this not restricted to under 10 year olds.
Harrogate need facilities for teenagers not under 10's
Have a 2 year old who absolutely loves pulp tracks and safer for him that than being on the skate park.
Have you consulted with either professional contractors or an experienced volunteer group? Some of the details I what you describe don't stack up. Its important a pump track be designed and laid out properly to work well. SingletrAction or clixbies would be able to offer you good advice and help you avoid a number of common errors. Please don't just charge in and assume you will get it right.
How about an outdoor gym ? Something that would appeal to wider age cohort and be more inclusive across all generations and not just more teenagers on bikes.
How is it that North Yorkshire Council have the money to consider this change to our gardens but do not have the money to keep the streets clean and tidy - to collect leaves once a year and then not very well. We used to to have street cleaning and regular leaf collections but now it is only once a year and if vehicles are parked at the time of the clearance the leaves are left until the following year.
I also love the swings and slides in the playground
I am a Level 2 British Cycling BMX Coach and I would offer some free coaching sessions on the pump track.
I believe it is a wonderful idea for children, there are no pump tracks around Harrogate. My 6yo loves riding the bike and practising his mountain bike skills. He love the rack in Wetherby by we can't go there that often.
I believe it should be more cycle friendly to accommodate and incentivise the use of a newly built pump track, as well as encouraging youths around my age to go out and cycle more, which would increase general exercise levels. However at the minute cycling is banned or very limited within valley gardens at the moment, which would send mixed messages to people wanting to use the pump track.
I consider the balance of entertainment provided to be appropriately balanced as it is
I don't have young children so unsure of the current provision. However I think a pump track is an excellent idea. It will provide outdoor activity for children and families, introduce children to cycling, encourage sustainable transport and exercise. The pitch and out area of VG is poorly used (I've never seen anyone playing, or frisbee golf!) and this would enhance the gardens
I feel the golf is always busy when we play, my nephews love it! I think it just needs a revamp. The pump track sounds a good idea but not in that area
I have articulated my thoughts above, seeing as you don't want personal details here I'll try and get in touch with you regards the track. PS please check out 'Velo solutions' designed pump tracks, they are the only ones that are guaranteed to work properly, there is no point spending budget on something that will end up a little, well, damp squid.. Don't get me wrong this is a great thing and something I've thought about in that exact area, but please make sure you consult the right people.
I have used the park regularly for over a decade both before and with kids. It is my impression that the facilities are being run down. Further, it seems that the approach to Food & Beverage sales and basic commercial noise is

missing. A pump track will not resolve the basic inability of the authorities to run the facilities effectively. Instead of a huge project such as this why not urban football pitches, 5 aside or basketball courts.
I just wish this had been there for my kids , we used to have to drive to Bradford or Leeds,
I love it but it dies not have a community feel like Knaresborough. .
I love the valley gardens but I'm sad when I cannot ride my bike
I love to see children and families enjoying what is already in Valley Gardens and would be very happy to see more facilities. My own children are adults not but would have loved something like a pump track. Go for it.
I only support this proposal is adults are also allowed to use it. Please allow adults to also use the pump track
I recently began to use the Valley Gardens skate park after spending many an hour sitting alongside it watching my son use it. I've been blown away by the welcoming community that exists there, where all are welcome and encouraged. As an older, and somewhat more tentative skater, this has been invaluable. The explosion in the popularity of scooters amongst the younger agegroups, however, has meant that the skate park can be congested at times, and the addition of a further facility would be advantageous. In my opinion, this could come in the form of a pump track, or indeed simply a doubling in size of the current facility. One thing I would say is that it would be helpful if the pump track surface was good/smooth enough for skateboards too, which I assume it would be if the intention is for scooters to use it. Overall I'm really pleased/excited that this plan has been conceived. The Valley Gardens skate park is a very well used/loved facility, and it's expansion can only be a good thing, especially in terms of relieving some of the congestion that can currently be experienced in it's existing state. Also, please put a light on it so we can skate in winter too!
I think a pump track is an excellent idea and would be much more useful and fun than the pitch and putt course which doesn't ever appear to be very busy.
I think Harrogate Council should promote its pitch and putt courses more. It is an excellent facility and visitors and holiday makers are generally unaware of the pitch and putt facility in Harrogate and Knaresborough. We talked to the staff at the Putting Green at Knaresborough Castle in September and they said they were being asked by people if there was pitch and putt in Knaresborough and they were telling them 'no' because they didn't know about the Hub at Chain Lane opening up the Pitch and Putt at the Kiosk. The people manning the Kiosk had a lot of complaints because the grass was rarely being cut and people were spending ages looking for their ball in the long grass. This is not encouraging people to use an excellent facility in Knaresborough
I think it would be a great addition for kids but I wonder how you can manage the point stating for use by children up to the age of 10, as I would suspect older siblings would join in when playing with the younger siblings and potentially older teenagers descending on it as well.
I think it would be brill to put a pump track down and I'd really like it
I think it's an amazing idea. It will breed and new generation of cyclists!
I think the facilities are excellent and myself and the kids go often to the skate park and playground. I used to live in London and our local park had a pump track and it was well used, a lot of entertainment to watch and I think it would be an excellent edition to the park in place of the golf that I rarely see get used.
I think the gardens are beautiful. The clue is in the name! There was a new Zealand space, with carvings, which children could and did climb on. They naturally rotted. I think if the park committee are insisting on developing this area, it would be far better to have something akin to the new Zealand garden, with some sculptures that children could climb on, maybe a small fort, some monkey bars, a rustic wooden seesaw. Something that would blend in more with the landscape, than the proposed eyesore. I don't know if it's since we turned into North Yorkshire Council, or if the gardens have their own committee, but there have been some completely bonkers ideas proposed. So much so that after over half a century of living here I'm seriously thinking of moving away. It saddens my heart the ridiculous things that are being imposed on us 'because they work in York, or Scarborough', where the demographic is totally different. Or because unifying things is cheaper. This is yet another stupid idea on the slippery slope to no return that is going to have detrimental effects on the welfare of Harrogate, and it's visitors. I only hope someone sees sense, before it's too late.
I think the idea is a great one but as there is already a fabulous play area for children, I feel greater consideration should be being given to the older kids. The skate park is overwhelmed by little kids, meaning the older kids have nothing until all the younger ones go home. How is this fair?? And now you are suggesting this new facility just be for under 10s. I seriously believe that significant consideration should be given to older kids. Those using the skate park have a passion for doing stunts and yet they are unable to use the facility as intended, as little kids have taken over. The older ones get bad press for actually using it as it is intended and they have no other options. It is becoming increasingly dangerous with younger children getting in the way of the older ones and I have known of some serious accidents where older kids have been very badly injured while trying to avoid a young child who has gone into their path. PLEASE PLEASE give some serious consideration to these older kids.
I think the idea of a pump track has allot of merit. It will promote exercise for young people and the costing appears relatively minimal. I don't see the proposal as negatively influencing the aesthetic of the gardens. It will be a good thing to have a free activity for children.
I think the issue will be around fears regarding gang of youths congregating at this proposed bike track, especially at night. For example, the Valley Gardens skate park is a truly fantastic facility that is really well used and offers so much positive recreation for young people - and the pump track should be able to deliver the same - but there

<p>seems to be a 'sentiment' that the skate park attracts crime (drug taking) and other minor criminality. I am in the park a lot - every day - and from what I see, I cannot agree that this is true but I am sure that is what local residents (probably the older ones) and the local lobby and interest groups will argue, in a NIMBY sense and a 'this is not what Valley Gardens is for" rationale. I am not sure what the answer is - aside from plans for lighting, CCTV and perhaps on-site staff. Thank you. And well done and good luck with the proposal!</p>
<p>I think the pump track at Wetherby is very well used, and a great facility for the local children. Why limit it by age?</p>
<p>I think the pump track will get a lot more use than the pitch and putt golf course!!</p>
<p>I think there should be exercise equipment that could be used for adults may be under the colonnades separate from children play area so they are not running I yo people while exercising and accidentally getting knocked if parent watching especially if they have more than one child or use one of the tennis courts instead . Adults could use them.daily like at Starbeck and other parks where you don't pay but then there could be a person fro. Brimham doing a exercise session once a week using the equipment ie circuit training etc if being used for free there could be a volunteer security guard or lifeguard to make sure no vandalism.or children trying to vandise during school holidays at night and to stop fighting starting.</p>
<p>I think this is a great idea and would get a lot more usage than the golf course. There is no where near enough facilities for kids to play safely in Harrogate. This is much needed.</p>
<p>I think this would be a great addition and well used by my two boys!</p>
<p>I think you need to include a map when you post about this on social channels to be clear and where you're talking about as initially I thought you meant removing the crazy golf.</p>
<p>I walk my dog in valley gardens and the pine woods and the lighting is very poor and it doesn't feel safe after dark. My wife won't walk there. Can you please add some additional lighting.</p>
<p>I will use it a lot if it's good and big</p>
<p>I worry that this space would get used by older / faster children only, like the skate park and the younger kids would be unable to use. I have not see the pump track plans but I wonder if it could be a good idea to have a smaller/easier track for younger kids , and a more advanced track for the older ones.</p>
<p>I would go there with my Grandchildren - a great opportunity to spend active time together</p>
<p>I would like to see things aimed at 10-15 year olds. The Valley Gardens has plenty of activities for under 10s. Most of the equipment for older ones is monopolised by young children.</p>
<p>I would love to have a pump track</p>
<p>I'd love to see a small fenced football/basket ball pitch. Also the playground definitely needs more swings, there is only one (that is not a baby swing or disability swing) so two friends cannot swing together.</p>
<p>I'm also very supportive of any environmentally-positive changes that can be made alongside this. I believe tree-planting was mentioned but anything that supports a native and natural eco-system would be a very welcome benefit.</p>
<p>I've used many pumtracks around the country and they bring lots of fun to many people.</p>
<p>If there is an identified need for this sort of new facility, particularly for younger visitors, then I would support meeting that need, however it should not be at the expense of an existing facility which is used by all ages. Sadly, the decline in use of the pitch and putt is as much down to the standard of the course and its unavailability during the winter months. With better upkeep and a more flexible approach to opening hours it would be more widely used.</p>
<p>If this is allowed is the next step to remove more of the park land. The valley garden is used for all not just selective groups.</p>
<p>If you are planning on modernising valley gardens I'd heavily suggest getting some covered Padel courts to supplement or replace the existing tennis court(s). They are hugely popular with 8 plus in harrogate built over the last 3 years and always full. It would generate a lot of revenue and increase use of the gardens.</p>
<p>Immensely valuable space for all ages but this proposal would be an ugly intrusion.</p>
<p>Improved cafe facilities would be beneficial.</p>
<p>Improved, cleaner toilet facilities would be useful</p>
<p>It definitely needs more for young people to do, this would help but also needs to be for ages above 10 years old</p>
<p>It has ONE proper swing. The park itself needs upgrading. Check out new parks like Lilidorei - the play space provided is incredible and could give some fab ideas on a smaller basis to add things to local parks.</p>
<p>It is a great place for all ages. I will not use the track but feel it will be a great addition for families with young children. The putt and pitch has had its day. This new facility will ensure the Valley Gardens is a great place to visit for all ages.</p>
<p>It is a jewel in our Harrogate Crown; this is a sensible upgrade!</p>
<p>It is a public facility. The children of the town deserve to have as much amenity as the whinjing Nimbys who will ne all-out to preserve the status quo. Please do not bend to the well organised minorities who will try to block anything, those who prefer to live in a museum, those who would like our children to be seen and not heard. The children cannot organise, they cannot lobby, but they will remember Harrogate with fondness if we have them good reason to. Press ahead. Be bold. And push past the Conservative conservationists who believe Valley Gardens should be for their pleasure, and a dog toilet for their only friends.</p>
<p>It is a shadow of its former self. People walking over grassed areas children and adults playing with balls dogs not on leads frightening both old and young. Too many commercial events destroying its character and peace.</p>

It is a wonderful facility which is greatly valued by local residents. The gardens are a joy, as are the grassy areas
It is beautiful as it is.
It is currently an ideal mix of activities and green space.
It is fabulous as it is please leave it alone!
It is nice
It is perfect as it is leave it alone
It needs more Toilet facilities and will bikes/scooters be allowed to ride within the valley gardens or just on the pump track? I think a dedicated cycle route throughout the valley gardens would help prevent any future arguments if the pump track is built. The crazy golf course needs some improvements too.
It needs to be a pump track for older children too. There is nothing in Harrogate showing any investment in teens.
It should be for a bigger age range so families can enjoy together. This would be a good use of an otherwise little used facility (don't think I've ever seen anyone use the pitch and putt)
It should be left as a quiet place for walking.
It would be a fantastic addition to the current offer and give people of all ages the opportunity to cycle in a traffic free environment - I would suggest a visit to Leeds Urban Bike Park and a chat with Jeremy from Cycle Pathways
It would be a good idea as long as the track is supervised and the correct health and safety procedures are in place
It would be an excellent addition which all helps and keeps young people off their screens!
It would be great for lads and daughters father and mums
It would be nice if the Kids had a hard football/basket ball court cage for winter use.
It would be wonderful if there could be an Astro multi sports court for football, netball, basketball
It would benefit from a trim trail which could be installed along the fence line near the skate park.
It's a fantastic park with good facilities. I think the pump track with be a great addition
It's a great amenity to have for both adults and children, being so accessible to many in Harrogate. I strongly support continued investment in this area as a place to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors and provide opportunities for sports and social activities.
It's a great place for small children, parents and grand parents. etc. It is not suitable for teenagers. Suggest you find a more suitable area for teenagers so that anti social behaviour does not affect young children.
It's fabulous. I enjoyed the dahlia display this summer.
It's for the young not the old!
It's good to build the pump track, however please also keep the pitch and putt golf! The pump track suitable for active people and the putt golf is really good for elderly and less active people!
It's perfectly ok as it is.
It's a great facility - you have the play parks, tennis courts, golf for all, there is lots of paved areas giving equal access, the flower beds and grass areas are amazing, the cafe offers a good selection of foods, the toilets are ok for public toilets. It's a great idea to provide a track for younger skateboard/scooter wannabees! The current skateboard area is dominated by older and very experienced youngsters so giving younger ones an area will be great. There is also the room to do this.I've put it'd never use it as it is aimed at up to 10 year olds - i would love to use it!
Its already a good place to take kids to play but the addition of a pump track would be fantastic resource for getting local kids away from their screens
It's really well maintained and a real asset to the town.
Just to say I think this is a great idea. Barely ever see the pitch & putt being used. We have a 7yr old so my enthusiasm is mostly based on what he'd get out of us (and us with him).
landscaping details and the proposed costs would change my mind as it could be used by family
Leave it as is and do not detract from its intended purpose.
Lighting of skate park in winter
local kids will greatly benefit from better facilities for a growing sport that contributes to their health and fitness
Look at cost of public liability insurance. It has sky rocketed you need a long term costing plan. Ours costs have gone up substantially.
Lots of people (myself included) walk their dogs across the pitch and putt area. Would it be possible to design the pump track so there are still routes to walk between Valley Gardens and Pinewoods. Would it be possible for the pump track maximum age to be increased from age 10 as I think a lot of the teenagers that use the skate park would also enjoy using a pump track.
Lots of vandalism recently including graffiti around the Sun pavilion and walkway and lights getting smashed
Love the Leeds urban bike park, would be great to have something similar nearer home.
Love the tennis courts and hope to use them a lot more. Love the live music and food events.
Love the valley gardens. Love the tree lights, but they only cover half the path, would love the rest of the path to have a light, to make it safer to walk into town.
Love Valley garden but I totally reject the introduction of a bike run. I fear this will become another area which attracts antisocial behaviour. You have signs banning cycling in the gardens which are ignored .How do you think

those who will use the bike run get there! I have been almost knocked down by young cyclists who intimidate if challenged. Please, please please keep the gardens a place of calm and tranquility!
Lovely park but needs to be more female friendly! Pump track is fab but what do teenage girls and women want?
Make it accessible for EVERYONE!!!!!! Why limit the age of people that can use it, it's totally ridiculous!
Make more than one to cover different ages and abilities. Most often teenagers are forgotten. The track needs to be worthwhile not a token gesture
Make the pump track tarmac
Maybe build it elsewhere like near the showground
Maybe put some den making or a fairy trail in the pinewoods for the little ones. The valley gardens has improved a lot in the past 2 years all for the better.
Maybe some sort of lighting would be nice for the existing skatepark as it gets very dark very soon now and you can't see 5m in front of you past 5pm
Méribel install pump tracks every summer so they can change the configuration. I am confused why it is suggested that this is for up to age 10! All ages use the pump tracks in Méribel and in fact the many other villages that install them each summer.
Missing a batista artisan style cafe
More toilets
More toilets, better coffee machine
My children are older now, so wouldn't use this. I think it would be a really good addition to the park area and would be used more than the golf.
My children are older so we wouldn't use, but I think this would be a valuable addition to the community, and an ideal replacement for the Valley Gardens. We visit regularly and it's always well maintained and excellent
My grandson dearly wants a track near his home
My kids would love it and I'd appreciate not having to travel in a car to a pump track.
My kids would love this
My sisters and I like to ride our balance bikes and small bikes Many places. I love the idea of a place we can go to play with our bikes. Right now we can't do anything but ride on the sidewalks. This is a fantastic idea, and I would love it
My son age 8 uses the skatepark regularly. It is a fantastic free facility. Please build the pump track to the same standard
My son is too old for this but he would have loved it. Anything that encourages activity is a good thing.
My son would absolutely love it
My son would love this but he uses the skate park with his scooter it is a great facility but there is litter everywhere
My teenagers would love the track, somewhere to practise skills and hang out with friends whilst enjoying physical activity. We are a cycling family and unfortunately my daughter in particular is scared of cycling on the roads. My son and his friends, who are good lads, are always getting moved on when they are trying to ride their bikes locally. There's so little to do for young people in Harrogate, that's free and healthy.
Need a dedicated space for teenage girls to encourage them to get outside. Most outdoor spaces for teens are made for boys. Girls enjoy swings, relaxing spots to hang out and chat. Valley Gardens skate park is already orientated by and dominated by boys and a pump track is just another space for boys that may exclude largely teen girls. Please provide girl-orientated spaces.
Need more accessible play items for wheelchair users and benches that wheelchairs can fit under. The pump track will be a great addition to the park and I have two children who love going to the one in Yeadon. A football pitch which is netted would also be good to have in the park and would offer another area for older kids to come. Also an outdoor gym area would be good for older kids too.
Need more facilities for older children
Need to provide a cycle route through or within the Valley Gardens. People still have to walk with their bikes to the facilities.
Need to relocate the pitch and put. Not lose it
Needs more and better toilets in different areas, especially around the play park area
Needs more facilities for older children/ teenagers.
Needs to be brought into the 21st century
Needs to be for all ages, not just small kids
No
No
No
No
No
No
No
No

No
No
No
No max age restrictions and let the bike community help design it
No, but this is a great idea.
No.
Not needed just for under 10yr olds. Grownups also ride pump tracks.
One of the tennis courts turned into a multi-sports court offering an area to play football rather than the grassy areas and also basketball hoops.
Only if the area around the track itself is fenced to stop them going over the adjacent grassed areas and making a mud Bath around it.
Only that the pitch and put golf course is wasted space as I have lived in Harrogate nearly 40 years and never seen anyone play golf on it.
Opening times of the toilet facilities and cafe in the playground could be improved
Other than tennis and golf, there is no other provision for older children. Outdoor gym equipment is popular or other play equipment for use by teens .provision of equipment for the wheelchair user should also be included to make play equipment ccessible and inclusive for all
Otherwise excellent
Over the years the valley Gardens have changed from being formal gardens to more of a leisure park. Sadly the public do not respect the areas that are bedded out each year and notwithstanding signs saying no cycling and dogs to be kept on a leash, people allow their dogs to run loose and children kick balls into flower beds and cycle and skateboard in areas where not permitted. Policing of the area would be welcome, and money better spent.
Perfect for children especially boys who use th pump track behind St John fishers or in burn bridge - safe central area to meet -great idea
Perhaps consider an outdoor exercise area? Just dip bars and a couple of pull up bars would be great, promoting fitness and suitable for various ages.
Please build the track
Please do not lose the frisbee golf course. I use this multiple times a year / monthly. I would use it more if it was extended.
Please do not remove the pitch and putt!
Please don't do this. The playground needs upgrading first before anything else.
Please ensure a suitably experienced contractor designs and builds the pump track. The UK has several knowledgeable builders now with World race experience who can make this feature more than a place for toddlers to get muddy and breed the future of British cycling
Please if going ahead can you preserve the area that gets used for sledging. I know it's only occasional that we get snow but it would be such a shame to not have somewhere walking distance for children to sledge in this area. Some trees above the pump track to shield it from the chilly wind - parents standing to supervise freeze! Have you heard of Park Play. It's like Park Run but for games-good for mental and physical health. .
Please make a bigger pump track suitable for older children as well. Thank you
Please make the pump track
Please make this track suitable for all ages with a smaller loop for little kids and bigger one for teens and even adults. It is inevitable that older kids will want to use it so let's make it suitable for all users. As a family we frequently use the urban bike park and all love it. It would be great to have something closer to home and I know my 12 year old will be a frequent visitor on her BMX.
Pls can you add a football pitch(s)
Pump rack is a great idea. Suggestion of it being for children up to 10yr is not. Teenagers need activities locally and this would be a perfect active and social activity for this slightly older age group.
Pump track is a great idea so why limit it to a target 10 year old audience. Kids and adults can all enjoy this facility if properly installed. It has to be well designed and well executed or it will be an unused eye sore. Think carefully and invest properly. But thanks for even considering it. Good to see some different thinking rather than more bloomin football pitches!!!
Pump track would be a great addition
Pump tracks can be a wonderful way for young people to learn to ride bikes and scooters in a way that is safe and diverse. it also eases pressure and congestion on skateparks, making them much safer. I would HIGHLY recommend this be considered for Ripon as part of the skatepark/basketball/leisure centre area that is seriously lacking any considerable development for young people. As for valley gardens and its facilities, they are abundant and well maintained. Pitch and putt is dated and an activity that costs money in a time when families are desperate to find free activities. Pumps tracks can be an amazing feature to any town/city, big or small. I would actively encourage creating a pump track that could also be seen as a destination for cyclists such as BMX's as well as 'under 10's' I would be very happy to be contacted regarding this josephgay@hotmail.com
Refer to previous comment
Run down, full of druggies and old people

Seems early to close at 3 in the winter, 4 seems more sensible!
Seems to be a very good additional feature for kids
Several towns have similar facilities, however all users must NOT be allowed to ride through the Gardens paths to gain access, as the current users of the THE skate Board do without control and enforcement.
Shame to limit it to under 10s and not include teens
Skatepark needs to be larger and floodlit
Something needs to be done about the large number of dogs, especially the number that are not kept on a lead.
Sorry but Valley gardens has been around for over 100 years and some of the original facilities should be preserved not ruined by "Skate Parks" and "Bike Tracks". Harrogate still gets tourists who expect a quiet walk in the Valley Gardens, not to be surrounded and harassed by groups of youths and young thugs on bikes and skateboards!
Sounds like a great idea. Would it be feasible to include lighting so it can be used for longer in the shorter autumn and winter days?
Such a great idea to have a local pump track to encourage children to get out on their bikes more often in the local area.
Terrible idea
Thank you for considering adding additional capacity for riders in vallet gardens, there are lots of things for young children but few for teenagers locally
That it need at good biking place so bikers have somewhere to go aswell as scooter so the pump track would be great
The arboretum is used daily by mutiple groups: walkers, dog-walkers, picnics, golfers, frisbeers. It is not clear that a "pump track" would allow the primary use of this area, which is walkers and those enjoying the greenery and air. The skateboard park is well used and it is not clear that an extra facility for teenagers would add significant benefit to them here, although there may be many other parts of harrogate or extended harrogate where there is a lack of facilities. You need to be clearer to the residents (me) as to what is involved in a pump track and whether I can easily walk my dog over it. and picnic nearby in peace. On the consultation I only saw the notice on HMD by chance in spite of using the arboreturm daily. There are no consultation posters on any trees in the arboretum nor on the main track to harlow carr which everyone uses.
The area which is used for the pitch and putt is actually quite dangerous as members of the public can walk across the area when being used for golf. Changing the use to something a lot more people will use is a great idea.
The cafe could use some improvements around its size and service. Harrogate needs to start backing cycling more proactively.
The concern is how to police the pump tracks to ensure it's only used by under members. The bmx ramps etc are taken over by a huge gang of people who in turn smoke weed and then go onto the bmx ramps with a brain full of weed. This needs to be monitored and this has been reported to the police on numerous occasions. The weed can be smelt even when in the playground. Sort that out first and then introduce the track. It's a great idea of under-utilised facilities but a park warden or monitoring will need to be considered.
The enlargement of the play area ignored the nature of the grass, which was often waterlogged, consequently it needed extensive artificial grass to make it usable. The existing play area and paddling pool were perfectly adequate. The best thing you could do for the pitch and putt area is remove the unsightly metal structures that nobody ever used.
The events are fantastic, the promotion of being outside and enjoying all the facilities promote good mental health. Stunning grounds that attract visitors.
The existing skate board track is extremely well used and in an orderly fashion. I am sure the pump track would also be very popular.
The facilities are good. As a grandparent I support extending the facilities for children
The facilities for children are already excellent in this area and I do not support a change of use of this area
The facilities for children in Valley Gardens are excellent. The pump track is an unnecessary expenditure and a complete waste of money.
The floor in the park needs relaying
The flower beds are often disappointing. I am concerned about older children gatecrashing the under 10s facilities.
The frisbee golf doesn't seem to be used
The garden are not a good as they were in the last century. Too many cuts and scrimping an presentation.
The gardens are a great asset to the community and visitors.
The gardens are beautiful and well managed. I hope this would not spoil the area and greenery
The gardens are well kept and a great place for visitors to appreciate Harrogate's cultural past. I think making pitch and putt into more develop gardens like the bottom of the valley gardens would attract more visitors. Having more events will keep people coming to the town.
The main cafe opening hours - should be opened a bit longer
The parking on Harlow Moor Drive is already a nightmare and installing yet another family recreational facility would make the parking even worse. There is nothing in place to help residents of Valley Drive and Harlow Moor Drive who invariably cannot park their cars. Are you considering reducing our council tax because of the added congestion?Also, there is already a high level of anti social behaviour from older teenagers in the playground and

<p>skate park areas after dark including drug taking and dealing, alcohol misuse, laughing gas etc and fireworks. There is no police presence to curb this and building a pump track would provide another area for youths to gather. Otis about time that the needs of older residents who have paid a premium to live in properties in this area to be given consideration.</p>
<p>The pitch and put golf course is an ideal existing use that retains the important open green space.</p>
<p>The pitch and put has enough space for a number of pump tracks, for toddlers, under 10 and one for teens and adults..they are good for developing skills for all ages. Please contact those who look after the devil's toenail in wetherby it's great for all ages, a good afternoon for a family</p>
<p>The play park is good, but the toilet facilities in the play park are not good. The cafe in the play park could be better.</p>
<p>The playground is excellent and the park as a whole is beautifully maintained and well used</p>
<p>The playground was great for our kids when they were younger</p>
<p>The provision of a pump track would demonstrate the social acceptance of children biking and scooting, whilst encouraging them to take up these activities which embed the idea of active travel as a normalised activity. This could pay dividends in an increase in active travel amongst the young, increasing fitness, decreasing reliance on the motor car and encouraging a social meeting of children in the outdoors.</p>
<p>The pump track should be available to all ages, not just under 10s. I think it would be a brilliant addition to Valley Gardens, but should be available to all.</p>
<p>The pump track should be designed with an all weather surface and aimed at children including teenagers.</p>
<p>The pump track should be tarmac so scooters and boarders could use it</p>
<p>The pump track shouldn't just be for u10s maybe develop two a smaller one for younger children and</p>
<p>The pump track would be far more inclusive than the current pitch-and-putt which is very niche and seasonal. My 3 year old would use it almost daily.</p>
<p>The pump track would complement the skate park facility, valley gardens being a family area needs facilities for children to use bikes and scooters and this area is a better use of the current pitch and putt space, I think I've only seen a handful of people pitch and putt in the whole time I've used Valley gardens.</p>
<p>The rules regarding dogs on leads and no cycling in certain areas should be enforced.</p>
<p>The signs for dog owners to keep their dogs are insufficient. I witnessed an unpleasant scene yesterday when an owner with 2 big dogs entered via the bottom gates where there are no signs and the dogs were running around very excitedly. A lady with a small infant in a pram was confronted by these over excited dogs. I cross the gardens every day to my work and this has been a problem a very long time. I wrote in 3/4 years ago and was told it wasn't necessary. Eventually you have put some signs but they are not adequate AT THE ENTRANCES. No point having them on some but not all paths 50m or more along on the pathways on small signs. More than 50% of owners are not seeing them and/or not complying. this pump track sounds a great idea for the kids and I rarely see any golf being played.</p>
<p>The skate park has been a wonderful addition to the gardens. All ages can use it and it gives kids a focus of learning something new. There is nothing for kids finding in harrogate. As parents, we have to travel for 30-60 minutes to take them to something. Valley gardens is crucial to getting our kids outside. Offering them up to date activities. Something away from their devices. I would also like to see a high ropes course. Harrogate seems aimed for adults. It is wonderful to give the kids something to do and they can go on their own. Thank you for the idea. Love it and what you are doing for our future generation</p>
<p>The skate park is great for younger children at certain times but then gets popular with teens and older at other times and then move quicker and bigger stunts and safety of all can be compromised. To have a facility for primary age children that allows them to be active and outdoors on wheels would be a great addition and enables the skate park to remain a place that teens and older (who have few age appropriate youth facilities in the area) can be.</p>
<p>The skate park shows how well something for older children and teenagers is used and how much it is needed. You very rarely see anyone using the pitch and put hold course, and it would be better used as a bike track. There is a huge expanse of land for people to walk across in other areas. It's a great idea!</p>
<p>The sponsored signs around Valley Gardens really cheapen the feel of the area. I strongly feel it's not the place for them. A shame so many flower beds have been turfed over as this is a major part of the appeal of the gardens. I would suggest the gardens need 'gating off' after certain hours (much like York's city walls) - both for safety and also to avoid vandalism, drug use etc. The collonade is tired, smells of urine and is unappealing. It is misused by noisy, drunk youths, skateboarders etc. The bottom entrance to Valley Gardens could do with revamping much like the side entrance was a few years ago. Could look so much better! Reposition the huge bin for starters! The Magnesia Well Cafe has so much potential to be better than it is.</p>
<p>The suggestion of a pump track for being for children upto the age of 10 is a mistake, if of a high quality such as a "velosolutions" track it will have an appeal for ages 2-60+</p>
<p>The toilets are shambolic and require updating</p>
<p>The Valley gardens and Harrogate overall lack any facilities at all for children beyond play centre or playground age and 18. Those should be a consideration as although the pump track is a good idea it still aimed at an age group that is already catered for</p>
<p>The Valley Gardens are a jewel in the Harrogate crown but I think there is no point in retaining the golfing facilities if they are not well used, better to put something new there which might be more popular</p>

The Valley Gardens are a valuable asset to Harrogate and could be developed further as a garden to compete with the excellent gardens in the surrounding area at Harlow Carr, Newby Hall and Ripley Castle and the necessary funds for improvement and maintenance need to be maintained..
The Valley gardens are a wonderful facility and as well as using them many times a week for dog walking, I love the pop up parties & the little markets. I'd like to see even more public events on in the gardens, including more (and diverse) music in the Bandstand.
The valley gardens are excellent.
The Valley Gardens has always been such a beautiful asset to Harrogate attracting so many tourists throughout the year. It's a wonderful place to walk through and for those of us who are elderly and/or disabled, we need to feel that it's a safe space to go without any antisocial intimidating behaviour which I personally think a bike track would attract. Why can't we have more activities for disabled people? There is hardly anything at all I find Harrogate discriminating tbh - we don't even have a bus service and are never consulted on any projects/schemes - it's like we don't exist. All Harrogate care about are cyclists - it's a disgrace
The valley gardens is a pleasant and at present a relaxing place to walk and exercise my dog and meet up with friends. This area is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike and is much treasured. There has been a lot of vandalism in recent times and this is a terrible idea as it will encourage youths to the area on evenings when no council workers are about to oversee the area. North Yorkshire County Council please do not interfere with our wonderful open spaces. I am absolutely appalled!
The Valley gardens is a quiet space for a large proportion of the harrogate residents. This needs to be taken unto consideration. Will the pump track take away from the residents. I think so
The Valley Gardens is a wonderful facility for locals and visitors.
The Valley Gardens is an attraction for the town. Visitor numbers are increasing but I suggest a survey is conducted on visitors as many you use phrases such as used to be ratger than is any more. This is the reaction to changing to a bike track . Anecdotally something has to be done as none of my children or their peers who are at university etc want to return and live in Harrogate.
The Valley Gardens offers excellent facilities including an extensive children's play park, paddling pool, boating pond, café, tennis courts, crazy golf and skate park, among others. These features undoubtedly help to attract people to the area and the sight and sound of various generations enjoying them in good weather is uplifting. Nevertheless, it should be recognised that one of the great strengths of Valley Gardens is the variety it offers, and a significant contributor to that is the green space which offers more peaceful settings for quieter contemplation. Great care should be taken that the balance is not lost in pursuit of simply adding new facilities.
The Valley Gardens should be kept primarily as a green oasis, not an offshoot of an Adventure Park. Site the track elsewhere where it doesn't impinge on the green surroundings.
The vandals and ASB in the colonnade need to be sorted as it spoils it.
There are a lot of good things about the Valley Gardens. When our grandchildren come to stay we often take them there to the playground which is excellent. When I first saw the proposal for the pump track I thought it sounded great. A 2000 square metre pump track for just £2,000 – what's not to like! I'm sure many others feel the same. However, I've since been contacted by a colleague involved with Single Traction in constructing pump tracks. He has made me aware of possible issues. He says: "It sounds like it's a thing for very little kids they have in mind - but if that's the case they're going to regret advertising it as a Pump Track with a big PT. Single Traction - who do volunteer builds and are generally in favour of low key community stuff - have raised that in that setting something more ambitious would be better." He would like to know more about "design details, material estimation and work methods". He is concerned that the proposed 'compressed hardcore' may mean crushed limestone which will not be durable. He suggests you might want to talk to Jez Sainter at Leeds Urban Bike Park or the people at Sutton Bank. He would be happy to ask Jez Sainter to come to Harrogate and give his advice. I appreciate that the budget for this facility will be limited but I want to try to help to make sure that whatever is spent on it is spent effectively and not wasted.
There are a lot of shady characters inthe skate park late on and they pass packages and money around
There are excellent facilities.
There is a very good play area for children expecially for those up to 10 year olds. If you want to extend facilities - don't remove those you already have. Just add to them. There is plenty of room close to the play area without taking something away that all people of oany age can use.
There is already a large playground, crazy golf, pitch & putt & tennis courts for children. The Valley Gardens are well used & loved by all ages and would be ruined by this huge and unnecessary installation
There is nothing for teenagers. This age bracket need extra support. Under 10s have alot already provided.
There's plenty of space for this and the golf.
They are a facility that attracts tourists, the current facilities are appropriate for town centre gardens.
They are kept upto very well. Thank you.
They are very good. 3 kids in our house would use a pump track constantly.
They need more maintenance & updating. There is also not very much for under 3s
They're fantastic and we love visiting at least twice per week; it's a beautiful place to be thanks to the care taken by groundskeepers and we love visiting.

Think it should be available to all ages
This facility will detract from the enjoyment of this park
This facility would be used more if it was better advertised.
This is a brilliant idea. There are loads of sections of gardens above the playground that could be utilised, 2000m2 should only be a small section, but I would be interested to see where specifically it's planned to be
This is a great idea, though the way you are discussing this makes it sound like a bike track will take up an enormous amount of space. People who aren't sure what a pump track is will automatically decline. It'd be a real shame if that was the case.
This is helpful as facilities for YOUTHS are lacking everywhere, places where they can burn off energy and have fun - places where they can play without negatively impacting others. I am part of a large group of active older residents who would also love outside activities to engage in, such as this. We can take in the youngsters, ha ha!
This questionnaire has been put together in such a way as to try to push the respondents into supporting the cycle track. Last year, you got rid of the beloved boat make much to the distress of my children who had saved their money to buy boats for the lake. Please, leave Valley Gardens alone.
This would be a fantastic addition if done properly. It would be a massive disappointment if this was not done properly. Access will be critical, if kids are expected to use the new track then they MUST be able to ride there safely and even on designated paths within the park to access the facility. There are a lot of very good contractors who specialise in pump tracks and engaging one of them is a must.
This would be a great addition but there would need to be a permitted cycling access route through valley gardens to access the pump track
This would be great for the kids. I spend a lot of time at the skate. It's very popular and often over crowded. So another area for tge scooter, bikes skaters would be great.
Toilets could do witj more
Toilets have always been an issue, dirty and blocked or closed too early
Too many dogs not on leads. As someone very anxious around dogs I now tend to avoid the upper areas and pine woodss
Try keep it how it was supposed to be. Gardens and tranquility.
Use to walk my dog at vg all the time. So many dog walkers use that area, please don't change its use. Since the GYS fields were fenced off, I expect VG has become more important to pet owners. Big kids going fast on bikes will be dangerous to small kids and pet owners. They already have the skate park. Please don't build the track.
Valley Gardens doesn't need to be turned into some huge activity theme park. Stop building houses and provide infrastructure that includes recreational facilities.
Valley Gardens is a fantastic place with lots of facilities for children of all ages!
Valley Gardens is a lovely place to visit on a summers day and very pleasing ob the eye
Valley Gardens is a wonderful space, marred by 2 specific groups of people who don't follow the wishes of the council or the majority of the park users. They are cyclists who daily cycle through the park, using it as a safe short-cut, and dog walkers who refuse to put their dogs onto leads in the central area. This is a dangerous combination of issues for particularly the elderly, who have dogs & cyclists racing towards them on the paths. The Council really need to get tougher on these 2 groups. It is pointless putting up small signs saying "please keep your dog on a lead in this area". Virtually nobody takes this seriously. The Council needs to have larger signage stating "All dogs MUST be on a lead in this area". Cyclists must be deterred too with larger signs stating "NO CYCLING WHATSOEVER IS ALLOWED IN THIS PARK".
Valley Gardens is fantastic as it is (although the fountain in the boating pond is an eye sore and waste of energy. Please leave the space as it is.
Valley Gardens is fantastic as it is. The only problem is people not keeping dogs on leads in the signed areas for doing so
Valley Gardens is not a recreational park - bikes and scooters would ruin the peacepehere.
Valley Gardens is renowned for its facilities meeting the needs of all age groups and physical abilities. A balance of facilities for all is very important. The Pump Track will upset this.
Valley Gardens is the jewel in Harrogate's crown and should be protected.
Valley gardens needs good facilities for its visitors and the golf course provides. Do not make the excuse of "the money isn't there"
Valley Gardens provides facilities for all ages and some of them are excellent. The children's play area is second to none and it is widely used. If you really want to improve Valley Gardens, employ park rangers to prevent the ASB, regular drinking and cannabis smoking within 100 metres of the play area, sometimes within 20 metres! Patrol the area better and more regularly by wardens to prevent and deal with bad behaviour. It is a cop out by the Council if they don't have any enforcement, it is short-sighted and unacceptable. If the Council do not start dealing with the ASB, graffiti, litter, dogs running wild, drinking and drugs the problems will get worse and decent people will stop using Valley Gardens. If the Council do not open their eyes and take notice of what is happening in Harrogate, it will lose its reputation as a genteel and beautiful place to visit and tourism will greatly suffer. Once it is gone, it will not return and it is already happening. Wake up Council!

Valley Gardens should be a tranquil area. As it is for all to use. There is a children's area with paddling pool and a skate park, tennis ,crazy golf. Is this another idea to do away with large grassy areas?
Very Good. At the moment something for everyone. Long may it continue !
Very starnge to suggest this is for children upto 10 years old. Pump tracks for everyone. They can be ridden by complete beginners and professionals alike, of all ages.
VG is the jewel in the crown of Harrogate; a lovely amenity enjoyed by all ages. Young people are well catered for but the proposal will have a detrimental effect on all other users of the gardens. The pitch and putt area could be landscaped and planted with trees and plants suitable for a wet area; it doesn't have to be accessible 12 months of the year to be enjoyed.
We are very lucky to have Valley Gardens in terms of facilities and a tranquil and floral place to walk and to sit and reflect. It would be a shame to see this gradually eroded.
we love it as it is!
We love The Gardens. It caters for all. The boating pond could be utilised more for young children. Dogs free to run above the playground is fair and more hygienic at the moment. The open green spaces with trees will be ruined if a bike track is built.
We love the Valley Gardens and it's a fabulous park - and we are very lucky to have it! but I do feel that Harrogate need something for young people - bowling/trampolining/play park for older kids/cafes and food places shops - Odeon or Debenhams sites??
We love the Valley Gardens. It suits all ages. live in a village 5 miles north of Harrogate and always take our grandchildren there when they visit and spend time and money in the town centre
We need to do more to encourage young children to participate in activities other than being a nuisance
We want to keep the green areas for the kids
What activities are left for people over 10 other than walking around?
when we are supposed to be maintain green belts and park areas, why would we destroy one!
Who will be running this operation a outside agent
Why does it say up to the age of 10? It should be for all ages including adults. I have a 11 year old + 16 which would love and use a pump track in Harrogate and so would I aged 48. Please make sure this is fir all ages. Go visit Sutton Bank, they got it 100% right. It would be very embarrassing for HBC to get this wrong.
Why is it for 10 and under, teenagers have very little provided in Harrogate, what can be provided for them please?
Why only under 10's. You say you are keen to not remove an activity without replacing it, however replacing the golf facility, (which can be used by the whole family) with something only under 10's can use. Most parents won't be happy allowing their under 10s to use a a bike track unsupervised. Also I won't be able to ride it with my 6year old son! Completely flawed. Either open it to all age ranges, or simply don't waste the time on money on a flawed scheme. Also how long would it take for it to become vandalised with graffiti. Not sure our picturesque valley garden would appreciate explicit writing & images within it. Are you prepared for the constant expense of graffiti removal? Please reconsider your target audience!
Why would the track be for only the under 10's ?
Wonderful. I visit at least weekly and enjoy walking there. It is getting very busy though.
Would be a great addition especially for younger children who currently use the skate park with older children and adults.
Would be good for grandchildren we're in the gardens couple of times a week and never see anyone using pitch and putt the crazy golf is very popular and could be enlarged
Would be great to have more facilities for older children and young adults. A pump track is a great idea.
Would be nice if toilets were open more. We make sure we give business to kiosk and would go more if there was a pump track. I am sure people would travel to it.
Would love a track for me and my friends to use
Yes, this is an amazing idea but under 10's are already catered for! They have the woods, trails, an amazing huge playground and mini golf. Mountain biking is an activity perfect for older children and making a track for them would provide much needed facilities and recreational/social opportunities where there are currently none. No one seems to like teenagers but they can't just be ignored! All those under 10's will be over 10 one day and there's nothing at all for them to do.
You got rid of the hookstone woods one so I think you owe the town one