

## **Cave Hill MTB Pilot - Evaluation Framework**

### **Introduction**

Belfast City Council (BCC) and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club (CMC) have entered into a formal agreement (legally binding memorandum of understanding) to test a pilot approach to the management of natural trails. The pilot will focus on the 'The Middle' trail and will identify and test an approach for the mechanism for the management, inspection and maintenance of such mountain bike trails.

The pilot will commence on **TBC** and conclude on **TBC**.

An evaluation framework has been established to measure the success of the pilot. The development of the evaluation framework has been cognizant of the limited resource to undertake the exercise. The findings of the resultant evaluation will help inform decision making regarding:

- the extension of the formal agreement (beyond its current term) between BCC and CMC regarding the management, inspection and maintenance of 'The Middle Trail'
- the adoption of a similar approach to additional trails within Cave Hill Country Park

### **What is Success?**

It is essential to identify outcomes which will define the success of the pilot. Each outcome will have indicators of success and methods to measure these. These are outlined in the table below:

Outcome	Indicator	Method of measurement	Measurement Lead
<b>Partnership</b>			
Both CMC and BCC continue to operate within a working partnership of mutual respect	Both parties are content with working relationship and are willing to engage in future projects	<del>Interview / Focus Group</del> <u>Year end (or 6-monthly) POG review meeting</u>	BCC
CMC has adhered to all clauses within MOU	No clauses within the MOU have been breached	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	BCC
BCC has adhered to all clauses within MOU	No clauses within the MOU have been breached	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	CMC
<b>Operational<sup>1</sup></b>			
The Trail Management Plan has been successfully delivered by BCC	BCC has successfully delivered all relevant tasks within Trail Management Plan	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	CMC
The Trail Management Plan has been successfully delivered by CMC	CMC has successfully delivered all relevant tasks within Trail Management Plan	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	BCC
<b>Visitor Safety</b>			
Recorded collisions between mountain bikers and pedestrians within Cave Hill Country Park have not significantly increased <sup>2</sup>	The number of recorded collisions has not increased significantly when compared to same period in the previous year	BCC Corporate Health and Safety Records  Establish baseline for defined period. Measure and compare each quarter	BCC

**Commented [KG1]:** Role of Project Oversight Group and Contract Group – one and the same – does one morph into the other now we are at implementation phase or should we have a smaller contract group and then a bi-annual wider Project Oversight Group meeting? Need to take account of what has been referenced in MOU – focused on POG and original TORs/membership.

**Commented [KG2]:** Combine – is there a need to have separate?

<sup>1</sup> Please note these do not replace the requirement of the clauses within the MOU or specific actions within the Trail Management Plan

<sup>2</sup> Please note – there have been no reported instances of collisions between mountain bikers and pedestrians between 19/09/2019 – 02/08/2021



## Survey Intro Text

### Introduction

Belfast City Council has entered into a formal agreement (legally binding memorandum of understanding) with Cavehill Mountainbikers Club (CMC) to test a pilot approach to the management of natural mountain bike trails within Cave Hill Country Park. This pilot will focus on 'The Middle' trail only and will identify and test an approach for the management, inspection and maintenance of such mountain bike trails. **Insert map of 'The Middle'**

The MOU came into effect on on 20/12/21 and will run for 2 years. 'The Middle' Trail opened for use, formally under this new arrangement, on **XX/XX/XX**.

### Overview of Roles

The roles within the pilot have been set out within a detailed Memorandum of Understanding which is supported by a detailed Trail Management Plan (to be adhered to by BCC and CMC). The approach to the project has been informed by similar best practice approaches in both Wales and Scotland.

In summary:

The aim of the joint partnership is to develop mutual respect for the rights and responsibilities of mountain bikers, all other park users and the landowner (BCC).

Belfast City Council will:

- Lead the evaluation process to assess the outcome of the pilot
- Provide additional resource to implement any physical interventions on-site modifications and signage required to address health and safety concerns
- Make park users and stakeholders aware of the existence of the pilot
- Investigate accidents / incidents **(including trail sabotage)**

**Commented [KG5]:** As noted in framework – do we need to record

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- Continue to manage its responsibility under the Occupier’s Liability (NI) Act 1957 whereby it has a duty of care to all users of the Country Park.

Cavehill Mountainbikers Club will:

- Undertake the ‘permitted activities’ of management, inspection and maintenance of ‘The Middle’ in line with the Trail Management Plan
- Provide adequate insurance cover is in place with regard to the carrying out of the ‘permitted activities’
- Ensure its members will comply to BCC Byelaws
- Ensure that at all times appropriate warnings and signage are in place so as to warn other park users that CMC are using ‘The Middle’ Trail for mountain biking
- Develop a communication plan including up to date route information, complaints / issues recording and handling and feedback. This will include proactive engagement with mountain bikers to encourage participation on the pilot Middle Trail and to cease unauthorised trail building in other parts of Cave Hill Country Park. CMC will work with BCC and use its best endeavours to try to involve other mountain bikers, who use other trails in Cave Hill Country Park, and CMC and will encourage them to join CMC and comply with CMC Code of Conduct.

**Commented [KG6]:** Is this in addition to the signage being installed or should this be more focused on the additional signage needed when CMC are undertaking any works to the trail?

**The purpose of this survey:**

Belfast City Council has developed an evaluation framework which will measure the success of the pilot and subsequently inform future decision making.

This survey has been established to provide the opportunity for all visitors to Cave Hill Country Park to contribute to the project evaluation. It is intended to this survey will be ‘live’ undertake this survey for the first two months following commencement of ‘The Middle’ trail pilot opening in order to establish a benchmark. Subsequent surveys to track progress will be undertaken as follows:

- the 1-year anniversary of the ‘The Middle Trail’ opening for its intended use
- the final two months of the pilot i.e. Nov/ Dec 2023

This survey relates to this project only and is not designed as a mechanism to provide wider feedback on Cave Hill Country Park. This can be provided via existing methods i.e. XXXXXXXXXXXX

**Commented [KG7]:** Jacqui – we need to discuss – flag with comms – we may want something open at the same time or something wider that follows to tie in with Spring City Matters article

This initial survey commenced on XX/XX/XX and will remain open until XX/XX/XX.

By completing this survey, you are consenting to your responses being used anonymously to inform this evaluation. Your responses will be treated anonymously. The statistics and trends which your responses contribute to will be held on file for a retention schedule of 5 years. [Link to BCC privacy policy.](#)

See supporting Excel doc.