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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the funding bid from Pendle for the proposed cycle facility at Swindon Playing Fields.

For the last three years Pendle School Sport Partnership has run a very successful Bikeability programme covering 650 pupils per year. We have created a pathway for interested pupils which has had a dramatic effect on the numbers attending the local junior cycle club, Cycle Sport Pendle. As a result we are looking to support the club increase capacity by training more coaches to help with their work.

As an extension to the Bikeability programme we also encourage parents to ride and, therefore, families. This also links with the Leisure Trust cycling programmes which help with adult confidence building.

Presently we organise a series of cycle racing events for both the primary and secondary schools but these are done on secondary school sites which are not really what we would prefer to use. Collaboration for these events is between British Cycling, the Partnership and my Bikeability organiser and they have proved successful in nurturing a taste for competitive riding.

A purpose built arena would enable a massive development for all the groups associated with cycling in Pendle. The new resource would allow school events to incorporate coaching sessions that were more realistic as well as race meetings and be a centre of excellence for the cycling club. This would enhance the transition between school and club for pupils which is always the biggest step.

The development of cycling in Pendle has been enormous over the last 5 years and displays the great commitment and vision of the various interested parties in the borough. All this before the Olympic Games and the fact that we now have a Gold Medal Olympian in our Borough.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Stewart  
Pendle School Games Organiser