



Supporting Document – Steven Burke Sports Hub

As a club, Cycle Sport Pendle is poised and willing to accept the stewardship of the proposed Steven Burke Sports Hub on our doorstep here in Pendle. As Chairman of the club I am immensely proud of our achievements in turning dreams into realities, the planned circuit being the next stage in our evolution and development.

Cycle Sport Pendle started as an idea, founded on a frustration. The frustration being the lack of support given to children and new cyclists and the traditional structures in place. Even the relatively young clubs based at the velodrome in Manchester, whilst on the face of it encouraging young-peoples participation, were only giving their riders a flavour of just one aspect of our wonderful sport, devoid of the support-network that young riders need in their home town or area. Cycle Sport Pendle was 'born' to create and nurture cyclist's right here in Pendle and to provide a supportive group or foundation of members to which the young cyclist could feel they belong. Since inception this has led to the gradual and systematic growth of the club with increased membership, coaching capability and a steadily climbing number of willing and able parent-volunteers.

Whilst CSP has always had a base, it has never been able to lay claim to a home. Our formative years saw us use the car-park of Pendle Vale Campus for our fortnightly coaching sessions. Increased membership and better, more confident cyclists meant that the car-park was outgrown and for the last year we have used the running-track at Seedhill. Whilst this has been a huge improvement as a coaching facility it remains a running-track, designed for running and athletics. We see the inadequacy of the facility as our membership continues to increase and the demand on coaching content is challenged by the space we have and the limitations of a simple oval. Young cyclists will face more demanding conditions on the roads and on the purpose-built racing circuits that many of them compete on, than we can replicate using the running-track and as a result we are failing to provide them with what they need, or the stimulus for better coaching.

The desire for a purpose-built facility is not new. From the first days of CSP's formation there has been a plan to have a usable facility. Initially this was as a track around the perimeter of Pendle Vale Campus as the school neared completion under the Building Schools for the Future project. Unfortunately we were unable to influence the final build in time to include the track but the search for a suitable venue and funding has been ongoing. As a club CSP is grateful for the support provided by Pendle Council and British Cycling in recognising our efforts within our community and we are proud to be held up by both as a beacon of what a good, modern sports club should be. We are also proud to hold Clubmark status and to have won Pendle Community Club of the Year 2012. Whilst 2012 was a truly special year for cycling and in particular for our very own Olympic gold-medallist Steven Burke, in many ways it was just another year along the CSP path. By that I mean that the organic growth of CSP continues – more members, more coaches, more

volunteers, more competitive participation.

In fact the only thing that hasn't evolved is the facility we have to use.

As the stakeholder support for the proposed facility grows, CSP and its leadership committee have encouraged the wider, local cycling-community to share our vision. From this the Cycling Development Pendle Partnership (CDPP) has been formed and drawn from it the realisation that the demand for a local cycling circuit is even greater than first imagined. This commitment from other clubs and users means that CSP will be able to increase their weekend coaching sessions from fortnightly to weekly as well as to accommodate training and competition. The fact that the list of committed future-users is both so large and so diverse, makes it imperative that the Steven Burke Sports Hub ceases to be a dream and a drawing, becoming instead a working icon for past, present and future participation and success.

On behalf of Cycle Sport Pendle I urge you to support our funding application and allow us to continue to Inspire.

Kind Regards

Neil Welsh
Chairman
Cycle Sport Pendle