

Connected Communities  
Head of Service: Rhona Arthur  
Economy & Communities (Active Schools)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West  
Cunninghame House  
Irvine  
North Ayrshire  
KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Your Ref: MBC      Our Ref: /LHF

If telephoning please call: Leanne Hillan-Fowler on 07880536725  
Date - 8/3/21

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club  
Arran High School  
Lamlash  
Arran  
KA27 8NG

Dear Sir/Madam

#### ACTIVE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

I refer to the partnership between Arran High School Mountain Bike Club and North Ayrshire Active Schools. This partnership has existed for over 5 years and has created multiple opportunities for young people and their families to be active on the Island, through both participation and leadership.

Across this time, jointly we have worked hand in hand to develop, deliver and evaluate several areas of the club which include –

- Funding grants
- Creation of the Workshop area
- Young leaders training
- Cycle leaders training
- Bike maintenance support across the island
- Partnerships with Cycle Scotland and Scottish Cycling
- Attend Cycle training courses
- Plan trips and excursions for the group
- Support young people from the school to attend the club

Across the time the club has worked with three different Active Schools Co-ordinators, all of which have been integral to the partnership we have with this club.

Over the years the club most certainly has went from strength to strength and is now a massive part of community life on Arran. They understand the Island and young people's needs and respond to these. They are a very progressive club and have adapted to change even through the challenging times of Covid-19.

I hope our partnership will further develop and will continue to be based on trust and transparency, which will result in more young people receiving more opportunities to cycle on Arran.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Leanne Hillan-Fowler  
Active Schools Manager





## MBC - Dyemill skills trails project

king & Support Officer / Community Learn & Dev )

Fri 05/03/2021 12:32

To:

Hi Robert,

Ian sends his apologies for not getting this over to you sooner.

To whom it may concern regarding Arran High School Mountain Bike Club (Dyemill skills trails project)

Arran Outdoor Education Centre would like to fully endorse and whole-heartedly supports this proposed project. The project would be used and utilised by the Centre whilst providing outdoor residential experiences for young people throughout North Ayrshire and wider afield. The Centre predominantly runs Monday – Friday for Primary 7 residential courses, part of this outdoor programme includes mountain biking sessions. Currently, we use areas such as Brodick Castle and Country Park. Having something more local, away from traffic with a variety of options such as a pump track and skills course would enhance the young people's experience. This will assist in development of their skills, confidence and ability and hopefully promote their desire to cycle more when they return home. Arran Outdoor Education Centre has had a long-standing relationship with AHS MBC, and we would see this project as a continuation of that relationship. Such a facility would also give us the ability to continually develop our staffs core skills.

Many thanks,  
Cara

**Cara Miller**

**Booking & Support Officer**

*Arran Outdoor Education Centre*  
*Lamlash*  
*Isle of Arran*  
*KA27 8PL*  
**Tel: 01770 600532**

---

\*\* Please help reduce waste. Don't print this email unless absolutely necessary. \*\*

This document should only be read by those persons to whom it is addressed and is not intended to be relied upon by any person without subsequent written confirmation of its contents. Accordingly, North Ayrshire Council disclaim all responsibility and accept no liability (including in negligence) for the consequences for any person acting, or refraining from acting, on such information prior to the receipt by those persons of subsequent written confirmation.

If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify us immediately by telephone. Please also destroy and delete the message from your computer.

Any form of unauthorised reproduction, dissemination, copying, disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of any part of this e-mail message (or attachments transmitted with it) by the addressee(s) is strictly prohibited.

Please be advised that North Ayrshire Council's incoming and outgoing e-mail is subject to regular monitoring.

[North Ayrshire Council Website](#)

Robert McNeice  
Chair, Arran High School Mountain Bike Club  
Lamlash High School  
Arran  
North Ayrshire

07 October 2021

Our ref: CNS/DC/NAC

Dear Robert,

**Re Proposal of Application Notice for the formation of cycling trails at Dyemill, Lamlash.**

Thank you for inviting our comment on the above proposal which we understand will include the formation of cycling trails for skills coaching and associated infrastructure and the transfer of land from Forestry and Land Scotland to the Arran High School Mountain Bike Club.

Having visited the site with yourself and reviewed the documentation produced to support the project to date, I am able to provide the following observations.

Biodiversity

The proposed site is within 330m and 700m of the Arran Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI] and Special Protection area [SPA] but given the separation distance between these protected areas and your proposal, the features for which these sites are designated for will not be adversely affected. This is because the nearest historical hen harrier nest sites are out with the acknowledged disturbances distances and are screened by existing woodland.

The site has the typical range of breeding birds and small mammals associated with mixed woodland and currently no evidence of protected species has been found. As a result, we advise that work should be undertaken and completed outside the main bird breeding season (i.e. between September and February). This will ensure that no nests are destroyed or disturbed during the site works and no offences are committed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). If this is not possible an ornithologist should be engaged to survey the ground and trees immediately prior to such works to advise you of any bird nesting activity.

We also recommend that should consent be granted for this proposal you should follow our guidance on *Dealing with construction and breeding birds, March 2016*.<sup>1</sup> and that a pre start ecological survey is carried out to confirm the presence or absence of protected species.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.nature.scot/doc/dealing-construction-and-birds>

Your proposal to retain deadwood on site, enhance the existing pond and provide bird and bat boxes along with additional habitat enhancement features demonstrate a clear understanding of net biodiversity benefit which is very much to the credit of the project.

In our view, there is no clear merit in planting trees to replace those lost as a result of the development due to the existing high number and variety of trees and quality habitat mosaic of woodland and open areas found on site. However, once the work has been carried out it might be appropriate at that stage to usefully identify where new plantings could be beneficial.

### Landscape

In terms of potential landscape impact our advice is that with careful trail selection, utilising the natural landform and existing screening provided by mature and maturing trees, any negative impact will be very small scale and short term before tree growth helps minimise any visual or noise impact.

No negative impacts on either the North Arran Scenic Area or North Arran Wildland Area is expected as a result of the proposal.

### General

The projects vision is one that we strongly welcome and we are very supportive of both the aims of the project and the way it has been developed to minimise the negative impacts of construction on the site and look to maximise the benefits to the environment and the local community.

I hope these comments are of value in terms of progressing your application and please do get in touch if you would like to discuss any aspect of this response

Yours sincerely

[By email]

Ian

**Ian Cornforth**

**NatureScot Operations Officer - Ayrshire & Arran**

## **To Whom it may Concern**

### **Endorsement of Dyemill Trails Project**

When I first heard about the Dyemill trails Project situated at Lamlash I thought what a brilliant idea, an outdoor gift to the resident peoples and visitors to Arran. It is a well documented fact that outdoor activity improves health and well being and this project can ensure that more people responsibly enjoy Arrans most valuable asset, its amazing outdoor spaces, and that this natural asset is sustainably maintained and improved for future generations.

I wish there had been a similar facility when I was growing up on Arran, rather than finding my own, solo, unskilled way to cycling. What an exciting opportunity for young people and families to experience cycling in a safe, purpose built, session led environment. The initial objectives are to be commended and this concept with its far reaching vision is to be applauded.

The Arran Belles will certainly visit and make full use of this facility when it comes into being.

**Janice Small, Founder member of Arran Belles,  
Ladies Road Cycling Group  
22nd March 2021**

ARRAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL,  
ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8BQ

March 5th 2021.

To Arran High School,

Mountain Bike Club, registered charity.

Chair Robert McNeice, Treasurer Steve Garroway and Secretary Kim Toogood.

From Arran Community Council,

Chair William Calderwood, Planning Peter McMullen and Secretary Jim Henderson.

On behalf of the Arran Community Council, I wish to state that the Council are fully supportive of the High School Mountain Bike Club and their aims. Approved by the council members on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February during a Zoom meeting.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February the above named met on site to learn of the ambitious proposals to form an off-road route for the benefit of children of all ages and denomination, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality and religion or other beliefs.

Making use of the natural assets to be found in the Dyemill area, of Lamlash, on ground belonging to the Forestry Commission, who are supportive of the proposals. The route to avoid the popular paths of pedestrians and dog walkers.

This will be a new venture for the Island of Arran and will in time become an off-road facility that will enhance Scotland's reputation with this developing sport.

Yours sincerely,  
Jim Henderson.







North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership  
C/O NHS Ayrshire & Arran  
Public Health Department  
Room 62 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Admin Building  
Ayrshire Central Hospital  
Irvine  
KA12 8SS

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club  
Arran High School  
Lamlash  
Isle of Arran  
KA27 8NG

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Mr McNeice,

Thank you for sharing your business case for the Arran High School Mountain Bike Club (AHSMBBC) Dyemill Skills Trail Project. As you know the North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership brings together a range of partners across health, social care and environment sectors to develop a coordinated approach to improving access and helping to facilitate Green Health activities and referrals in North Ayrshire.

Please see attached a statement of support for your Asset Transfer Project Proposal with North Ayrshire Council. We would be keen to hear if you have success with this project and look forward to working with you over the coming months following your success with the Green Health Development Fund 2020/21.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Caldow  
Public Health Programme Lead

David Meechan  
Green Health Partnership Senior Project Officer

Gillian Jennings  
Health Improvement Officer

## Statement of Support

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club (AHSMBBC) has been involved with the North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership (GHP) since delivery of our first Participatory Budgeting (PB), Development Fund on Arran in March 2019. AHSMBBC were successful in securing funding for training and equipment to support year round trail maintenance.

The funding had a number of requirements that needed to be met supporting not only the national requirements of the Our Natural Health Service Programme, but also the more local GHP requirements. AHSMBBC demonstrated how their project supported the Arran Locality themes to reduce social isolation, improve community wellbeing as well as moving around on Arran and improving access to outdoor activities. In addition to this meeting the GHP priorities around maximising use of the outdoors, engaging communities and offering support to take part as well as demonstrating they were meeting the 5 ways to wellbeing through connecting, learning, being active, taking notice and giving e.g. volunteering.

The AHSMBBC regularly posted on line, keeping the GHP updated on their activities and they were one of only a few community groups that were able to submit data around their activities which was included in the National GHP evaluation. They also provided a case study in support of the work they had been delivering, an excerpt from this was included in the Development Fund Report. Two of the GHP Steering group also visited Arran as part of a network event and AHSMBBC were able to meet and speak to staff.

AHSMBBC were more recently successful with funding from the Green Health Development Fund this time delivered as small grants funding instead of via Participatory Budgeting. The group were able to demonstrate their contribution to reducing health inequalities, getting more people to use the outdoors, improve health and wellbeing. Again supporting National requirements of the ONHS programme and the Public Health Priorities in particular the following:

Priority 1 - a Scotland where we live in vibrant healthy and safe places and communities

Priority 2 - a Scotland where we flourish in our early years

Priority 3 - a Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing

Priority 6 – a Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

AHSMBBC is a valuable resource for the local community and they have demonstrated a reliable and highly professional approach to any work with the GHP. They support access for all, reducing inequalities,, nurturing young people into all inclusive outdoor activities including active travel, mountain biking, volunteering, training etc. Their commitment to all year round activity builds resilience, confidence and stamina in young people and fosters community spirit as they volunteer and care for the trails they use.

The North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership would be pleased to support Arran High School Mountain Bike Club in their business case due to the leadership and outcomes that they have demonstrated via the Green Health Development Fund initiatives to date.



Arran High School Mountain Bike Club  
Attention: Robert McNiece

IMBA Europe  
Deventerweg 2a

3843 GD Harderwijk  
The Netherlands

[info@imba-europe.com](mailto:info@imba-europe.com)  
[www.imba-europe.org](http://www.imba-europe.org)

KvK: 55346847  
VAT: NL851664866B01

## ENDORSEMENT LETTER: DYEMILL SKILLS TRAILS PROJECT

31 March 2021

To whom it may concern,

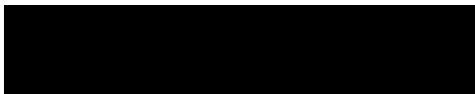
IMBA Europe is pleased to endorse the Arran High School Mountain Bike Club, '*Dyemill skills trails project*'. IMBA Europe is the leader in MTB advocacy and trail development across Europe. Our focus is to better help communities plan, develop and maintain close-to-home trail systems that enrich the outdoor recreation community at large.

The AHSMBC '*Dyemill skills trails project*' encompasses both the mission and values of IMBA, which is to improve people's lives with better health, climate and economics through mountain biking. AHSMBC has shown great support of IMBA's past and current projects and campaigns. This year AHSMBC will be participating and encouraging their community to take part in the 'Take Care of Your Trails' campaign, hosted by IMBA. The TCoYT campaign is the largest pan-European voluntary trail repair, clean up and build effort.

The AHSMBC '*Dyemill skills trails project*' aims to inspire further inclusivity in outdoor recreation through providing an accessible platform (the facility) to all members of the community. Their proposed project mirrors the values of IMBA Europe, which is to contribute to positive health outcomes while reducing the impact on the environment. Furthermore, ASHMBC encourages cycling as an alternative travel option, which aligns clearly within our goals and ambitions in relation to the European green new deal.

This new project will allow for not only a fantastic recreational space, but moreover, a place for education. Outdoor education of the natural environments we engage with, is crucial in order to preserve and protect biodiversity. We cannot recommend highly enough that this innovative project be supported, which will enrich the lives of so many people.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Torsius – general manager  
International Mountain Bicycling Association Europe



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION EUROPE  
tel. +31 6 41 48 20 76

email: [mark.torsius@imba-europe.com](mailto:mark.torsius@imba-europe.com)

ACTIVE TRAVEL & TRANSPORT TEAM  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION  
Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE

If telephoning please call: Greg Brown (07866) 458 115

Your Ref: Arran High Mountain Bike Club

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Arran High Mountain Bike Club  
Arran High School  
Lamlash  
Arran  
KA27 8NG

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **Dyemill Skills Trail Project**

I refer to the ongoing Dykemill Skills Trail Project being developed by the Arran High Mountain Bike Club. Having read the most recent project proposals, I would like to commend the Club for the hard work put in to date to develop this project which would provide a range of benefits for the local community, school pupils, Arran and beyond.

From an Active Travel perspective, the project will provide a rich resource for young, new and returning cyclists. Access to experienced cycle trainers will improve participants confidence and bike handling skills. Extending the reach of the Club's cycle maintenance programme and providing maintenance training will provide road worthy bikes and pass on the skills required to further encourage journeys by bike. Additionally, the project will provide opportunities to bolster and compliment the current iCycle cycle proficiency scheme.

It is clear from the project proposal that Active Travel is only one of many benefits that would transpire from the completion of this project. It will provide health benefits by encouraging activity, support the local economy as a trip attractor and destination for day trips, improve access to greenspace and provide a valuable and inclusive outdoor education resource to learn about sustainability and biodiversity.

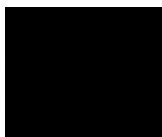
As a keen mountain biker, I have commonly travelled long distances to experience quality trail riding. The development of this project will address this geographical inequality and provide a proper mountain biking experience for riders in Arran and the West Coast. This project will appeal to the growing mountain biking community and provide a welcome introduction to mountain biking for new participants.

North Ayrshire Council Active Travel team fully support and endorse this project. We wish you every success and would welcome the opportunity to work in partnership as the project develops to support the elements of this project that share the remit of our team.



**North Ayrshire Council**  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath  
Proud to be **apse** Overall Council of the Year 2017

Yours faithfully



Greg Brown  
Active Travel Officer  
North Ayrshire Council  
Cunninghame House  
Irvine



W: [www.thetrinity.org.uk](http://www.thetrinity.org.uk)

Robert Mcneice  
Arran High School  
Lamlash,  
Isle of Arran  
KA27 8NG

Dear Robert

**Letter of Support – proposed infrastructure at Arran High School.**

I am writing to offer Scottish Cycling's support towards the proposed Dyemills Skills Trail Project.

As a leading example of a school club, we already recognise and support the fantastic work that goes on at Arran High School to provide opportunities for young people of all abilities to take part in sport and physical activity. We believe that the addition of a new purpose-built area would provide some great new space and enable more people; island residents and visitors to access opportunities on offer controlled environment and for generations to come.

Overall, we believe the project would take Arran High School to the next level of what it can offer and it's exciting to think that it could be even more accessible to more people and develop a better offering for people of any ability to engage in sport, activity & learning.

Yours sincerely



Madeleine Watson  
**Club Development Coordinator (South-West)**

## Letter of support for the Drymill Skills Trail Project

North Ayrshire Road Safety Education Team fully supports Arran High School Mountain Bike Group (AHSMBG) with their proposal to establish Drymill Skills Trail on the Island of Arran.

AHSMBG proposal to establish the Drymill Skills Trail will benefit the community of Arran in the ways detailed in the Business Case. The development of the Drymill Skills Trail will have many positive effects on road safety and cycling on the island, such as:

- Increasing the number of active travel journeys made by pupils and staff across the island.
- Increasing the numbers of pupils who will travel independently to local amenities.
- Creating confident, capable and road aware cyclists.
- Potential to increase participation in iCycle training in the primary schools and Play on Pedals in the Early Years Centres.
- Enabling regular access to bikes and an off-road cycle trail.
- Promoting a culture of responsible cycling.

Road Safety Education is committed to increasing the number of journeys taken by active travel modes like cycling. Pupils may choose to cycle more often on the school journey to access the Drymill Skill Trails Loop.

In choosing to travel actively on the school journey, pupils will practice skills gained during training sessions on the skills trail or during iCycle training.

By establishing the Drymill Skills Trail, AHSMBG will create a resource suitable for cyclists of all levels. Cyclists will practice and improve their cycling skills at Drymill Skills Trail before transferring on to on-road cycling.

Drymill Skill loop will create a culture of confident and capable cyclists both off-road and on-road.

Road Safety Education supports the AHSMBG proposal for the Drymill Skills Trail and believes this project will have a meaningful and sustainable impact on the local community.

Regards,





The Arran Access Trust  
c/o Forest Office  
Auchrannie Road  
Brodick  
Isle of Arran  
KA27 8BZ



24<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Dyemill Trails Project**

To Whom It May Concern,

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club's (AHSMBC) proposal looks to enable access to the sport for cyclists of all abilities and its intended use is not just for the club, but for the wider community.

The benefits of such a facility to health, wellbeing, and the economy are well documented in other parts of rural Scotland. The area proposed is currently plantation forestry; there are plans to improve the area's biodiversity and also to provide opportunities for outdoor learning.

We fully support AHSMBC's ambitious proposal for the Dyemill and wish them the best of luck with developing the project.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Chair of Arran Access Trust.

Chair Arran Access Trust