



## BELFAST CITY BMX CLUB

**Chairman:** Ian Hamilton  
**Treasurer:** Peter Jamison  
**Secretary:** Neil Wilson

**Address:** 14 Ardpatrick Gardens Belfast BT6 9GF

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Steven Stockman  
Belfast City Council

Steven,

### **RE: Ormeau Park BMX Track**

Belfast City BMX club [BCBMX] would like to thank Belfast City Council and Donal Grant Stevenson personally for the effort and commitment to re-developing Ormeau BMX Track. This is the first redevelopment of any BMX track in Northern Ireland in twenty five years, and it's a great boost for the BMX fraternity. Currently all riders from Northern Ireland have to travel to Dublin to practise and race BMX.

BMX is recognised nationally as a grass roots cycling activity, and the first step on the ladder for children's cycling. We believe that the re-development of Ormeau Park will generate a mass of local interest in the sport. We hope this facility will promote less anti-social activity in the area, promote health and wellbeing and give the kids a great start into all types of cycling. This will certainly be a big positive to the local community, and will encourage families into a cheap, fun, healthy activity.

BCBMX has recently been founded, affiliated with BMX Ireland (& Cycling Ulster & Cycling Ireland) with the intention of promoting BMX riding in the greater Belfast area. We would hope to be able to assist BCC with local fun days, community outreach programmes, and organise coaching sessions and national BMX racing at Ormeau Park.

Kevin McShane (BMX Ireland) and Donal have consulted on the track design extensively, and work has started with a great re-development of the track. We understand that the track will be finished in quarry dust and will not be race ready at this phase. This is a massive step forward from the old track, and will allow some initial fun days and community outreach programmes etc

We are aware budgets within the council are tight, and that the BMX track will remain work in progress for the forthcoming financial year. We would like to formally ask the council to consider a second phase of works at the track which would allow safe competition at the facility. This would include the formation of a national standard "start hill", including a safety start gate, tarmac on the corners and some ancillary services necessary for a safe event (i.e electricity, water etc). It would be estimated in the region of £25,000 for this next phase of works. BCBMX & BMX Ireland are keen to help with fundraising if required and permitted.

We have included some drawings & photos of the start hill, tarmac corners and a video link to the facility in Ratoath (Ireland) to give a feel for a race ready BMX track. Should the council consider this as phase two at Ormeau Park, both BCBMX and BMX Ireland members would be available to meet the council members or senior staff and advise on the requirements and help as much as possible.

Once again thanks for the efforts to date at Ormeau BMX track, and hopefully hear from you soon.



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Yours faithfully  
Ian Hamilton  
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### Photos



Figure 1: Photographs showing a safety start gate. This is the safest form of starting gate, and is retained on the site, totally flush.



Figure 2: Photograph showing berms tarmac coated. This increases the level of grip on the corners and ensures fewer crashes while turning.



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### Useful Web links:

<http://www.cyclingireland.ie/page/disciplines/bmx>

#### Link 1: Cycling Ireland

<http://vimeo.com/30802162>

#### Link 2 : Showing the building of Ratoath BMX Track

<http://www.ratoathbmx.com/video/>

#### Link 3 : Showing the Irish Championships 2013 at Ratoath BMX





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