

Pentland Trail Centre



PREVIOUS EVENTS

2015 EVENT

The original display consisted of a series of A1 free-standing panels. In addition there was a continuous slide show, featuring images of the site, examples of mountain bike trails in similar location and some of the ancillary activities proposed in the report. There were also copies of the sportsScotland funded feasibility study, which is the basis of the project. Copies of this study were submitted to CEC Planning, CEC Sports Department, Pentland Hills Regional Park, Scottish Cycling, sportsScotland and other interested parties.

A questionnaire was prepared which was designed to establish:

- The demographics of the respondents
- Their relationship to the location
- The overall response to the proposal
- Specific positive comments and any concerns

Over the two days there was an attendance of over 140, with 86 completed responses. Most of the visitors had individual discussions with the project team – who explained the project, the consultation process and answered questions. It was confirmed that the process was purely a consultation on the initial concept and that there would be full opportunity to comment on a subsequent PPP application and detailed designs.



2015 EVENT OUTCOME

The most important question with regard to the project was the initial reaction. The 82% level of unequivocal support is reflected in the very positive discussions with majority of attendees. It is widely considered to be a great addition to the local area and Edinburgh as a whole.

A further 14% is broadly supportive, with questions regarding a number of specific concerns, which is understandable given the outline nature of the proposals. Only 4% of those who attended are opposed to the project (5 individuals). 4 of these are direct neighbours or residents of Swanston Village. In summary, 96% of respondents are supportive. The largest group of attendees (44%) was from the Fairmilehead Community Council area. This shows an encouraging level of interest and engagement from those most directly affected by the proposals.

Positive feedback

In general the tone was extremely positive, highlighting the perceived very real benefits to the local community and Edinburgh. There was considerable excitement about the project and many offers to help and get involved. None of the comments required any change to the broad concept of the proposal. Comments did however influence elements of detail within a full application for Planning Permission

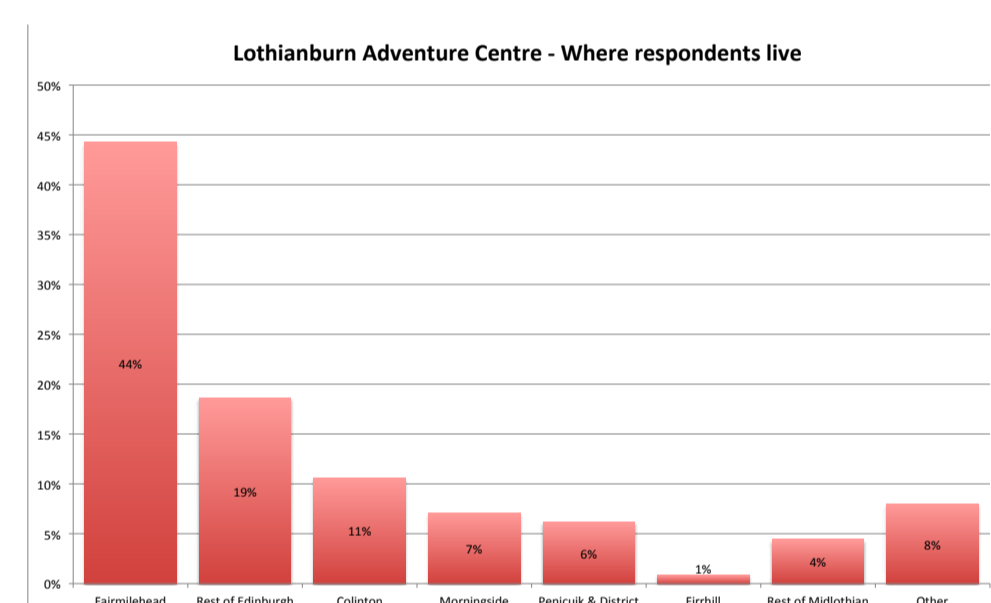
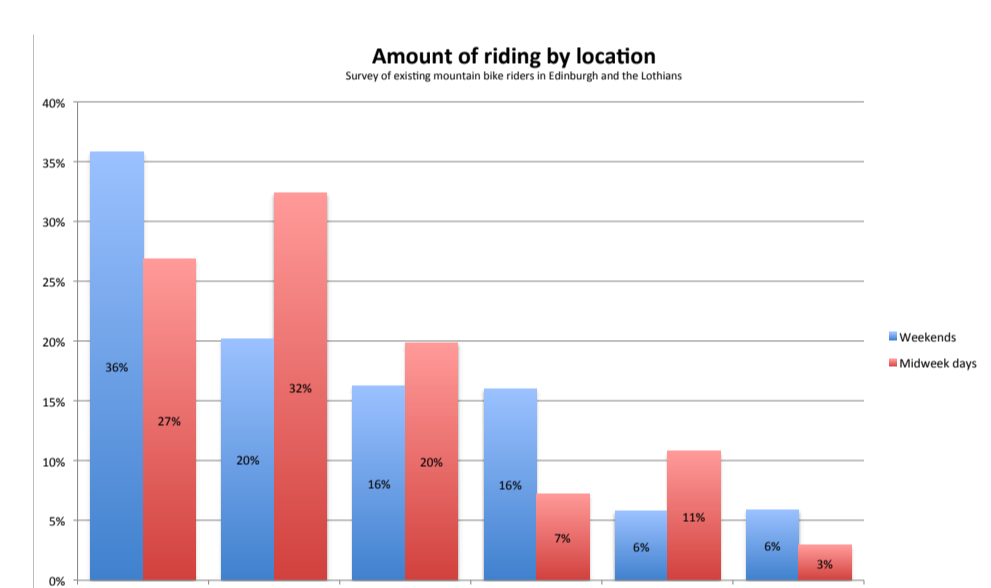
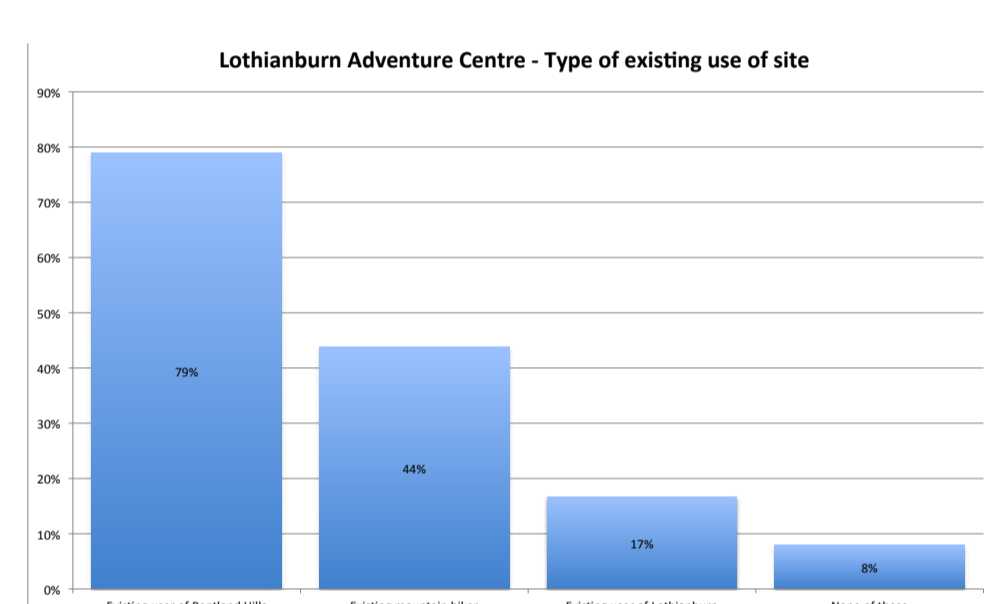
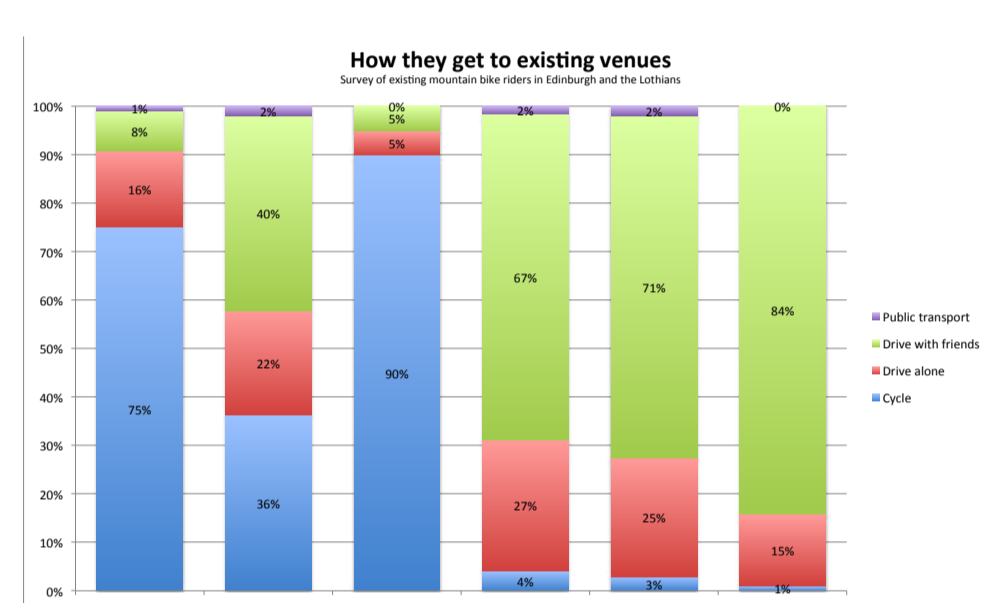
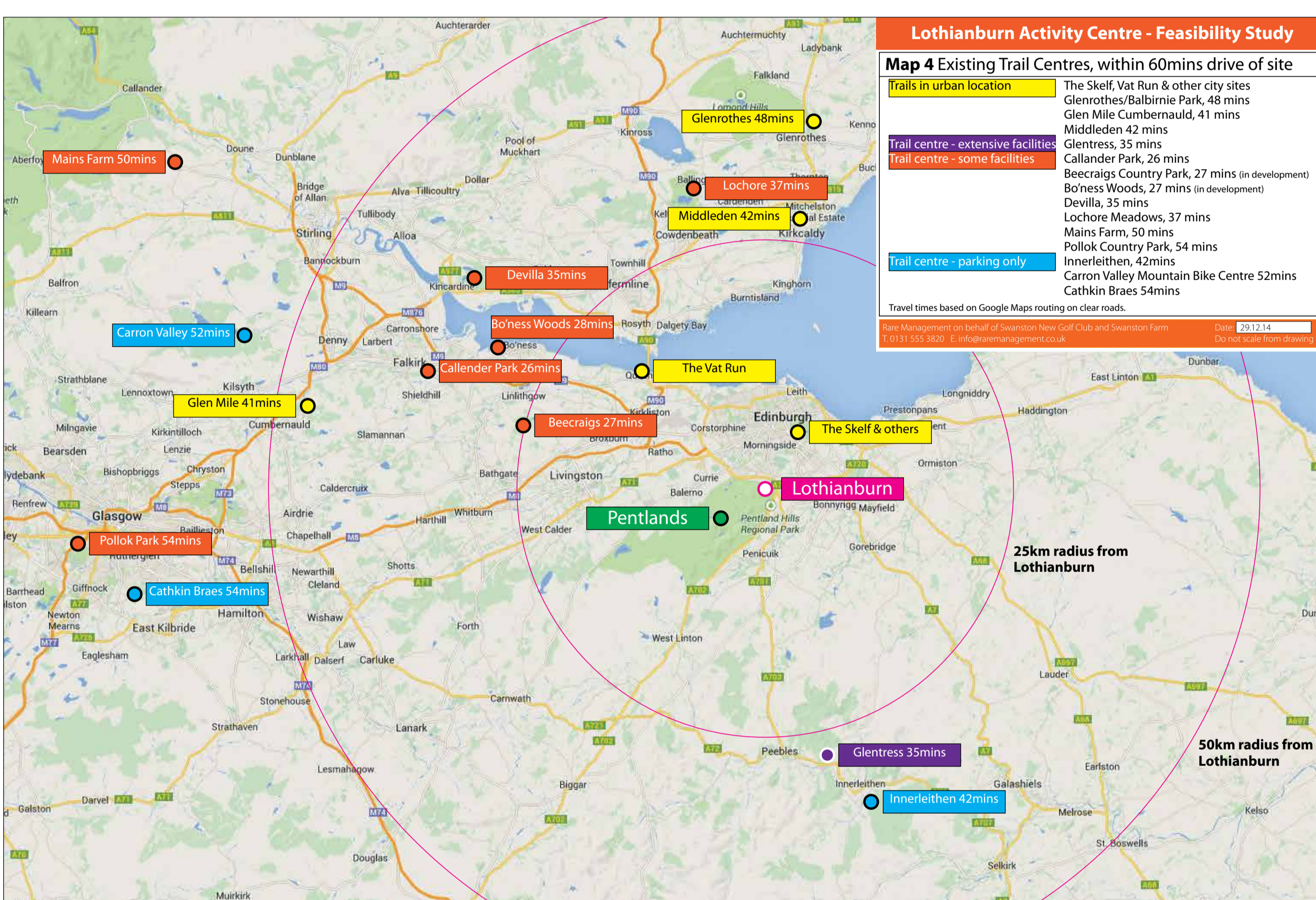
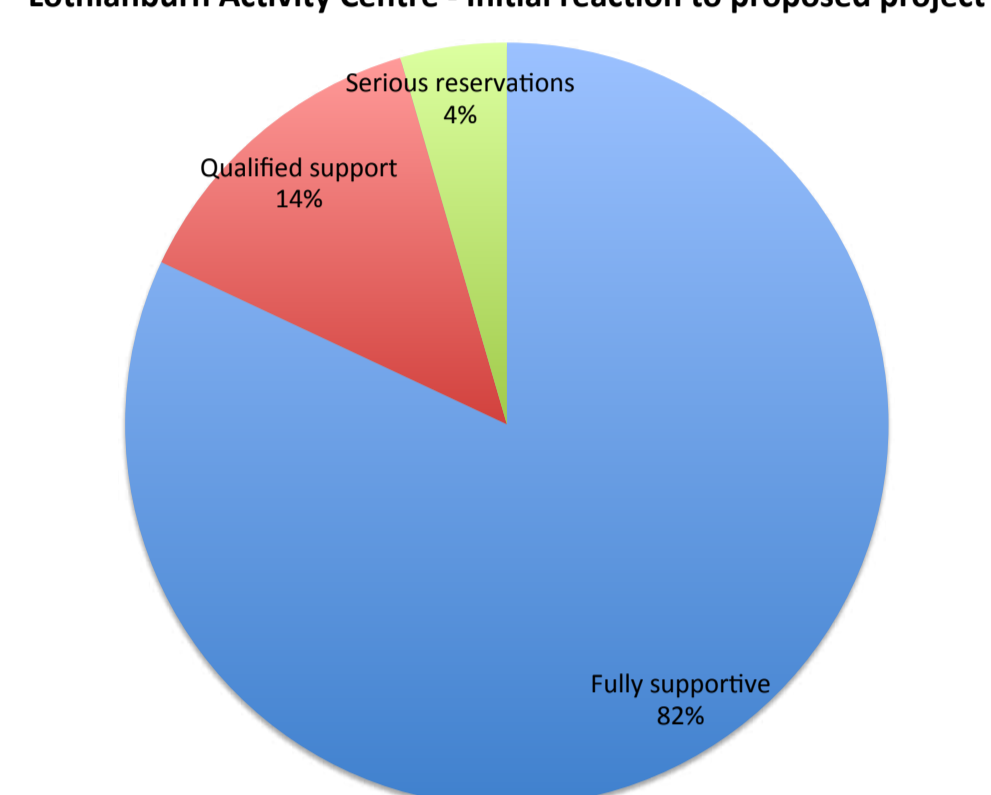
The main themes that got regular mentions are:

- o Accessibility to mountain biking for locals and the City as a whole
- o Ideal learning environment
- o Gateway to Pentlands, improved accessibility and incentive to participate in outdoor activities
- o Good use of land
- o Adds facilities to the local area
- o Good for schools and families with children
- o Reduces need to travel to other centres
- o Promotes healthy lifestyle

Summary of comments	Consideration	Outcomes
Access being restricted	Access would actually be increased. At present the site has a perimeter fence and has a large number of field enclosures. The concept plan includes paths that traverse the site and give access to the Pentlands. The farm road from the A702 to Swanston Village will continue to be accessible to non-motorised users.	Will be included in future PIP application.
Noise	Noise levels will not be excessive as users will be spread throughout the site. The busiest location will be the Trail Head, where ambient noise near the A702 is considerable. There may be increased noise at specific events but consideration will be given to local residents and discussions will be held with CEC Environmental Health.	To be included within EIA.
Overnight accommodation and camping (design, location and management to limit any impact)	Layout and design to be sympathetic to surrounding environment. Located within sheltered valley, hidden from all viewpoints except the Pentland Hills Ridge. Vehicle access subject to Roads approval.	Impact to be considered within EIA. Photo montage from various locations to be prepared as part of EIA.
Develop links with Midlothian Snowsport Centre (discussions are ongoing but the principle is agreed)	Discussions have already been held with both Midlothian Snowsport Centre and Midlothian Council. All parties are aware of the potential for a linked development that maximises the potential for the area.	On-going discussions and active collaboration as detailed proposals are developed.
Possible impact on local wildlife	Existing wildlife audit will be part of the EIA. New habitats will be developed and	To be included within EIA.

Costs should not be excessive	The bike trails will be free to access. Other facilities will be pay to play, but the entire site will be publicly accessible.
Parking - location and quantity	A dedicated traffic impact will form part of EIA, taking into account entry and exit, number of spaces, location and impact on the surrounding roads and the Lothianburn City Transport services included as part of the initial business plan.
Sufficient resources to maintain trails	
Visual impact	Mountain bike trails are low impact due to their size and construction techniques. There will also be planting of trees and shrubs to match the nature of the site. More than 50% of the site is sheltered from viewing from the City.
A702 traffic access and exit	A dedicated traffic impact will form part of EIA, taking into account entry and exit, number of spaces, location and impact on the surrounding roads and the Lothianburn City Transport services.
Segregated cycle access requests on roads from city	This is an issue for CEC. They have a wider scheme for the introduction of cycle routes through the City. The Lothianburn project could act as a catalyst for cycle routes into and from the City on the A702.
Drainage	Despite the presence of some natural springs the site drains very well and full design would take into account all aspects of drainage. It will be considered within the EIA.

Lothianburn Activity Centre - Initial reaction to proposed project



PUBLIC COMMENTS

"Superb gateway into the Pentlands."

LOCAL

VARIETY

"Excellent venue for local/regional school level competition."

"I would look forward to using the ropes course, luge, pump track and other facilities."

"I think the pump track will be a great!"

A safe, family friendly facility to introduce new and young people to the sport.

Very good location transport

FUN

Good addition to the area and would fit in well to diversify activities available here instead of travelling to Central Scotland/Borders for similar activities.

New jobs and income for local community.

EDUCATIONAL

As a golfer (member at Swanston) it was disappointing to see Lothianburn close but if it can now be put to good use providing safe and accessible leisure activities for families, then I think it's a very good idea.

"Just what the area and people need - very important to promote a healthy lifestyle in a fun way."

BIKING

Lots of good ideas - using natural trails.

TRAILS

Excellent use of the location. Open access.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

WELL-BEING

HEALTH

EXPERIENCE

"Having a great facility in Edinburgh which is not currently available. Could be a great areas to build peoples skills for children"

EXCITING

ECO-FRIENDLY

"Opportunity to show the public the beauty of the hills."

PENTLAND TRAIL CENTRE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION - EVENT 1

BOARD 2

