

## The story behind the BMX Track and Club in Iver

As the local street based youth worker I am in regular contact with the local young people of the area and often also interact with parents and adults who are out and about when I am doing detached work. I spend much of my face to face working hours in Iver Recreation Ground where the old and exhausted BMX track used to stand. There were a number of young people who still used the track regardless of its poor condition. I spend much of my time with local young people who continually complain that there is very little to do. It has become obvious that this generation of young people have nowhere to direct their energy and time. The transport in and out of the area is limited. While we have been able to build up relationships and honestly chat with these young people about their actions and challenge their behaviour gently, it is clear that until some kind of diversionary activities are put into place, we are going to have a growing generation of bored, disruptive youths. I believe BMX biking will change this. We are already seeing so many of our local young people divert their attention and energy to the new track and are very excited about the change this will make to Iver.

### How it came about...

The idea originated from Jay Kenny, one of our local teenagers. About a year ago Justin Lane (a local BMX enthusiast) and I became increasingly aware of the growing number of young people using the old BMX track. The only problem was the limitations that came with such a small and unchallenging track. A team of us, including Tony Luckhurst (BMX Commissioner for British Cycling) and Chris Bond (Arts officer for SBDC) have spent the last year, applying and begging for financial support to rebuild a bigger and better suited track and are excited to see what Steve Jenks (of a company called Trax) and his team have come up with.

The new track was officially opened on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010 by Tony Luckhurst, BMX Commissioner for British Cycling, and Justin Lane of Iver BMX Club. What an event! We had food, music, bikes, professional BMX bikers and lots and lots of people! The track was being used by ages 4 - 69yrs. We must have had over 150 people there, all eager and energized about the new track and the new BMX club that is starting up.



We will now be meeting  
every **Tuesday from 6-8pm in Iver Rec.**

The club is for all ages, all levels! We will soon be dividing the times for the different ages. This new BMX track will also offer a chance for intergenerational engagement between young people and adults in the area. Once a club is properly established, it will encourage families and the community to get involved with holding events, even if simply serving tea. And of course, this project will encourage health and fitness to the many who will get involved; encouraging both, those interested in biking, and others who are supporting or accompanying their child to the park. We hope for some future National racers and are looking forward to getting involved in other club races.



### Financial thanks to:

Iver Parish Council  
Mobbs Memorial Fund  
Bucks Community Foundation  
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Thames Valley Police

### And for the voluntary help of..

Micksticks  
Highland Forestry  
Jayflex Construction Ltd  
Buzz Lane  
Tony Luckhurst  
And many many others for making this possible!

### A big thank-you to...

- Mars for funding 6 bikes for the new club.  
- Iver and Wexham Local Area Forum for funding the various things needed to give the club a kick start.

### Sally Vigurs

Street Based Youth Worker  
Iver Parish Council/Iver Educational Trust