PUMP TRACK OPEN EVENT 12TH JULY 2025 – 2.00PM

SPEECHES

Mark Winn spoke about how he came up with the idea when kids were digging in the Spinney to build bike jumps. He came to us when he needed some way of getting it off the ground. He thanked Jo Cheek for all the hard work she put in not only managing the whole project but also raising all the funds for it.

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Jo Cheek then gave a speech which is paraphrased here:

"It's been a long process – with 2 years of tears and tantrums. I had no proper idea what was involved when I started, and it has been an unbelievably massive learning curve. So, I am so proud it has all paid off. I couldn't have done it without a lot of help along the way and I make no apology for the length of the list of people to thank.

Thanks to **Clark & Kent Contractors** who made a fabulous job designing and building the track. Ollie, who was part of that team, is here today.

Buckinghamshire Council will now be maintaining the track – but please I ask everyone look after it too. We have ordered a new bigger litter bin that will be installed very soon.

Thanks to **Councillor Mark Winn** who came up with the idea – he helped me plan and has always been there for me and given me his full support.

Thanks to the rest of the **committee members of the Residents Association** who have wholeheartedly backed me all the way.

Thanks to **everyone in the community** who donated or showed their support.

All of this wouldn't have happened without the generosity of **18 funding organisations** who gave us grants that enabled this all to happen - Thanks goes to all of them - you can see who they are on the sign by the track - but some are here today:

Robin Walker – Chair of Trustees at **The Clare Foundation** – they provided free bid writing training and one-to-one support as well as a generous grant.

Cllr Sherrilyn Bateman has given me lots of support and advice – she is currently **Deputy Mayor** but also represents **Aylesbury Town Council** and the **William Harding's charity** who both provided grants.

I want to thank **Caroline Longman**, owner of Longman Planning Consultancy, who generously gave her time and acted on our behalf through the planning process. It would have been a struggle without her.

Thanks to **Ian Warby from Firecrest Mountain Biking** for his specialist advice and help from the start, and for helping with this event.

Thanks to **Pete and Miles from Raddad TV** for promoting our track and making their excellent videos on You Tube and Instagram. Also for helping with this event and running the competitions.

Thanks to **Sara and Hayes Hawks BMX club** for her support and for helping with this event.

Thanks to **Chris Parks of Spirit Bikes** for coming along to do free bike checks.

A huge thank you to **Chris Ashton, the Parks Officer for Bucks Council**, who has worked tirelessly with me throughout this project and through all the ups and downs. Massive thanks, Chris.

I want to thank my husband, Tim, for being my rock.

Finally, I want to thank **all the kids** who have been coming and having so much fun – it is wonderful to see and has made all my hard work worthwhile."

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After the speeches youngsters Ollie, from Firecrest MTB, and Charlie, the pump track champion from Hayes Hawks BMX Club, cut the ribbon.

Then we handed over to Pete and Miles for the competitions.