



The Scottish Parliament

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To whomever it may concern

Carron Valley Development Group - MTB trail centre development

I have been aware of the work of CVDG over the last three years and have been impressed by the progress made in the Carron Valley which is currently central Scotland's only trail centre. As a former Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Cycling in the Scottish Parliament and a mountain biker myself, I have also been aware of the need for a purpose built trail centre in central Scotland for some time. From the outset of the Carron Valley project there has been a good level of usage so that now the centre is second only to Glentress in terms of visitor numbers.

Further development of central belt facilities is vital to deliver all aspects of sustainable development and will complement the development of other facilities in the Borders and Highlands. Providing a facility that is accessible to disadvantaged communities, through physical location and public transport links is important and makes the Carron Valley project unique among trail centres. The expansion of the centre will build on its ability to support all levels of users from inexperienced families through to intermediate and expert bikers allowing progression in sporting ability and fitness.

Mountain biking has been a key driver in raising the profile and popularity of cycling in Scotland in recent years and I believe the existence and further development of Carron Valley could be a key driver in promoting cycling as a sustainable form of active travel in the central belt. The economic aspects of sustainability are also well served with the development of the trail centre and there is potential for the project to continue to link in with the surrounding community, creating economic opportunities as facilities and visitor numbers continue to develop.



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The commitment, drive and focus of this group has been remarkable over the last few years and I believe they now have excellent capacity and track record in delivery to expand further, spreading significant benefits to an even wider group of users across the central belt.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ruskell MSP