



## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

# The Creation of a Crazy Golf Course in Bexhill-on-Sea



### **Background:**

Crazy or mini golf is booming. It is popular as both an outdoor and more recently, an indoor activity. During a survey in Great Britain in the first quarter of 2022, approximately 60 percent of respondents stated that they enjoyed mini golf. This is a 6 percent increase from the 54 percent of respondents who liked mini golf in the final quarter of 2021. However, the number of miniature or adventure golf courses in the UK has jumped by about 25% since the pandemic. The UK is now home to more than 1,200 courses. In 2006, there were only about 600.

In addition, the World Crazy Golf Championships, a miniature golf tournament that has its own unique playing rules, is held annually in Hastings, and is seen by many as the 'flagship' event in the Mini Golf calendar with players competing for the biggest prize fund in mini golf.

Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council wishes to capitalise on this interest for the benefits of Bexhill's residents by creating its own unique facility in the town.



## **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Area and costs**

One of the principal decisions at this stage is whether a 9-hole or 18-hole course is required.

The minimum space for a 9-hole course is 300 sqm rising to 900sqm for an 18-hole layout. Similarly, a 9-hole course starts at around £100,000 rising to £400,000 for an 18-hole. There may be some additional costs for design work and for things like water features.

Additional funding may be available for this project from organisations like Sport England

### **Requirements**

There are potentially additional requirements for this type of facility.

- Ticket Office: To allow the customers to buy tickets and hire clubs and balls, storage for the sundry items, and facilities for any staff.
- Staffing: to man the ticket office and maintain the equipment, order repairs and replacements etc.
- Security fencing: the area around the course will need to be separated from general access by the public and to protect the site from vandalism.
- Landscaping and lighting: Some of this may be covered in the design and construction costs.
- Repairs and maintenance: A contract will need to be set up with a company specialising in this kind of work.

### **Benefits**

- This facility should pay for itself over time.
- Enhances the local area and the town.
- Provides employment.
- Aids fitness and co-ordination for the young and old in the community by encouraging light activity.



## **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

- Improves tourism potential.

### **Risks**

- The costs might outweigh the benefits.
- Resistance from local residents.
- Annoyance – vandalism/bad behaviour in the nearby location
- Parking and traffic management issues

### **Indoors or Outdoors**

For the purposes of this document and because the council owns no buildings only outdoor courses are considered.

### **Permanent or Temporary**

Another option would be to install a temporary or ‘pop-up’ course.

This could be via a hire, or the council could purchase, though there are some additional factors to purchasing.

The advantages of a temporary course are:

- It could be put out during the busy season and packed away during the winter months This maximises profitability and minimises damage.
- It could be placed in locations that would be likely unavailable for a permanent installation.
- It is a generally cheaper option than an installed course.
- If owned there may be the option to hire to other users.
- It will gauge how much demand there is in crazy golf as a facility for the town.

The disadvantages are:

- There may be a need to hire someone to run the facility and provide a ‘ticket office’ (Shed)
- Transportation and storage may be needed.



## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

- It may be flimsier than a permanent installation.
- Cash handling may be an issue.

### Costs for a Pop-up Crazy Golf course

A hire cost for the course is around £8000 for two months over the Summer (As compared to £6000 per month) There would likely be additional costs for staffing, but this would include delivery, set-up and breakdown.

A purchase cost for a temporary golf course (9-hole, with 18 putters/60 balls ) is up to £50850, (going up to £90000 for 18 holes). It is important to go for the best affordable quality if purchasing.

It is also worth noting that there are many companies offering pop-up courses for events and weddings and the quality of many of these may be questionable for a public facility. Income predictions will need further investigation.

### Potential locations

Several locations have been identified around Bexhill that may be suitable for a crazy golf course.

These are:

- Egerton Park
- Metropole Lawns
- Galley Hill
- East Parade
- West Parade.

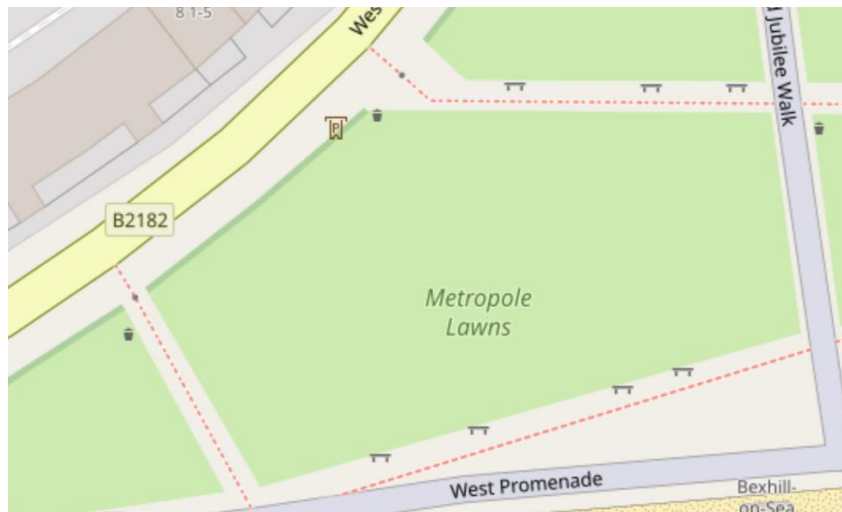
**Egerton Park:** A large field, located in the south-east corner of the park has plenty of space for the attraction and a ticket building. Nearby services include the museum, children's play area and the lake. It is, in addition, approximately 100 metres from the promenade and around 10 minutes from Bexhill town centre. Permission would need to be granted from Rother District Council.



## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL



**Metropole Lawns:** The large grassy area to the south-west of the De La Warr pavilion would be good positionally for a crazy golf pitch. It is located close to the seafront and town centre shops, has parking nearby and a lot of passing visitors and locals. Permission would need to be granted from Rother District Council.



**Galley Hill:** At the easternmost point of the seafront. A small area that may be a suitable site. Parking is nearby and visitors come to use the country park and skate park. The proposed siting of the Sovereign light tower is also nearby. Permission would need to be granted from Rother District Council.



## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL



**East Parade:** Slightly to the west of galley Hill, close to the Sea Angling club is a small area that may be a suitable site. Parking is nearby and visitors come to use the country park and skate park. The proposed siting of the Sovereign light tower is also nearby. Permission would need to be granted from Rother District Council.



**West Parade:** To the far west of the seafront are some areas that may be suitable. There are toilets nearby and a small amount of parking, however this is primarily a residential area. Passing trade would primarily be supplied by dog walkers and those visiting the beaches here. Permission would need to be granted from Rother District Council.



## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL



### Themes:

The course can be themed to celebrate something unique to the town. Possibly something to do with its motoring heritage or ancient historic ties.

### Further Actions:

Once the location is confirmed, we need to confirm ownership of the land, gain permission for use, obtain planning consent and invite contractors to quote. The council may wish to organise a “pop up” course in the meantime, for which ownership of land and permission will still be required.

### Appendix I Suppliers

**Greenspan Projects.** 45 Macadam Way, Andover. SP10 3XW

[Inspirational Leisure Spaces & Attractions Experts • Greenspan \(greenspanltd.com\)](http://www.greenspanltd.com)

**Active Golf Projects.** Unit 3 Forest Park Ind Est, Pit Lane, Ketton, Oakham. PE9 3FL

[Active Golf Projects, Experts In Synthetic Grass And Golfing Greens](http://www.activegolfprojects.com)

**Urban Crazy.** Crossoaks Fram, Crossoaks Lane, Well End. Herts, WD6 5PH.

[UrbanCrazy | Your Adventure Golf Specialits](http://www.urbandriving.com)

**Adventure Golf Suppliers.** Sequoia Ings Lane, Dunswell, Hull, North Humberside. HU6 0AL

[Adventure Golf Solutions - The EXPERTS in Adventure Golf Installations](http://www.adventuregolfsolutions.com)



## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

### Appendix II Hiring Companies and Manufacturers

**Greenspan Projects.** 45 Macadam Way, Andover. SP10 3XW

[Inspirational Leisure Spaces & Attractions Experts • Greenspan \(greenspanltd.com\)](#)

**Urban Crazy.** Crossoaks Fram, Crossoaks Lane, Well End. Herts, WD6 5PH.

[UrbanCrazy | Your Adventure Golf Specialits](#)

**EPH Creative.** Event Prop Hire, Unit 760, Thorp Arch Industrial Estate, Wetherby, LS23 7FW.

[Adventure Mini Golf Hire | EPH Creative - Event Prop Hire](#)

### Appendix III References

The benefits of playing Crazy golf (blog)

<https://putterfingers.co.uk/blog/the-benefits-of-crazy-golf/> -

[:~:text=An%20economic%20way%20for%20children%20to%20learn%20to,activity%20for%20those%20that%20don%20enjoy%20team%20sports](https://putterfingers.co.uk/blog/the-benefits-of-crazy-golf/)

Fancy going clubbing? (The Guardian 20/08/23)

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/aug/20/fancy-going-clubbing-how-crazy-golf-has-grown-into-a-big-night-out>

The Crazy Golf Museum (Website)

[The crazy golf museum and miniature golf museum](#)

[http://www.crazygolfmuseum.info/miniature\\_golf\\_history.html](http://www.crazygolfmuseum.info/miniature_golf_history.html)