

The following response is on behalf of Rimrose Valley Friends (RVF), a registered charity formed to promote, protect and enhance Rimrose Valley Country Park.

We welcome Marsh Lane Harriers' (MLH) work to date in restoring and improving the running track at Chaffers. It has become an amazing, free community facility for all, promoting health and wellbeing.

Regarding the construction of a clubhouse on green belt, we are happy that this falls under the provision of appropriate community facilities and would enhance, not compromise this section of the park. Chaffers has been home to similar buildings in the past.

MLH already encourage club members to come on foot or by bike to reduce the impact of traffic and parking on surrounding roads. If funds allow it would be beneficial if this development could include a bike lock-up facility available to all. This would ensure that people can exercise knowing their bike is safe.

The application advises that the facility will be operated by volunteers and only in use during running events. It would be beneficial if MLH and Sefton Council would consider allowing the facility to be used for other community events, with approval, as part of this application. RVF would love to use the facility from time to time.

The application noted that there are no protected species to consider as part of this proposal. Rimrose Valley is home to several protected species including barn owls and bats so we would ask that Green Sefton confirm that there would be no impact as a result of these plans.

Finally, if funds allow, some 'greening' of the clubhouse could help it integrate into the surrounding green belt look and feel of the park. This could include climbing plants or other planting, similar to the raised beds which can be found alongside the canal towpath.

To conclude, we believe that the MLH are a considerate organisation which welcomes the community's input in shaping their plans and we therefore support this application.