

**Report of the Portfolio Holders for Economic Development and Asset Management, Leisure and Health and Environment and Climate Change.**

**NEW SKATEPARK LOCATION ON CENTRAL AVENUE RECREATION GROUND, STAPLEFORD**

1. Purpose of Report

To recommend the location of Central Avenue Recreation Ground, Stapleford, NG9 8PU as the site for a new skate park in Stapleford to replace the current skate park on Hickings Lane which is no longer fit for purpose. To provide a clear rationale and explanation towards the proposed, preferred location for the new skate park in Stapleford.

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that permission for Broxtowe Borough Council to approve of the new location for the Stapleford skate park on the Central Avenue Recreation Ground, to enable funding application submission and to progress the designs for the construction of the new Skate park to be approved.**

3. Detail

The original Stapleford skate park on Hickings Lane was demolished in July 2022 due to it being deemed uneconomical to repair because of the extent of damage and disrepair it was in.

To support a local, user-led campaign for a new skate park in Stapleford and to coincide with a broader discussion around development in the town linked to the Towns Deal Programme of Works, Broxtowe Borough Council engaged Skate Nottingham CIC in June/July 2023 to support with the process of creating a new skate park in the town.

Since then, a variety of user engagement events and public consultation around possible locations for a new skate park in Stapleford have occurred.

This report seeks to provide detail around the viability of these possible locations and give a recommendation to Cabinet members of which site would be most suitable for the new Stapleford skate park as well as the funding implications linked to the design and construction of the new skate park.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a Key Decision.

5. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

Consideration will be made for potential revenue implications for management, repair and maintenance of the skate park. However, it is important to note that Coronation Park, a park within the Borough which has already got a concrete skate park, does not require a substantial revenue budget. In addition, we will be exploring a programme of support for the ongoing maintenance and added social value activities in partnership with Skate Nottingham and other local community organisation to reduce these revenue costs.

6. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Title investigations will need to be carried out to ensure there are no restrictive covenants prohibiting this use on the land, this is something Legal Services will be able to advise on.

7. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not Applicable.

8. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not Applicable.

9. Climate Change Implications

The Climate Change implications are contained within the report.

10. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment is not required.

12. Background Papers

Nil.

**APPENDIX 1**Details

The original skate park on Hickings Lane Recreation Ground was predominantly constructed from wood and steel. Following comments made from insurance inspectors (regular, annual procedures) regarding the state of the skate park, further inspections were commissioned to external contractors.

Results of these inspections deemed it uneconomical to repair the skate park due to the extent of disrepair, down to a combination of ageing/outdated skate park elements and their natural degradation and weathering alongside vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Once demolition of the skate park had begun, further rot was identified, confirming the decision to remove the skate park was correct. Although a small budget towards the maintenance and repair of the skate park had been allocated to Parks, this amount was not sufficient in covering the cost for the full level of repairs needed.

Following the closure and demolition of the skate park in July 2022, a local user-led campaign for a new skate park in Stapleford has picked up pace, coinciding with a broader discussion around development in the town linked to the Towns Deal Programme of Works.

Broxtowe Borough Council engaged Skate Nottingham CIC in June/July 2023 in order to support a combination of user engagement and consultation; fundraising and funding strategy; procurement advice and input to the tender selection panel; and celebration, activation and promotional activities to encourage a high uptake of users to the new skate park once complete, including running beginners sessions delivered by local young people who are supported to become qualified coaches by Skate Nottingham.

Following a highly successful user engagement event back in August 2023, a clear desire for a new skate park in the Stapleford area was demonstrated through online survey results and statistics. For example, 91.6% of respondents said they would like to see a new skate park in Stapleford, despite only 32% identifying themselves as 'skate park users' which shows local support for the project to be robust.

A mixture of funding has been identified to support the development of a new skate park, including a successful Crowdfunder UK campaign, which has recently secured the first £12,000 towards the construction of a new skate park, including £4,800 match funding from Sport England.

Alongside existing funding available to Broxtowe Borough Council for a skate park, the funding raised through Crowdfunder UK will now provide sufficient funding for the required 10.8% match for an FCC Communities Foundation (previously Waste Recycling Environmental, WRE) capital grant application of up to £100,000.

However, it is important to note that one of key criteria for eligibility of the FCC Communities Foundation grant funding is that the funding must only be used at

locations which have not previously received any FCC Communities Foundation grant funding. If a location has previously received FCC Communities Foundation grant funding, further FCC Communities Foundation grant funding will not be awarded to the same location in which funding has previously supported. This has been a key factor to consider in the exploration of possible locations for the new skate park.

During the likely 12-week period prior to an FCC Communities Foundation decision, Skate Nottingham will work with Broxtowe Borough Council to apply for other funding sources, including the Local Communities Fund capital grant of up to £20,000 with Nottinghamshire County Council. The target total to be raised needs to be between £200,000 and £250,000 for a small-to-medium sized bespoke concrete skate park, designed and built by one of the current market leaders. Support will be provided by Skate Nottingham to ensure that the tender process for the appointment of the design and build contractor. Following the appointment, Broxtowe will work with the contractor to submit for planning approval for the Skate Park.

The maintenance and management of the skate park will be undertaken by Parks in the Environment Department and a formal handover of the asset will be arranged between Economic Development and Parks with support from Skate Nottingham ahead of completion. In addition, we will work with Skate Nottingham to consider voluntary activities and training that can be provided to reduce these maintenance costs as well as providing training to the community.

The locations for the skate park that were considered include; Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground, Queen Elizabeth Park, Archers Field Recreation Ground, Central Avenue and Hickings Lane. A variety of views have been taken into consideration, including those of local councillors, skate park users, their families and local residents.

To summarise the outcome of the exploration of potential site locations, Hickings Lane was discounted due to this site having previously received FCC Communities Foundation funding for £94,000 in 2019, meaning that further FCC Communities Foundation grant funding would not be awarded at this site, due to the eligibility criteria linked to the FCC Communities Foundation grant funding (as explained earlier in this report). In addition, this is not a viable site due to the impending construction of the Community Pavilion and Young Peoples Centre.

Archers Field Recreation Ground has not been put forward as our preferred location for the build of a new skate park due to the fact that it has received £18,000 this year from the Sherwood Forest Trust for woodland coppices and we would not want to impact any of this regeneration work. Furthermore, the incline across the site may require increased budget for a skate park development due to civil engineering challenges associated with this as well as the site itself having a narrow entrance on one side which could cause issues during skate park construction where heavy vehicles need access to the site.

The Queen Elizabeth Park site has been discounted due to this site receiving FCC Communities Foundation funding in 2008 (£15,000 for a fitness centre) and would therefore not be eligible for further FCC grant funding awards, a necessary element to the deliverability of a new skate park. In addition, the main park on this site is on a slope which limits the construction options and risks the potential of an increased budget.

Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground has been discounted due to the site previously receiving FCC Communities Foundation funding for the play park as well as previously partnering with Groundwork Greater Nottingham, where £50,000 was granted to support the creation of the stone path around the site and improvements to the play area. Furthermore, the site has recently benefited from regeneration through the creation of the Cycle Hub and Training Track (aspects of the Cycle Network and Associated Infrastructure Project within the Stapleford Towns Deal Programme of Works).

Therefore, Central Avenue Recreation Ground is the recommended location for a new skate park. Crucially, Central Avenue has not previously received any FCC Communities Foundation grant funding and would therefore meet the eligibility criteria within a future funding application. It is only 0.6 miles away from the previous skate park location on Hickings Lane and would therefore mean the least amount of change regarding current user commutes. Central Avenue is in need of regeneration, with the only current facility being a small play park on the site. The development of a new skate park would increase the number of facilities on the site and provide more opportunities for children and young people in this area. The site is flat, with no civil engineering challenges, which means that skate park designs could reflect the needs of its users and multiple design options would be possible. The site also benefits from having easy access which would support heavy duty vehicles in being able to conduct works without issue.

#### Estates and Insurance

Consideration will be made regarding the insurance required for this asset. It is proposed that the skate park will be added to the Asset Register and be captured within the Council's insurance as a whole.