

**Committee:** COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

**Date:** 25 OCTOBER 2005

**6**

**Title:** SAFFRON WALDEN SKATEBOARD PARK

**Author:** Gaynor Bradley, Leisure Manager, 01799 510348 Item for decision

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## Summary

This report advises members that a request for a contribution towards the Skate Park development has been received from the Saffron Walden Skate Group (One Minute Park), and seeks Members' views on whether or not a contribution should be made and what amount should be committed to the project.

## Recommendations

1. Members decide whether to make provision in the draft capital programme for a contribution to this scheme, and if so at what level, subject to final approval of the capital programme by Resources Committee and Council in February 2006.
2. Any financial contribution made towards the establishment of a Skate Park should be conditional upon the production of an acceptable management plan as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

## Background Paper

The request letter is attached at Appendix 1 and copies of funding applications are available for inspection from the author of the report.

## Impact

Communication/Consultation	The need for a skate park has been identified via Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Project, Saffron Walden Initiative Healthcheck, Youth Survey of 11-19 year olds and a petition undertaken within the local community that collected hundreds of signatures. Planning Permission for this development has been approved.
Community Safety	The benefit of building such a facility will be to ensure young people have something positive to occupy their time and therefore deter them from having an opportunity to commit crime.

	<p>Issues that may arise from the location of the site however are disturbance to the users of the Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club and the Lord Butler Fitness &amp; Leisure Centre as both facilities are very close to the proposed development.</p> <p>There may be an impact of additional car parking on the site by users or visitors to the skate park and visits from the Mobile Information Bus. It should be noted that the car parking is currently separately leased to Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club and Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre for which both Facilities have maintenance and insurance responsibilities.</p>
<p>Equalities</p>	<p>A development on this site catering for young people would address the equalities issue of neighbouring provision for adults and young children at Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club and Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Additionally, provision of a Skate Park will provide an affordable leisure opportunity for local young people in an area where there is little free provision.</p>
<p>Finance</p>	<p>The Council's budgets do not contain any earmarked funding for this project therefore any contributions approved would need to be committed from the capital programme.</p> <p>Attached at Appendix 1 is the request letter and budget from the Saffron Walden Skateboard Park Group. Saffron Walden Town Council's statement of the up to date position is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>This Committee will consider proposals for new capital spending schemes at the January 2006 meeting. To date based on the service planning pre-assessment process, only two capital spending pressures, relating to Bridge End Garden (£20,000) and the Museum Resources Centre (£60,000) have been identified.</p> <p>Resources Committee have yet to consider the Council's overall position and hence the</p>

	affordability of individual schemes.
Human Rights	There are no specific human rights issues other than the requirement to provide services and facilities for all sections of the community.
Legal implications	None.

Ward-specific impacts	<p>There will inevitably be some noise generated from the Skate Park but apart from the two Facilities there are no other very close neighbours.</p> <p>Health &amp; Safety Issues may occur if young people skate through the car park on the way to the Skateboard Park.</p>
Workforce/Workplace	None.

### Situation

4. This report is being presented to Members because the Saffron Walden Skate Group has requested that the District Council considers making a contribution towards the project.
5. The Saffron Walden Skate Group (comprising adults and young people) has to date raised approximately £132,807 towards the total cost of £190,000 for this development. The Association has other bids pending but are asking the District Council for a contribution of £23,000.
6. Saffron Walden Town Council is leasing the land from the District Council on which the Skate Park is to be constructed and has contributed £40,000 towards the project. On the assumption that the majority of the remaining funding will be secured it is the intention that work will commence on constructing the Skate Park during the Spring of 2006. Currently, the Skate Group is considering awarding the contract for the construction of a park to an American Company called Dreamland.

### Targets

7. The District Council both in the existing Leisure & Cultural Strategy and the Corporate Plan is required to work with partners to assist in the investigation of providing recreational facilities. The Skate Group has spent two years planning, developing and fundraising for this project and is on course for the construction work to commence in the Spring of 2006. It is the intention to commence work on site to build part of the development even if all of the funding is not secured in advance.

## Options

8. There are two potential options for the District Council:
  - (i) That a contribution of £23,000 (or a lesser sum determined by the Committee) be made towards this project. However, it would be necessary to take into account the implications outlined in this report and to ensure adequate measures are taken to address these issues. This could be achieved by the stipulation that Saffron Walden Town Council provides a management plan for the Skate Park and details how the possible implications in this report might be overcome (see paragraph 10 under Risk Analysis). The Management Plan to be presented to Uttlesford District Council for officers, in consultation with the Chairman of Community & Leisure Committee, to assess.
  - (ii) The District Council may decide not to make a contribution towards the project.

## Pay-Offs/Penalties

9. There will not be any financial return or benefit for the District Council if a contribution is made towards the project. However, there will be indirect benefits in terms of access to facilities for young people to divert their energies into recreational activities.
10. There would also be an opportunity for the Community Sports Outreach Workers to undertake work with these young people locally rather than transporting them to the Great Dunmow Skate Park, as has been the case in the past.

## Risk Analysis

11. The following have been assessed as the potential risks associated with this issue.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
If no contribution is made will the project be in jeopardy.	Low	Low	Funding is likely to be achieved from other sources. The Saffron Walden Skate Group and Saffron Walden Town Council have indicated that work will commence on a park in the Spring of 2006 regardless of whether or not the full funding has been raised and that a park will be constructed

			within the budget available.
If the Council makes a contribution towards this project then it will need to ensure possible adverse impact in the area is reduced.	High	High	Saffron Walden Town Council will be responsible for the Skate Park and it will be necessary for the Town Council and the Skate Group to demonstrate by the production of a management plan that measures are in place to avoid disruption to neighbouring facilities regarding car parking and first aid provision etc.
If further consultation is not undertaken with the neighbouring facilities i.e. Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club and Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre then this may cause problems on site and customer dissatisfaction.	High	High	Saffron Walden Town Council to undertake further consultation with Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club and Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre to agree the management arrangements for the Skate Park.

12. A detailed management plan would need to be prepared to mitigate the risks referred to in this report and specifically needs to take account of the following issues:
- Access to the Skate Park site – it will be necessary to ensure that young people do not access the site by skating a designated access route should be defined.
  - Car parking – spaces in the car park are leased to Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club and Leisure Connection Ltd., there are no unallocated spaces available. Therefore, visitors to the Skate Park would not be able to park on the site. Similarly, if the Mobile Information Bus visits the site then the prior agreement for the bus to park in this area would need to be secured from Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club.

- First aid – Leisure Connection Ltd., has no legal responsibility to provide a first aid service to the users of the Skate Park. It will be necessary to investigate how first aid provision might be secured.
- Daily operational management e.g. opening times of the facility need to be stipulated and including whether or not the facility will be fenced and gates locked. Staffing allocated to the facility and at what times.
- Signage will need to be displayed indicating who to contact regarding the maintenance of the site etc.
- Arrangements for the maintenance of the site need to be stipulated, in particular litter clearance, removal of glass and debris from the skating surface, removal of graffiti and vandalism repairs.
- State which organisation is legally responsible for the site and level of indemnity for users of the site or those affected by such usage.

APPENDIX 1

27 Railey Road,  
SAFFRON WALDEN,  
Essex CB11 3EN

4.8.05.

Dear Gaynor,

As you will know from our recent newsletters, the Skate Group is engaged upon it's final phase of fundraising. The tendering process has been somewhat prolonged but we are now committed to build in early spring, as soon as the threat of frost has gone.

The group feel that the time has come to formally approach the District Council for help in these last stages. As you know, we have approached every possible funder and have worked incredibly hard as an amateur group to raise the funds we have amassed.

The group have several bids for funds in the pipeline but even if we are successful in these we have a shortfall of £23,000. The group are asking for the Council's help to enable us to start building.

The Skate group is submitting our Lottery bid with this letter as it sets out the scheme's aspirations, the research undertaken identifying the need for the park and the outcomes and how we intend to measure these. We were unsuccessful in our bid to the Lottery board because the Town Council own the land and will run the park upon completion and this disqualified our submission.

The scale and size of the proposed park will truly be an amazing asset to the whole district not just the town.

Yours sincerely,



Angela Hellman

Chairman

copies to ALAN STAIR BOVARD  
MARK GAYLOR  
DAVID MORSON



**FUNDRAISING TO DATE** **19.7.05**

In hand at present - £117,455.

To come hopefully

Essex County Council via recommendation of Town Council - £20,000

Applied

Stansted Community Trust - £2,000

Awards for All - £,5000

Contact made and applications being worked on

Lloyds TSB - £2,000

Essex Community Fund - £3-5,0000

Between 400 and 500 letters sent out to local businesses and shops  
£150 received to date.

Fundraising to come - Elm Grove fete and Carnival proceeds

Letters have been sent direct to Tony Blair and Macdonalds for funds, ideas etc:

Carver Barracks groundworks will save £15,000

If above works £49,150 will be received plus £117,455 (in hand) = £166,605

Total Cost for Dreamland tender (approx £175,0000) and professional fees

£190,484.

Shortfall £23,879 at present (bins and shelters not included)

APPENDIX 2

**One Minet Park**

<u>7th September 2005</u>				
SWSG Account	£35,221.24			
Mayors Appeal		£2,613.56		
SWTC (less Professional Fees)		£31,498.00		
Hecford Norton-Home Office		£29,000.00		
Essex CC			£20,000.00	
SW Youth Outreach		£875.00		
Uttlesford Anti Social Unit			£10,000.00	
Jack Patchey Via UDC		£600.00		
Stansted Airport Community Trust			£2,000.00	
	£35,221.24	£64,586.56	£32,000.00	£131,807.80
Home Office (un-accounted for)				£1,000.00
				<b>£132,807.80</b>
<u>Outstanding Grant Applications</u>				
Lloyds TSB		£2,000.00		
Awards For All		£5,000.00		
Essex Community Fund		£3,000.00		
SW Carnival		£2,000.00		
Onyx Environmental Trust		£49,200.00		
Sport England		£50,000.00		
BIFFA		£50,000.00		