



Farnsfield Parish Council Hadleigh Park Project. 20/11/2017

FPC Response to questions and comments raised at the October PC Meeting

As requested prior to the meeting, all emails/letters received ahead of the meeting were circulated as hard copy to Councillors for their consideration. Councillors in attendance and voting on the resolution also heard comments made during the public open session of the meeting.

This project forms part of the previously published Strategic Plan and was a component part of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. A Working Party was set up to make recommendations to Council on how best to achieve it, and to ensure that the facility satisfies a wider and more inclusive use by skaters and push scooters, as well skate boarders. The report from the Working Party containing the reasons for the choice of location is available on the Parish Council website attached to the minutes of the October Meeting. Council members had studied this report and having listened to the views expressed in the open session voted in favour of the resolution to apply for planning permission for a concrete Skate Park at Hadleigh Park.

In answer to some of the specific comments and questions raised:

1. Speeding traffic on Southwell Road and the danger to those crossing to access the park

There have been no reports to suggest that there is a problem associated with the crossing at this point on Southwell Road. It is not anticipated that the increased use of the park will change this. The Council's ambition is that the space is used by a wider range of community members than is currently the case. Playground signs will be erected in Southwell Road either side of the junction to Parfitt Drive, as previously recommend by the Council.

2. Anti-social behaviour and drug taking

The Council takes these issues seriously and any evidence of anti-social behaviour or drug taking at Hadleigh Park, as elsewhere in the Village should be reported to the Police and the Council. The Council will work with the safer communities team to look at this issue as a part of the wider safer neighbourhoods programme. There is evidence to suggest that the increased use of a given area actually leads to a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

3. Noise

Work has been undertaken by a number of organisations into the noise associated with the use of such facilities and the prospective suppliers are aware of the requirement to meet guidelines for noise, as well the Council's desire to mitigate it. The World Health Organisation has produced guidelines, which have been used historically by providers. The Council will work with the provider to soften the impact to a reasonably practical level. The use of concrete which is less noisy than steel, is part of the Council's proposed way forward.

This statement is in a response to the questions raised prior to the October PCM via letter and email and the questions and concerns raised in the public open session of that meeting. Any subsequent emails have been forwarded to Council for their consideration.

4. Safety

The Council recognises its responsibility towards users and onlookers in the vicinity of such facilities, as do the providers. The Council will work with the proposed supplier in order to ensure that the facility meets the required standards in terms of layout and construction. A risk assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with the selected provider, as well as obtaining information from neighbouring Councils who have already provided similar facilities.

5. Gender bias

There is no evidence presented to the Council to suggest that the proposal is other than gender neutral. The Council is keen to promote the multi-use nature of the facility which, through design, should attract a wider range of users than might otherwise be the perceived case when considering a 'skatepark' in isolation.

6. Opening hours

There is no proposal to equip the facility with lighting, which would limit its use to seasonal 'daylight' hours.

7. Finance

The funding for the project is contained within the existing capital programme linked to the Strategic Plan, and has already been allocated. Potential providers are working within a fixed budget. Maintenance costs (£385 per annum) are already provided for within budget.

8. Location

The location at Hadleigh Park is the selected option by council. The exact location within the park is subject to further work in conjunction with the provider, and the local community as well as users. All stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to that process as part of the next phase.

9. The facility itself

The facility will be designed in such a way as to attract as wide a range of users as possible. It will be landscaped within the setting and will avoid the need for railings as higher elements will be bounded by soft landscaping. It is not modular and will be built in one go. The Council intends to provide a facility that is inclusive rather than exclusive and will work within its surroundings.

10. Use of the park

The Council has no evidence to suggest that this facility is in conflict with any legal arrangement made at the point at which the development of the land for housing occurred.

11. Moving forward

The Council will be working with the provider and users to ensure that the best and most inclusive facility is obtained, working sympathetically with the environment at Hadleigh Park, and towards an ambition that the park is open to all and used by as many members of the community as possible. The Council also intends to engage with residents moving forward, through information sharing and consultation with those who wish to help it provide a facility that will make a positive contribution to the village and its young people.

This statement is in a response to the questions raised prior to the October PCM via letter and email and the questions and concerns raised in the public open session of that meeting. Any subsequent emails have been forwarded to Council for their consideration.