

SKATEBOARD FACILITIES – CLEMENTS HALL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with details regarding a request made to the Council for a skateboarding facility to be placed on the playing fields behind Clements Hall Leisure Centre and to gain Members' views on whether or not this project should have further research undertaken.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A letter was received from local young people, who have formed the "Excel" Skateboard Group, asking if the Council would be in favour of a full scale skateboard facility being created on the above mentioned site.
- 2.2 Since the receipt of this letter, the Council's Leisure & Contracts Manager has met with two of the young people, accompanied by local resident, Mr John Morgan and a representative from the County Youth Service, to further discuss their proposals.

3 FACILITY PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Excel group's proposals are for a full scale skateboard facility to be situated on the site to the rear of Clements Hall, where there is currently just a half pipe ramp.
- 3.2 Their intention would be to fund the facility themselves and they have started to make tentative investigations into the possibility of any available grant funding streams.
- 3.3 The Group has gathered a petition with over 300 signatures in support of the facility and has also attended meetings of the Hawkwell Parish Council to highlight their proposals.
- 3.4 The Essex County Youth Service have also been involved with their discussions and as mentioned earlier, a representative of this body did attend the initial meeting with Council Officers.
- 3.5 The Group are aware that any facility of this nature would be subject to obtaining planning permission and also that they would need to have secured the required level of funding.

- 3.6 If this facility were to be built, then once completed it would become the property of the District Council and they would therefore take on any maintenance responsibilities.
- 3.7 If Members were minded that this project should be progressed further, then the Council officers would liaise closely with the Excel Group to monitor their progress in raising the required funding and gauging the level of interest and/or opposition to the project. This Committee would be kept up to date with how this project was progressing.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Third Party Risk

In building such a facility, it must be ensured that manufacturers of the required equipment meet the appropriate quality standards.

4.2 Operational Risk

The Council would need to ensure that as with other skateboard facilities and play equipment, effective maintenance is carried out to remove the possibility of any potential claims being made relating to personal injury.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is the intention that the cost in building the skateboarding facility would be met by the Excel Group's fund raising initiatives, in addition to any successful applications for grant funding.
- 5.2 The maintenance costs of the facility would be the responsibility of the District Council, which from analysing the costs associated with the other skateboarding facilities in the District, would be approximately £500 - £1,000 per annum, subject to vandalism.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The creation of the skateboard facility would increase the level of provision for the youth in the Hawkwell area of the District.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

whether to consider the provision of a full scale skateboarding facility at Clements Hall Playing Fields, subject to due processes such as planning permission / public consultation and obtaining the required funding.

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Background Papers:

None

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