

PETITION REQUESTING STREET SKATING FACILITIES IN SWEYNE PARK, RAYLEIGH

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report relates to a request from a group of young people in Rayleigh for a new skating facility located in Sweyne Park, Rayleigh

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As part of the Playspace Rolling programme in 1999/2000, Hullbridge Parish Council consulted with young people in Hullbridge as to the type of facilities they wanted for the refurbished play space.
- 2.2 The result of that consultation was an identified need for a “Street Skating” facility in Pooles Lane.
- 2.3 A “Street Skating “ area was installed in Pooles Lane Recreation Ground in November/ December 1999.
- 2.4 Pupils at the FitzWimarc School have also been working on a project for a skate park for which they won funding from the Association of Essex Councils of £300 for development costs. It has been suggested that this could be installed on the Fairview Tennis Court.
- 2.5 There is also a skating ramp at the Clements Hall Playing Fields site, Hawkwell that is also well used.

3 USE OF THE STREET SKATING AREA

- 3.1 As stated in the petition the young people identified that the Pooles Lane facility is what they want in Sweyne Park. Under Best Value this type of public consultation and information is what the Council need to consider.
- 3.2 The Pooles Lane and Hawkwell facilities have proved extremely popular and young people come from as far as Rayleigh to use the skating areas.
- 3.3 Sweyne Park is not considered as a suitable location for this skating facility as there are already extensive older children play facilities located there, including a rebound wall and basketball goals. There was also considerable local resident opposition to the facilities at Sweyne Park and further equipment would exacerbate the problem.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Good Play facilities are identified as helping reduce Crime and Disorder issues in the Crime and Disorder strategy.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is no money identified for this purpose in 2000/01 as the Playspace Rolling Programme sites have already been identified. However it is suggested that provision be considered for funding from the 2001/2002 programme. The approximate cost of such a facility is £25,000.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

That the request of the petitioners be considered and that this type of facility is considered for funding from next year's Playspace Rolling Programme.

Tony Galloway

Head of Leisure & Client Services

Background Papers:

Copy of Petition

For further information please contact David Timson on (01702) 546366