

CONSULTATION – SKATEBOARD HALF PIPE, CLEMENTS HALL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the result of a public consultation on the replacement of the skateboard half pipe at Clements Hall recreation ground, requested by members of the Playspace Sub-Committee.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As part of the budget proposals for 2005/06 replacement of the half pipe has been identified on safety grounds as the equipment has reached the end of its useful life. A sum of £16,000 has been identified for this purpose.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 A consultation letter was sent out to approximately 100 properties between Rectory Avenue and Clements Hall recreation ground. A plan of the area covered by the consultation is included as Appendix A. The letters were sent out jointly in the names of Hawkwell Parish Council and Rochford District Council, and distributed by Hawkwell Parish Council.
- 3.2 Holmes Place were consulted but were not interested in being involved in this project.

Results of Consultation

- 3.3 Of the 100 letters sent out a total of 15 have been returned, 6 in support, 9 opposed, of which 3 opposed have not included their address. The comments are included verbatim in Table A below.
- 3.4 It can be seen that most comments do not relate directly to the replacement of the half pipe.

3.5 TABLE A

| No. of Returns | YES | NO |
|----------------|-----|------------|
| 15 | 6 | 9 (3 anon) |

Comments

| LOCATION | YES | NO |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Read Close | | This residential area will suffer increased noise levels and unsociable behaviour problems. Should a wider age facility be also implemented then traffic volume would as well be an issue. |
| Read Close | | This facility seems to be mostly unused. The money would be better spent on renewing the footpath leading into Clements Hall or other more worthwhile projects. |
| Englefield Close | | Wrong location. Risk assessment – unsupervised area of playing field. Used by teenagers for purposes other than it's purpose i.e. mopeds and road cycles. Potential for serious accident because of ground surface and points above. |
| Rectory Road | | This facility should be removed immediately as it is totally the wrong location. The area is a magnet for all the trouble making youths of the area and impossible for the Police to prevent incidents. The existing half-pipe has never been correctly used and now the noise levels are unacceptable. |
| Sweyne Avenue | More of these types of facilities should be provided. | I feel this sort of recreational equipment should be situated on "brown field" sites as the people who use show a great disregard for the area by leaving vast amounts of litter, broken glass etc. Used to be a pretty spot. |
| Sweyne Avenue | | I feel the skateboard would further encourage the wrong element. The area is a meeting place for gangs of youths to further vandalise the surrounding streets and amenities. For proof of this look at the windows of the swimming pool and the broken saplings in the surrounding area. Gangs of up to 50 strong regularly use Sweyne Avenue as a cut through to the skate park and the language and volume |

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| | | are unacceptable. |
| Anonymous | | I don't support this proposal as I don't think it is properly used and just attracts the gathering of youths to sit drinking alcohol (evidence of this can often be seen in the way of bottles (often smashed when walking a dog) of a Saturday / Sunday morning. |

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Should Members agree not to replace the Half pipe the existing equipment will need to be removed and the area made good. The existing equipment has reached the end of its useful life.
- 4.2 It is surprising the consultation has only generated a 15% return. The negative comments received relate to the youth nuisance such a facility might generate.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Because skateboarding has a "culture" which is often seen as different by adults, use of the skateboarding equipment is often judged to be abrasive. However provision of skateboarding equipment does help keep this activity off areas where it forms a hazard to pedestrians.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Replacement of this equipment will improve the environment of this area of the recreation ground.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A sum of £16,000 is set aside in the Capital Budget for 2005/06 for this project.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Hawkwell Parish Council considered the outcome of the consultation at their meeting of Full Council on 19 September. The Parish Council have verbally agreed to the current refurbishment of the existing half pipe and to the possible expansion of the facility for younger people.

9 RECOMMENDATION

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

That in the light of the limited consultation response, the Council proceed with the replacement of the half pipe skateboard facilities.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:-

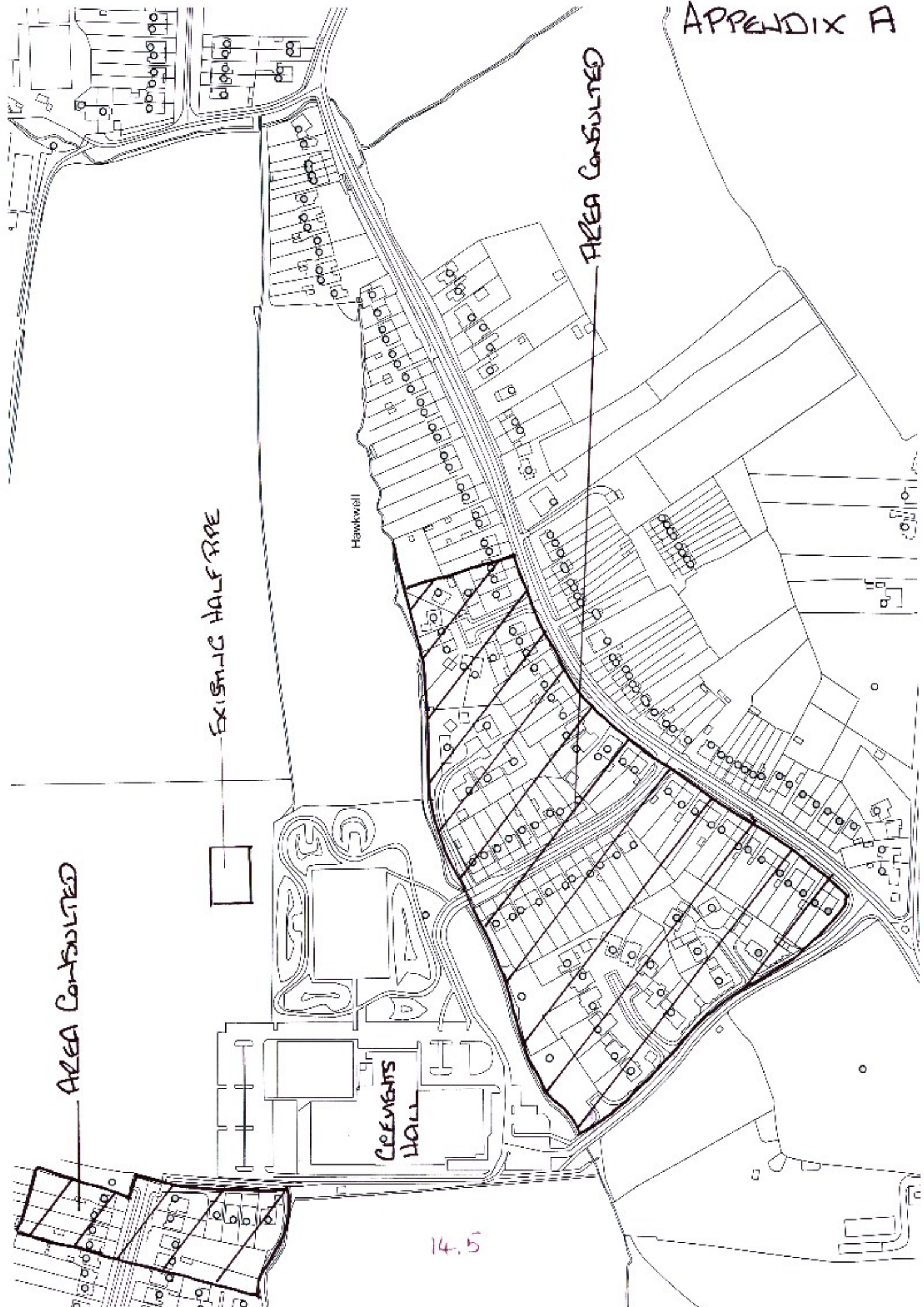
None

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APPENDIX A



AREA CONSULTED

EXISTING HALF ACRE

Hawkwell

CREMENTS Hall

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