

# LA Multi-use Skatepark



# Agenda

Introduction - Where are we to date?

Generic Skatepark Pros

Generic Skatepark Cons

Site Options

Next Steps

Questions / Discussion

# Where are we to date ?

The working group is working to an agreement by the council 5 years ago on having a community multi use skate-park in Long Ashton.

Peel park had been chosen as the preferred site at the community centre of the park and a tender that had gone out for the design and build there is believed to still be valid if that site is still the preferred option.

The tender was won by a local skate park company called Canvas. However, a local poll showed 90% support for a competing design which created a degree of local concern, which must be addressed.

It was decided to expand the working group which now includes a more diverse age range and generate more engagement with the community to better understand what the community wants and answer any concerns raised.

The council and working group felt it crucial to consult further with the community, to ensure they are fully engaged on all the sites that have been considered suitable for development, so an informed decision can be made.

# Outcome of village survey from 2020 Clearly Shows Why this is important - But We Need to Revalidate.

## High interest in a skatepark

**1 IN 6**  
LONG ASHTON RESIDENTS RESPONDED

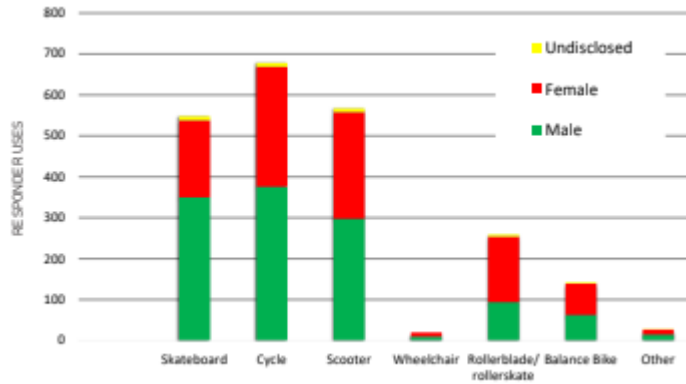
**1393**  
TOTAL RESPONDEES

**1025**  
RESPONDEES WHO'LL USE PARK

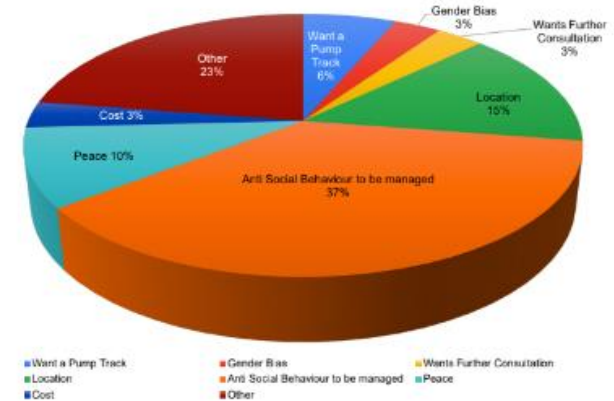
**2242**  
TOTAL INTENDED 'USES'

82% in favour of a skatepark, of which 89% in favour of peel park

## Mixed wheeled use/users demonstrated



## 62 Concerns received:



Concerns received will help inform decisions including the design and how to mitigate concerns such as antisocial behaviour and noise.

# Outcome of village survey visit to local schools

All Year 5 and 6 surveyed in:

Northleaze, Birdwell, Flax Primary Schools

90% in favour of the non winning bid based on its inclusion of a pump track with the skate park & in part why we are revisiting the site and the designs

Children's comments about non winning bid:

It was more versatile

Could be used by all ages in different ways and in different weather conditions

Most used scooters more often than skateboards and roller skates

It has places for all young people like toddlers on balance bikes as well as a concrete one for proper skaters

Little children can go on it

# Generic Pro's of a Skatepark - There are Many!

1. Health & wellbeing - A physical activity for children and young people, particularly attractive for those not involved in traditional sports
2. A safe and challenging place for wheeled sports participants to develop their skills
3. Helps to reduce anti social behaviour overall by providing a location for a constructive, positive activity
4. A really positive environment for young people where they forge friendships, camaraderie and push themselves against each other in their sports
5. A destination for family outings
6. All age groups and genders can enjoy Skateparks
7. Accessibility - free to use for all
8. Skateparks support vibrant healthy communities, just like other sports facilities
9. Facility for lots of different types of user (skateboards, bikes, scooters, roller boots)

# General Cons of a Skatepark - Can Be Mitigated!

1. Perception of a hub for antisocial behaviour:
  - a. Litter - mitigated with sufficient bins & regular emptying
  - b. Graffiti & vandalism - mitigated by situating the park in a central village location.
  - c. Drug use/drinking - proposal is for no lights to prevent the park being used in the evening. The park also provides a positive option for the youth.
2. Noise - The park will generate noise but is well below ordinary recreational standards and is completely appropriate for residential areas, however distance to nearest properties will need to be a consideration in the choice of location. Noise can also be mitigated by an appropriate use of surface materials.
3. Parking - Might attract participants from outside walking distance. No different to bowles club or football (although should be less due to size of facility on offer)
4. Injury - the wheeled sports can lead to injury:
  - a. Of users - mitigated by using an experienced designer who will ensure the parks lines do not clash, reducing the height and speed of features
  - b. Of public - an appropriate separation from other site users will need to be a consideration for each site location and design e.g fencing or landscaping.

**Can we mitigate the above a suitable amount to satisfy the majority? The intent will be for the Working Group to work with the Community to ensure mitigations are in place.**

# Site Options

1. Already agreed on tender the area of Peel park nearest the community centre to the right of the pedestrian access.
2. The mound in Peel park above the football field area towards the Kings Croft entrance.
3. The grass area next to Birdwell school currently with a set of goals but owned by the council and not used for anything specific.
4. The complete redevelopment of Long Ashton community centre and grounds and possible skate park where the existing basketball tarmac and play area including the bandstand section.



# Sites comparison

## Site 1 Peel park (NE end, previously tendered)

Dimensions: 22x44m

Area: 1 **4** 8m<sup>2</sup>

Prox to closest property: 40m **2**

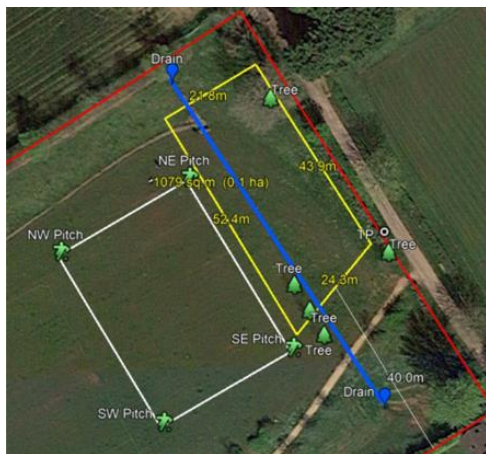
Car Park: Yes

Pros: Land owned by PC,  
Site unused

Pre-planning advice

Cons: Local residents concerns

Not 20m from football pitch  
Not 50m from housing



## Site 2 Peel Park (SW end on raised grass area)

Dimensions: 50x52m

Area: 2, **1** m<sup>2</sup>

Prox to closest property: 44m **1**

Car Park: Yes

Pros: Land owned by PC,  
Site unused  
Bigger, higher (drainage)  
Established trees  
(soundproofing)

Cons: Local residents concerns

Not 20m from football pitch  
Not 50m from housing



## Site 3 Birdwell Primary School Recreation Area

Dimensions: 33x37m

Area: 1 **3** 3m<sup>2</sup>

Prox to closest property: 2m **4**

Car Park: No (on-street)

Pros: V Central  
Land owned by PC  
Good access

Cons: V close to houses  
Site currently used for

football

Drainage



## Site 4 LA Community Centre grounds redevelopment

Dimensions: 38x50m

Area: 1 **2** 7m<sup>2</sup>

Prox to closest property: 7m **3**

Car Park: Yes

Pros: Land owned by PC  
V Central  
Close to amenities

Cons: Will not deliver for many yrs

V complex project  
V expensive



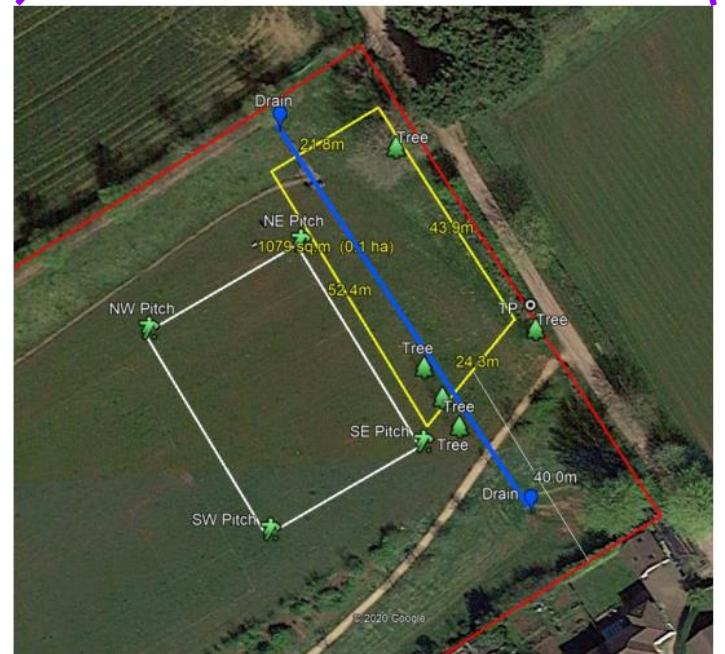
# Site 1 Peel park (NE end, previously tendered)

## Pros

- Owned by Parish Council
- Site is unused
- 2 ways of access
- Parking (although may be contentious)
- Pre-planning advice already completed - no blockers identified ([full report](#), [summary](#))
- Disabled access into park
- Drainage survey completed
- Topology survey completed
- Trees plants – sound barrier
- 1148m<sup>2</sup> - good size

## Cons

- Local residents concerned about anti-social behaviour – remote site so limited passive surveillance
- Not 20m from football pitch (may need fence) affecting safety
- Not 50m from housing - noise from skating
- Parking in community car park may be contentious
- Tractor access into peel park affects design



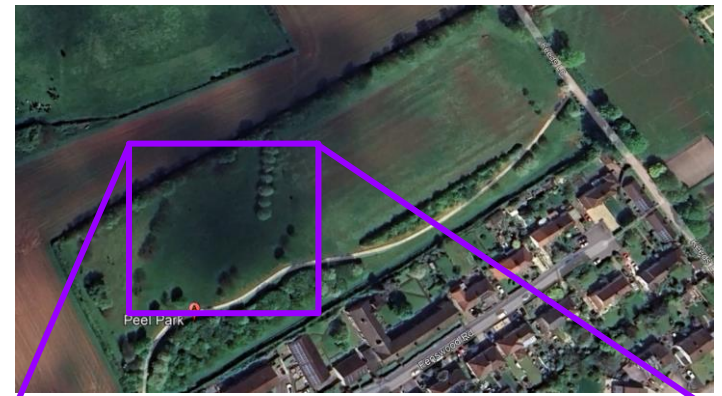
# Site 2 Peel Park (SW end on raised grass area)

## Pros

- Owned by Parish Council
- Bigger than Peel Park NW site
- Higher – less affected by Land drainage and loose balls from football
- Site is unused
- 2 ways of access
- Parking (although may be contentious)
- Disabled access into park
- Drainage survey
- More established trees – for soundproofing

## Cons

- Local residents concerned about anti-social behaviour – remote site so limited passive surveillance
- Used regularly by dog walkers
- Not 20m from football pitch (may need fence) affecting safety
- Not 50m from housing - noise
- Village parking further away



# Site 3 Birdwell Primary School Recreation Area

## Pros

- Central location with more passive surveillance
- Good access
- Next to school
- Owned by council
- Disabled access and close to festival way

## Cons

- Smaller site than Peel Park
- Removing site used for “informal Football”
- Not 50m from housing - noise
- Parking – on street
- Drainage is incredibly poor on the site – may be expensive to resolve



# Site 4 LA Community Centre grounds redevelopment

## Pros

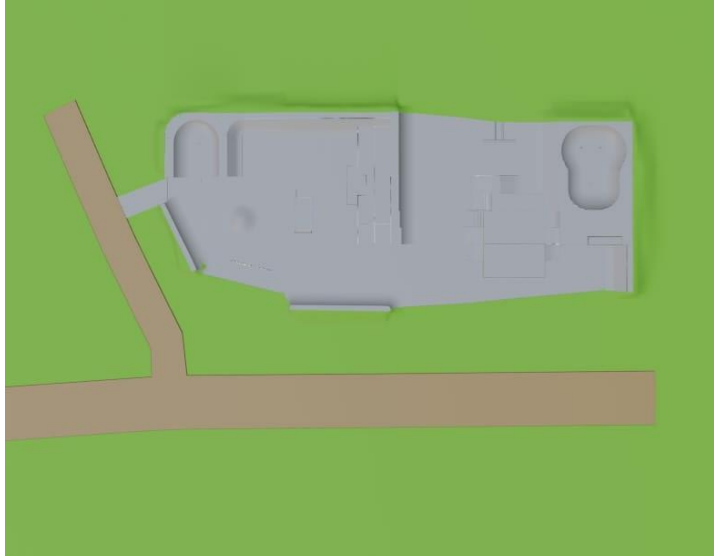
- Close to amenities and toilets
- Central location with more passive surveillance
- Opportunity to upgrade park e.t.c
- Owned by Parish Council
- Established play park use so less challenges regarding noise
- Disabled access
- Car park close by

## Cons

- No timelines for community centre site redevelopment
- Complex project with multiple dependencies
- Hugely expensive
- Numerous variables with the Programme of work
- There is no current plan/strategy for the redevelopment
- Established play park use – closer to properties



# Ideas/ Designs already from the younger members



# Proposed next steps

Further community engagement with event in summer including mitigation of any potential arising issues

Social media engagement

Poll on the location and engage as many residents to vote on this as possible with social media and paper vote options for those who don't engage like this.

Once the location is agreed, come up with several design options to put to the community for their vote.



# Useful Links

[www.skatepark.org](http://www.skatepark.org) The Skatepark Project USA. Providing free resources for communities wanting to build a skatepark. Guide to best practice: <https://skatepark.org/uploads/Skatepark-Best-Practices-2022-4.pdf>

<https://skateboardgb.org/> Skateboard GB - The National Governing Body  
<https://skateboardgb.org/skateboard-facilities-guide>

[www.skateparks.co.uk](http://www.skateparks.co.uk) The Skateparks Project

UK skatepark directory and free independent advice and support for councils and communities seeking to build a public skatepark.



# Benefits of a skatepark (similar benefits for other wheeled sports)

## MENTAL HEALTH

**Skateboarding improves mental health.** A recent study from The Skatepark Project and USC revealed that 76% of people skate to have fun, and 62% skate to get away from stress. (University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study)

**Skateboarding encourages resilience.** The nature of skateboarding requires skaters to learn on their own and develop their own strategies to succeed. Skaters frequently perform a trick hundreds of times over long periods before developing proficiency or experiencing reward for the efforts. Skaters in the study reported that they apply these lessons of resilience to their lives outside of skateboarding. (University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study)

**Exercise reduces symptoms** of anxiety and depression, improves mood, and promotes general feelings of well-being. (Centers for Disease Control)

**Physical activity improves mental health.** Researchers found that, on average, a person has 3.4 poor mental health days per month. But among those who exercise, the number of poor mental health days dropped by more than 40 percent. (Association between physical exercise and mental health in 1.2 million individuals in the USA between 2011 and 2015: a cross-sectional study)

**Time outdoors spent in parks and open spaces, engages children in informal, experiential learning** through play and shared experiences with peers, thereby, laying the foundation for effective formal education. (NRPA - Children in Nature)

# Benefits of a skatepark (similar benefits for other wheeled sports)

## PHYSICAL HEALTH

**Youth and adults get their CDC recommended daily cardiovascular exercise while skateboarding at skateparks.** - CSUSM Studies in the International Journal of Exercise Science. (CalState University San Marcos Skateboarding Cardio Study: Adult, CalState University San Marcos Skateboarding Cardio Study: Youth)

**Numerous studies, cited by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, have shown a direct link between increases in physical activity and a reduction in the occurrence of chronic diseases** such as high blood pressure, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and stroke. Exercise reduces the risk of dying from coronary heart disease and of developing high blood pressure, colon cancer, and diabetes. (Centers for Disease Control)

**Social support from family and friends has been consistently and positively related to regular physical activity.** (Centers for Disease Control)

# Benefits of a skatepark (similar benefits for other wheeled sports)

## SOCIAL

**Skateboarding and skateparks facilitate a sense of community among skaters** – Skateboarders reported the value of connecting with people who share similar passions in skateparks, skate shops, and at skating events. Those encounters often facilitate intercultural communication and offer skaters the opportunity to interact with, and gain an increased understanding of, skaters of diverse racial, age and gender backgrounds. (University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study)

**Gender and race matter** – The study also showed that skaters of color felt a greater degree of safety from judgment within the skateboarding community than in nonskate contexts. Female skaters indicated they believe they are judged by their gender both in and out of skateboarding contexts. (University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study)

**“Skateboarding is a pro-social activity that provides an opportunity for relationship building both non-verbally and verbally.** A skateboard affords the kids an opportunity to teach and learn from each other, as well as to learn skateboard etiquette which then helps with socialization.” (Dr. Emily Wang, Ph.D., R. Psych. Hull Services, Calgary)

**“Our research shows that through skateboarding, skaters develop the ability to communicate and build relationships with people from diverse backgrounds.** Skaters are excellent critical thinkers and problem-solvers who view success from a more communal perspective.” (Dr. Neftalie Williams, University of Southern California)

# Benefits of a skatepark (similar benefits for other wheeled sports)

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Skateboarding is the third least expensive sport** (out of 21 of the most popular sports, annual average spending on one child, behind only track and field and flag football). (Aspen Institute/Utah State University 2019 National Youth Sports Survey (1,032 youth sport parents))

**A 2011 study found a positive link between the overall population's physical activity and the supply of sports facilities within a major city.** (European Review of Aging and Physical Activity)

## RIDERS

As their name suggests, skateparks are often focused at the needs of skateboarders. In fact, many skateparks are used by a variety of different wheeled devices, including:-

- Skateboards
- BMX
- Other bicycles
- WCMX (adapted wheelchairs)
- Scooters

Sources: <https://skatepark.org/uploads/Skatepark-Best-Practices-2022-4.pdf>

<https://skateboardgb.org/skateboard-facilities-guide> 2024\_skateboard\_design\_and\_development\_guidance\_toolkit\_april\_2021\_ne.pdf

# Community spaces

Skateparks are not just sports facilities, but significant community spaces, and therefore often include a high quality of landscape design for their immediate setting and surroundings, in which the community can exist and develop. A good skatepark should ideally therefore provide and/or be near to:-

- Places for riders to wait for their opportunity to ride, and/or to rest
- Safe and/or observable places to leave bags
- Places for non-riders to sit and observe
- Lighting for riding and non-riding areas
- Signage for protocols and rules
- Tool station, and/or place to store brushes
- Litter bins
- Water fountains
- Bike racks
- BBQ and picnic facilities
- Shaded areas
- WiFi
- Café
- Toilets
- Public transport
- Car parking

Source: <https://skateboardgb.org/skateboard-facilities-guide>

2024\_skateboard\_design\_and\_development\_guidance\_toolkit\_april\_2021\_ne.pdf

# Design Considerations

## Conflict of activities

RoSPA commonly recommend locating a wheeled sports area be at least 20m from the nearest sports pitch. This would be the same for a children's play area. This distance can be reduced with fencing, but this is not ideal and presents extra costs. Separation of activities should be treated seriously as it can also affect insurance of the space.

## Noise

Fields in Trust recommend that a wheeled sport space should be at least 30m from the boundary of local residential property. This is a minimum distance and should be looked at carefully. The project can be halted during the planning process, or even potentially removed after construction, if noise is considered to be a serious environmental health issue.

One of the most comprehensive skatepark noise studies was conducted by the City of Portland, Oregon in 2001. Overall, a skatepark is about as "noisy" as a playground. For context, here are some other average decibel readings:

10: Threshold of good hearing

40: Household noise

50: Office noise

60: Conversational speech

**65: Skatepark**

70: Normal street noise (i.e., passing cars, outdoor conversations)

85: Noisy restaurant

100: Passing truck

Source: <https://skateboardgb.org/skateboard-facilities-guide> 2024\_skateboard\_design\_and\_development\_guidance\_toolkit\_april\_2021\_ne.pdf

<https://skatepark.org/start/>

# Why Concrete

The advantages of concrete for outdoor skateparks include the following:-

- Allows for a seamless riding surface with no fixtures and fittings, unlike modular ramp structures.
- Enables riders to generate more speed because it is solid and dense and, when built properly, allows for an ultra-smooth finish.
- Requires very little maintenance over its lifetime, unlike modular ramps structures that will need thousands of pounds of ongoing investment and resurfacing.
- Will not rot, and is a more suitable material to use given the UK climate.
- The quietest riding surface, minimising any noise issues.
- Allows the designer to create bespoke facilities tailored to the local riding community's needs.
- Can be finished into shapes that are cannot be readily replicated in wood or Skatelite.
- Minimises the need for handrails, which would lead to on-going maintenance costs.
- Can be blended with the existing topography, enabling a more aesthetic overall landscape design.
- According to RoSPA, has significant safety benefits over modular ramp structures.

Source: <https://skateboardgb.org/skateboard-facilities-guide>

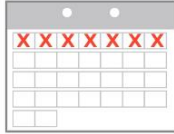
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# Safety

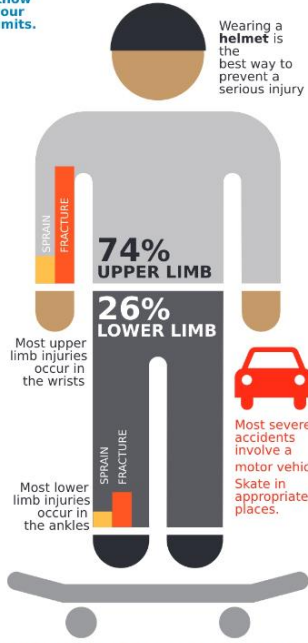
## HOW SAFE IS SKATEBOARDING?

Know your limits.

Wearing a helmet is the best way to prevent a serious injury



**1/3** of skateboarding related injuries happen to people with less than one week of experience.



Basketball injuries average **224** per 1,000 participants.



Skating injuries average **20** per 1,000 participants.

Sources: American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons  
US Consumer Product Safety Commission  
BioMed Central Research Notes

THE SKATEPARK PROJECT™

Infographic from

**Sources:** American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons  
US Consumer Product Safety Commission  
BioMed Central Research Notes

Shows less injuries per 1,000 participants than basketball (USA study). Basketball is not considered dangerous and therefore skateboarding shouldn't be either.

1/3 of injuries relate to people with <1wk experience. Therefore perhaps more injuries can be expected following the opening of the skatepark



# Answers to common questions

The benefits aren't worth the expensive!

A: physical, emotional, social and societal benefits of skating and skateparks to help them understand.

Noisy and wear out quickly:

It is generally recommended that outdoor skateparks should be constructed in concrete because the material boasts a better and safer riding surface, significant durability with minimal maintenance, lower noise pollution and customisability of design. Ref

<https://skateboardgb.org/skateboard-facilities-guide>