

Skate Park Consultation

22 April 2024

Q&As

Question / Comment 1 (Local Resident):

Given that there was talk about a skate park many years ago (up to 25 years ago apparently) and that North Somerset planners had previously rejected a skate park on the grounds of noise, why are we pursuing this?

Answer:

We were not aware of this but we are now a long time on from that and multiple facets change. What skate parks are made from for example are now different and therefore much less noisy. When you look at the decibels created from various activities, the noise from a skate park is actually lower than some of the activities that may already go on at a community centre too. Of course we must try and reduce the impact of noise and we can do this by various methods too.

Question / Comment 2 (Local Resident):

Some time ago the costs for the skate park were possibly going to be around £75k. This has now gone up to £250k or more. How much is this going to be and who is going to pay for it? It's a lot of money for us to pay.

Answer:

We don't know the final amount yet but we / you will not have to pay for the majority of it. Though we will have to fundraise some money, large chunks of it will come from other sources such as grants, lottery funding, local businesses and local quarries.

Question / Comment 3 (Resident):

We must provide this for our children and grandchildren. We need things to do for the younger people in this village.

Question / Comment 4 (Local Resident):

I have written four times previously to the working group and had no response. We feel ignored by you.

Answer:

This working group is a new working group and we would certainly not ignore any letters you send. Please send them through to the council who will forward to us.

Question / Comment 5 (Resident and Biodiversity Expert):

Is night / winter use expected?

Perhaps people should go to skate parks to see them for themselves / maybe groups could visit together?

If we are to do this, then we should focus on improving the space within Peel Park, if it gets built there, in ways to help biodiversity.

Answer:

The plan is not to have lights so that night use is discouraged. So winter use would be less than summer use.

Great ideas to visit skate parks and look at improving biodiversity too.

Question / Comment 6 (Resident):

The Aggregate Levy Fund is less than we think it is and you shouldn't be taking more money from the community and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds.

Answer:

The speaker, Tony, said that he, as an individual, wouldn't mind his council tax going towards these sorts of facilities. But, it was recognised that some people felt that the precept shouldn't be raised to cover these costs. That would allow use of current Earmarked Reserves/CIL funds (we would need to carefully check with NSC with what is allowed). Some people may think that there would be some small level of support from the PC.

FYI: The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, the District Council, which collects the tax for the Parish Council. The 'precept' is converted into an amount per Council Tax Band that is added onto the Council Tax bill. Earmarked reserves are funds set aside by town and parish councils for specific projects, initiatives, or expenditures. They are allocated based on council priorities and can be used for both capital and revenue spending.

Question / Comment 7 (Resident)

I understand the need of a skate park but this will change the character of the park a lot. If we look back, the park was given in memory of Mrs Peel and was really a memorial park. I don't want it here. You can hear a pin drop in the park and that will change.

Answer:

Mrs Peel was a very important member of the community. The park was named in her memory but wasn't given to her. We don't know what she would have wanted and it is not just for a few to decide. Whilst we must respect what has happened historically, it is up to the community to decide on things now.

Question / Comment 8 (Local Resident)

Skate parks are awful and frankly it's disgusting that we are thinking of having one in the village. They are places for drugs, fighting and more. I don't mind football, but not a skate park.

Answer:

We know your concerns but many of us do not experience this when using skate parks ourselves. Yes, there may sometimes be small issues, but you get that now on the Rec (burnt out motorbikes) and up on the golf course (tyre tracks). Anti-social behaviour will occur. This will give kids of all ages a space to go and ultimately the youth need facilities.

Question / Comment 9 (Resident):

How will voting work?

Answer:

You will have a chance to vote on the locations and this will include an option to vote no. We will have further consultation and then put the vote information out in the Parish Newsletter, leaflet through doors and put on social media.

We would also encourage anyone to inform us of any other potential sites and we will look at those as well.

Question / Comment 10 (Local Resident):

If it's a great site, aren't we risking lots of people coming here and thus parking being a real issue?

Answer:

Though we could expect people to come from further afield, most will be local. And look, do we say no to others coming from further afield to do bowling, football, play in the park, take part in facilities at the centre just because they drive? We all also go to places where we park on residential roads, it happens.

Question / Comment 11 (Resident):

If Epic do come into the village, would there then not be an opportunity to do something but on the community centre land or elsewhere as there may be more money to do so?

Answer:

We simply don't know how that will go. At the moment LAPC and NSC have rejected the proposals. It could be about 2 years before decisions are made. And then it would have to go through the government.