



East Wittering and Bracklesham Skatepark Feasibility Study.

Summary to date and
proposal to move to Invitation To Tender (ITT)
and appoint a contractor





Photo: Sky Brown
Olympic Skate boarder

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Objective of this document

This document consolidates the research, communications and meetings related to the skatepark and suggests the next best step in line with relevant guidelines and independent advice.

This document identifies the need in our local area and support from local people, local businesses and visitors to our area. It demonstrates the likely users that would benefit from a skatepark that is integrated into our community. It shows the responsibility that we as a Parish Council have to our local residents and visitors to our area.

The locations that have been identified were assessed by the Wittering Skatepark Group. The independent advisor “Skatepark Projects” appointed by our Parish Council has corroborated these findings and they have also passed their judgement on a 4th location.

You will see that “Skateboard England” who are the official governing body for skateboarding in England and Wales have clear guidance which explains that skateparks require “a radical rethink of the tendering process and a new way of working, a reversal of the old procurement model.” They explain that “councils or community groups now typically work with contractors much earlier on in the skatepark process and tender for projects up front.” This advice is fully supported by the “Skatepark Projects” who our Parish Council have agreed to seek advice from.

You will also see that the “Skatepark Projects” recommendation is to have identified a single potential site prior to public involvement.

The next natural step is to appoint a contractor for the Parish Council to partner with. “Skateboard England” state that “the chosen partner should be prepared to help the council and community group draw up an informed and site-specific design, negotiate the planning process, work with all stakeholders to ensure appropriate consultation and help identify and apply for funding opportunities.”

The objective of this document is to request that the East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council agree that an Invitation To Tender (ITT) can be drawn up so that a contractor can be selected and work towards a regenerated skate park at Downview can be considered. Should there be any costs involved during this stage the Wittering Skate Park Group has circa £11,000 that they will make available.



September 2019

*Minutes from the Assets and open spaces minutes - point 19.55

<http://www.ewbpc.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Assets-and-Open-Spaces-Minutes-23-September-2019.pdf>

1. Skatepark

The working group were considering preparation of an ITT document and working through the process of how to take it forward. At this stage they are seeking speculative ideas from three companies on how they would manage the whole process from end to end from community engagement and site selection through to the final bid process.

This is a pre-feasibility stage to look at scoping the project, and will run as follows:

- *Feasibility Study*
- *Purpose*
- *Budget*
- *Tender*
- *Build*

The Clerk had forwarded details of the Charity Skatepark Projects to the Council and advised that they may be able to help with the community engagement and prefeasibility work. The committee asked the Clerk to go ahead and start a conversation with them about how to best take things forward.

The Group agreed to speak to 3-4 contractors about how their processes normally work and too seek costs and case studies of recent work that they have completed.

The Group agreed that the ITT cannot be finalised until the feasibility study is completed and that there is the scope for procurement rules to be broken or open to challenge if contractors are engaged too early in the process, so it is best for this work to be completed by an independent organization (e.g. Skatepark Projects).

The committee directed the Clerk to speak to CDC to see if they could help to lead on the procurement as it is stretching our capacity to deal with a procurement project of this size.



December 2019

*Minutes from the Parish Council meeting -point 19.173 council Approved the Engagement of Skatepark Projects

<http://www.ewbpc.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Minutes-of-Council-Meeting-12-December-2019.pdf>

To Approve the Engagement of Skatepark Projects on A Voluntary Basis to Advise as Required on the Proposed Skatepark Project.

The Assets and Open Spaces Committee had proposed that a feasibility study be conducted into the demand for and delivery of an updated and improved Skatepark facility in the Parish.

In order to assist with this, the committee recommended that Skatepark Projects, an independent community charity be engaged to advise on all aspects of the study and assist the Parish Council in conducting a robust investigation of all options and issues.

Council RESOLVED to ask Skatepark Projects to assist in undertaking a feasibility study into the demand for and delivery of an updated and improved Skatepark in the Parish.

Action: Clerk to advise Skatepark Projects of the council resolution to engage their services.



Tue 03 March 2020 15:56

Email from Skatepark Projects addressed to Richard Ford, CC Sam Tate and Brian Reeves

Hi Richard, Brian,

It was a pleasure to meet you both last week. Thank you for hosting and rescuing me when my car broke down. I made it back for about 10pm and have since replaced the clutch!

Richard, good to speak just now. It sounds like good progress has already been made and you are well on your way to proving support for a skatepark. The next steps generally involve the council formally acknowledging the demand for a skatepark and exploring feasibility. My recommendation is to have identified a single potential site prior to public involvement. The public can of course send in their thoughts on the proposal, but it's more productive to weigh up the pros and cons of one place rather than multiple places because inevitably it otherwise becomes a here vs there argument, when energies would better be spent maximising the benefit of the facility. I also recommend any initial public meetings on the skatepark are conducted as workshops / drop-in sessions. Meetings will encourage naysayers to speak up, whereas inviting local advocates to present ideas during a drop-in session will allow you to acknowledge and address concerns on a one-to-one basis, and help you bring people along on the journey.

As mentioned in the meeting, skateparks are unlike most leisure facilities. It is highly advisable to bring a supplier on board as soon as possible. It is the supplier that works with the community to develop concepts and ultimately produce informed designs. Understandably, this produces a possible conflict of interest, which is where The Skateparks Project comes in. We can work as an independent advisor, overseeing the consultation and mitigating the risk that your primary source of information is from the supplier. If we disagree with the supplier we'll tell you.

Skateparks are fluid in nature. Many councils assess how much they can raise and will tender based on a fixed project cost. That's fine, but it is limiting. It is becoming more common for tenders to be based on a cost range and a provision that a supplier will help raise additional funding. For example, you can probably estimate how much funding you can reasonably access (let's say £200k as an example), and you can assess the costs of other similar skatepark projects you aspire to build (let's say £300k as an example). A tender could therefore include a provision to work with the community to design skatepark options at different cost points, say £200k, £300k and £400k, with an understanding that the supplier will assist with fundraising beyond the council's available funds, defaulting to the affordable option if funds are not raised within a given time period. I will try and source some example tenders for you. Essentially, you know what you're getting, but you don't limit yourself by closing yourself off to the possibility that a better skatepark could be built if additional funds are raised.

I'm happy to be involved as much as you want me to be. Obviously it's a bit of a trek for me to get to you, so I may only be available to visit on weekends. But please do keep me updated and let me know if you have any questions.

I will be in touch with due course about possible content for your website.

Best wishes,

Alex Jordan
The Skateparks Project



*Number of people that live in East Wittering

0-18 years	862
19-55 years	1,758
56+	2,151
Total:	4,771



As a holiday destination, our parish has to provide facilities for day trippers, short stay and long stay visitors in order to support local businesses and residents alike.

Our unique location has long offered its visitors a wide selection of outdoor pursuits for individuals and families. The weather conditions play a vital role in the variety of activities as each sport requires slightly different conditions allowing harmony amongst users.

- Body boarding
- Canoeing
- Diving
- Fishing
- Foiling
- Fossil hunting
- Horse riding
- Kite Surfing
- Kyacking
- Landboarding
- Open water swimming
- Paddling
- Pebble sledging
- Photography
- Playing on the beach
- Pleasure swimming
- Power boats
- Running
- Sailing dinghy
- Sailing yachts
- Sand castles
- Skim boarding
- SUPing
- Surfing
- Wakeboarding
- Walking
- Water skiing
- Wind surfing
- Winging
- Yoga

An improved skatepark would offer existing residents and visitors an additional complementary activity.



***A petition was submitted**

“Permit the re-development of the Skatepark at Downview Park, East Wittering”

change.org

Summary of petition:

2,410 signatures of support

759 signatures with a PO19 or PO20 post code

861 signatures with a PO19 or PO20 or PO21 post code

“ I grew up in the village and now have 2 children age 12 & 15. Although my children liked the play park at Downview when they were small there are no leisure facilities in the village for children 10-18 years old. I think Downview is an excellent location for a skate park. It would also encourage families from the wider area to visit the village and so would benefit the shops and restaurants. ”

PO20 8DY 

“ A safe place for children to play learn and exercise is badly needed in the Witterings. A skate park offers a recreation for all ages and abilities so everyone can become involved. ”

PO208PH 

“ My son and his friends are avid scooters and this would greatly improve their quality of life ”

PO20 8RQ 

“ Witterings needs this. There is a ramp there already and, with a huge bunch of people willing and able to raise funds and organise everything that is needed, together with the fact that skateboarding is now an Olympic sport, with a governing body (SkateboardEngland), we need to enable and encourage this sport and activity. Huge amounts of research shows that this type of activity, like surfing, is incredibly beneficial for the mental, as well as physical, wellbeing of those that partake, young and old! Let's give the community an opportunity to benefit from that! ”

RH14 0TG 

***As at the 17th June 2020 there were 17 emails of support sent to the Parish Clerk.**



◀▲ Jordan Clark 3x word champion showing his support with Luke Lawler and local skaters at a photo shot for the Chichester Observer

“ I have recently seen the possibility of upgrading the skatepark in East Wittering.

I personally have been skateboarding the mini ramp at down view since at least 2005 maybe earlier.

In this time it has been repaired a couple of times to keep it in use, but as far as skateparks go its not great in my opinion.

A new skatepark would offer the local people a place to enjoy their hobby with their friends and family, and I am sure it would bring revenue to the local area.

I too as many others surf but we can obviously only do this when the waves suit. It would be great to have a skatepark to use as well as the sea when there are waves.

A great example of this can be seen in Croyde, north Devon. A seaside village famous for surf but with a great skatepark for all abilities ages etc. I hope to see a re development of the skatepark ”

“ I think an updated skatepark is necessary, the old one is same old and boring, and locals are having to travel miles to get to an actual decent one. As a community of surfers a great way to pass time when there is no waves is skateboarding, and we don't want to travel to have to do that. ”

“ As you've heard loads of people would like a skatepark. We are a surfing destination anyway so many people skate in the local area and a skatepark would fit off seasons. ”

Support from local businesses

My name is XXXXXXXX and I am the Operations Director here at Shore Watersports (Shore Road). I just wanted to drop you an email really trying to push the issue back on the agenda regarding the potential redevelopment of the Wittering Skatepark Scheme

We are one of if not the longest standing and the largest employer in the parish ensuring that local residents can live and work in the area. On top of this, we employ a large amount of the local youth with over 10 under 21-year-olds working for us throughout the summer and therefore have in our opinion a very good understanding of the services that these younger people require as well as a good read on what draws people to the area.

The parish is obviously a great hub for action sports and this is in our opinion a major draw to the area. Shore was started by Simon Crawford our MD 38 years ago and was one of the first watersports shops in the country which in turn we believe has really helped build the local action sports community as well as employment opportunities not just with Shore but with multiple businesses in the parish.

Supporting and helping this action sports community has not always been a high priority for the parish however when the plan for a skatepark was originally suggested we as a business really thought this would be a great idea to help the parish support this community and local industry. With more action sports on offer especially ones that are more accessible for the younger generation, this will only lead to more involvement in sports and therefore the equipment required to support these activities. This is why we, therefore, ask the council to really reconsider and push forward with plans to grow and foster this local action sports community and in this case, go ahead with the plans for an upgrade to the local skatepark facilities.

On top of a health and wellbeing argument to why the skatepark should be upgraded, there is also a big economic one as well. This is in terms of more people visiting the area and getting out and about visiting the local coffee shops and stores as well as hopefully a direct impact for us at Shore with the potential to take on new product lines to support the growth in activities and footfall. We have forecast that if the skatepark is completed and further support is given in the forms of beach access (disabled accessible beachside walkways from West Wittering to Bracklsham) and beachside showers etc that we as a business will need to increase our workforce by at least 1 full-time employee plus 2 part-timers to support the proposed extra customers we should expect from the new services on offer. We forecast this extra employment would be from the local community and again helping reduce traffic and offering people the choice of work where they live.

Hopefully, the parish council will reconsider and restart there plans to upgrade the skatepark and if at any point you would like me to come as a representative of Shore of the local businesses of the parish please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Thanks again for all the Parish Councils continued hard work and dedication



*The Chichester Open Space, Sport Facilities, Recreation Study and Playing Pitch Strategy Open Space Study Main Report found:

38% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor.

- **65%** of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 32% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- “The category highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was better footpaths, bridleway and cycle path provision (44%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (42%) followed by improved provision for teenagers (**38%**).
- Other notable high priorities for improvement noted by significant numbers were play areas; parks and local recreation grounds (**35%**); and informal open space

The District Council Sport & Leisure Development Manager noted that:

- There is a need for more and better play facilities across the district, particularly for older children.
- Overall, there is still a shortage of teenage play provision, adventurous and challenging play etc. There is limited provision of wheeled sports facilities.
- There is no dedicated official facility for BMX. There is demand but insufficient provision. There is limited provision of wheeled sports facilities.

The report specifically states that Teenage Facilities

*“...comprises informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16/17 age group, and which might include facilities like **skateboard parks...**”*



Users

**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
- Longboards
- Surfskate
- BMX
- Other bicycles
- WCMX (adapted wheelchairs)
- Scooters
- Roller skates (traditional and in-line)

Each of these equipment types has subtly different requirements, which a good skatepark provider will be able to incorporate in their designs.

The diverse nature of skatepark users creates significant and meaningful bonds both within and across different social groups. For example, at any one time a medium-sized skatepark might well incorporate young boys on scooters, girls on bicycles, teenage boys street-skateboarding, millennial women on quad roller skates, and older BMX riders and skaters in the bowls and pools, plus many other variants. Ethnicity, social background, gender, sexual identity can also be diverse, among a community that is constantly observing, talking, and learning from each other.

Sky Brown
Olympic Skate boarder



Jordan Clark
3x world champion scooter rider



Lilly Rice
First person in Britain to land a wheelchair backflip



Paul, 70
BMXer



**Skateboarding (and the associated activities of BMX, roller skating, WCMX, scootering, etc.) has traditionally been undertaken by a wide range of riders, many of whom may not otherwise engage in sports activity. There are a number of reasons for this, chief amongst which are:-*

Affordability:

Skateboards themselves cost £30-£150 and often need little maintenance or other equipment. In addition, most outdoor skateparks are free access facilities. This makes skateboarding easy, both to take up and to continue with.

Accessibility:

As with other 'participant sports' (surfing, cycling, parkour, BMX, etc.) individuals can ride without the need for team mates, training schedules, match fixtures or pitch / court bookings. Riders typically set their own achievement goals, without having to rely on winning, competitions, matches, etc. for a sense of satisfaction. Just roll up, ride and enjoy

Culture:

Qualities and labels like 'cool', 'alternative', 'sub-cultural' and 'rebellious' are often associated with skateboarding, frequently attracting riders who are deterred from more organised or institutionalised kinds of sport. Other skateboarders are more mainstream, sporty, techy and brand-conscious. Either way, skateboarding has a broad cultural landscape, appealing to riders of varied approaches and attitudes.

Diversity:

Skateboarders and other skatepark users are often highly varied in age, gender, ethnicity, bodily ability, socio-economic background, etc. This inclusivity in turn allows more riders to feel able to engage in their chosen activity and engenders a general feeling of inclusivity at skateparks.

SkateboardGB



Physical activity – a powerful tool Outcomes and benefits

Many local authorities are working to encourage more residents to engage in physical activity more often. There is a lot at stake. Potential outcomes that can be achieved for local communities through enabling more regular participation in sport and physical activity include:-

- Improved health and wellbeing
- More effective management of health conditions
- Higher levels of self-esteem
- Reduced prevalence of mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression
- More opportunities for social interaction and the fostering of community cohesion
- Local economic growth through job creation and place-shaping

Skateparks, alongside riding in public spaces and streets, offer a range of different benefits both to their riders and to the wider community, and which numerous reports and academic studies (Borden 2019) have identified as including:-

- **Physical and mental health:**
Skateparks generate massive physical and mental health benefits, often among those who otherwise might not be active. These benefits range from introducing young children to sport as a playful activity, to engaging teenagers who might otherwise be unattracted to team sports, to twenty-something millennials and Generation Z'ers expanding their sense of community, to middle-aged riders looking to keep active, alert and socially-connected.
- **Disability:**
A recent and significant trend in skateboarding and related wheeled-activities has been the rise in 'adaptive' riders using skateparks and other skate terrains. Users include those who are blind, visually-impaired, deaf and/or are challenged with a range of physical and mental disabilities. WCMX - riding wheelchairs specially adapted for ramps and skateparks - has become especially popular. Several professionals are adaptive skateboarders, and skateboarding and WCMX may well be part of the 2024 and 2028 Paralympics (Berrics 2019).

Benefits

**There are around 50 million active skateboarders worldwide and 750,000 in the UK. With Tokyo Olympics set to showcase skateboarding in the Olympic Games for the first time, skateboarding is likely to become increasingly popular in the number and diversity of riders. This provides a new opportunity to release the activity's untapped potential within our communities.*

And what potential skateboarding has! Across the world, the alternative and creative nature of skateboarding is recognised as a joyful way to encourage greater social interaction, tolerance and social capital within communities. Skateboarding is a subculture with strong connections with photography, film, fashion and music, underpinned by an entrepreneurial 'do it yourself' spirit. Whilst some consider skateboarding a sport, many skateboarders would argue that it is so much more than that – and it is that additionality that attracts many young people that councils might otherwise have little chance of connecting with.

Today, hundreds of thousands of skateboarders are exploring the UK's parks, streets and squares, as well as an increasing number of skateparks. After an initial series of mostly commercial facilities came and went in the late 1970s, skateparks – purpose-designed facilities for skateboarding – have now re-emerged as one of the pre-eminent locations for skateboarding. A skatepark, above all, is much more than just a sports facility. It is an active and diverse social space, allowing riders and non-riders alike a place to meet, chat and hang out.

Learning to ride and converse at a skatepark leads to increased sense of independence, autonomy, social skills, self-confidence, friendship and peer group status. All of this promotes social cohesion, allowing diverse people of all different backgrounds the opportunity to develop substantial and meaningful relationships, and so can make a major contribution to the well-being and prosperity of our communities.



*As the Local Government Association recognises, physical activity and sports also play a vital role in wider community cohesion, by engaging all sections of the community, breaking down barriers that may exist between them, and helping to dispel myths and negative stereotypes (LGA 2019).

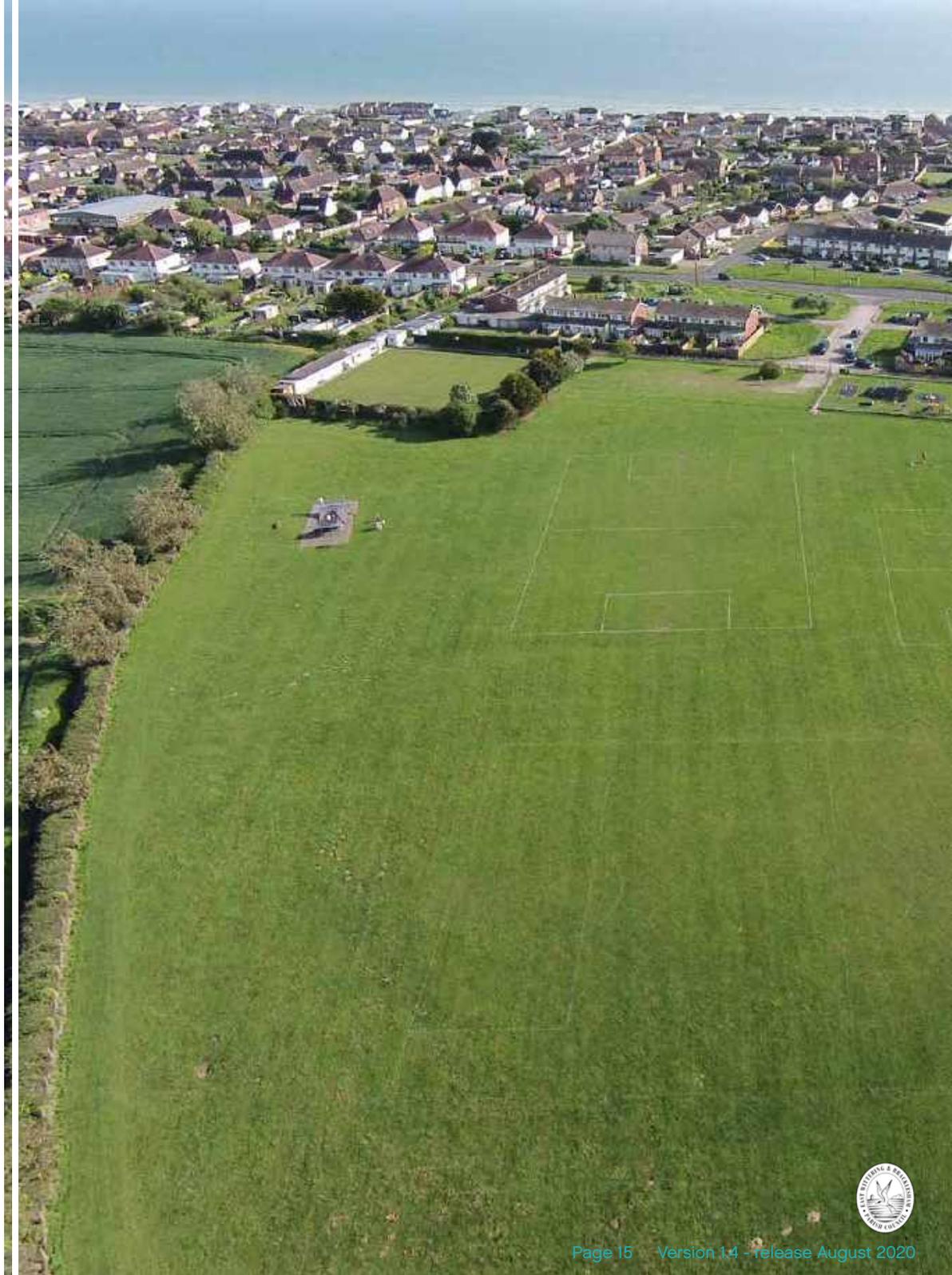
Enabling role of Local Authorities

Research undertaken by the London School of Economics outlines the key barriers to participation in sport (LSE 2015). The most common barriers identified include the cost of accessing provision, a lack of opportunities within an individual's immediate area and a desire to participate in more 'informal' sports. For those with disabilities, the availability of appropriate facilities or equipment is also a key barrier to participation (Youth Sport Trust 2018).

Councils are uniquely positioned to take steps to address such barriers and enable people to live longer, healthier and happier lives (LGA 2017). As planning authorities, landowners and providers and commissioners of sport and health-related services, and by taking a leadership role in coordinating a place-based vision of sport and physical activity alongside partners and residents, councils can realise this untapped potential, whilst also delivering on broad local authority ambitions such as investment in local services, reduced expenditure and other outcomes.

To address barriers, increase participation and secure desirable outcomes, there is a need to think more innovatively about ways of enabling people to live more active lives. Increased provision of accessible and free facilities for more informal activities - such as skateparks, skateable spaces and skate spots for skateboarding - is one way to meet demand for an activity that, where managed correctly, is both currently under-served and recognised to be impactful for people and places.

With interest in skateboarding likely to reach new heights following the Tokyo Olympics, where skateboarding is featuring for the first time, the exploration of ways to unlock the potential of skateboarding within our communities is timely.



Location option - A

“Chichester District Council (CDC) own this site and EWBPC have an existing lease on the site, approx 25 years.

The Barn Recreation Ground is a grassfield open space with good access from the main road, good access is important for both construction works and the riding community.

The site benefits from a good sized carpark which would be useful for people coming to use the facility when finished.

The recreation ground is a large, grassed, flat area, which would be preferable for building a skatepark facility.

Unfortunately this site is not particularly suitable for a skatepark due to the fact that area is surrounded by residential housing and therefore presents a noise concern.

As illustrated below, the available area for building a skatepark would be a thin strip down the centre of the site and a relatively inefficient use of greenspace. This leaves you with a distance of circa 60m from local housing. It is important to point out that 60m is the absolute minimum distance from housing that I would recommend at this site, I would also suggest that some acoustic measures are employed at this distance, such as grass bunding and fencing. At its widest point the potential area for the skatepark is a long way from entrance to the site and this would not be easily accessible by Police, Youth Workers and Emergency Services. For building purposes we would be looking at circa 100m of trackway for construction purposes. The remaining space for a skatepark at this site would inevitably become quite isolated, particularly if you installed acoustic fencing. I am not a supporter of constructing skateparks in isolated areas because remote sites can encourage anti-social behaviour”



Bracklesham Barn

Location option - B

"This is EWBPC owned Land with a potential covenant that requires permission before proceeding with any new works

Similar to the above Downview Recreation Ground is a large grassfield open space. Downview Recreation Ground is the site of the current skate facility and also has a informal carpark area.

The site is easily accessible from the main road and is over 80m from residential housing. The site is protected by the local bowls club and is adjacent to the Girl Guide Hall, this will further shield local resident from any noise whilst creating a safe environment for skateboarders.

It makes sense to site the new skatepark next to the Girl Guide Hall, taking a combined approach to providing youth space.

The site is an accepted area for recreation and there is ample space for a skate facility whilst retaining a 20m bufferzone from the football pitch."



Downview Park

Location option - C

"I would not recommend this site for a skatepark due to the close proximity to residential housing. It is highly likely that local residents would complain about noise levels and this would not be an acceptable situation for the Council."



Marineside Park



Site D

*Since the three sites on the previous pages were identified it has been suggested that there may be a possibility of this fourth site.
*marks the location

"...this new housing development is interesting. My initial thoughts about the marked location are that the plan does not currently suggest reasonable parking, i.e. it's a bit of a walk up from the Downview car park, which highlights that access to the skatepark from the village could perhaps be better. Would you plan in a path directly from the Downview car park? It's also a bit closer to existing residential buildings than ideal and I don't suppose there are any utilities for lighting and CCTV. However, in collaboration with the developer I'm sure these could be overcome so certainly does not rule it out. I am slightly wary that the location is quite far from the main road. If the skatepark is genuinely a decent one, people will come to it regardless of its remoteness, but looking at access from the village, you may find that younger users are put off travelling to it. I would also urge you to ensure there is sufficient visibility from the surrounding area as skateparks that are tucked away from public view may encourage more antisocial behaviour and, of course, there's the safety/access argument. Presumably, waiting for this development will result in a delay in building the skatepark. Do you have any idea of timeline at this stage? I don't think these concerns are anything that can't be addressed, but given first impressions it's not immediately perfect, but is certainly worth pursuing."

Alex Jordan
The Skateparks Project



Site D



Location option - E, F, G, H

The following opinions are based on the information you provided and exploration via Google maps. They should therefore be taken as limited, but hopefully useful in your discussions. I am also reviewing based on the criteria that a potential location should be road accessible with on-road or off-road parking, generally visible (rather than hidden from view), serviced by utilities (for lighting / CCTV) and sufficiently close to the village centre for encouragement of use.

Site E – looking at the indicative master plan my assumption is that a skatepark would be situated either in the central open space or the rural edge where proposed play spaces are highlighted, or perhaps to the southern field. I would however be inclined to disregard the southern field based apparent land features and accessibility.

The central open space offers potential, but it's size would limit the skatepark. My understanding is that being across the road from residential property negates potential noise concerns, but there isn't much space here. There's nowhere to park and I suspect a skatepark would not be in keeping with the surrounding landscape.

The rural fringe offers more potential, with road accessibility, though I'd query the amount of parking space and proximity to residential property is not ideal. Being designated a rural fringe, is planning permission likely? Further, I'd query the distance from the village centre and therefore whether this site as a whole is suitable. I'd be reluctant to hide the skatepark away, but appropriateness given proximity to residential property should certainly be considered.

Site F – this could be suitable, pending wider plans for the area. It is within closer proximity to the village centre and a through path from Downview would offer

access to parking. Being behind residential properties, hidden from the road, may encourage antisocial behaviour, but positioning the skatepark north west of the field and providing open access via Downview could mitigate this. Given an understanding that there is concern over using the site of the existing ramp, this could be a good compromise. I would be less inclined to position a skatepark directly behind the residential properties or towards Stubcroft Lane where visibility is again hindered and inappropriate parking may be encouraged.

Site G – this could be suitable, pending more information about the wider plans for this area and the introduction of suitable facilities. However, it is notably lacking in parking, is situated further from the village centre and, given surrounding buildings, appears hidden from general view. I believe simply building a skatepark with no further recreational facilities, access, utilities or parking would risk antisocial behaviour and would limit access to younger users. I also suspect increased opposition from local residents.

To conclude, and given consideration to our previous conversations, it is my opinion that the site of the existing skate ramp or near to the existing skate ramp is most appropriate given access to parking, existing facilities and utilities, distance from residential property and access to the village centre.

Alex Jordan
The Skateparks Project



Location - indented

**Choosing the best location for a skatepark can often be one of the most challenging and important decisions in the process. The wrong location may negatively impact upon planning permission, cause significant issues for construction, discourage riders from using the facility, or encourage anti-social behaviour. Ultimately you will need to enlist the help of an experienced skatepark contractor to properly assess the preferred site location. There are some important factors to consider.*

Site B

Reasons to select Downview:

- ✓ Selected by an independent site review
- ✓ Precedent as there is already a skatepark there

“Considering Downview by the Guides hall, which I have seen in person, there is parking, utilities, an existing skate facility and it is a sufficient distance from residential buildings. It also seems fairly accessible from the village. If I were objectively choosing a location for a skatepark based purely on geography, access and amenities, this would be my first choice. I am aware of course that these things are not always as simple as that, and you’ve said that the trust likely to fund the skatepark is against this location. There are other sources of funding I could perhaps point you towards, but it would be good to know their objections because I do think this is a decent location and if I can help alleviate any concerns I would happily do so. Considering some of the usual concerns for a skatepark, this seems generally well suited.”

Alex Jordan
The Skateparks Project



Appointing a contractor

* “Often, these changes have inspired a radical rethink of the tendering process and a new way of working, a reversal of the old procurement model. Rather than employing a skatepark company to just design and build a skatepark, councils or community groups now typically work with contractors much earlier on in the skatepark process and tender for projects up front.

This model allows the skatepark company to work closely with the council or community group, providing support in project consultation, design, planning and fundraising as required.

This support has proved invaluable and is a fast-track route to success. The council or community group commits to the contractor, while the contractor in turn has a responsibility to make the project happen. In short, the contractor works as a speculative partner, helping to both develop the project and to build it once planning and funding are in place. This is a mutually beneficial relationship working towards a common goal.”

SkateboardGB



“As mentioned in the meeting, skateparks are unlike most leisure facilities. It is highly advisable to bring a supplier on board as soon as possible. It is the supplier that works with the community to develop concepts and ultimately produce informed designs. Understandably, this produces a possible conflict of interest, which is where The Skateparks Project comes in. We can work as an independent advisor, overseeing the consultation and mitigating the risk that your primary source of information is from the supplier. If we disagree with the supplier we'll tell you.”

Alex Jordan
The Skateparks Project



Tendering

A well built concrete skatepark will last for decades and, as such, the decision on selecting a contractor must focus from the start on the quality of construction. Council tenders are commonly 80% - 100% focused on quality. The council and community group should seek references from shortlisted companies and follow them up, and should also visit at least one skatepark from each tendering contractor so that direct comparisons can be made. A tendering council should offer companies the opportunity to visit the skatepark site and ask important questions about the project. The tender should include a design element so that companies can demonstrate their creativity and skillsets in their submission, so council and community group can compare and contrast design proposals. Tenderers should be required present their designs and explain their proposals in a formal setting. Tendered proposals should include a programme of works, breakdown of costs, method statement, specification and all the required health and safety documentation. At this stage, tenderers should make it clear who is going to be undertaking the construction works, to avoid the potential of sub-contracting the build to a third party. Demonstrating that the company has the skill sets and resources to undertake all elements required should be considered.

Tenders should meet the aspirations of a council or community group at that point in time. However, these aspirations may develop during the consultation and design development process and this should be clearly stated to all tenderers. **The winning contractor will have the opportunity to design and build a skatepark, subject to planning permission and funding being achieved. Post tender, the council can confirm the tender decision with a letter of intent.** A letter of intent formalises the will of both parties to strive for a mutually advantageous outcome to the project. A request has been made to Skateboard England for an example of a tender document.

Considering potential partners

Skatepark projects are best suited to a contractor/partner who is fully prepared to support the Council and community group throughout the process. Choosing a contractor early on can be determined by undertaking an up front tender / quotation process. The chosen partner should be prepared to help the council and community group draw up an informed and site-specific design, negotiate the planning process, work with all stakeholders to ensure appropriate consultation and help identify and apply for funding opportunities.

Having an experienced and committed partner on board means the process will run more smoothly, efficiently and effectively. The contractor can draw on all their experiences in delivering skateparks from start to finish, while avoiding the numerous and common pitfalls and which can so easily stall the skatepark process. At present there are a small number of experienced and quality skatepark builders in the UK. A request will be made to Skateboard England for an up to date list.

Planning permission

The planning permission process is the most robust form of public consultation you can undertake. Planning permission enables you to build your skatepark in an agreed location, within a 3-year timeframe.

Ideally, the chosen contractor should support the council and community group with this part of the process. The planning documentation required is often complex and detailed. The contractor will have experienced this process many times and can apply this knowledge to support the group and complete the necessary paperwork. The contractor will commonly provide visualisations, a design and access statement, and respond to consultees and public commentary during the planning consultation period.

Funding

Once the project has achieved full planning permission, or when you are close to reaching this stage, you can formally apply for funding. You can research potential funding opportunities and build relationships with potential funding organisations but, in order to stand the best chance of succeeding with your funding applications, make sure that you have completed all other tasks up front. This way funders can see that you are serious, organised and have a worthwhile and realisable project to support.

There are a lot of potential sources for funding but not every funder supports skatepark provision. You should work hard and smart at the same time. Know your funder. A chosen contractor should not only help to identify potential funders, but also to review and support a council or community in applying. There is an art to writing skatepark funding applications; this is something learned through experience and by seeing which funding applications have been successful and which ones have not.

Creating the ITT

An ITT template has been requested from Skateboard England who are the national governing body for skateboarding in England. This will be used as a basis for the EWB Parish Council ITT with amendments made as appropriate. The ITT will be approved by Chichester District Council before it is advertised via Government Contracts Finder and in line with Parish Council financial regulations.

Items to be included in the ITT but not limited to:

- Area of inclusion for the skatepark
- Structure to be guaranteed for ten years by contractor
- Maintenance, cleaning and inspection schedule with indicative costs for ten years
- Best practice related to the mitigation of antisocial behaviour
- Best practice related to management and financial responsibilities for the first ten years

Panel responsible for selecting the preferred contractor subject to the ITT

The panel will include at least 2x Parish Councillors, 1x Parish Clerk, 1x Skate Park Projects, 1x Wittering Skatepark Group with the option to seek advice from experts as required.

Management and financial responsibility

A management committee reporting to the EWB Parish Council will be created. It will be the responsibility of the management committee and the selected contractor to secure funding that covers a ten year plan to include design, build and maintenance of the skate park. The funding for the first ten years will be placed in an account held by EWB Parish Council. Should there be increased maintenance costs during this time it is the responsibility of the management committee to secure the extra funding.

Ownership

The skatepark will be owned by EWB Parish Council and managed by the management committee. EWB Parish Council will include the skatepark in their outdoor insurance policy while any additional costs to the policy will be included in the upfront ten year costs.

Appendix 1

September 2019 - Assets and open spaces minutes

<http://www.ewbpc.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Assets-and-Open-Spaces-Minutes-23-September-2019.pdf>

Appendix 2

December 2019

Parish Council meeting -point 19.173

<http://www.ewbpc.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Minutes-of-Council-Meeting-12-December-2019.pdf>

Appendix 3

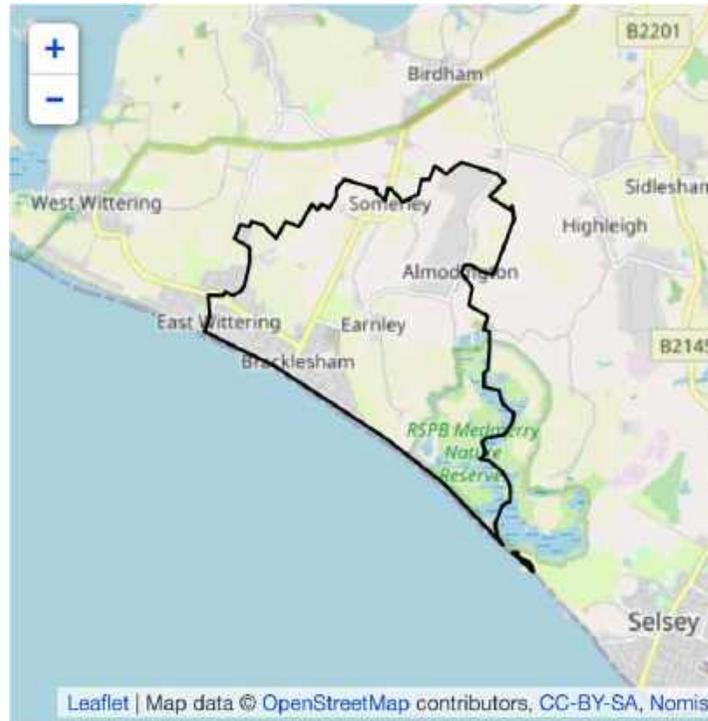
Office for National Statistics using mid 2017 estimated numbers for East Wittering

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/adhocs/009305populationestimatesforparishesinenglandandwalesmid2002tomid2017/parish110217popest.zip>

Screen shot below is an excerpt of the spreadsheet:

M 0-18	460
M 19-55	832
M 56-90	969
F 0-18	402
F 19-55	926
F 56-100	1182
0-18	862
19-55	1758
56-100	2151
	4771

Below is the boundary of East Wittering used in this survey in 2011
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E05007611>



Appendix 4

A petition to permit the re-development of the Skatepark at Downview Park, East Wittering

<http://chnq.it/PNQSCBZrsk>

See attached documents:

[petition_comments_jobs_10311305_20200618075458.pdf](#)

[petition_comments_jobs_10311305_20200618083915.csv](#)

[petition_signatures_jobs_10311305_20200618084059.csv](#)

Appendix 5

As at the 17th June 2020 there were 17 emails of support sent to the Parish Clerk

See attached documents:

[Support comments for the skatepark received in emails since 24 Feb 2020.docx](#)

Appendix 6

The Chichester Open Space, Sport Facilities, Recreation Study and Playing Pitch Strategy pen Space Study Main Report

See attached documents:

[Chichester_Open_Space_Study_Part_1_Final.pdf](#)

<http://www.chichester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=30920>

Appendix 7

Wittering Skatepark website

<http://www.witteringskatepark.co.uk/proposal/>

Appendix 8

Skateboard England Guidance

<https://www.skateboard-england.org/skateboard-facilities-guide>

<https://www.skateboard-england.org/s/9671-Skateboard-Design-and-Development-Guidance-June-2020.pdf>

See attached document

[9671-Skateboard-Design-and-Development-Guidance-June-2020.pdf](#)

Appendix 9

Additional Location option D

See attached document

[CB_15_075_AI01 ILLUSTRATIVE MASTERPLAN_OPTION 1_298 UNITS \(REV C\).pdf](#)