



# Q&A

## 1. How was the skatepark site in Peel Park decided on, what other sites were considered and why were they rejected?

Discussions at Parish Council concluded that a central location in the village was desirable for the skatepark and asked the skatepark working group to consider two options – one close to the Club Room and the other at the eastern end of Peel Park.

The skatepark working group then conducted a feasibility study which included obtaining advice from a skatepark design company. The study concluded that the site close to the Club Room was not favoured due to:

- The area being very small meaning that only a small skatepark could be built
- The location is close to many other users – club room, swings, MUGA, play area and it was concluded that having a skatepark in this area would be detrimental to other users.
- The Peel Park location was recommended as it provided space for a suitable size skatepark, it was located further away from houses and was not detrimental to other existing users.
- The western end of Peel Park was also considered as a possible site but this was rejected due to safeguarding concerns in that location and higher build costs due to reduced access.
- The working group did think about potential sites within the whole village but there were no other sites deemed suitable. The group recognises that Dawson Walk sometimes comes up as a possible option, but it is not a viable option as it is private land and well hidden.

## 2. We are worried about anti-social behaviour increasing in the area. What are you doing to ensure that this is kept to a minimum?

Experience from a wide range of skateparks shows that local users of the facilities treat them with pride as they are a valued resource, giving young people a positive outlet so their energy has a positive and constructive means of expressing itself.

There are also several studies conducted by police, which show that when a facility like a skatepark or pump track is introduced to an area, it actually reduces crime and anti-social behaviour.

That said, we will of course be looking at a variety of different things that we can do to help keep anti-social behaviour to a minimum including:

- The introduction of a Code of Conduct which will be established and posted at the site and supported through the proposed multi-generational and multi-purpose use of the park
- There will be no lighting as this encourages use later on in to the evening
- CCTV may be introduced pending further consultation

## 3. What is being done to limit noise levels increasing?

There have been significant advances in the construction approach to skateparks in the past ten years which has meant significantly reduced noise levels on skateparks.

The Long Ashton skatepark is planned to be built using modern construction which results in a much lower noise level (one quarter) which in turn ensures that noise levels in the vicinity are much lower.

The skatepark is also being located in the north eastern part of Peel Park to provide separation from any houses in the vicinity. The skatepark will also benefit from natural screening with scrubs and trees.

There will also be an element of separation at the edges of the skatepark by the football pitch and the public footpath.

## 4. What is being done to ensure the safeguarding of children on the proposed site?

Safeguarding of children has been at the centre of the selection of the skatepark site. Siting a skatepark is always a balance between not being too close to residential areas and not being too remote. Locating the skatepark at the eastern end of Peel Park was considered by the Parish Council as acceptable due to close proximity to the busy recreation and sports pitches in terms of alerting any danger and also its proximity as a public space so members of the public can see what's going on in the skatepark.

## 5. How is the skatepark going to be funded?

The plan is that the skatepark will be largely built by local fundraising together with funding from national grant bodies. The Parish Council has provided a small amount of funding to get the project launched, any further funding by the Parish Council would be the subject of a wider consultation with Long Ashton residents.

The skatepark working group is developing a funding plan, which includes exploring the following avenues for funding the skatepark. It is anticipated that funding from national grant bodies will form a significant part of the skatepark funding. Given the current state of the pandemic it is anticipated that the fundraising activity will run throughout 2021.

The working group sees the funding coming from the following sources:

- Local fundraising including events, donations and crowdfunding
- Local businesses
- National grant bodies
- Parish Council, developers funding (S106 and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) are the ways that developers contribute to the demands that their development will make on an area. S106 is used to provide site-specific mitigations whereas CIL is a levy calculated on the size and type of development. It is usually for off-site infrastructure. A proportion of CIL money is passed to Parish Councils to fund infrastructure identified in their infrastructure development plan.

## 6. What effect is the skatepark going to have on the sports pitches?

The skatepark will be sited between the existing football pitches and the fence on Keeds Lane. The siting of the skatepark in Peel Park has been established in conjunction with the Junior Football Club and has no impact on use of the two football pitches in this location. There will be enough room for a run off from the junior football pitches and separation between the two activities.

**7. Biodiversity is extremely important within Long Ashton and Peel Park and many of us have been wanting Peel Park to become an even nicer place for nature to thrive around the pitches. Surely this skatepark is going to have a negative effect on this? What will be done, if anything, to offset these negative effects?**

Biodiversity and reducing carbon effects are important to the local community. The plan is to introduce additional trees and other planting to increase biodiversity around the site together with harmonious landscaping. The use of modern techniques such as sprayed concrete construction is more environmentally friendly compared to pre-casting in a mould as it uses approximately one third of the concrete and gives skatepark architects much more freedom to create progressive designs especially where one transition merges into another.

We will also ensure there is an adequate number of bins at the skatepark and ensure that any user impact on the surrounding is limited by including expectations of users on the skatepark Code of Conduct. We could of course also temporarily exclude inappropriate users or close the skatepark for a period of time should the Code of Conduct not be adhered to.

**8. Who is going to be responsible for the skatepark's upkeep and maintenance costs? This includes emptying the bins, cleaning up after users, cleaning up any vandalism etc.**

A skatepark based on a modern construction methods is far more durable and low maintenance than other skatepark materials, is vandal proof and does not rust, rot or decay or break.

Maintenance estimates are being put together which recognise there will be an upkeep cost, cleaning and emptying of bins in the area. Over the course of 2021, an annual budget for upkeep and maintenance will be proposed and agreed with the Parish Council who will be responsible for the costs of the park with LACA responsible for its maintenance.

**9. Why a skatepark and not a pump track which many would say is more inclusive and can be used by more people? If a skatepark, is the intention that bikes will be able to pump around it as well?**

There has been interest in having a skatepark in the village for many years. Recently, this interest was furthered by a young person from the village raising a petition that asked for a skatepark. This petition collected over 230 signatures and was presented to the Parish Council. The skatepark is seen as a key project to provide more facilities for young people in the village. In turn, a skatepark working group was formed to bring a group of Parish Councillors and residents together to develop the project and make recommendations to the Parish Council.

Initial engagement with young people and adults was carried out and this established that if users of bikes, scooters, rollerblades and wheelchairs could also enjoy the facility this would be of the most benefit to the community. Thus, we arrived at the position that a multi-use skatepark with features for pumping would be the best solution so it can be used by the widest range of users possible and would create the most appropriate provision for our community whilst remaining true to the voices of the young people that got the project off the ground and empowering them to feel that they can bring about positive change in our village.

**10. Will the skatepark be floodlit?**

There are no plans to floodlight the skatepark. This approach is to avoid further light pollution in the village and discourage late-night usage.

**11. Will the residents have a say in the design of a skatepark?**

Yes, during the feasibility stage a number of open events with young people and adults were held to seek feedback on the proposed skatepark. This initial consultation concluded that a facility needed to be open to all ages and abilities, and also that it needed to include features for a wide range of wheeled users and not be optimised for a particular user e.g. skateboarder or cyclist. The skatepark working group who are managing the project on behalf of the Parish Council will organise further public events to review a range of designs and to get feedback before the final skatepark design is selected.

**12. Skateparks always turn into an eyesore with large quantities of graffiti. What will be done to create a sense of ownership and pride in the skatepark by our youth to help reduce the negative effects of graffiti?**

Experience of working with young people shows that ownership and pride are central to ensuring longevity of a project that does not attract graffiti and become an eyesore. Involvement of young people with youth workers will take place during the design phase of the project to ensure their buy-in and ownership. Successful examples of this approach can be seen in the Community Centre area where young people have been central to projects including the mural at the end of the Club Room and the painting of the youth shelter.

**13. Is the area selected at Peel Park sufficient enough to accommodate a skatepark that is really worthwhile having? Isn't it going to be too small for the cost?**

A feasibility study conducted in 2019 identified that a skatepark of sufficient length and width can be accommodated in Peel Park such that it can be used for significantly long 'runs' by users and also large enough to accommodate multiple users at the same time. The feasibility study has also validated the budget planned for the project.

**14. I've heard something about there being an old skatepark near the Community Centre. What's the story and when was this taken away? Can you also clarify whether planning permission was submitted for a skatepark.**

Talking to someone involved at the time, we understand the skatepark consisted of a short snake run with a bowl. The memory is that of a crusty half pipe made up of two quarter pipes. The memories are that the bowl often filled with water. We understand that the bowl may have been demolished and the two quarter pipes were filled in around 2002 and this can now be seen in the hump that is outside the Club Room.

At around the same time, local skaters collected the names of 45 supporters for a skatepark. This led to a consultation with residents and young people in the village, and a group of young people organised themselves as 'Long Ashton Skaters.' In late 2003 a proposal and planning permission was sought for a skatepark of 23 metres by 8 metres in the area between the Club Room and the swings. Unfortunately, the planning permission was rejected as the park was deemed too close to local houses, and the idea of a skatepark in the village lay dormant for a number of years. In 2013, the Parish Council undertook a consultation and subsequent referendum with the residents for a Neighbourhood Development Plan. One of the recommendations of this plan was to establish an area designated as a skatepark.

