

## **Wheels in motion for new skatepark in Long Ashton**

**For immediate release**

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An agreement in principle has been made about where to site a new skatepark in Long Ashton.

Following numerous discussions between the Parish Council, the Long Ashton Youth Club, the Junior Football Club, the Long Ashton Community Association (LACA) and some residents of the village it is hoped to site the skatepark in Peel Park, near the community centre, with an ideal completion date of late 2021.



The idea to build a skatepark in the village was kicked off by a young resident, Ben Hobbs, who at just 9 years old, with his younger sister and various friends, put together a questionnaire asking people if and how they would like to use a skatepark in Long Ashton. It gained 235 signatures from people around the village, of various ages, asking for a skatepark that could accommodate skateboards, bikes, scooters, roller boots and wheelchairs.



In response, Long Ashton Parish Council set up a working group to explore the possibility of building a multi-use skatepark. The Skatepark Working Group is keen to reassure Long Ashton residents that all involved parties fully understand that the building of a skatepark will only proceed once a number of key actions have been completed, saying that further community engagement, a site survey, logo and design approval, fundraising and working out the ongoing maintenance costs need to be explored.

Cllr Phil Jackson, Chairman of the Parish Council Skatepark Working Group, says “The Parish Council will engage with the local community and stakeholders during the skatepark project to ensure that a wide set of views are taken into account.”

The Parish Council will hold a residents’ meeting to listen to residents’ feedback and share details. In the meantime, updates and information can be found on the Long Ashton Skatepark Facebook page or via an e-newsletter sign-up: <http://eepurl.com/eGLQw>

The skatepark aims to be fully inclusive and attractive to all genders, ages and ability levels. It will be designed for young and old people, newbies, experienced users and anyone in between and will be accessible to skaters, scooters, bikers, roller booters and wheelchair-users. The skatepark is proposed to be built using modern sprayed concrete construction techniques which are much quieter than those using steel or wood.

Dave Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council, says "The proposed skatepark will be a great addition to Peel Park and to the village and it has my wholehearted support. The Parish Council is fully behind the scheme, and it is one of our five priority projects for the next few years, as set out in our recently approved Council Plan."

Ben, now 11, is among many Long Ashton children looking forward to a new leisure facility that will complement the outdoor recreation space in the village, and says that “I really hope we get the skatepark as there will be so many people in Long Ashton who will enjoy it.”

