



Report from consultation with young people on the building of Swadlincote Skate Park

Methodology

A group of skate boarders visited six skate parks in the area to establish the positives and negatives of the sites. Members of the Crime and Disorder working sub-group, who provided us with a variety of brochures and a video, also carried out earlier consultation. Finally the 'Your Voice Your Choice' youth conference on Saturday 1st March provided an opportunity for forty-five young people to attend a workshop and explore the findings.

Aims

- To consult with young people on the needs for the provision
- To explore the implications of such a venture
- To explain the political processes involved
- To enable them to have their say
- To empower them to make decisions

Objectives

- To form a focus group of interested young people
- To meet with them and suggest ways of information collection
- To ensure that the youth work process is observed at all times
- To discuss the site, its possibilities and the funding available for the project
- To raise awareness on health and safety issues
- To consider use and abuse of the provision
- To raise their political awareness
- To understand the importance of consultation
- To increase their understanding of partnership work
- To assist them to gain the confidence to ask for what they want
- To encourage them to build skills in public speaking
- To allow them the time and space to grow as our future voters
- To give them a firm understanding of the need for them as the 'customer' to get their voice heard
- To make them aware that we will listen and when necessary act on their behalf

To allow them to enjoy the process of empowerment in a safe environment

1. Construction

- 1.1 The general feeling was that whilst wood was the most preferred surface for the actual ramps, concrete would sustain more wear, and possible acts of vandalism.
- 1.2 The distance between the ramps is critical, in terms of speed loss and momentum.
- 1.3 The quality of the ramps, including height, gradient and positioning is very important. The ramps should also fit flush with the flooring.
- 1.4 The variety of ramps should include a half-pipe, a street course consisting of quarter pipe, fun-box and roll-in.
- 1.5 Rails should be made of metal and be varied including square and round flat and sloping.
- 1.6 The surface between the ramps should be concrete.

2. Code of conduct

- 2.1 A metal sign was requested to explain the rules of the Skate Park.
As follows
This facility is solely for the use of BMX bikes, Skates and Skateboards.
All persons use this facility at their own risk.
This facility must be used for its intended use only.
Appropriate protective clothing must be worn at all times.
In the interest of safety please do not bring dogs, glass or alcohol into the area.
Be aware and look out for other users.
It is recommended that at responsible adult accompany younger children.
This is your facility please help us to keep the site in good condition.
Nearest public phone is at the Ski Centre.
The nearest public toilets are situated at Swadlincote Woodlands, Derby Road.
This equipment is inspected for safety on a regular basis.

The following disclaimer was suggested:

South Derbyshire District Council and its employees cannot except responsibility or liability for any claim, loss or damage whatsoever which may arise resulting from the use of this facility except as so far as provided by statute.

3. Facilities

- 3.1 The young people would like some form of seating, however there was some discussion about what type of seating would be suitable. Wooden would be preferred, but this is more open to vandalism but concrete seating may be used as a skating surface.
- 3.2 A half-court basket ball area was suggested as an alternative activity.
- 3.3 A sweeping brush was requested to sweep the ramps when dirty.
- 3.4 A number of anti-vandalism dustbins, regularly emptied was must.

4. Security

- 4.1 There was some discussion around the erecting of fencing but the group felt that if people were going to vandalise the provision a fence would not prevent them. However, a fence should be placed between the provision and the car park mentioned at the Youth Conference. Therefore an open site was the preference.
- 4.2 Lighting to be on a time switch and to be bright enough for safe skating. Protection over the lighting to deter vandalism.
- 4.3 Bike racks to be installed for the young people to have the confidence to leave their property.
- 4.4 C.C.T.V. to be installed to detect crime as and when it occurs, but also as a crime prevention initiative and to deter inappropriate behaviour.

A request that the provision was completed as soon as possible was made by the young people, as they have been instrumental in the consultation and would like to reap the benefit of their efforts. By the summer holiday 2003 would be perfect!

Annexe C

Draft Timetable for Skateboard Project



