

Item	Youth Project
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1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and seek resolutions in respect of the matters relating to the Skatepark.

2 Open Letter

An open letter has been received from a parishioner and this is at Appendix a) to this report. Cllrs Hawksworth and Henry met with the Clerk to consider the specific detail of the letter and respond as follows:

- a) **Communication:** The Parish Council has been open and transparent at all times in respect of consultation and decision making in respect of the Skatepark. Full detail can be found at Appendix b).
- b) **Cost:** There is the potential for additional costs but there is funding available (see Appendix c). Alternatively, Canvas Spaces have suggested alterations to the specification (which would not affect the planning application) which could contribute toward the cost of the acoustic survey. The deferment of the planning application will not incur additional costs.
- c) **Alternatives:**
 - a. **Maintenance and improvement of the multi-purpose area:** The basketball backboard is to be replaced (cost being established); Resurfacing to make suitable for both tennis and 5-a-side is being researched and a replacement goalpost has been installed; The MUGA was, until 2018 only available on booking (which involved a fee) and was much underused. Since then the MUGA has been left free to use (though it can still be booked and paid for which then takes precedence over free use).
 - b. **External exercise circuit:** A green gym is planned was the next priority for the Youth Council.
 - c. **Improvement/extension to play area:** This has been an a recent agenda item though no agreement has been reached with regard to what equipment should be installed though it has been mooted that any equipment should be for the pre-school age group.
 - d. **Picnic/BBQ facilities:** The Community Centre Management Team have not suggested that such facilities would be beneficial to them.
- d) **Summary:** Whilst we appreciate the views, put forward in the letter, reflect the concerns of some residents, we feel that we have addressed/or are addressing the issues raised. Any large project will see a range of views, some well informed, others less so. We believe we have a duty, to the young people of the village, to proceed with this project.

The Parish Council has throughout this exercise acted in good faith and in what it felt was the best interests of the young people of the village - both current and future generations. The Council's view is that this should not be a matter for Stratford District Council to make a decision via their Planning Process. Should the Planning Application be turned down then consideration will be given on how best to proceed which could include a multi-generation 'village recreation committee'

Action Required: To consider, debate and make a resolution in respect of the suitability of the above for a response to the open letter.

3 **Planning Application:** The Planning Application has been withdrawn, on the advice of the Planning Officer, to allow time for:

- a) A Stopping Up Order to be applied for in respect of footpath SD67; The Clerk has established the process for submission of the application for which a fee is applicable (at the time of writing the Clerk is waiting for confirmation of the fee amount);
- b) To allow time for an Acoustics Survey to be undertake: There have been suggestions that the company Canvas Spaces recommend for the survey should not be used as their working relationship is too close. **Action Required:** To make a resolution in respect of whether or not an alternative company should be used. It has also been suggested that undertaking the survey at this time of year will not fully represent the ambient noise at other times of the year when the playing field would be busier. **Action Required:** To consider and make a resolution in respect of deferring acoustic survey.

Appendix A

36 Banbury Road
Ettington

Open letter to Ettington Parish Council

(Please note, I intend to publish this on the community website as it would seem to be the widest circulation of interested parties)

Firstly, can I say that whilst it might not appear so at times, people appreciate you giving up your own time to represent the village. We know you try to do things with the best interests in mind and in my own view, get it right the vast majority of the time.

With that in mind I would like to take the opportunity that presents itself, following the temporary withdrawal of the Skate Park planning application, to ask you to reconsider your previous intentions. These sorts of funds are not available often and have given us a once in a generational opportunity. We need to get it right.

Please let me explain my thought process behind this.

Communication

I know that you are confident that you have followed procedures with regard to this, however, as one resident highlighted in their objection *'the sheer number of people who simply had no idea this proposal was going ahead would strongly suggest otherwise'*. Or, to put it another way, maybe we were oblivious to it until a figure of £100k got our attention. Not sure, but either way, many more people are now aware of the project and are unhappy at both the way it was communicated and the cost / value for money of the proposal.

Cost

I assume that you are going to now increase the cost of the project even further due to a) having to have footpaths redirected b) having to go through the planning process again c) having to undertake a noise survey.

Considering that, to my knowledge, a business case was never put together (I mention this since I know the Community Centre get asked to do this for much lower amounts) it is a very significant sum of money (including £20k of the councils) to use without knowing what the likely uptake of local residents will be. I am not really interested in people from Wellesbourne and Nuneaton supporting the project.

However, rather than just being critical, let's look at the alternatives that are available to deliver facilities for the age range you are targeting, but also for much wider range of residents –

Alternatives

Many good ideas have been put forward following the more recent interaction of Ettingtonians (I accept that when asked 2/3 years ago you did not get much interest). These include, but are not limited to –

1 – Maintenance and improvement (enlargement?) of the multi-purpose area.

I have seen many comments about skateboarding being an Olympic Sport next year, however, so is basketball, football and tennis – but we don't appear to look after these facilities as well as we should. It's a great facility – why not make better use of the assets, but to do this, it has to be useable.

2 -External exercise circuit

Might help with the alleged 'obesity' issue that has been mentioned and caters for a wide range of ages.

3 – Improvement / extension of play area

Upgrade current and introduce new facilities for a wider age range e.g. zip wire / climbing wall etc.

4 – Picnic / BBQ facilities

I had not thought about it until the Community Centre objected to the proposal because it would impact their revenue generating activities, however, lets enhance these rather than make it more difficult for them.

All of these are just off the top of my head – I'm sure there are many others where the spread of the available funds would give a better return on investment for all residents.

In summary –

The enforced withdrawal of planning in my view is a little bit of serendipity. It gives everyone time to regroup and review the opportunity. There is nothing wrong with that, none of us always get things right first time.

Rather than just commentating from the stands, I am prepared to be involved (lead if necessary) a subgroup of people of all ages, to deliver a proposal that satisfies a larger cross section of the residents, whilst addressing the needs of the original age focus.

Thank you for taking time to read this

Regards

Pete George

Appendix b

Communication:

The issue of facilities for young people was initially an agenda item at the PC meeting held on 8 October 2014 following an approach to one of the Councillors. It has been a regular agenda item since then. Agendas are posted on www.ettington.org and the PC Notice Boards, in accordance with requirements, prior to the meetings. Since the shop relocated notices have been posted at the shop providing the time and venue and where the agenda can be seen. Though the Parish Council doesn't have a Facebook presence the meetings have usually been notified on the Ettington Community Facebook page. Minutes are posted following the meeting, again on the website and noticeboards. A summary of meetings is included in the Village News.

The Parish Meetings held in May 2018 and 2019 had details of progress and plans in respect of the Skatepark.

In addition the following have provided opportunity for parishioners to learn more about plans and/or to provide comment.

In summer of 2016 Warwickshire Rural Community Council undertook, on EPCs behalf, a Housing Needs Survey. Approximately 480 copies of the survey were distributed with 151 being returned. See full report [\(put link to full report\)](#). A section was included to offer respondents an opportunity to comment on how they would like to see community funding spent. There were 67 suggestions made in response to this question. Some of these were not appropriate for Parish Council funding because they fell within the remit of another authority. For example:

Library, upkeep of footpaths, improvements to school, more frequent buses, roadside verge cutting, day centre for elderly, traffic calming, roundabout at junction with Fosse (Warwickshire County Council)

Medical Facilities, pharmacy (National Health Service)

Other issues have since been addressed:

Bus shelter/drop off pick up area for school. Width of pavements doesn't allow for a bus shelter but following a parishioner contacting Warwickshire County Council and Ettington Parish Council the morning pick up point has been moved to where the pavement is wider.

MUGA (courts) having free access : The court is now open with priority for booked/payed for sessions. Replacement goal posts have been ordered and the Parish Council continues to look at how its use can be increased by, for instance, by replacing the current surface with all-purpose/all-weather surface.

Below are verbatim comments from the report which relate to the playing field:

More playing field equipment

Running cycle track

Adult/teenage equipment

Upgraded playground equipment

Upgraded tennis facilities

Skatepark;

Basketball court (free)

BBQ area/picnic area/teenage/adult area

More play equipment. Such a big field, not enough in it really.

Equipment/facilities for teenagers

Childrens recreation – varied ages

Skatepark in the park?

The all-weather court on playing field needs a revamp
 Stuff for teenagers to do
 More picnic tables/seating near park
 Zip wire at park
 Skateboard/scooter park
 Definitely more leisure equipment for older children. ?Skate park? More advanced climbing frame/wall
 Skatepark or equipment for teenagers
 Resources for teenagers/young adults.
 Skatepark or the like. Tennis court being free to use – then it would be used.
 Skatepark. Circuit training
 Cricket Pitch
 BMX/cycle park
 All weather sports facility/tennis court (improvements). Skate park or similar type of facility for teenagers;
 More playground equipment, particularly toddlers/preschool and primary age. Plus enclosed fencing and removal of concrete slabs in play area to improve safety.
 Playing field equipment
 Playing field is fine.
 A teenager facility for sure but no idea what?

An initial consultation was held on 14 October 2016 (which was advertised via posters around the village)

Proposals put forward and voted on were:

Wheeled Play Area	65
Green Gym/Fitness	10
Climbing /Adventure Equipment	10
Ball Play	7
Youth Shelter	6
Table Tennis	1

There was also an opportunity for attendees to suggest other ideas and these were:

All weather football pitch	1
Chip Shop	1
Dirt Ramps/Park	1
Mc Chicken Filet	1
Family BBQ area	1
Lido	1
Floodlights	1
Skateboards and scooters in a shelter	
By the wheeled play area	1
Half Pipe	2
Skatepark	18
Monkey Bars	1
Zipwire	2

A follow up consultation was held in January 2017 with flyers being delivered to all households and posters displayed around the village. The purpose of this meeting was:

- Provide feedback on the consultation and to provide a further opportunity to have say on preferred installation(s)
- Announce periods of open access to Multi-Use Games Area

- Progress formation of a Youth Council (to represent the young people of the parish and to progress projects as agreed by the Parish Council)
- To answer any questions which arise

Articles appeared in the Stratford Herald in November 2017 <http://www.stratford-herald.com/81596-dinner-and-dance-to-boost-youth-council-funds.html> - aide memoir and will be removed. and October 2018 <http://www.stratford-herald.com/92284-ettington-skatepark-moves-step-closer-reality.html>

Decision Making Process

Progress was initially slow but once it was known that £66,820 of Section 106 Funding would be 'gifted' to the Parish, for the purposes of off site open space development, from the Spitfire Development, impetus was revived.

With the Skatepark having received the highest number of votes at the consultation held in October 2016 it was agreed that this should be the central project. Though the youth shelter received only six votes this was the most popular choice by girls and it was agreed that this would be the first purchase and it was installed in summer of 2018. Despite fears, there has been no graffiti and it is largely litter free with users taking advantage of a bin installed close to the shelter.

Research was undertaken regarding the advantages and disadvantages of two types of construction with the following outcome:

Poured Concrete	Pre-cast steel and wood
Highly durable	Less durable
Quieter	Very noisy
Expensive	Much less expensive
Excellent ride surface	Poor ride surface
Can be designed for both inexperienced and experienced riders	Limited design options
Allows for inclusion of range of challenges	Fewer options for building in challenge

Based on research it was agreed that, though more expensive the poured concrete would be more suitable.

It was realised that additional funding would be required and the Youth Council held two fundraising events being held on 1 May 2017 and a second in November 2017 – these raised £590 and £220 respectively.

The Youth Council worked up a mission statement and logo which formed the basis for a number of grant applications which were successful and contributed :

Tesco Bags of Help	£1,000
Waitrose Community Fund	£213.00
Lottery Grant	£10,000
Warwickshire County Council Councillor Grant	£1,500

The Parish Council agreed to additional funding which resulted in a total budget of £100,000.

The decision having been reached that a poured concrete park (suitable for use across the skill range by skateboarders, scooter and BMX riders) be commissioned and a core group of the Youth Council worked on the specification. The ESPO Framework 115 was used for the tender with five companies being invited to tender of which four submitted tenders.

A robust selection procedure was used which included value for money, guarantee and responsiveness to specification. In addition the Youth Council were invited to view and comment on the designs submitted. This resulted in the contract being awarded to Canvas Spaces on 25 September 2018.

The purpose of the open meeting on 24 July 2019 was to enable parishioners to see the design and ask any questions rather than a further consultation and it was advertised by posters with flyers to householders backing onto the playing field. Though no formal statistics were gathered a number of attendees considered it a good idea and the concerns of others were partially or mainly addressed though, inevitably, the concerns of all were not allayed.

Attendees were invited to make suggestions for further improvement and four people left comments:

Adult	Pre-school	School Age	Across the ages
Outdoor Gym Equipment	Toddler equipment (eg sandpit)	Something for older children (eg climbing wall), monkey bars	All weather pitch for 5 a-side (the muga not having a suitable surface
Green Gym		Climbing frame KS2 Primary/Secondary	
Adult Exercise Equipment			

Appendix C

Youth Council Budget

Source						Status
		PC Funds	Fundraising	Grants		
Ear Marked Reserves		12,500				Held
Additional EMR as agreed Nov 17		20,000				Held
Budget 2017-18		1,000				Held
Budget 2018-19		1,000				Held
Budget 2019-20		3,000				Held
Fundraising May 2017			590			Held
Waitrose Community Project				213		Held
Tesco Bags of Help				1000		held
S106 (from Housing Development)				66820		33,410 held by EPC Balance held by SDC
Lottery Fund				10000		held
Fundraising Nov 2017			220			held
WCC Councillors Grant				1500		held
Total		37,500	810	79,533	117,843	

Outgoings

Youth Shelter

Recoverable VAT 10,800

Balance **107,043**