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Mr J Brooke
Planner
Stratford District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
STRATFORD
CV37 6HX
BY EMAIL : joseph.brooke@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Dear Mr Brooke

Application FUL/02542/FUL Wheeled Play Area

The Parish Council wishes to respond to the objections raised despite a number of them not being material planning matters.

NOISE

The Council will commission an independent noise survey in response to concerns raised.

FOOTPATH SD67e

We note that the land subject to this application straddles the footpath and will apply for a diversion. A precedent has already been set – the footpath already having been diverted to accommodate the Community Centre.

PROXIMITY TO OTHER FACILITIES

A number of objectors have made reference to other facilities being accessible nearby but this ignores the fact that public transport is limited which rules out accessing those parks not on the bus route (Banbury and Stratford). Even for families who have cars it is not always feasible to transport children, for example the vehicle /drive may be otherwise occupied. In addition there is an environmental impact if there is a need to travel out of the village.

NICHE GROUP

Comments have been made regarding the facility only appealing to a few residents and in response we quote from a recent article in The Clerk¹ *'It is often reported that skateparks are the most requested leisure facility amongst young people. There has*

been an upward trend in the demand for skateparks since BMX made its inaugural appearance at the 2008 Olympics and, with skateboarding becoming an Olympic sport from 2020, demand has increased further in recent years. The demographic of skatepark users has changed significantly over the past decade. Skateparks are no longer just for teenage boys. The proliferation of scooters has encouraged young users to join in, an older generation are getting back into wheeled sports, encouraged by their children and more women are getting involved.'

Examples include Sky Brown - a 10-year-old girl who is on the GB Olympic team and a local female skateboarder who will be using the skatepark regularly as it will be her new 'local'. She has started a skateboard magazine that just focuses on females skateboarding. Both of these examples will encourage young girls and women to take up a sport which they have not previously considered.

The skatepark has been designed such that it is suitable for inexperienced users and to provide challenges for those of greater experience, for a wide age demographic and for scooters, BMX, skateboards and wheelchair users.

The council, therefore, refutes the comments that it is of interest for only a few.

FOOTBALL/MUGA

Reference has been made to Football having a wider appeal and this is recognised by the provision of a football pitch, freestanding goalposts on the playing field and in the Multi Use Games Area.

In addition, the Council is actively looking at how the MUGA can be better utilised.

IMPACT ON HOUSE PRICES

This is not a material planning matter neither is the Parish Council qualified to comment on this.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Again we quote from The Clerk¹ 'There is considerable case study evidence that counters the common concern that skateparks attract antisocial behaviour, particularly when skateparks are built properly. Design and materials choice can influence the amount of noise generated by a skatepark facility, its durability and areas of congregation. Skateparks have also been demonstrated to engage local communities and provide a safe environment for people who may otherwise cause a nuisance elsewhere. When a skatepark project involved the local community, it becomes a place of pride, enjoyed and maintained by its users'. Ettington Parish Council has involved young people of the community at all stages of the project.

This is supported by a BBC clip on anti-social behaviour at skateparks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWiX8SjN-74>

Skateparks have a stigma of being anti-social places and this usually comes from old wooden/steel facilities that were poorly designed, built and located (most of the time as far away from civilisation as possible). When facilities are of a poor design, standard or location they do not attract skatepark users. This, in turn, means the facility basically becomes abandoned by genuine users and can end up being a hub for activities for which it is not intended.

A well used skatepark is policed by its genuine users and is not, therefore, subject to antisocial behaviour.

This skatepark has been designed by and in consultation with the youth of the village and expert designers such as to ensure the facility is accessible to a broad range of ages, sexes and abilities.

The site is subject to regular foot traffic which will help reduce the possibility of any anti-social behaviour.

LIABILITY

The Council's Public Liability Insurance will be amended as required.

MAINTENANCE

The choice of supplier and construction method were made to minimise maintenance. The following factors should be noted:

- In old precast concrete skateparks expansion joints could cause problems a few years after installation as they can move.
- The system commissioned uses minimal joints and, where they are essential, our supplier's system is one of the most robust used by any UK based skatepark construction company.
- The chosen supplier's contract includes a 12 month period of inspection and repair. Their experience, however, is that there is generally minimal or no damage.
- An applied stencil pattern to the majority of the ledges deters graffiti.
- The supplier will provide training on correct methods of removal of any graffiti. The materials are relatively inexpensive and this, combined with in house removal, provides a low cost solution.

INITIAL OUTLAY

The provision of S106 funding prompted a consultation which is detailed below and which firmly established the decision made.

CONSULTATION

There have been many opportunities for residents to provide input to how the S106 funds should be spent and to learn of plans and progress

- 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. 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 or had already been addressed. Of the remainder

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?

The Council agreed that further consultation was required which led to:

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

Proposals put forward and voted on were:

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

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

<i>All weather football pitch</i>	1
<i>Chip Shop</i>	1
<i>Dirt Ramps/Park</i>	1
<i>Mc Chicken Filet</i>	1
<i>Family BBQ area</i>	1
<i>Lido</i>	1
<i>Floodlights</i>	1
<i>Skateboards and scooters in a shelter</i>	
<i>By the wheeled play area</i>	1
<i>Half Pipe</i>	2
<i>Skatepark</i>	18
<i>Monkey Bars</i>	1
<i>Zipwire</i>	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 and October 2018

These are all in addition to the usual communication routes of Parish Council meetings being open to the public, agendas and minutes being published on our website and on our noticeboards and regular Council updates in the Village Newsletter.

SHELTER

The shelter remains undamaged and graffiti free though the Bluetooth connection has lost functionality and this is being addressed.

Core Strategy CS24

We are unclear of which element of CS24 of the Core Strategy Cllr O'Donnell is referring. Our comments, however, are:

- The proposed skatepark is in line with increasing and dispersing leisure throughout the District.
- It is not a large scale scheme for visitor attractions or accommodation.

Core Strategy CS9

The proposal is in character as it is within an existing recreational ground with a Multi Use Games Area and children's play equipment. There will continue to be large areas of open green space. The chosen design blends lower into the surrounding landscape than either precast concrete or metal and wood.

Core Strategy AS10

As referred to above every effort has been made to minimise impact on householders by selection of the site and by minimising the height above ground level.

LITTERING

Littering at the playing field is not a great problem and has not increased since the installation of the youth shelter. There is a litter bin adjacent to the proposed site and, if this proves to be inadequate, then one or more additional ones will be installed.

INCREASED TRAFFIC

We don't believe there will be a significant increase in traffic despite the fact that, undoubtedly, non-Ettington residents will be welcome to use the facility. This will be partially countered by parents taking their children to out of village entertainment.

RIGHT OF WAY

Footpath SD67e is already subject to a diversion due to the presence of Ettington Community Centre. The Parish Council has made an application for the footpath SD67e to be diverted.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Furniss

Clerk to Ettington Parish Council

¹ The Clerk (published by the Society of Local Council Clerk) September 2019