



Bridge of Don Skate Park

Feasibility Study

Alan Jones Associates
August 2023

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1 Executive Summary & Recommendations

Bridge of Don Skate Park Group was set up as a voluntary group with the aim of leasing and upgrading the existing skate park in Westfield Park, Bridge of Don providing a new modern skate park that meets the wheeled sports needs of Bridge of Don and surrounding communities.

The current Skatepark is inadequate for meeting the needs of 21st century skate boarders and wheeled sports enthusiasts.

In 2023 the Group successfully applied to Aberdeen Common Good Fund and the Health Improvement Fund for grants for a Feasibility Study and the following report outlines the viability and feasibility for taking the project forward.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Bridge of Don Skate Park Group apply to Aberdeen City Council for a 20-year lease of the site at Westfield Park for a peppercorn rent for the upgrading and extension to the existing Council owned concrete skate park (as outlined on the site map in section 2.1).
2. It is recommended that if the outcome of the feasibility study is supported by the community, the Group should prepare a tender specification and advertise for a design and build contract on Public Contracts Scotland.
3. It is recommended that improved and additional floodlighting be included in the design and build specification.
4. It is recommended that on receipt of tenders Bridge of Don Skate Park Group carry out a tender evaluation exercise to select a preferred contractor.
5. It is recommended that once a preferred design has been chosen that this is submitted as part of a full Planning Application to Aberdeen City Council.
6. It is recommended that Bridge of Don Skate Park Group continue to fundraise towards Third Party Contributions required for any applications to the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.
7. It is recommended that the Group considers appointing a Project Manager on a fixed term arrangement to assist with capital funding applications, procurement, and contractor management until the completion of the project.
8. It is recommended that Bridge of Don Skate Park Group continues to keep the community informed of the progress of the project through social media channels.

2.1 Project Overview

Bridge of Don Skate Park Group was set up as a voluntary group with the aim of leasing and upgrading the existing skate park in Westfield Park, Bridge of Don providing a new modern skate park that meets the wheeled sports needs of Bridge of Don and surrounding communities.

The map below shows the position of the existing provision, and the outline of the proposed lease site on which the expanded park will be developed.



2.2 Bridge of Don Skate Park Group

Bridge of Don Skate Park Group are a newly formed group of volunteers who are passionate about refurbishing the existing skatepark.

The group's vision is to create a space for all ages and abilities to use, to refurbish the current area making it a safer usable space and to provide an entertaining and fun recreational space for years to come.

The group has undertaken various activities to raise the profile of the project, including the appointment of Alan Jones Associates to undertake this Feasibility Study.

Bridge of Don Skatepark Committee - Biographies:

Chairman:

Kaleb Belka

Kaleb is a British Cycling qualified BMX coach with a lifelong passion for BMXing and passing on the skills he has worked hard to develop to anyone interested. He bought his first bmx at 11 and has been involved in the bmxing scene since. He has worked at Transition Extreme, Aberdeen's indoor skatepark, as a BMX coach and skatepark supervisor, since 2019 where as well as coaching he builds and maintains BMX bikes and enjoys constructing ramps. Kaleb is Bridge of Don born and bred, and although he has spent most of his time in local spaces, he has spent many hours visiting skateparks throughout the UK and abroad.

Secretary:**Glenn Belka**

Glenn is a technical author in the oil and gas industry. He has lived in the Bridge of Don with his wife and two sons for 20 years. A keen cyclist, he enjoys road biking and riding trails in the countryside, and likes hill walking wherever there is a hill. He also spends his spare time doing endless DIY jobs and fixing bikes.

Treasurer:**Holly Elliott**

Holly has lived in Bridge of Don for the last 13 years and is a Mum to two young boys aged 3 and 9. Being a full time Mum Holly has spent many hours at the Skatepark teaching her boys to ride their bikes and scooters on the ramps. Her eldest son has recently bought his first skateboard and is keen to learn the sport.

With her spare time Holly wanted to become involved in the Skatepark development to give back to the community and to be proactive in making the redevelopment of the skatepark a success.

In addition to raising her boys, Holly is a keen weightlifter at her local gym, is a self -taught guitar player and enjoys volunteering as a parent helper at her son's school.

Committee Members:**Neil Taylor:**

Neil has lived in Bridge of Don all his life and has been heavily involved with skateboarding in the local area and the current skatepark for at least the last 15 years. By his own admission, not a natural skateboarder by any means, he has focused for much of that time on the filming, photography, and construction aspects of Skateboarding with a keen interest in the skateboarding community in Aberdeen and around the whole of Scotland.

Working for the past 6 years in engineering as a Workshop Technician for an Oil & Gas inspection company, he has been involved with the local 46th Scout Group in Bridge of Don from a young age and currently runs the Scout section at 1st Stoneywood Scout Group.

With friends who have previously campaigned for various new skatepark developments across Scotland, both successfully and unsuccessfully, he hopes that his small amount of input, enthusiasm and support can help bring Skateboarding & BMX into prominent positive view within the community and facilitate improvements to the local park in which he has spent so many years.

Eddie Przygoda:

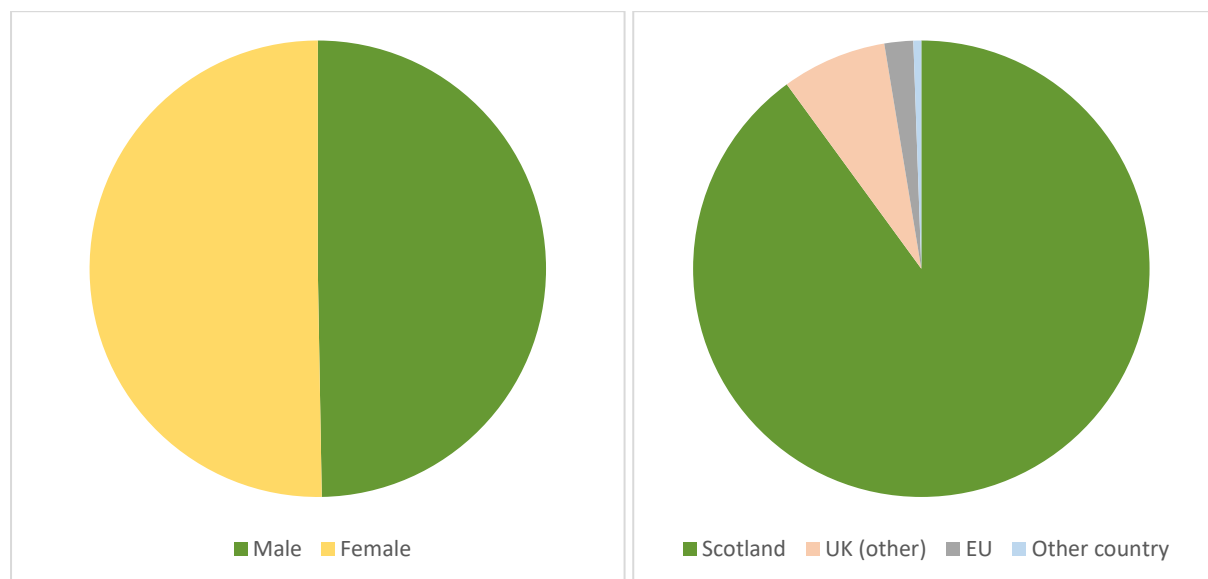
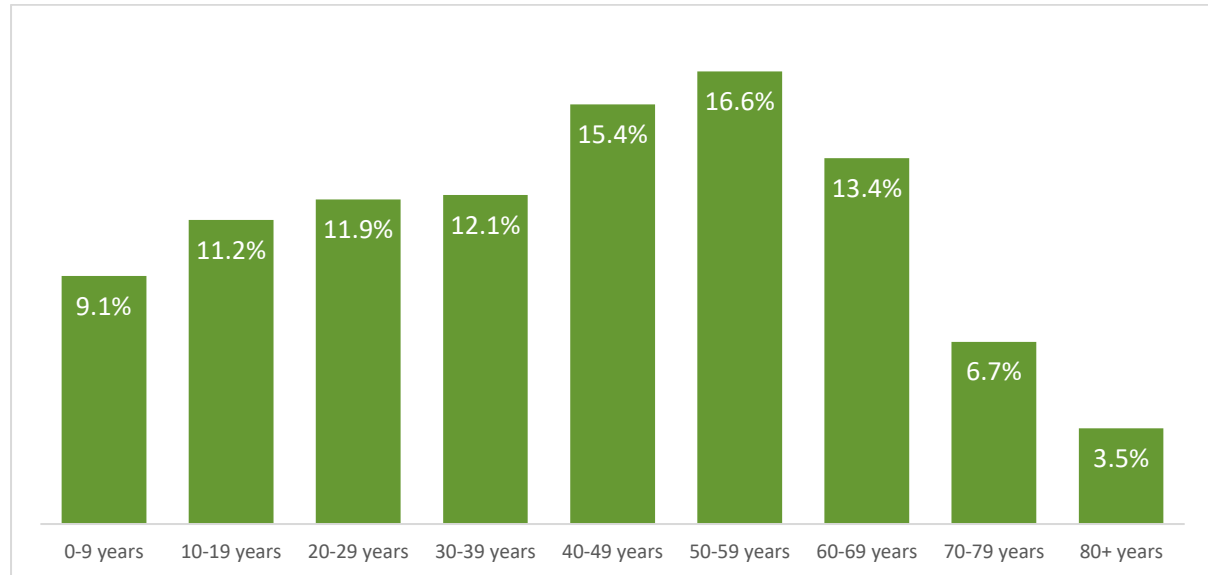
Eddie is an engineer with a passion for skateboarding - it all started at Bridge of Don skatepark in 2006. Since then, he has been heavily involved in the local skate scene, constructing skate spaces, and producing skate films. His passion for engineering has taken him through 2 University degrees and major construction projects within the civil engineering and renewable energy industry. As a volunteer, he is motivated to upgrade Bridge of Don skatepark and promote wheeled sports within the community.

Scott Duncan:

Scott is an Electrician and has lived in Bridge of Don for 29 years. He started skating in 2006 at the Bridge of Don skate park and has been involved in many skate projects, whether it has been building ramps, filming, or helping at local jams. As a volunteer in the Bridge of Don skatepark community, he is very motivated to help get a bigger and better new park for the community.

3.1 Bridge of Don

Bridge of Don is situated in the North of Aberdeen, with a population of approximately 19,000, having grown by around 0.5% over the last ten years. Census and Ward Data provide the following summary of Demographic Breakdown and key details relating to Bridge of Don



3.2 SIMD Assessment

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying areas of deprivation across Scotland. SIMD2020 is the Scottish Government's sixth edition since 2004.

It is used by the Scottish Government to target resources and policies at small areas and feeds into work looking at inequalities across Scotland. Amongst other local authorities and community planning partnerships, Aberdeen City Council use the SIMD to focus resources as part of their Single Outcome Agreement, as do Health Boards and other public and private organisations.

The following summary of key datazones highlight the areas close to the project site that demonstrate deprivation across one or more indices. Whilst the datazones around Bridge of Don are limited in deprivation, several areas close to the site (towards Aberdeen) have clear evidence of deprivations:



Data Zone	S01006662	S01006666	S01006667	S01006669	S01006672
	Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank	Seaton	Seaton	Seaton	Old Aberdeen
Population	893	1,001	750	965	801
Working Age Population	706	694	528	755	573
Overall Rank	2,481 4 th Decile	973 2 nd Decile	552 1 st Decile	2,723 4 th Decile	2,208 4 th Decile
Income Domain Rank	3,086 5 th Decile	1,033 2 nd Decile	977 2 nd Decile	2,846 5 th Decile	2,246 4 th Decile
Employment Domain Rank	3,344 5 th Decile	956 2 nd Decile	510 1 st Decile	2,137 4 th Decile	3,174 5 th Decile
Health Domain Rank	3,329 5 th Decile	855 2 nd Decile	882 2 nd Decile	2,329 4 th Decile	1,956 3 rd Decile
Education Domain Rank	696 1 st Decile	1,419 3 rd Decile	248 1 st Decile	5,414 8 th Decile	1,013 2 nd Decile
Access Domain Rank	4,426 7 th Decile	4,581 7 th Decile	5,434 8 th Decile	5,240 8 th Decile	6,685 10 th Decile
Crime Domain Rank	1,520 3 rd Decile	629 1 st Decile	274 1 st Decile	991 2 nd Decile	1,474 3 rd Decile
Housing Domain Rank	923 2 nd Decile	603 1 st Decile	350 1 st Decile	611 1 st Decile	321 1 st Decile

Data Zone	S01006673	S01006674	S01006675	S01006676	S01006677
	Aberdeen City	Aberdeen City	Aberdeen City	Aberdeen City	Aberdeen City
Population	862	913	915	734	724
Working Age Population	700	560	629	473	524
Overall Rank	2,373 4 th Decile	1,045 2 nd Decile	1,512 3 rd Decile	1,077 2 nd Decile	753 2 nd Decile
Income Domain Rank	2,404 4 th Decile	1,301 2 nd Decile	1,473 3 rd Decile	1,342 2 nd Decile	1,015 2 nd Decile
Employment Domain Rank	2,557	525	1,785	860	555

	4 th Decile	1 st Decile	3 rd Decile	2 nd Decile	1 st Decile
Health Domain Rank	2,452 4 th Decile	1,678 3 rd Decile	1,924 3 rd Decile	1,355 2 nd Decile	543 1 st Decile
Education Domain Rank	1,924 3 rd Decile	1,585 3 rd Decile	763 2 nd Decile	1,204 2 nd Decile	1,485 3 rd Decile
Access Domain Rank	5,510 8 th Decile	4,409 7 th Decile	4,810 7 th Decile	4,606 7 th Decile	4,486 7 th Decile
Crime Domain Rank	1,249 2 nd Decile	1,375 2 nd Decile	1,794 3 rd Decile	467 1 st Decile	509 1 st Decile
Housing Domain Rank	1,135 2 nd Decile	815 2 nd Decile	1,379 2 nd Decile	823 2 nd Decile	1,146 2 nd Decile

Data Zone	S01006678	S01006680	S01006684	S01006776	S01006779
	Tillydrone	Tillydrone	Woodside	Balgownie and Donmouth West	Balgownie and Donmouth West
Population	1,690	891	703	513	589
Working Age Population	1,135	598	514	272	373
Overall Rank	1,595 3 rd Decile	1,326 2 nd Decile	268 1 st Decile	3,409 5 th Decile	2,812 5 th Decile
Income Domain Rank	1,722 3 rd Decile	1,444 3 rd Decile	664 1 st Decile	2,312 4 th Decile	2,505 4 th Decile
Employment Domain Rank	1,603 3 rd Decile	1,493 3 rd Decile	208 1 st Decile	3,190 5 th Decile	3,011 5 th Decile
Health Domain Rank	1,988 3 rd Decile	2,110 4 th Decile	502 1 st Decile	3,417 5 th Decile	2,851 5 th Decile
Education Domain Rank	1,119 2 nd Decile	483 1 st Decile	58 1 st Decile	4,594 7 th Decile	2,178 4 th Decile
Access Domain Rank	3,930 6 th Decile	3,718 6 th Decile	6,836 10 th Decile	4,836 7 th Decile	4,793 7 th Decile
Crime Domain Rank	1,524 3 rd Decile	2,082 3 rd Decile	282 1 st Decile	4,396 7 th Decile	3,311 5 th Decile
Housing Domain Rank	1,318 2 nd Decile	1,060 2 nd Decile	500 1 st Decile	2,345 4 th Decile	1,188 2 nd Decile

3.3 Trends in Sports & Leisure

Gathering statistical data on sports participation, the Scottish Government has identified the following key trends in sports participation.

- There is a general increase in the overall number of people partaking in sporting activity, measuring respondents who have partaken in activity within four weeks.
- Individuals who rate their health as good are more likely to take part in sports activities than those who rate their health as bad or very bad.
- There remains a gender gap in sports participation, with more male participants than female. It is noted that this gap had significantly reduced over the last ten years.
- Levels of deprivation have a direct correlation with participation in sports and exercise. Significantly lower income households demonstrate considerably less sports participation. Many local authority leisure trusts and facilities have developed concessionary membership schemes and pricing to encourage participation from this demographic and to support the reduction of this gap.
- There is a larger rate of sports participation in young people living in rural areas compared to those living in larger urban towns and cities.

Following the Coronavirus pandemic, and the restrictions in place throughout 2020 and 2021, there has been an increase in those undertaking outdoor leisure activities and exercise. It is thought that this is likely to continue, with parks and public spaces key to supporting participation on outdoor activities.

3.4 Developing Wheeled Sports & Skateboarding

In 2016, The International Olympic Committee announced that Skateboarding would be included within the five new sports added to the, now rescheduled, Tokyo Games. IOC President, Thomas Bach, outlined the ability to draw in young people to sport, and reconnect with a younger audience.

The 2020 Tokyo Games demonstrated the popularity of Skateboarding and BMX Freestyle with Team GB performing to a high level and inspiring future generations.

Across Scotland there has been a rejuvenated interest in wheeled sports, and a significant growth in Wheeled Sports Facilities. This has been recognised and subsequently supported by **sportscotland**, with the creation of Skateboard Scotland, the Scottish Governing Body of Sport.

As a member led organisation, Skateboard Scotland helps to promote and develop the sports, listing a directory of facilities, supporting the delivery of major events and competition, and advising and engaging groups in delivering new skate parks.

Wheeled sports such as skateboarding and scooting are relatively low cost to access, with most public facilities free of charge. For this reason, increased investment in skateparks, pump tracks and wheeled sports facilities will continue to reduce the barriers to activity faced by those in more deprived and rural areas.

4 Stakeholder Engagement

4.1 Overview

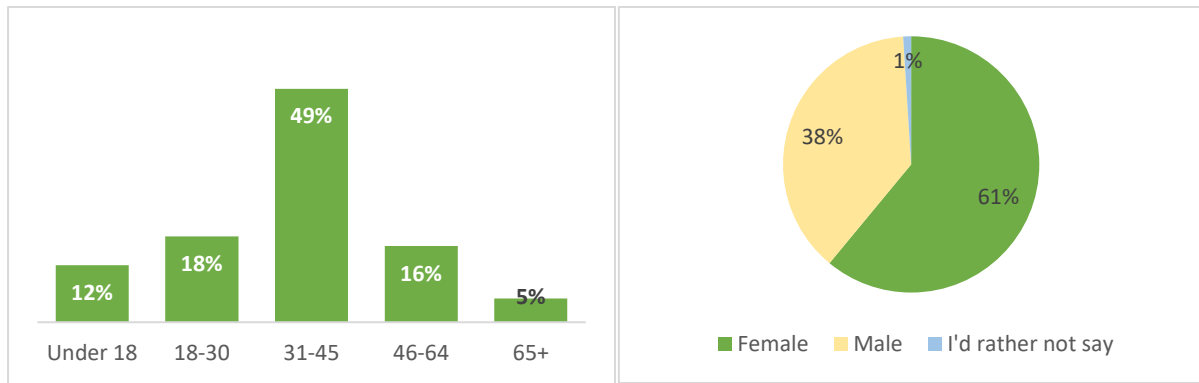
Wider community support is key to the delivery and ongoing success of any community facility, in particular those focused on a key user group, age group, or activity. In recognising this, a detailed consultation survey was undertaken as part of this Feasibility Study. The result of this is shown below.

In addition, a range of school engagement was undertaken, as well as contact with key local groups and stakeholders.

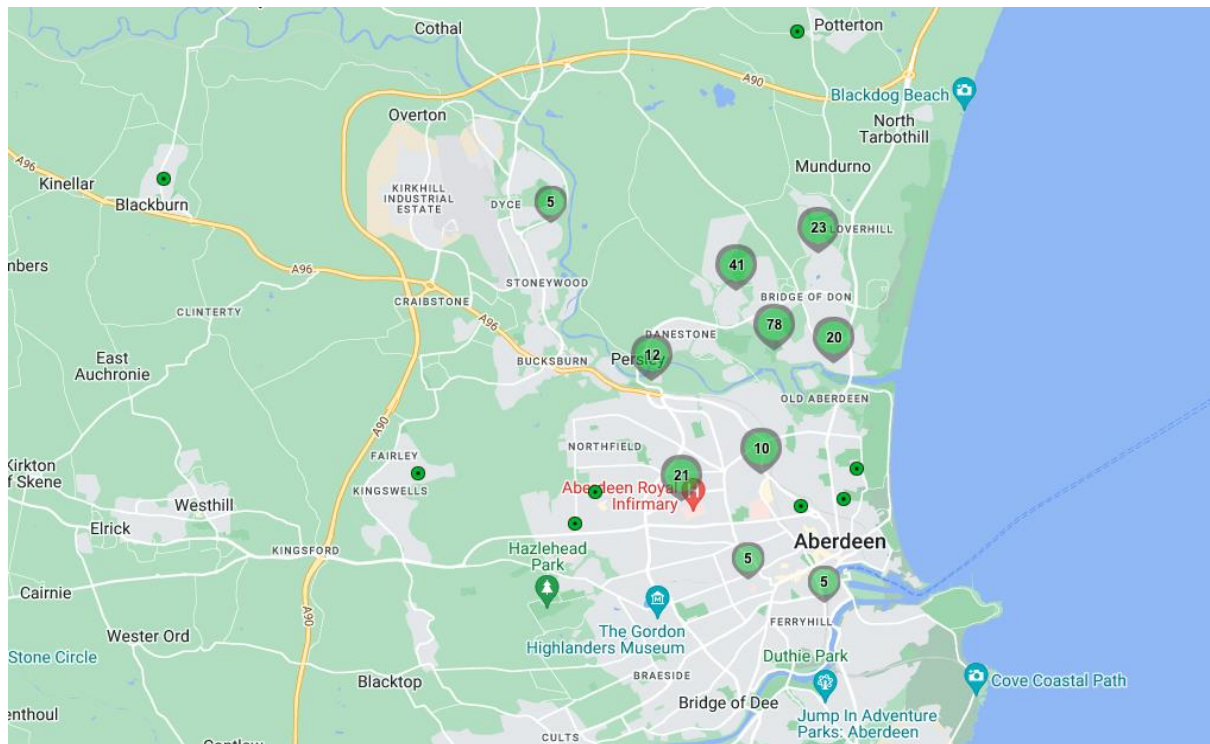
4.2 Community Consultation

Respondent Reach & Demographics

The survey was held on Survey Monkey, and shared via social media, and through a number of existing contact channels. Running over 8 weeks, the survey received 299 responses. The breakdown of these responses is shown below:



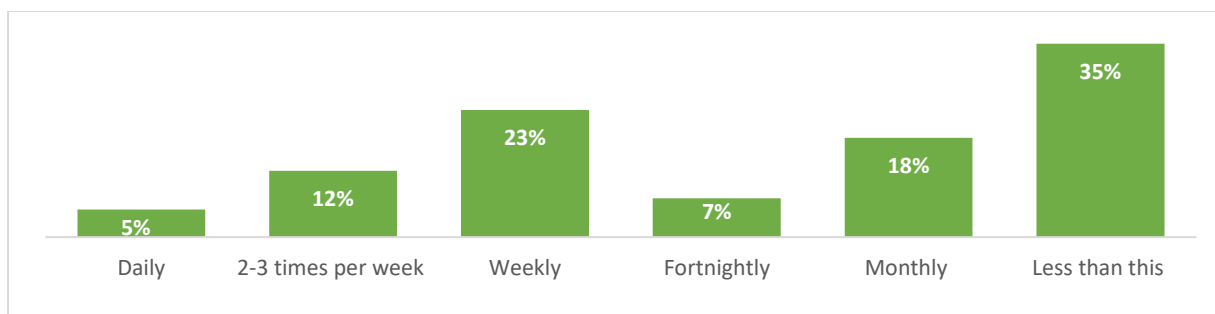
The following map outlines the spread of respondent post codes close to the project site.



Further feedback was also provided from respondents with postcodes in the Glasgow, Dundee, and Inverness post code areas.

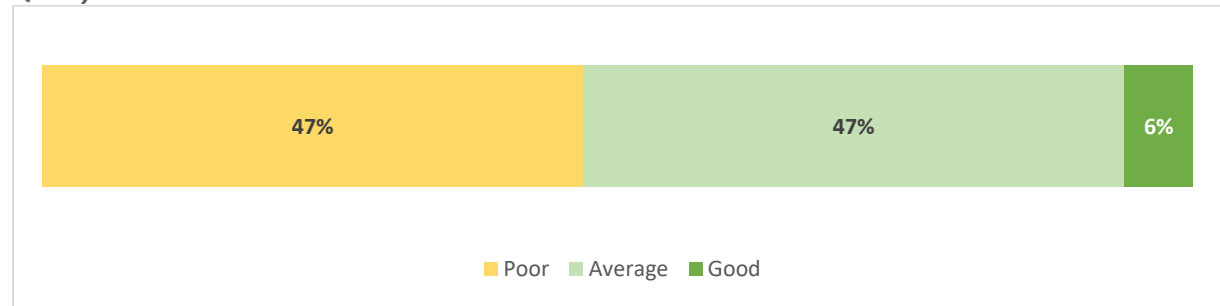
Existing Wheeled Sports Activity

Respondents were asked how often they or their children use the existing Skate Park in Bridge or Don. The results are shown below:

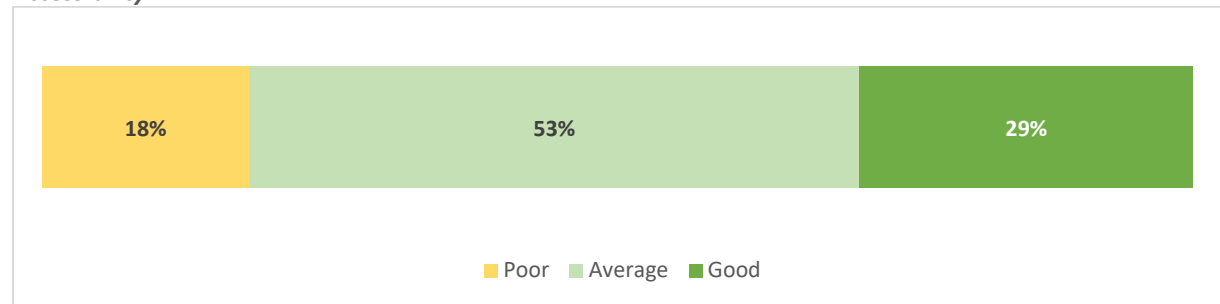


Respondents were asked to rate the **Quality** and **Accessibility** of the existing skate park provision, with the results shown below:

Quality

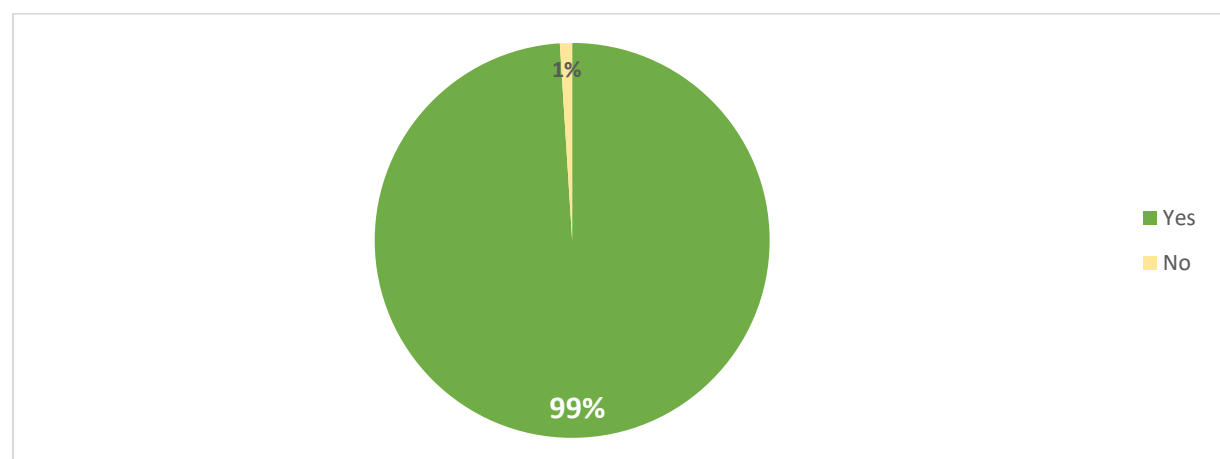


Accessibility



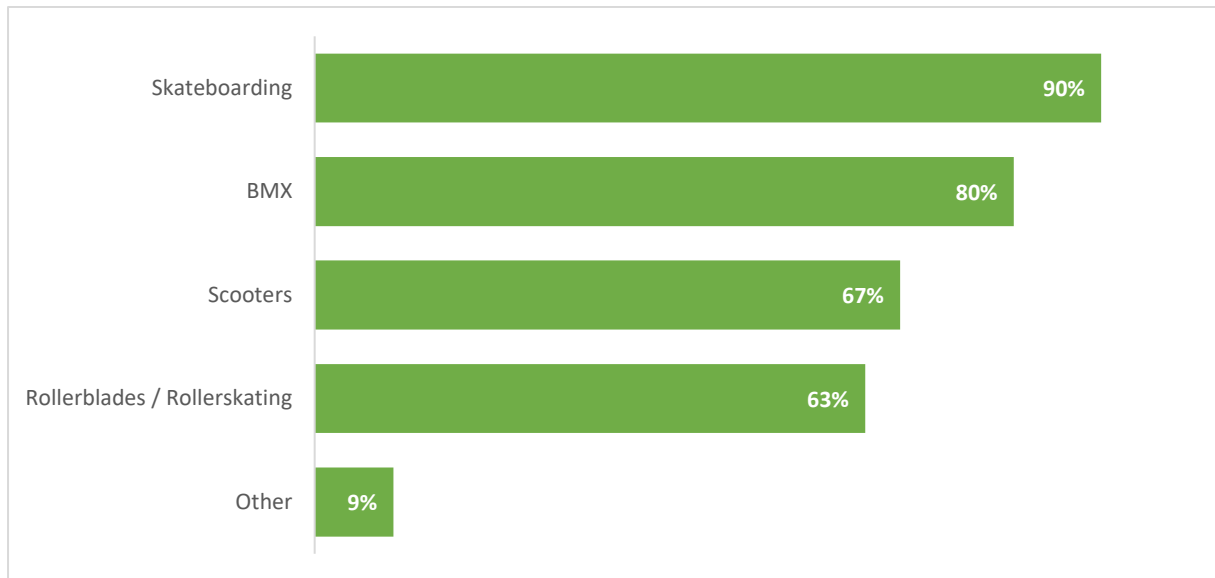
Community Support

Respondents were asked if they would welcome the expansion and redevelopment of the skate park in Westfield park. As shown below, there was 99% support for this project:



Future Park Usage

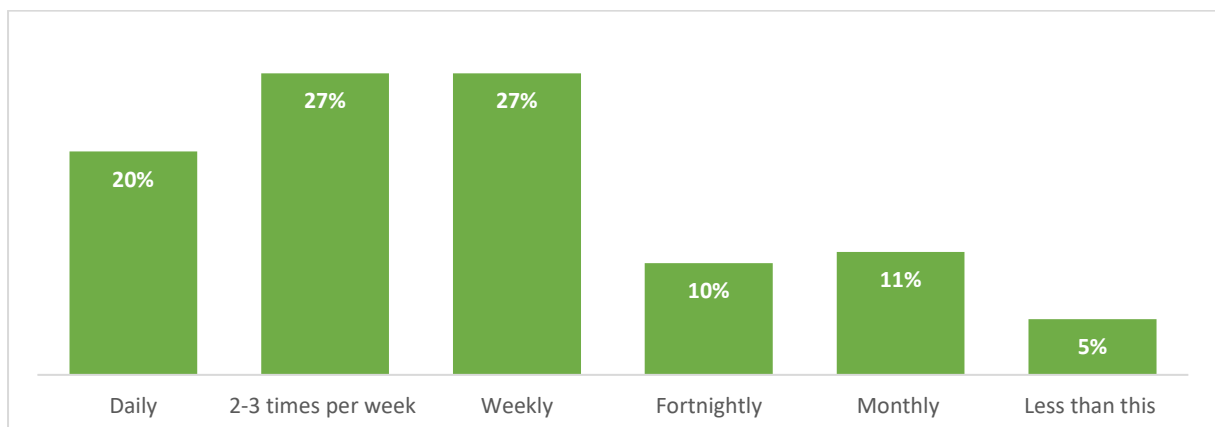
Respondents were asked which activities should be catered for at the new re-developed park, with the results shown below:



For those who selected other, the following notable feedback was provided:

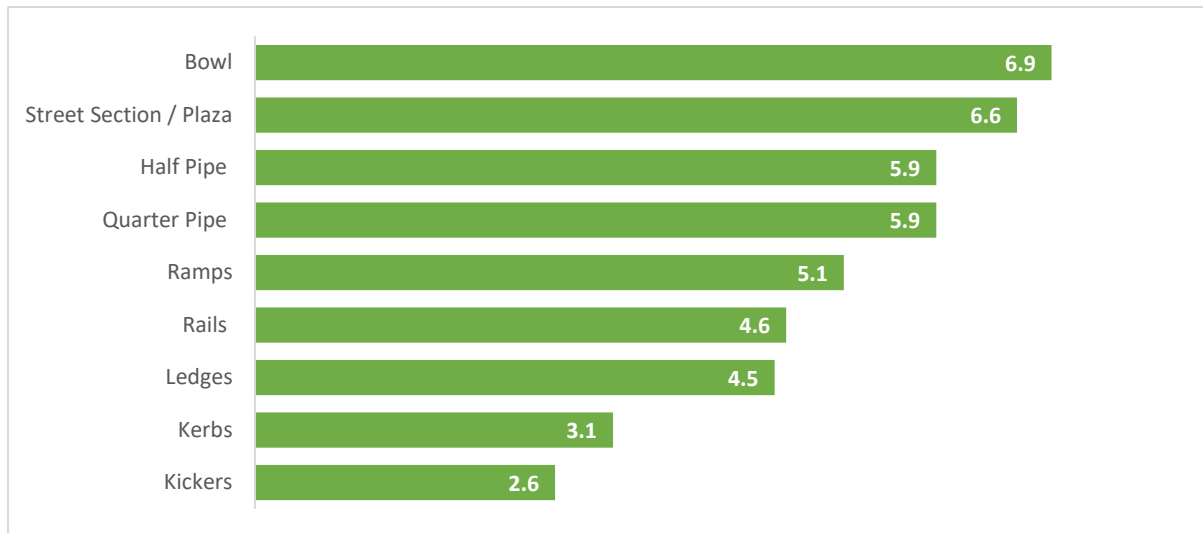
- Balance bikes and other cycles (5)
- Mountain bikes (5)
- Disabled skating, cycling and wheelchair activity (4)

Respondents were asked how often they, or their family would use the newly developed park. The result is shown below:

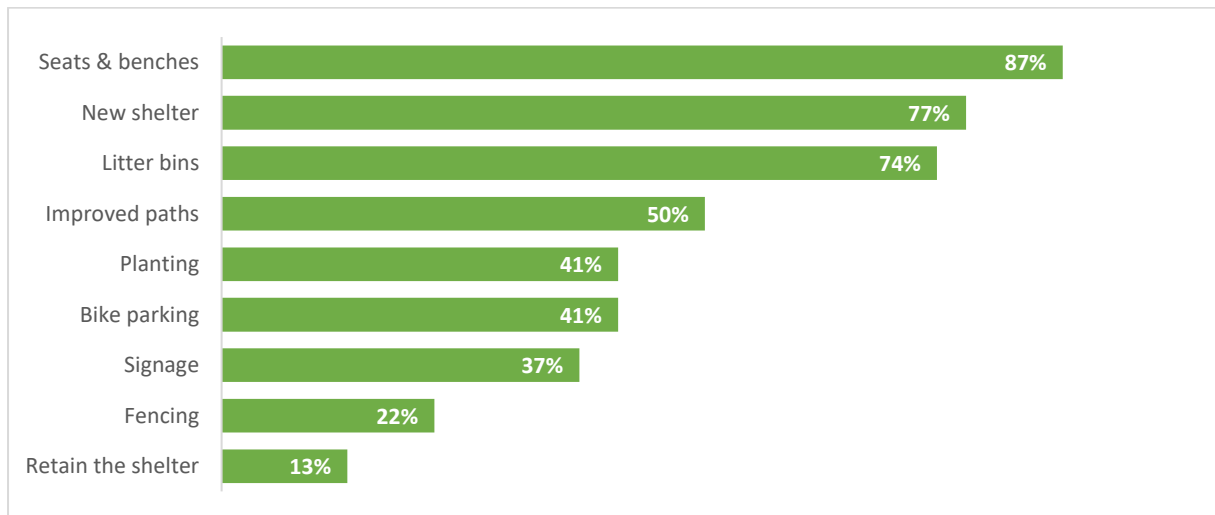


Design Considerations

Respondents were asked to rank a number of features for inclusion in the new park, the results are shown below, providing an average ranked score.



Following the above, they were asked to consider which ancillary features they would like to see included in the park. The results are shown below:



For those who indicated other, the following were suggested:

- Lighting (6)
- Drinking water (2)
- Toilets (2)
- BBQ (2)
- Cleaning / Sweeping Equipment (2)

Respondents were asked whether there were any further features or design elements that should be included. The results are summarised in the table below and included in full in Appendix One.

Comments on specific design features, layouts, and comparators.	18
Desire to see areas, activities, and provision younger participants and beginners	12
Other	12
Comments on lighting provision	11
Desire for inclusion of a Pump Track	5
Comments on the provision of CCTV	3
Desire for a Graffiti Wall	3
Comments on signage	2

Further Comments & Feedback

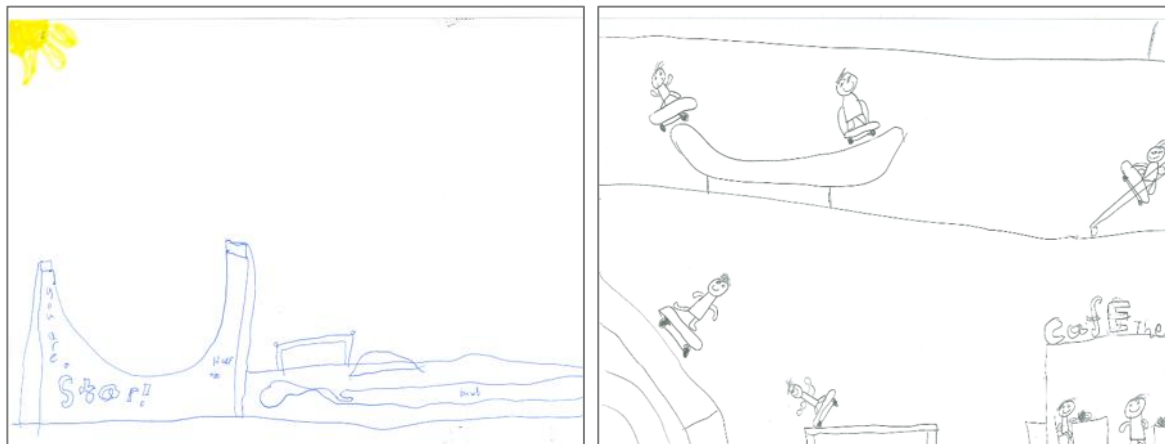
Respondents were given the opportunity to provide further comments, observations, or feedback on the project. These comments have been included in full in Appendix One, and are summarised by theme below:

Positive Comments on Benefits of the Project	33
Design Considerations	17
Comment of Support	13
Comments or Suggestions on Management and Operations	3
Other	4

4.3 School Engagement

As part of the local community engagement, Greenbrae and Middleton Park schools undertook a Post Cards from the Future exercises with their youngest pupils and provided letters of support from the older pupils. Six of these postcards are shown below, with the pupil letters (representing 28 pupils) included in Appendix Two.





4.4 Further Engagement – Letters of Support

Throughout this project, there has been clear support for a number of key groups and stakeholders in the local area. Letters and emails provided have been included in Appendix Three. Support has been demonstrated from the following stakeholders:

- 1st Parkway Guides
- Cllr Alison Alphonse
- Bridge of Don Community Council
- Braehead School
- Danestone Primary School
- Bridge of Don Farmers Market
- Friends of Westfield Park
- Sport Aberdeen – Community Sports Hub
- Cllr Jessica Mennie
- Ash Armstrong (local wheeled sports enthusiast)
- Bridge of Don & District Men's Shed
- Middleton Park School
- Scotstown School
- Aberdeen City Council – Environment Manager
- St Columba's Church (Church of Scotland)
- Police Scotland

5 Community Benefit Assessment

5.1 Overall Demand

The space required for 10 skatepark users is approximately 1500ft² (447m²) suggesting that the reasonable capacity for the Bridge of Don, Skatepark should be approximately 12 skateboarders/hour based on existing skate park footprint of 525m².

If the footprint of the existing skatepark is doubled by adding to it a further 525m² it should safely accommodate 25 skateboarders/hour.

In applying the Skate Park Adoption model formula for casual users, the following data is noted:

- For Aberdeen City Bridge of Don area - Population 19,545
- Formula for calculating number of casual users = 19,545 x 3% = 586 Casual users.

Assuming the survey results are correct this gives a user number profile of

- 59 daily (413/week x 52 weeks) 21,476
- 61 Two times/week 122 x 52 weeks 6,344
- 60 Weekly x 52 weeks 3,120
- 22 Fortnightly 22 x 26 weeks 572
- 26 Monthly 26 x 12 312

Survey user number 31,824/year – assuming 50% actual uptake – 15,912 visits
Causal users from formula once month 586x 12 7,032 visits

Overall total 22,944/year

6 Links to Policies & Strategies

The following section outlines how the project links to local, regional, and national policies and strategies.

6.1 Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan

This plan (albeit in draft) notes that “Ensuring physical and mental health and wellbeing goes beyond providing healthcare services, development should create a healthy environment whilst not contributing to negative health outcomes. This relies on creating environments that foster better health, have reduced inequalities in wellbeing and which allow people to live active, engaged, independent and healthy lifestyles.”

6.2 Aberdeen City – Open Space Strategy

Aberdeen City's Open Space Strategy sets out a new vision and aims to improve the quality of our open spaces in the city. There is growing evidence that quality and accessible open spaces contribute towards improving health, economy, environment, and well-being.

The Strategy shows a commitment to promoting and maintaining our high-quality environment and making Aberdeen a better place for current and future generations to live, work, invest and study in.

6.3 Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan

The Strategic Development Plan (SDP) represents the regional spatial plan for the City Region. It reflects the National Planning Framework and sets out the strategy for the growth of the North East. The main aims of the Strategic Development Plan are to:

- provide a strong framework for investment decisions which will help to
- grow and diversify the regional economy in a sustainable manner.
- promote the need to use resources more efficiently and effectively whilst.
 - protecting our assets; and,
 - take on the urgent challenges of climate change.

The Strategic Development Plan promotes four strategic growth areas which will be the focus for development. These strategic growth areas are Aberdeen City and the three transport corridors between Huntly and Aberdeen, Aberdeen and Laurencekirk and Aberdeen to Peterhead.

6.4 Scottish Government's National Performance Framework

The Scottish Government targeted its focus on how Government and public services could help in creating a more successful country, providing opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. The National Performance Framework outlines the following overarching aims and values:

The framework is for all of Scotland and aims to:

- create a more successful country.
- give opportunities to all people living in Scotland.
- increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland.

- create sustainable and inclusive growth.
- reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental, and social progress.

The values guide all stakeholder approach, to:

- treat all our people with kindness, dignity, and compassion.
- respect the rule of law.
- act in an open and transparent way.

The National Performance Framework outlines 11 outcomes for the people of Scotland, with the following directly relevant to the provision of a new facility at Bridge of Don:

People live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, and safe.

By increasing the facilities available, the Group will be supporting the provision of activities and sports, ensuring a more inclusive portfolio of possible outdoor leisure activities locally in Aberdeen and the surrounding area.

People are healthy and active.

By its very nature, the proposed facilities for Bridge of Don promotes active lifestyles, for those who may experience greater barriers to participation. In developing active lifestyles, and increasing the levels of physical activity, participants have a direct positive impact on their physical and mental health. The provision of new facilities will help meet this outcome.

By encouraging both improved physical health and increased opportunities to develop social skills and interact with peers, the facilities proposed will improve the quality of life for its users. By increasing and improving the range of skate boarding facilities, the Group will continue to expand and develop opportunities for more people to become more active and healthier.

Restrictions due to Covid-19 may be imposed again in the future. A facility such as the pump track and skatepark would provide a much-needed opportunity for residents of all ages to use during allowed daily activity. Once restrictions are relaxed, some people will remain cautious about some types of activity and a wheeled sports park would be a safe way of taking exercise and having social interaction while practising distancing.

6.5 Scottish Government's Legacy Plan 2014-2024

This plan sets out the key legacy aims and ambitions and highlights a wide range of initiatives, which will be taken forward with key partners over the next 10 years. The plan focuses on an Active Scotland, Connected Scotland, Flourishing Scotland, and a Sustainable Scotland.

Improving the nation's health is the overarching theme of the plan and the Active Scotland component of the plan includes two key initiatives. Both are aimed at increasing the availability and accessibility of physical activity and sport to individuals and communities that will in turn contribute to improving the health and fitness of people in Scotland.

These initiatives are the Active Nation and the development of Community Sport Hubs. Active Nation aimed to create a popular and high-profile movement to motivate people of all ages across Scotland to become more active. Community Sports Hubs focused on the bringing together of communities of interest to share best practice and shared values across a range of sports.

The development of a new skatepark in Bridge of Don aligns with this strategy, creating a potential wheeled sports hub for young people to socialise, participate in exercise and be diverted from any temptation of antisocial behaviour or activities detrimental to their health or development within the community.

6.6 Active Scotland Outcomes

The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework describes Scotland's ambitions for sport and physical activity. Active Scotland Outcomes contribute to the delivery of National Outcomes and ultimately to the Scottish Government's overarching purpose of creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish. The framework

has been developed collectively with partners through the National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity (NSG), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport. Conclusively, the following outcomes are proposed – and evidently supported by the proposal to develop a new wheeled sports facility in Bridge of Don..

- We encourage and enable the inactive to be more active.
- We encourage and enable the active to stay active throughout life.
- We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age.
- We improve our active infrastructure – people and places.
- We support wellbeing and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport.
- We improve opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in sport.

6.7 Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan: Updated Programme Pipeline

This policy document highlights regeneration activity focusing on ensuring that people live in socially, physically, and economically sustainable communities. Increasing the provision of wheeled sports facilities in the area supports a sustainable and economically beneficial facility, creating new opportunities through coaching, instruction, and increased visitor numbers to the local area.

6.8 Physical Activity Implementation Plan – A More Active Scotland

This 10-year plan adapts key elements of the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity (which makes the case for increased action in tackling physical inactivity) to Scotland, and links it directly to the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions for the Commonwealth Games. Underpinning delivery of the overall commitments of the plan will be a series of detailed action plans which will define how the plan's commitments will be met.

In addition, the Scottish Government and its partners continue to spread the word about the importance of physical activity, informing people about how and where to get involved through the following websites:

- www.takelifeon.co.uk – this gives ideas for a more active lifestyle.
- www.activescotland.org.uk – this gives information on sports and activities available locally – just enter a postcode or an activity.
- www.healthyworkinglives.com – this helps employers promote physical activity in the workplace.

By providing new wheeled sports the Group will contribute towards achieving the outcomes of the National Physical Activity Implementation Plan.

6.9 Sport for Life- A Vision for Sport in Scotland

This is **sportscotland's** Corporate Plan. They recommend an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. In an active Scotland, ways are sought to be physically active every day. This includes the following key areas:

- Keeping moving at home and at work. Taking an active approach to getting around. Choosing to be active in our leisure time.
- More of us will take part in sport because we see it being relevant to our lives.
- Being involved in ways that suit us.
- Meeting fewer barriers.
- Feeling more included.
- We will all experience more of the benefits of sport.
- For some of us, by taking part. For others, through our communities.

6.10 Start Active, Stay Active

This UK-wide report, published jointly by the four home countries Chief Medical Officers, includes guidelines on the volume, duration, and frequency of physical activity required at different points in life. With relevance to sports facilities, the report highlights the need for a lifelong approach to fitness and exercise documenting recommendations for each age range. In relation to adults in sport, the report recommends the following:

“Adults should aim to be active daily. Over a week, activity should add up to at least 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate intensity activity in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to approach this is to do 30 minutes physical activities on at least 5 days a week.”

By providing new facilities, shaped by community consultation, participants will be more likely to increase their frequency of use, thereby bringing their levels of activity in line with the recommendation of the Start Active, Stay Active report.

6.11 Take Life On

This Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing campaign promotes healthy, active lifestyles through various online, media and event marketing. The focus is on encouraging people to find activities near them, understand the health implications of inactivity and obesity, and to ultimately reduce the resultant strain on the NHS in Scotland. With targeted marketing and promotion of facilities in Bridge of Don, the Group can increase the interest and excitement around the project to attract more people into sports and exercise, with a particular focus on young people, and those who perhaps are financially disadvantaged, therefore unable to access paid activities and facilities.

6.12 Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21

This is the key Scottish Government strategy for sport and exercise. Reaching Higher sets out the long-term aims for sport including the vision that everyone should have access to affordable, high quality community sport facilities and advice and guidance. Reaching Higher focuses on two main aspects of sport and fitness – increasing the quality of sporting facilities, coaching and provisions, and increasing the number of Scottish people taking part in sports and exercise.

6.13 Preventing Overweight and Obesity in Scotland: A Route Map Towards Healthy Weight

This joint policy directive set forth by the Scottish Government and CoSLA aimed at helping central and local government decision-makers to deliver long-term solutions to obesity and overweight. With lack of exercise cited as a prominent reason for obesity in Scotland, any expansion in sports facility provision will help meet this directive.

7 Site Considerations

7.1 Site Overview

The following images show the proposed site, including the existing skate provision, from which the new park will be developed.



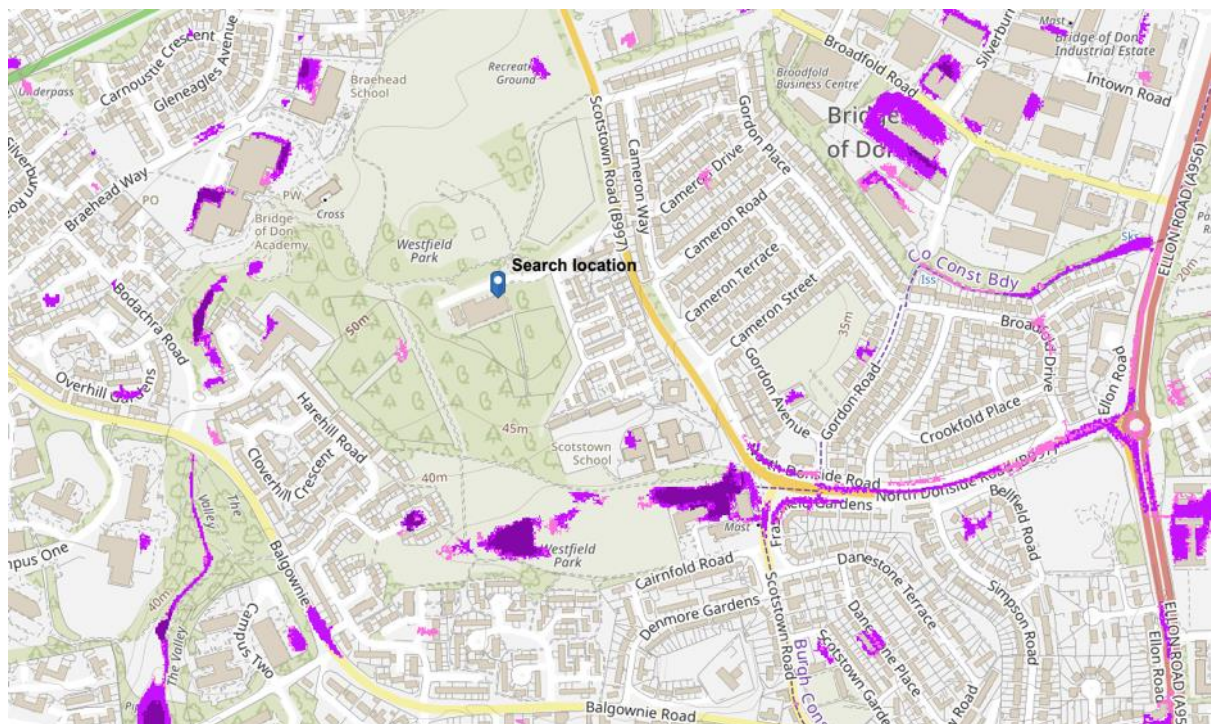






7.2 Flood Risk

In reviewing the SEPA Flood Risk Map, there is no river flood risk noted on the area currently proposed for the facility. This map is shown below marking risk from river flooding in blue, and surface water flooding in purple.



8.1 sportscotland Guidance

These guidelines have been created by **sportscotland** in response to the growth in extreme sports, which has seen a rejuvenation of skate parks as centres for sports participation.

The guidelines are based on a concrete skate park of around 1,000 square metres, normally associated with large urban areas, which they consider to be minimum appropriate size for a strategic approach to the development of skateboarding and other associated activities as a sport in Scotland. This type of facility would normally be located in main centres of population. Facilities serving rural and small communities will usually be of a different scale and construction and although many of the following guidelines will apply each such proposal would have to be assessed on its own unique merits.

In order to be eligible to compete for sportscotland funding, skate parks should have adhered to the following points:

- Should provide evidence that prospective users have been consulted about the site, design, and operation of the facility.
- Should be designed by a competent and reputable specialist, be constructed from concrete with features allowing skateboarders, BMX riders and in-line skaters of all ages and abilities to be able to participate.
- Should comply fully with British Standard BS EN 14974:2006: Facilities for users of roller sports equipment – Safety requirements and test methods.
- Should be floodlit. This will allow a greater usage time.
- Should be complete with litter bins, seats for participants and spectators, secure bike racks and surrounded by a one-meter-high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g., gates, animal grids.
- Should be managed by a User Group. The Group would act as a self-policing force and contribute to coaching and fundraising.
- The Group should contain members representing the various disciplines, age groups, parents, youth, and community groups and, possibly, the local police community worker. A representative of the local authority could also be included as that individual can act as a conduit to and from the council.
- Should be within 50 to 100 meters of a sports or community facility, which is staffed during most times the skate park is open. This will allow for informal supervision, especially if no members of the User Group are present at the skate park.
- The sports or community facility can also provide toilet facilities, a public phone, first aid facilities and storage for protective gear and simple maintenance equipment (brushes, etc.).
- Should be within 250 meters of both public transport and secure parking and afford easy access for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- Should be subject to a Risk Assessment to identify the risks associated with operating a skateboard park. This assessment should be used to implement appropriate control measures at the design/installation stage and create a management policy for the facility. The risk assessment should be documented, signed, and dated and reviewed annually, unless changes take place – at which point a review should be carried out. The assessment should at least cover such aspects as access/egress, falls/collisions, noise, violence/aggression, vandalism, and maintenance.
- Should be inspected by an independent body or qualified inspector upon completion and at least once a year thereafter. The inspections should follow the recommendations of RoSPA. The latter body can also carry out these inspections. Daily, weekly, and yearly inspections/maintenance should also be carried out as indicated earlier in this paper.
- Should have Public Liability cover of at least £2,000,000. RoSPA recommends a minimum of £5,000,000 and **sportscotland** should follow this latter recommendation.
- Should have appropriate signage. The signage should cover such topics as location of nearest telephone and toilets, the maximum number of users, any restrictions (lower age limits, permitted activities, etc.), protective gear must be worn, no dogs, no alcohol, etc. The sign should also note that ‘all users do so at their own risk.’
- CCTV may also be installed but this sensitive matter should be fully discussed with representatives of the User Group.

- As there is currently no governing body for skateboarding, the operators of the facility will commit to becoming members of the recognised governing body when that body comes into being.
- The skate park operator will also be required to set up a structured skills development programme with particular emphasis on beginners.
- The operator should also be required to set up programmes aimed at increasing the number of females and ethnic minorities participating in the sport.

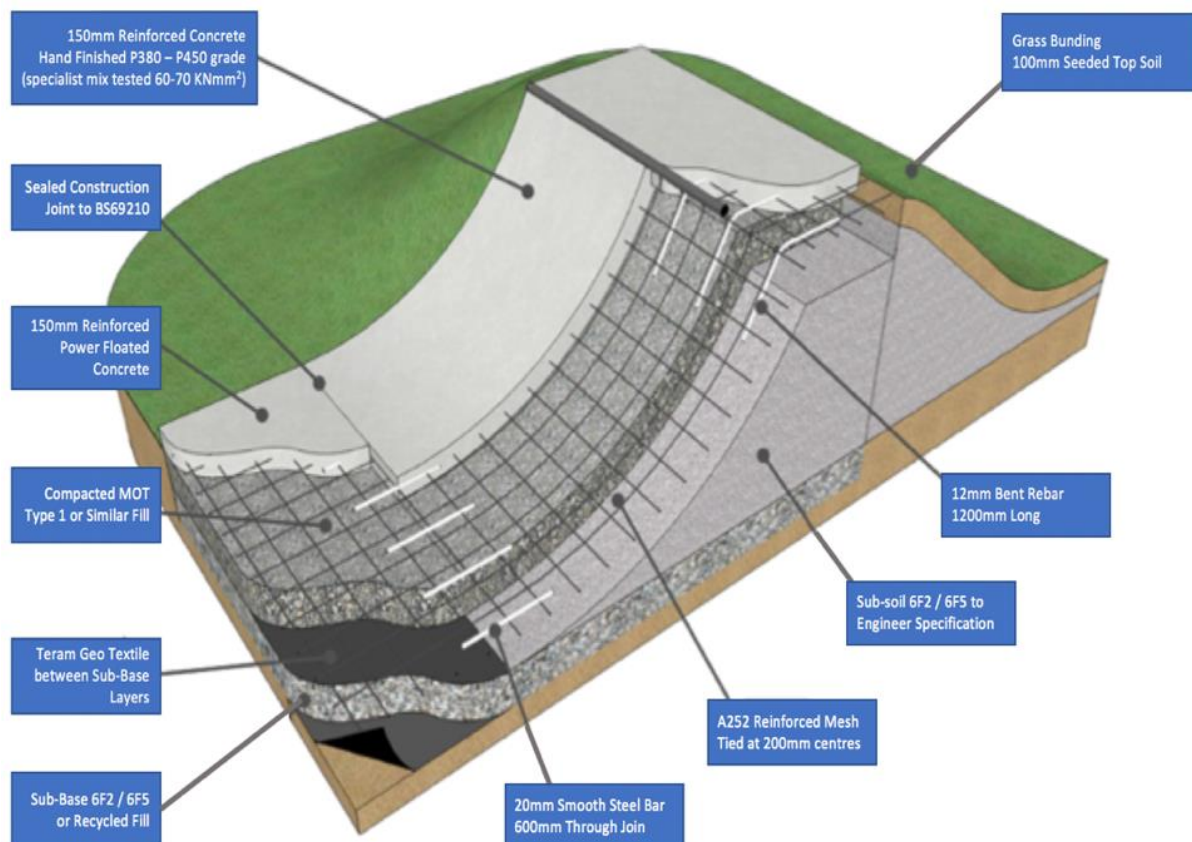
For facilities in smaller centres of population such as Bridge of Don, the following should be adhered to:

- The area for the park should be a minimum of 36m x 18m.
- The area should be surrounded by a one-metre-high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g., gates, animal grids and we recommend that ducting is provided to allow the necessary cabling should the installation of floodlighting be a future requirement.
- Whilst concrete is still the preferred construction material other materials may be considered for park in smaller centres of population.
- All other requirements that apply to large parks will also apply to smaller.

8.2 Drainage

It is imperative that drainage is considered in the overall design, the undulating nature of dips and berms and bowled shapes can lead to ponding if not considered in detail. The riding surface should be cambered allowing water to shed as quickly as possible.

8.3 Skate Park Constructions



Maintenance Overview

A general definition for a wheeled sports facility is a purpose-built recreation environment made for skateboarding, BMX, scooters, wheelchairs, inline skating, and other wheeled sports. The main construction methods throughout the years have been wood, metal, or concrete materials. This has caused accidents through wood rotting and metal rusting. As a result, the new focus on building new facilities is that they should be built with concrete.

The potential maintenance costs of a sprayed concrete skate park are minimal. No replacement parts, fixtures or tools are necessary, except for an Allen Key for clearing the drainage. Considerations should be made for litter and graffiti. One of the most successful ways of combating graffiti is to provide spaces where professional graffiti artists can decorate. It is less likely for users to make unsightly tags when there is attractive art on their park. Additional ongoing maintenance may include minor repairs to the concrete surface made by the impact of stunt-pegs from BMX bikes.

Sustainability

Sustainable construction is considered a very economical construction method. An enduring wheeled sports park that does not need to be re-built every few years conserves community resources and effort. This requires the use of reinforced concrete. The sprayed concrete method is more energy and materially efficient than any pre-cast method. With pre-cast, every piece must be cast in a mould, then transported to the site and set on a separate in-ground concrete foundation.

Using the sprayed concrete method allows the contractor to use locally sourced materials, reducing environmental impact and reducing the amount of transportation needed, whilst contributing to the local economy. This method uses efficient engineering and precise form work to ensure an optimum build with minimal waste.

Value for Money

Sprayed concrete construction is the method used on the most renowned wheeled sports parks worldwide. It allows designers the freedom to create progressive and continually engaging designs which users gain ownership of through in-depth consultation. Many parks are guaranteed for 30 years; however, the structural integrity of sprayed concrete parks has proven to last indefinitely and is virtually maintenance free. Wheeled sports parks create a social space that provides long term health and social benefits, leading to reductions in anti-social behaviour and benefits for the local economy by way of attracting visitors to the area.

8.4 Floodlighting

It is noted that lighting currently exists on site, and consideration should be made to how this will be improved, relocated, or expanded.

As part of the design, the Group should consider the improving and upgrading the existing floodlighting. Although floodlighting provides a substantial capital cost, its presence will allow for increased usage of the facility throughout the year. Consideration should be made to the management of energy costs associated with floodlighting.

In the first instance, the Group should work with the local authority to seek an agreement that lighting provision will continue to be met by the Council.

Should the lighting costs not be met by the local authority, a popular option for outdoor leisure facilities is to install a pre-paid meter (right) with cards available for sale at a local convenient location. This ensures that all energy costs are met by the users through a pre-payment system. The group can then control how late the lights operate. By incorporating pre-paid card options, there is a significantly reduced risk of vandalism in comparison with coin operated systems.

By installing high quality floodlights (and investing a higher initial capital cost), the overall running costs can be reduced. Where it may be more feasible to phase floodlighting as a secondary aspect of the project, it should



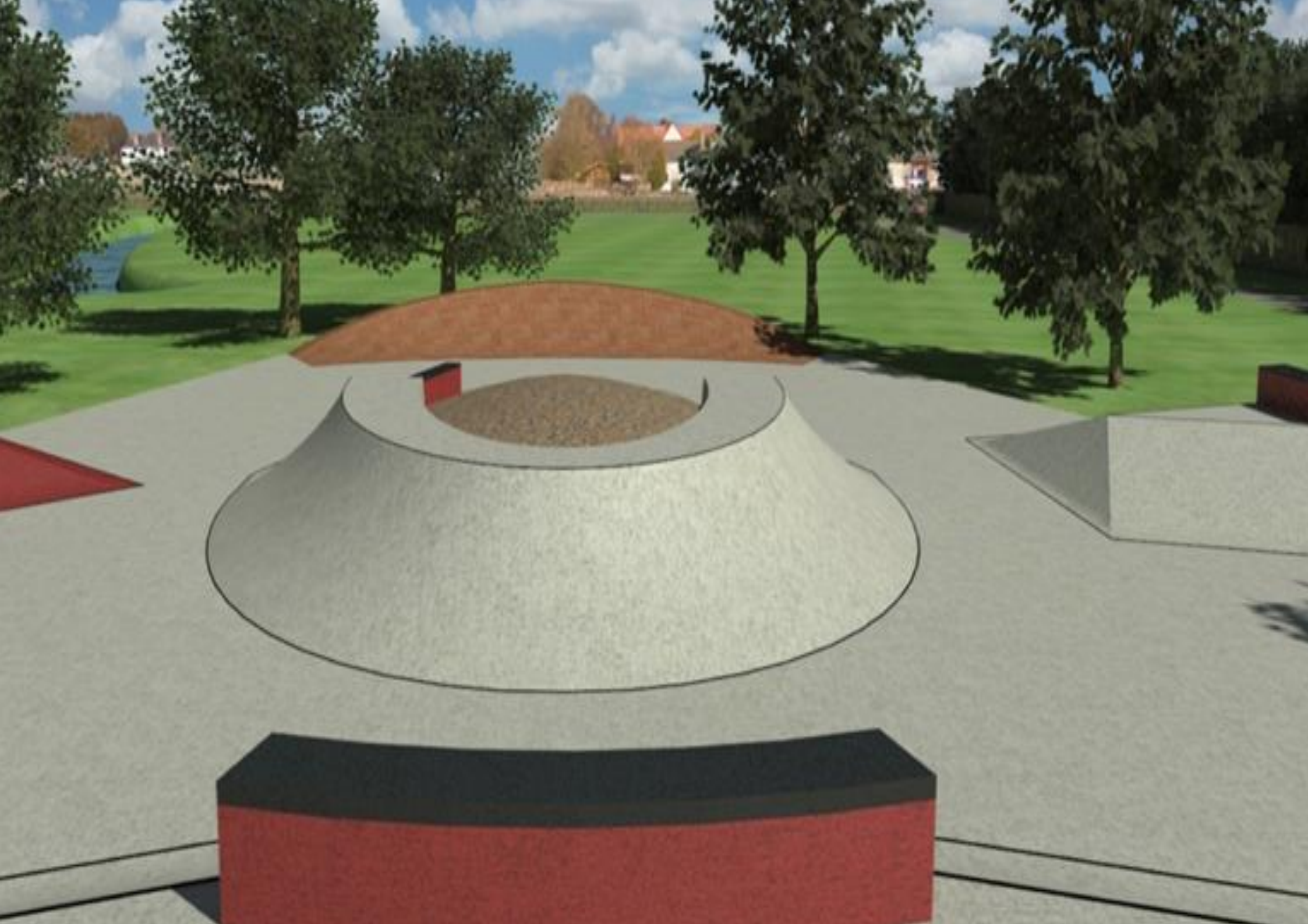
be considered that the installation of suitable tracking and ducting throughout the site may be easier at the initial construction stage, futureproofing the site for the addition of lighting and other amenities at a later date.

A possible option for the installation of floodlighting would be the possibility to use solar powered lighting systems, and energy efficient bulbs. There may also be the potential to use, adapt, or add to the existing public lighting in the park in consultation with the Council.

9 Concept Images / Indicative Designs

The following images show renders of concepts and the last photographs are of Raigmore and Inverness Skate parks both in Inverness.











10 Indicative Capital Costs

The following tables outline the indicated costs for delivering this project. Whilst these are based on previous work, comparable examples, and industry standard rates, a full tendering exercises will further detail the accurate costs at the appropriate time:

Concrete Skate Park (approx. 500m ² @ £400/sqm)	£200,000
Upgrading and additional floodlighting	£15,000
Signage and Park Furniture	£2,500
Landscaping	£2,500
	£220,000
Professional Fees and Project Management (10%)	£22,000
Contingency (5%)	£12,100
Net Total	£254,100
VAT (20%)	£50,820
Total Project Cost	£304,920

11 Potential Sources of Fundings

11.1 Summary of Proposed Funders

In order to deliver the capital project, the following main sources have been identified. All funding sources will require the Group to submit robust applications, using this report as a starting point to indicate the relevant and alignment with the priorities of each funding body.

Proposed Funder	Capital Amount
sportscotland	£50,000
Developer Contributions	£25,000
Aberdeen City Council Place Based Investment Programme	£100,000
Scottish Communities Landfill Fund See below Suez Trust, FCC Communities and EB Scotland	£*
Suez Trust	£30,000
FCC Communities	£40,000
EB Scotland	£25,000
TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING PACKAGE	£270,000

**Third party contribution is a requirement of all SCLF approved bodies and explained further below*

11.2 sportscotland

sportscotland's Sports Facilities Fund supports capital projects that create or improve places where people take part in sports and physical activity. Having been recently revised, this fund now offers capital funding with a ceiling limit of £100,000, however at present wheeled sports projects are capped at £50,000-£75,000. The funding looks to support projects that provide opportunities for people to get involved, increasing participation by targeting their resources on projects that demonstrate commitment to the following:

- Equalities and inclusion
- People development
- Collaboration and impact

11.3 Aberdeen City Council: Place Based Investment Programme

The Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) aims to ensure investment is focused on benefitting local areas by revitalising town centres and regenerating communities and neighbourhoods.

The 2020-21 Programme for Government announced the creation of a Place Based Investment Programme Fund with £275million of capital funding to support community led regeneration, town centre revitalisation, community wealth building and 20-minute neighbourhoods.

In 2023/24 Aberdeen City Council received £590,000 of Place Based Investment Programme funding. The PBIP is seen as the first step in creating coherent local strategies to guide investment priorities and to implement the 'place principle' which is a key component of the new Programme for Government.

Central to this will be ensuring that investment decisions are shaped by the evidenced needs of local communities, regenerate and revitalise towns and villages, help tackle inequality and disadvantage and accelerate Scotland towards 'net zero' emissions targets. Another significant feature of the investment will be increased footfall within our town centres which will benefit local businesses.

11.4 Aberdeen City Council Developer Obligations

Developer Obligations cover both developer contributions and affordable housing. When a development takes place there is a need for infrastructure and services to accompany it. This can include roads, schools or a wide range of facilities depending on the scale and location of development.

Developer contributions are intended to ensure that developers address any impact on infrastructure created by the development but cannot resolve existing deficiencies.

[Scottish Government Planning Circular 3/2012: Planning Obligations and Good Neighbour Agreements](#) sets out a series of 5 policy tests all of which are applied when undertaking an assessment of whether an obligation is required:

- **Necessary** to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms.
- **Serve a planning purpose** and where it is possible to identify infrastructure provision requirements in advance, should relate to development plans.
- **Relate to the proposed development** either as a direct consequence of the development or arising from the cumulative impact of development in the area.
- Fairly and reasonable relate in **scale and kind** to the proposed development; and
- Be **reasonable** in all other respects.

Obligations can be made either as an 'in kind' or financial contribution. These are secured by planning condition or most commonly via an upfront payment or Section 75 legal agreement.

11.5 Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF)

The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) is a tax credit scheme, linked to Scottish Landfill Tax that encourages landfill site operators to provide contributions to Approved Bodies, who can then pass the funds onto community and environmental projects.

Funding must be passed from a landfill operator via Approved Bodies to a project such as the proposed Skatepark in Bridge of Don.

There are several approved bodies that have been identified as suitable and relevant for the project. These are listed below. It should be noted that as a rule these funders look to fund a specific aspect of the project and not a proportion of the overall cost, additionally they will not be able to fund the same aspects of the project should applications to multiple bodies be considered.

Approved Body	Notes
FCC Communities Ltd	<p>The FCC Scottish Action Fund offers funding of between £2,000 and £40,000 to projects from FCC Environment through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.</p> <p>Further information is available at https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-scottish-action-fund</p>
Valencia Community Fund	<p>Formerly Viridor Credits Valencia offers up to £25,000 on condition the total project costs do not exceed £100,000.</p> <p>Funding up to £25,000</p> <p>Further information is available at https://www.valenciacommunitiesfund.co.uk</p>
Suez Trust	<p>SUEZ Communities Trust will consider projects which focus on physical improvement at an identified site. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase of materials/equipment and the appointment of a contractor to undertake the improvement work. A request for funding for multiple sites or for salaries, running costs, project management or design fees will not be considered.</p> <p>Funding up to £50,000 Further information is available at https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk</p>
EB Scotland	<p>EBS considers various criteria when deciding whether to fund a project; Community Need: It is important to demonstrate wide community support and appropriate consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for Money: It is important to demonstrate anticipated costs are reasonable and represent good value, usually through a tender or quotation exercise. • Viability: EBS carefully vets all applicants as to their suitability to carry out proposed projects. This not only ensures compliance, but also that the necessary skills and experience are available to projects. It is also important that other funding, planning consents and any contingencies have been considered. • Sustainability: It is important that maintenance plans and budgets are demonstrated. • Added Value: It should be illustrated how SLCF funds lever in other sources of funding, utilise volunteers, enhance disabled access, meet biodiversity targets, and attract local authority support as appropriate. <p>Funding £25,000 https://ebscotland.co.uk</p>

Third Party Contribution

When a Landfill Operator (LO) contributes to an Environmental Body (EB), it can only claim tax relief on 90% of the contribution it makes and is left with a 10% funding shortfall. Some LOs will absorb this cost, or a portion of it, themselves. Sometimes LOs will require you to find a separate third party - a Contributing Third Party (CTP) to make the 10% payment or a portion of it.

Who Can Be a Contributing Third Party?

Almost anyone can be a Contributing Third Party, providing they do not gain a unique benefit from the project put forward for funding. Below is a list of examples of organisations that may be Contributing Third Parties:

- Private Companies
- Public Sector organisations - Local Authorities, County Councils
- Charities
- Voluntary organisations
- Private donors
- Monies from fundraising

Who is excluded from being a Contributing Third Party?

- Any individual or organisation directly connected to the landfill operator, or a contractor of the project.
- Any individual or organisation who gains a unique benefit from the project.

12 Operational Considerations

12.1 Management

The Group will assume ownership and management responsibility for the new skate park. The Chairperson's overall responsibility will be to ensure sufficient skills and expertise amongst the management committee, in order that they have the capacity to undertake all elements of the facility's ongoing management. It may be necessary to undertake a skills audit, identifying and mitigating against any gaps in knowledge prior to the delivery of the project.

12.2 Insurances & Liabilities

The Group will be responsible for the facility once constructed. Therefore, they will require to have adequate public liability insurance. Given the nature of the sport, the group should ensure that their liability insurance is sufficient to cover a full spectrum of potential claims.

12.3 Routine Maintenance & Upkeep

The Council currently carry out all routine maintenance, but the Group recognises that operating this enhanced facility will require several tasks to be completed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains appealing, fit for purpose, and safe for users, as well as minimising the possible need for major repair works to be undertaken. The group should use its membership to determine a schedule of volunteers, reducing the need to pay or contract individuals or companies, and avoiding the associated costs. The following tasks should be considered in creating a volunteer rota:

- Litter picking
- Emptying bins
- Periodic checking of the surfaces, entrances, paths, and other publicly open spaces
- Gardening and landscaping works (grass cutting, leaf clearing, weeding etc.)
- Periodic checking of lighting, switches, locks etc.
- Regular monitoring of, and interaction with, users, user groups and their parents.

13 Financial Assessment

13.1 Access & Pricing

Through community consultation, there is a strong desire for the Skatepark in Bridge of Don to be free of charge for all users. This would also support delivery of the objectives and strategies listed within this report, ensuring the greatest benefit for the widest user group.

However, the group must ensure that adequate revenue is generated to ensure the cost of any floodlighting, repairs; insurance policies etc. are met on an annual basis.

13.2 Revenue Assumptions

In delivering a publicly available leisure facility, there is limited scope for the generation of income. However, the group must ensure that sufficient revenue is achieved in order that the annual running costs can be met. This report assumes the following proposed income for the year.

Events

The group should consider running a number of events throughout the year including skate jams, competitions, and family fun days. In managing these events, the group can determine how money can be generated within each. This may include entrant fees, stall holder pitch fees or donation buckets. In running four events per year, this report would assume an annual revenue of **£1,000.00** (net of all associated running costs).

Grants, Sponsorships and Donations

In delivering this project, the group has shown the capacity to secure grant funding. Following the development of the project, the operating group should consider grant funding, and the soliciting of sponsorship and donations as a key part of its on-going responsibilities. For this report, a conservative estimate of **£1,500.00** per year has been considered.

13.3 Expenditure Assumptions

Following the construction of the park, the group will require to meet a number of annual and on-going operational costs. These have been listed below:

Floodlights – Energy Costs

The consultation exercise demonstrated a desire for floodlighting. Should the group opt to include floodlighting as part of the project, they should ensure that the lighting works in a manner that allows control over timings and maximum use. I.e., they should be set to switch off after a set point at night, and periodically or where nobody is using the park. As noted previously, the floodlighting should be controlled by a prepaid meter, therefore removing the need for the group to manage the associated costs. The Group will require to engage the local authority to agree whether additional lighting will be added to the existing public network.

Insurance Policies

In leasing or obtaining the site from the local council, and providing the facility, the group will hold all liability for public access and use and therefore will require to hold sufficient and appropriate insurances. Given the nature of the activity, a budget of **£500.00** per annum has been assumed.

Maintenance

The construction of the new wheeled sports park should deliver sufficient quality and longevity that the maintenance required in the subsequent years is limited. However, in consulting other similar facilities, the group should budget for small repair works that may be undertaken to the ancillary spaces, landscaping, track edges, or following minor vandalism or damage. For this report, a budget of **£1,000** has been assumed.

Landscaping and Regular Upkeep Works

In order to ensure that the facility remains attractive and well maintained, a budget of **£500** per annum has been assumed for the provision of tool such as brushes, drying brushes, bin bags, cleaning materials and gardening tools and seeds. This will be required to allow the previously outlined list of volunteer tasks to be undertaken.

In summarising the above income expenditure considerations, the following table demonstrates that the completed project will be able to operate annually in a financially sustainable manner.

Income	
Events	£1,000.00
Donations, Grants and Sponsorship	£1,500.00
	£2,500.00
Expenditure	
Insurance Policies	£500.00
Maintenance	£1,000.00
Landscaping and Regular Upkeep	£500.00
	£2,000.00
Surplus	£500.00

14 Risk Management & Mitigation

14.1 SWOT Analysis

A SWOT Analysis provides an at-a-glance summary of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the project.

Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge of Don Skate Park Group is a strong competent committee with a wide range of professional and business skills. • The Group has a good reputation within the community as well as support from local councilors and the Aberdeen City Council. • They have a significant number of wheeled sports users in Bridge of Don and an existing skate park albeit somewhat dated. • They have and good community support for their project with around 250 surveys completed and 15 letters of support. • The proposed site is an existing skate park site, therefore meeting all appropriate planning policies. • The site is in an existing public recreational area at Westfield Park, Bridge of Don. • The project aligns with a range of local and regional strategies. • The project is potentially fundable through Scottish Communities Landfill Fund, Sportscotland and several other funders including Aberdeen City Council. • The project reduces the carbon footprint associated with the travel currently required to make use of more modern state of the art facilities further afield in Aberdeen.
Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council has not yet agreed a lease/community asset transfer. • The project will require to make a planning application. • Securing adequate capital to fund the project with increasing demand on all funders. • Access to the area is through an existing play area therefore a temporary road is potentially required in order to allow contractor access.
Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Group has identified a good location for the proposed new extended skate park. • They are discussing a long-term lease/community asset transfer from Aberdeen City Council • The project has the opportunity to create a higher quality and more challenging skate park for Bridge of Don and the wider Aberdeen City communities. • Once build, this will become a venue for a range of Wheeled Sports coaching initiatives and one-off events. • The facility will attract users from out with the immediate Bridge of Don catchment area, bringing a positive economic impact to the area through secondary spend. • Opportunities exist for links to Active Schools and other local health and sports initiatives.

Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constant threat of poor weather.• Lack of capital funding could affect some elements of the project.

14.2 Business Risk Register

The full risk register below outlines the risk and mitigations across all areas of developing and operating this project.

Bridge of Don Skate Park			Business Risk Register			Date:	August 2023
		Risk Categories:	0-8 Low Risk	9-17 Medium Risk	18-25 High Risk		
Risk Area	Risk Identified (Describe the risk to be managed)	Probability Factor (1-5, with 5 being most probable)	Impact Factor (1- 5, with 5 being most severe)	Risk Ranking (probability x impact = probability)	Risk Management (How the risk will be managed)	Risk Responsibility (Describe who will be responsible for managing the identified risk)	Risk Monitoring
1.0 Strategic							
1.1	Lack of Business Plan and Feasibility Study	2	4	8	This feasibility study has demonstrated a robust and sustainable business model, as well as significant demand for the project. In working with local consultants to deliver this facility, a strong business case has been tested and identified prior to the funding and development stage of the project.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Initial preparation of business plan with reviews annually or in response to changing key personnel.
1.2	No long-term Development Strategy	1	4	4	This has been addressed initially within this Plan but longer term an enhanced development plan will be adopted for the new facilities and their impact to all user groups and the wider community.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Annually or when there are changes to Parks staff involved in the project.
1.3	Business Continuity Management Plan	3	2	6	It is recognised that there is limited annual overheads with the income generated through coaching, instruction and events covering the operating costs.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Reviewed annually or considering significant changes to financial obligations.

1.4	Health and Safety and Regulatory issues	3	2	6	There should be little or no risk as the full design will be constructed in line with all health and safety requirements. All appropriate inspections and relevant maintenance costs have been included within the operational considerations.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Focus during and after construction with policies and procedures reviewed periodically.
1.5	Convincing the funding bodies that you have a robust business case for obtaining their investment.	3	4	12	This Feasibility Study, alongside the evident successes of the group so far will strongly support the case to obtaining funding from the identified funding bodies. In particular, the improved access to healthy outdoor activity for young people, and the links to improving quality of life will resonate with funding objectives. Given this, it is likely that the project will meet most funders' eligibility, as has been proven in other similar wheeled sports projects.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	One off
2.0 Operational Risks							
2.1	Ensuring effective use of new facilities.	3	4	12	The proposed facilities will cater for various user groups; therefore, it is essential that effective usage be promoted to ensure the facility is enjoyed by, and benefits, the largest potential user base.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	On-going.
2.2	Dealing with any Planning related issues including floodlighting and car parking issues	2	2	4	It is not anticipated that there will be many planning issues relating to the development of the skate park. However, the final design should take all consideration of advice and recommendations accordingly.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	On-going throughout the planning stage.
2.3	Trying to meet the needs of different user groups within the physical constraints of the facility.	3	4	12	The local group are keen to ensure the facilities provided cater for skate boarding (skate park) and scooters and	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Key to the initial planning stages of the design.

					BMX bikes and the new skate park facilities are fully inclusive.		
2.4	Facility Maintenance Plans	3	3	9	As outlined in this report, the delivery of a concrete moulded facility will significantly reduce the requirement for significant maintenance. However, the cost of both preventative and reactive maintenance must be considered to ensure any unforeseen issues do not risk the financial viability of the project.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Review annually
4.0 Financial Risks							
4.1	Not securing adequate capital funding	3	4	12	Due to pressure on all funders, the Group may have to consider leaving the floodlighting upgrading to the next phase of the project.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Dependent on tenders received
5.0 Political/External Risks							
5.1	Relationship to wider community	3	3	9	The Group must work to establish a positive relationship with the local and wider community paying specific attention to alleviate and support through any disruption caused because of the construction work on site.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Frequent monitoring required through duration of construction.
5.2	Securing adequate Community Support for the new facilities	2	4	8	This has been adequately demonstrated through the community survey.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Noted.
6.0 Reputation/Image							
6.1	Media Relations	4	4	16	It is important to utilize the local media throughout the project to keep local communities updated and to encourage local interest. Post construction, it is vital to use the media where possible to capture events, successes and stories that will promote the facility.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	On-going and frequent throughout the project work with reviews annually thereafter.

6.2	Branding and Public Profile	4	4	16	There is an important opportunity to market facilities to potential user groups throughout the surrounding areas, ultimately increasing the awareness and presence in the local community.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group	Monitored frequently throughout the project construction phase and annually thereafter.
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14.3 Risk Assessment for Wheeled Sports Activities

Bridge of Don Skate Park		Facility Risk Assessment			Date: July 2023	
Risk Categories:		0-8 Low Risk	9-17 Medium Risk	18-25 High Risk		
Risk Area	Risk Identified (Describe the risk to be managed)	Probability Factor (1-5, with 5 being most probable)	Impact Factor (1-5, with 5 being most severe)	Risk Ranking (probability x impact = probability)	Risk Management (how the risk will be managed)	Risk Responsibility (describe who will be responsible for managing the identified risk)
Injury or Accident as a result of using park features.	Significant risk of injury from minor or severe resulting from Falls Slips Collisions	4	4	16	<p>Initial construction and design process to consider mitigation of risk through appropriate layout, adequate experience and effective flow.</p> <p>Design, construction and maintenance to be carried out by experienced, wheeled sports park specific contractors.</p> <p>Adequate signage in place to encourage safe use, direction of use, recommended safety equipment and parent supervision where appropriate.</p> <p>Adequate lighting available.</p> <p>Sufficient emergency access to all areas of the park.</p> <p>Landscaping to reduce drops from the top or behind the top of ramps, bowls and other features.</p>	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group

Missuese or damage to park	Risk of damage to the facility resulting in: Increased risk of injury Unsuitable surface for skating etc. Cost incurred by group to repair or replace surface or feature.	3	4	12	Development of the park promoted as community led project from the beginning. Adequauate lighting Regular checks by operating committee. Promotion of good working relationship between operating committee and user groups.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group
Conflicting user groups: - Age group - Activity	Increased risk of injury from wide age range sharing facility. Increased risk of injury from variety of activities sharing the facility. Increased risk of exposing younger users to unsuitable language and behaviour.	3	4	12	Development and promotion of a “rules of the park” notice board highlighting the need to respectable behaviour, language and effective sharing of space. Where possible, grouping of features by complextity and difficulty in the design process. Where possible, grouping of features by likely uses (BMX, skate etc) in the design process.	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group

15 Marketing & Promotion

15.1 Overview

Regardless of the scale of a project, marketing is an essential part of good management practice. It is a process of identifying user needs, wants, and wishes, and satisfying them. Community, sport and leisure services and facilities depend on satisfied user, especially where the local residents support and involvement is both fundamental in instigating a project, and essential for its on-going success.

Marketing involves creating appropriate goods and services and matching them to market requirements. Therefore, far from being just about selling, marketing is from the beginning an integral part of the process. In the first instance, this report has demonstrated a marketing centric focus in that it has considered the following:

- Identification of target market, population, and local trends.
- Assessment of current provision.
- Assessment of need and market research through consultation with current and potential users throughout the community.

15.2 Communications & Promotion Strategy

The following is a proposed marketing actions plan specific to the development of a skate park in Bridge of Don. It should be considered that success will be measured in the level of usage and the overall satisfaction of all key stakeholders. As a result, the following strategy is set to promote and highlight the facilities to all potential users both locally and from surrounding communities.

	Task Details	Timeframe	Costs	Responsibility
1	Develop website highlighting the new facilities – incorporate user testimonials and photographs.	One Off	Free	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group
2	Use promotional space in partnership with local user groups and organisations to promote the expansion to the facilities.	Periodically	Free	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group
3	Use existing social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) and investigate further social media options and promotional opportunities to highlight the new facilities amongst target audiences.	On-going	Free	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group
4	Press Releases: Further engage with local media to promote the improvements to the facilities and its relevance to the community.	On-going	Free	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group
5.	Explore the possibility of running events such as skate jams, and community fun days.	Periodically	Cost covered	Bridge of Don Skate Park Group

1. It is recommended that Bridge of Don Skate Park Group apply to Aberdeen City Council for a 20-year lease of the site at Westfield Park for a peppercorn rent for the upgrading and extension to the existing Council owned concrete skate park (as outlined on the site map in section 2.1).
2. It is recommended that if the outcome of the feasibility study is supported by the community, the Group should prepare a tender specification and advertise for a design and build contract on Public Contracts Scotland.
3. It is recommended that improved and additional floodlighting be included in the design and build specification.
4. It is recommended that on receipt of tenders Bridge of Don Skate Park Group carry out a tender evaluation exercise to select a preferred contractor.
5. It is recommended that once a preferred design has been chosen that this is submitted as part of a full Planning Application to Aberdeen City Council.
6. It is recommended that Bridge of Don Skate Park Group continue to fundraise towards Third Party Contributions required for any applications to the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.
7. It is recommended that the Group considers appointing a Project Manager on a fixed term arrangement to assist with capital funding applications, procurement, and contractor management until the completion of the project.
8. It is recommended that Bridge of Don Skate Park Group continues to keep the community informed of the progress of the project through social media channels.

17.1 Survey Comments

Comments on Features

- a good hip is essential, as is a manny pad/ledge and smallish rail for people to learn on
- A Graffiti wall that can be painted bi-annually to give artists a blank canvas.
- A map of what each area is named/ used for so beginners can learn.
- A modern facility like Banchory have which can be used by little toots on scooters to big lads on BMX. A mountain bike practice trail would be great fun as well!
- A ramp that mimics a wave to practice surf skating (have one in Fraserburgh), I think.
- A roof that closes when it is raining like at the tennis.
- Age-appropriate sections
- Age progression sections
- An area for smaller kids - 4–8-year-olds as often the older kids are intimidating for the younger ones.
- Area for smaller kids/beginners
- Areas for beginners as well as experienced.
- Bank to rail Down rail Euro gap Hip Driveway
- Better lights for at night
- Better spine, flat ground area with ledges and rails.
- CCTV cameras to catch the kids who smash glass all over the concrete.
- CCTV May be helpful due to recent incidents of adults approaching children in the park.
- CCTV May be helpful given recent incidents of adults approaching children whilst in the park.
- every skatepark needs a good hip, a manny pad a rail and a ledge. bare minimum - a solid mini ramp if there's space. bowls are massive and grossly underused except a few times a year. you do not need a bowl.
- flat area for ground skills or adding portable obstacles could be useful, for events/beginners/coaching/prep.
- Focus on a Park type skatepark and leave the plaza style to Westburn.
- I think it is worth noting some of the things that Westburn has done well not to replace but with regards to transitions and flow.
- I would Love to see a local artist come and graffiti the new park as part of the decor.
- I would like to see smaller transitions. Skateparks with 2-to-4-foot transitions and bowls are far more attractive to 99% of skateboarders than 9-foot bowls of terror. The Fraserburgh park is an example of transition done well. It is however lacking any decent ledges. A combination of simple ledges and smaller transition is, for me, ideal.
- Improved lighting
- In Aberdeen there are no decent outdoor mini ramps (4-6ft). It is a classic feature and almost a discipline so it is frustrating that none of the existing parks have one. Incorporating one in the new development would encourage people to travel to and use the park.
- It would be lovely to see an area for beginners as well as an area for more experienced users so everyone can use it without getting in each other's way.
- Just a generally more welcoming site, that can be easily looked after, and the community can take pride in
- Just to be a nice place for families to meet up and enjoy the space. Provisions for food vans to have a spot to park up and have power would make the space easier to spend the day.
- Just want to emphasise the need for a MELLOW half-pipe/mini ramp for learning on
- Kick box
- Large Half Pipe
- Lighting (x8)
- Mega ramp
- My children are 12 and 3 so my eldest uses the skate ramp however there is not much of the play equipment accessible for my 3 years old.
- new smooth ground
- Pump Track (x5)
- Seating/viewing area close but not on the park
- sections for younger kids starting out.

- Sections which flow into other sections - bump box leading to transfers into bowl etc. rhythm section
- smaller sections for beginners
- Some children are not great at sharing, can be frustrating for children trying to BMX and learn when some children do not use the skate park for that purpose and just sit around on the ramps and do not move for those with skateboards/BMX's...some signage with some skatepark etiquette would be greatly appreciated!!
- Some lighting on access path from Scots town road/top of Gordon place
- Some ramps/quarter pipes above 4 feet tall that are not too steep to be used on BMX. This would set the skatepark apart from others in the area as well as most of the rest of Scotland.
- Something unique like a pocket wallride
- Spectator seating
- Spine (x2)
- The spray-painting murals are lovely for smaller children.
- Toilets (x3)
- Two bowls that connect with a spine with some big quarters and small ones like in America.
- Viewing area
- water fountain, bike and skateboard shop, option to borrow bike and skateboards if you do not have, refreshments.
- Would be great to see some classes for youngsters involved in learning new skills. Would be good to have a designated graffiti space so that the actual park remains clear of graffiti.

Comments on Benefits of the Project

- Any improvement to the space would be welcome. We travel all over looking for a skate to spend time at and enjoy the area.
- Badly needed in the area, would be well used facility across all sexes and ages, not to mention improving wellbeing and mental health.
- Excited to see this project move to the next steps. An improved and extended skatepark would be a welcome addition to the free outdoor facilities available for families and young people in Bridge of Don which are currently poor for the population size.
- Fully support this much needed improvement for the bridge of don community. It will be a fantastic facility now we have less expendable income and warmer summers. Supports active travel too having something local to visit.
- Fully supportive of the project, we need more outdoor sports spaces for kids. My kids are too small to come here themselves now but I am sure would love to come here alone when they visit their grandparents (who stay on the edge of the park) in the future.
- Given the size of bridge of Don and how many schools there are in the area, having a big skate part can bring back popularity of the sport within the city. Since the days I used to BMX it has dramatically dropped and poor outdoor skate parts is a major factor along with increased pricing at TX. Outdoor parks are free for anyone to use and will provide a lot of attraction over summer periods, but not at its current state.
- I do not use the skatepark, but my nephew does. I fully support the development; the community needs it as do the kids!
- I do not go to the park, but my brother does with his mates, and I understand how important it is for them to have a safe, free space to go and skate outdoors.
- I do not skate that much just hang about but like having somewhere to go with friends.
- I think it would be a huge benefit to the community.
- I think the redevelopment would bring more people to the skate park. It is already very popular and busy so if it is developed then it could even bring people from other areas into the bridge of Don to use it.
- It is a great park for youngster's worth getting it redone.
- It would be good to see a bigger space for the number of kids I have seen there seen a few accidents too with all kids flying about at same time.
- Lots of kids in Bridge of Don , enjoy using this skate park.
- Massively needed and a great opportunity to finally give Aberdeen a skatepark with big/decent sized transitions(quarter pipes/bowl) as its lacking compared to other major Scottish cities. The current park needs the odd crack/gap filled but still retains a good use. The lights are dim, and some are broken, they still provide a decent night vision but would be fantastic if they were improved. Cannot stress enough,

bowl or at the very least a wide/long concrete mini ramp. Look forward to things going forward, thanks guys.

- My grandkids are a bit young to use it, but they will in the future, I am sure. It would be a great boost for the kids and the community.
- P3 at Middleton Park is very keen for the skatepark to be improved and expanded. We cannot wait to see what it will look like!
- Really need a lot more facilities for toddlers/ teens/ adult outdoor activities. Please.
- Sounds like a great idea, an improved skatepark would greatly benefit the local community who cannot travel to existing skateparks as well as possibly making this a must visit facility for BMX/skaters across the country.
- The skate park is a well-used and important part of Westfield Park. It acts as a central hub for children from all over bridge of Don and further afield to improve their skills and meet with friends. Children of all ages from toddlers all the way up to adults use the skatepark for various reasons - learning to ride or skate and improving skills. It is important for the well-being and health of everyone as it provides daily exercise as well as an opportunity for people to socialise with others.
- There can be a lot of litter including glass. If the area was extended and facilities improved, it may be looked after better by the community. The path to the skate park is not suitable for skateboards/scooters/blades now which may put some off using it.
- There is such a lovely community of people who use this park. Everyone is very welcoming it is a lovely positive place for people to enjoy. It can get really busy which makes it difficult for beginners and advanced to use. It could really use being a good bit bigger.
- These developments are future investments, it is crucial to put the money into areas for young people who have so little else to do when in teen years. Creating community spaces that are fit for purpose is essential.
- This is important for the kid's welfare, social life, physical health. It keeps them occupied. It can help hundreds of children. Perth has a brilliant skatepark. And, Fraserburgh has one too. Turriff started one but did not finish it which was a travesty as the kids loved it.
- This would be a huge boost to the bridge of don area, the young folk need a place to socialise and improve their health and fitness.
- This would be a welcome addition to Westfield Park with additional signs from other parts of the park to encourage visitors.
- This would be an excellent project for our local area. The children in our suburbs would benefit massively from this and it would be such a good thing for them to have access to.
- This would be an amazing addition for everyone.
- This would be a well-used area and lots of people come from outwith bridge of don too, my son has enjoyed speaking to older people who have helped him with hints and tips (he is only 8 and is enjoying his BMX) so this could be such a great community for all ages, and great for spending time as families too as we have enjoyed learning about BMXing and skateboarding together!
- Would be a great idea. Would bring lots more kids to the skatepark and the playpark. Use it or lose it!
- Would make skating at bod way more inviting and good for the community.

Design Considerations

- Better path up to the skate park, a section for younger and older children to keep separated so the younger one could use it without feeling like they are a nuisance to older children/ adults who are more advanced using the current park at times.
- Concrete surface at present is so rough and uneven it is practically unskateable, ok for BMXing. It would be fantastic to see this Skatepark extended and upgraded, there is ample room to hopefully create something very special, which would hopefully benefit the North Side of the City as a whole. Thank you for involving us, the Skatepark Users
- Current skatepark is in a great location, layout works well but the harsh edges at the bottom of the ramps really take the fun out of it.
- Draft plans look good, big improvement over the current park.
- fully support an extension, just dinna build a bloody bowl a good mix of 'street' and transition will keep most people happy.
- If we do get a bowl, it would be good to have it with tiles on the coping, it would be a nice addition.
- It is old and tired for not being very old, filled in the concrete multiple times myself Stair leads up corroded to a lip so not usable.

- It is not very good right now - needs to get better.
- Just hoping it can become at least a little bigger to be honest.
- Lights
- Make sure there is a skate head on site so the contractors do not install features the wrong way round - like the block at the existing park.
- The current skatepark is very dated and under used with poorly sized obstacles and little variation level of difficulty but is in a good location. An upgrade with modern obstacles/layout and increased facilities would create a community hub based around sporting activities which have been shown to offer huge benefits both physically and mentally and give the local youth an outlet where they can focus on improving their skills.
- The kink banks if being kept need a lot better transition rough on skateboards hard to keep speed at time.
- The last thing Aberdeen needs is another park full of mid-sized quarter pipes, Banchory could have been great, but they botched it. same with the TX revamp. Keep it simple functional and fun.
- The new skatepark in Banchory is fabulous and is always busy so a design and size similar to that would be fabulous for the Bridge of Don skateparks.
- The park should cater to a range of levels. Starting at toddlers on scooters/balance bikes up to advanced skateboarders/bmxers.
- We just need a new larger park which can be used by the youngest and older kids. Make sure is safe for various group ages.

Comment of Support

- 100% support this project.
- Cannot wait to use it when done and the kids too.
- Excited to see it happen.
- Good luck guys!!! Keep up the fight.
- Having separate areas for more experienced skaters and younger ones
- Hope it goes well.
- I hope this happens.
- I hope we get it soon!
- I think what you are doing is great! Hopefully we can replicate what they have done in Banchory 👍
- Long overdue, great to see the wheels are rolling on the extension I wish you all the best 👍
- Must happen will be a great thing for Aberdeen.
- Pls, make it happen will use daily.
- Really hope this happens.

Comments or Suggestions on Management and Operations

- Any space provided would need looked after and kept in good condition, with regular maintenance and up keep.
- Needs CCTV cameras to deter youths from drinking and smashing bottles everywhere.
- The skatepark needs areas for all ages, my son is 5 and finds the ramps too big and intimidating. Cannot wait to see the project come to fruition!!

Other Comments

- Happy to be contacted if felt necessary. I have some experience in skatepark development and been an active skateboarder in Aberdeen most of my life.
- The current skate park is having adequate facilities it does not need to be expanded.
- We really enjoying park already.
- Would like to see a pump track, there is one below the school but it has been there a lot of time and is not looked after by the council

17.2 School Pupil Letters

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae
Crescent
Bridge Bridge
of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

9.6.2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are excited to hear that there is going to be a new exciting skatepark.
The old one is a bit dangerous, but if you fix the cracks so people's feet and wheels won't get stuck in them

Firstly, a new skatepark will make people significantly more healthy because. Skateboarding uses every muscle in the body, so it's a great way to build up your strength. You'll engage your core as you work to keep your balance, especially on uneven surfaces.

Secondly, a lot of people around 750,000 people in the UK participate in some type of skateboarding activity

Thirdly, it will be a lot better than the last one, more exciting and more people. If it's bigger than the last one more people will be able to use it.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan and Josh.

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are primary seven pupils at Greenbrae School. We are excited and intrigued about a new skatepark. Currently, we are also concerned about the safety and structure of the Westfield Park skatepark in 2023. We are writing to tell you why we strongly agree that it should one hundred percent get an upgrade.

Firstly, the condition of the skatepark is, in our opinion, a concern. There are gaps between ramps, chipped and it badly needs an upgrade. A change in skatepark would be great because it is not only skaters who use it, but people can also use it for their bikes and scooters.

Secondly, if we got a new skatepark it would be massively appreciated by the community. The current skatepark was made in 2005, 18 years ago. Many times, people have almost or got injured using the skatepark.

Finally, if we got a new skatepark, people will be wanting to go out and try it. Statistics show that the more active people have a better academic life, which means healthier for your brain if you're able to go out and try new things. There is roughly a quarter of a million skateboarders in the UK and this is on the increase. Making a new skatepark, would get more people trying it out.

To conclude this letter, we agree that we should get a new skatepark. Firstly, we believe we need a new modern upgraded skatepark which is safer and accessible by all. Secondly, we need more outdoor facilities to promote better mental and physical health. Thirdly, we would definitely use a new skatepark. We strongly agree that we should get a new skatepark.

Your sincerely,

Cameron and Harry

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are primary seven pupils at Greenbrae school. We are intrigued about the proposals for a new skatepark in Bridge of Don. We are writing to you to express our support for £350,000 to be spent on a new skatepark. We have thought of many reasons why we need a new skatepark in Aberdeen.

Firstly, while I was on my skateboard at the Westfield Park skatepark, I tripped because there were loads of cracks and potholes in the ground. We think that we should have a new skate park and get rid of the old one to prevent injuries and accidents. The skate park we have right now was built in 2005, so it's pretty old and as a child who does enjoy skateboarding, I do not feel safe there.

Secondly, in the little blue shed at the skatepark I usually see some people messing around and being inappropriate while there are young children around, so it's not safe for young children. People aren't going to the skatepark because it is dirty and dangerous. This has an impact on their mental and physical health. They don't want to go. There have been over 200,000 skateboard injuries in the UK and we certainly do not want this number to increase by the use of dilapidated, old skateparks.

Lastly, while we are at the skatepark some people use it for different things and disturb people while they are trying to enjoy their time at the skatepark and learn new skills. In 2020 there were over 750,000 people enjoying their time skating so if we spent £350,000 it would be worth it and make skating more enjoyable for everyone and stop them spending money to do what they enjoy the most.

To sum it up, we all want a new skatepark because it should get more people interested and active in skating, it will help a lot of children's mental health and Bridge of Don needs a new, modern, upgraded skatepark. We can't wait to go to the new skatepark. Good luck!

Yours sincerely,

Scott and Lexie

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

8 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are extremely excited about the idea of improving the skatepark in Bridge of Don. We are very concerned about the state of the current skate park though. In this letter, we will list reasons why it would be such a great idea to change the skate park.

Firstly, we are concerned about the size and how dangerous it is. It was made in 2005. The reviews online are not good and state that the condition of the park is not the best. People are concerned for themselves and their children's health and safety, due to the unsafe ramps and how old it is. There are also items that are left there and could be sharp and dangerous to young children such as, glass, sharp plastic, vapes.

Secondly, we know there is only one skatepark in Bridge of Don. The access to the skatepark is not good enough for people who may live further away. Having to drive to the skatepark can be bad for the environment. If someone would like to go there but can't, that is stopping them from getting exercise, which can be a benefit for their mental and physical health. Not being able to go outside is also stopping young children from socialising and getting fresh air.

Thirdly, lots of people like to skateboard and it would be great to make it bigger for more people to go. The number of skateboarders in the United Kingdom today range from 60,000 frequent participants to 300,000 casual skaters. In 2020, around 750,000 people in the UK participated in some type of skateboarding activity. Skateboarding is also great for any age.

To conclude, we hope it is clear to understand why this skatepark needs to upgrade. Firstly, for safety hazards. Secondly, there is only one skatepark in Bridge of Don and it needs to be improved. Thirdly, there are lots of people who like to skateboard and making it bigger would be necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Mya and Liv

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are primary seven pupils at Greenbrae school. We are very intrigued with the idea of building a new skatepark in Bridge of Don. Considering the state it is in now, we will discuss some reasons why it would be a good idea to build a new skatepark.

Firstly, the skatepark was built in 2005, that's nearly 18 years ago. This means, the skatepark, in our opinion, is extremely dangerous and has cracks and false ramps. According to Aberdeen Live, the daily average number of people going to the skatepark is 17. We believe this number would quadruple and more people would like to go to a more modern skatepark. We have also seen lots of inappropriate graffiti and this makes parents not take their kids to the skatepark which decreases the interest rate.

Secondly, we strongly believe that there are not enough outdoor facilities to suit all age groups. We are aware the modernisation would include a 20Mx30M increase for the size of the current skatepark in Westfield park; more people would like to go to the park.

Thirdly, the estimated number of skateboard users in the United Kingdom today range from 60,000 frequent participants, to 300,000 casual skaters. In 2020, around 750,000 people in the UK participate in some type of skateboarding activity. Therefore, we are certain that the number of skateboarders would increase.

Finally, in our opinion, the new skatepark would make a massive difference in the economy for skateboarders. It will also give people lots of fun and everyone of all ages will look forward to a new skatepark.

In conclusion, all ages would like and appreciate a new skatepark and everyone will use it for years to come. We hope you reach your goal of £350,000.

Yours sincerely
Amr and Isla

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr. Belka

We are primary seven pupils at Greenbrae School and we are very interested in the new skatepark that possibly could be coming to Bridge of Don. We have some arguments about why the old skatepark needs modernising, and how the new skatepark will help the community.

Firstly, it would be better for it to be modernised because it would help people to be healthier. It would help children in school because studies have shown that healthy people concentrate more because when you exercise, your brain makes more connections which allow kids to focus more. Moreover, skateboarding is also a sport for all ages so it would help the community come together.

Penultimately, it's outdated and is in need of repair. Since it was made in 2005 and has not been updated since, the floors are getting bumpy, making it a hazard. If a new, upgraded park were to be built it would decrease injuries and have people have an even better time.

Finally, the upgrade will be good for the environment, due to it being outside and in walking range for a lot of people. It will decrease greenhouse gases and it will be better for Bridge Of Don because it will be a high quality skate park which would be great because it would meet the requirements of the suburb.

In conclusion, the upgrade would, in our opinion, be worth it. It would make the skatepark even more exciting for members of our community. More importantly, it would help decrease injuries in the park and give people the opportunity to lead more healthy lives. We are really looking forward to skating at the new, upgraded park.

Yours sincerely,

Darcie & Charlie

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are Primary seven pupils at Greenbrae school, Aberdeen. We are writing to support your idea of making a new skatepark in Bridge of Don. We are going to supply you with reasons about why this would be a great idea. We think your proposal is excellent for the community.

Firstly, According to research, regular physical activity helps children improve cardiorespiratory fitness, build strong bones and muscles and control weight. Additionally, vitamin D levels go up. Vitamin D makes your bones stronger and protects you from getting diseases such as Osteoporosis.

Secondly, there are 350,000 skaters in the UK and we are hoping to improve those numbers by building a brand new enticing skate park. The current one was built in 2005 and has never attracted that many skaters but with a brand new one I'm sure many more people would come and have fun at the new skatepark.

Penultimately, there is only one skatepark in Bridge of Don, whilst the population is growing. In 2001 the population of Aberdeen was only 197,870 whilst now it is 213,688. Aberdeen has grown by 0.22% annually. There is also lots of inappropriate graffiti all over the skatepark which is helping kids learn words they shouldn't know. The skatepark has been around since 2005 so it is all ruined, there are loads of gaps, cracks and plants everywhere which is unsafe for children who enjoy playing there.

Lastly, As it is close, people can walk, cycle or skate there, which helps not put emissions into the air. Additionally you will not need to spend money on gas. Not many people go there currently but if it gets fixed up I'm sure many more people would go.

In conclusion, the new skatepark should be improved because of environmental reasons, the population of Aberdeen is growing and children need to be outside more.

Yours sincerely

Ben and Lucas

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Mr Belka
Chair, BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are primary seven pupils at Greenbrae School. We are very excited about the proposal to build a new skatepark. We are going to give three arguments about why there should be a new skatepark in Bridge of Don.

Firstly, we are very concerned about the safety of the current skatepark. There are cracks in the ramps and the pavements that the wheels of the skateboard could get stuck in and break your skateboard or you could fall and hurt yourself badly. If we had a new skatepark that would reduce the cracks and the park would be more enjoyable and safer.

Secondly, in the UK there are 103,800 people who skateboard, which means that the park needs to be upgraded. The skatepark is one of the local park which means that you can walk to it but since the park has not been upgraded that means that people need to drive to another skatepark which causes pollution and that is terrible.

Thirdly, the design of the skatepark is 18 years old and needs to be modernised because the world is evolving and it needs to as well. Which means that the skatepark needs to be upgraded.

In conclusion, we 100% agree with the new skatepark which Bridge of Don needs. The problems we mentioned above are just too much that is why the skatepark needs to be upgraded.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel and Joshua

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are primary seven pupils from Greenbrae School, and we are very intrigued by your idea to build a new skatepark in Bridge of Don. We are writing to you to explain why it would be a fantastic idea for the community. We know that there is a lot of money needed for this project, and we hope this will help raise support for this project. We have been intensely thinking about arguments to support your cause. We have come up with reasons, and we will now share them with you.

Firstly, skateboarding is a really good hobby to have, and it is really easy to get into. We know this because one of our peers in P7 has recently taken up skateboarding, and he often shares the fun he has. Unfortunately, he has to travel to Transition Extreme to use their facilities. As a result, building a brand new skate park would really benefit new skaters and current skaters as well. In the UK alone, there are around 80,000 day to day skaters, and roughly 300,000 casual skaters. We believe this number could increase drastically with a new skate park in Bridge of Don.

Secondly, more and more people are moving into Bridge of Don. This raises a concern, as there isn't enough space in the current skatepark and injuries could increase. A new skateboarding facility would really help bring injuries down, and encourage new skaters into the sport.

Finally, in our opinion, the current state of the skatepark in Bridge of Don, is a disgrace. We have seen tons of cracks, inappropriate graffiti and the skatepark is not optimal for use. This reason could increase injuries a lot more, especially when more people are moving into Bridge of Don. This could really support the argument for a new skatepark.

To conclude, we are looking forward to the new skatepark. We hope you support our reasoning above. If we all come together and raise enough money, we can reach the target of £350,000. We hope you understand how interested we are, and hope to hear back from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Filip and Owen

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

9 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are primary seven pupils at Greenbrae School and we are excited to hear about the plans for a new skate park. We all think that it is a spectacular idea because the current park, in our opinion, is in quite a dilapidated state.

Firstly, we 100% support you building the skate park because the last time we were there, we were disappointed to see inappropriate images and cracks, scraps and small potholes in the ground. If you build a new skate park, it will cause less injuries and increase the enjoyment for everyone.

Secondly, there are around 60,000 to 300,000 casual skaters in the UK and if there was a new skate park outside in bridge of don it would save people driving around to get to places like transition extreme and polluting the air.

Finally, if you do make a new skatepark there is a likely chance that more people will get interested in skateboarding and more people will get fresh air and have fun.

To conclude, we 100% agree with it and it will be enjoyable. Staggering number of people who skateboard is 60,000-30,000 around the UK. If you do make a new skatepark it will be amazing and there is going to be more skates.

Yours sincerely,

Flynn legg and Harrison Buchan.

Greenbrae School
Greenbrae Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8NJ

7 June 2023

Chair of BOD Skatepark Group
17 Cardens Knowe
Aberdeen
AB22 8PE

Dear Mr Belka

We are P7 pupils writing to you to support the proposal to upgrade Westfield Skatepark. In this letter, we will explain why spending £350,000 on a skatepark is definitely worth it. We will also explain lots of important reasons why this park should be upgraded.

To begin with, as you are aware, making a new skatepark would encourage children to spend more time outside and get active. Being able to get children outside drastically improves their mental and physical wellbeing. If you compare the weight of an unfit twelve year old to a fit twelve year old, you will realise the difference between 87 and 92 pounds is huge and just exercising or playing outside is enough. Also, if a child is active in their childhood, they live for 3.4 years longer.

Secondly, if a wonderful new skatepark is built, it would help all ages socialise and make friends. If children socialise it will immediately decrease feelings of loneliness. It also helps children be more confident in front of other people. Yet another valid reason to socialise with other people is to sharpen memory and it may even help you live longer!

Lastly, another great perk of building a new skate park is that since the community of Bridge of Don is growing rapidly and we need a larger skate park to hold the amount of people. The Bridge of Don community is still growing and we desperately need a new skate park to accommodate the amount of people coming to Bridge of Don.

To conclude, we need a new skate park! A new skate park would also decrease injuries and would encourage people to go outside. We really hope a new skate park is built to fix all of some of the problems stated in this letter.

Your sincerely,

Lucas and Lewis

Middleton Park

Jesmond Drive

Aberdeen

AB22 8UR

17/5/23

Dear sir/madam

My name is Benjamin Kirk. I am writing to you because I am very excited to remake the skatepark. I like the graffiti. Maybe you can add some more. I think you can add a bowl and a ledge and some bars to grind on. You can make it available for bmx skateboard roller skate roller blade.

Your sincerely Ben Kirk

Middleton park
Jesmond drive
Aberdeen
AB22 8UR

Wednesday 17th of May

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Naomi Thomson and I'm writing to you about the skatepark in Westfield park. I usually use it once a week. I go on my bike and I really enjoy it.

Firstly, I think that it needs to be cleaned up, the benches are covered in paint and bird poo. In my opinion you should replace the shelter altogether. It is old and disgusting.

Additionally, I would like the path to the skatepark to be done up, it is too gravelly which means my bike can't get across it very well.

I would quite like it if you could add more ramps and other things that bikes can use, I think the park can be made a lot more accessible.

Finally, I think you should add more litter bins and benches, so that there's more places for people to rest and put they're litter in.

I can't wait to see the new skate park,

Yours sincerely Naomi Thomson

Middleton Park
Jesmond Drive
Aberdeen
AB22 8UR

wednesday 17th May 2023

Dear sir/madam,

My name is Katie and I am writing to you about the new skatepark. I have some ideas about what you could do to make it better.

First of all, the skatepark right now is a bit dirty. There is quite a lot of litter and there should be more bins. And the shelter is disgusting! I think you should replace it altogether. The path is quite hard to go on on bikes and other things because it is too gravelly so maybe add a path or ramp.

And the actual skatepark, maybe add more ramps and ledges and a bowl. And more things for bikes to use? Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely
Katie



Middleton park
Tusmond drive
Aberdeen
AB22 8UR

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

My Name is Torgie Cooper and I am Writing to you to try and persuade to and give you ideas for the new and improved Skate park!

I have lots of great ideas for the skate park such as getting a big bowl for us to use and have fun on, I also hope you can keep the awesome space jam graffiti. I think so more stuff for roller blades / skates would be good.

I also feel like you should build a brand new shelter because it is a bit grubby and unsuitable for the park. As well as the path, I think it would be good to get a ramp to help people with all equipment and modes of transport to get easy access to the skate park.

I appreciate you taking time to read my letter and I hope it helped.

yours faithfully
Torgie Cooper

Middleton Park
Jesmond Drive
Aberdeen
AB22 8UR

Wednesday 17th May
2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to tell you that I am very excited that we might be getting a new Skatepark. I have a couple suggestions on how we can improve the park.

First things first I think the Shelter needs to be replaced the one we have is dirty and smelly.

Secondly I think you should make it easier to access maybe a ramp?

Thirdly I think that it would be cool if there was a bowl for us to play in.

Lastly I think to make it prettier we could have some flowers and someone to pick up all the litter.

I can't wait to see what you come up with!

Middleton park
Jesmond drive
Aberdeen
AB22 8UR

Wed 17th May 2023

Dear sir/madam

My name is Laura. I'm 10 years old in primary 6 and I am writing to you because I am very interested in the new skate park. I have a few ideas to share with you on how to make it better.

Firstly, the skate park is a bit dirty so I would be grateful if you could add some more bins and clean it up a bit.

Secondly The shelter is terrible so it would be great if you could replace it.

Thirdly, there needs to be more ramps and it would be great if you could add a bowl.

Lastly, it is too gravelly and it's hard to ride my bike. Thank you for reading this letter and I hope you think about my requests!

Yours sincerely Laura.

1st Parkway Guides

c/o 20 Foveran Rise

Bridge of Don

Aberdeen

AB228NG

15/06/23

Support for Bridge of Don Skate Park Redevelopment

To whomever it may Concern,

1st Parkhill Guides are a Guide Unit with 28 members and we have a large waiting list. Our group is part of Girlguiding UK and we want to encourage the girls to be active and challenge themselves with new activities. This age group is between 1 – 13 and they all love the new Westfield Park which has had several improvements over recent years in terms of the play equipment. We discussed the proposed skate park redevelopment at Guides and all the members were in agreement that the current skatepark is limited and they would love to use a larger purpose built facility within the park for skateboards, bikes and scooters as they feel there is limited things to do for their age group in the local area.

They have been used to going to the park with parents etc when they were younger but feel that this new facility would be ideal to go and meet their friends, hang out, have fun and keep fit in one place.

Our girls all support this proposal and hope that it gets built as soon as possible so that they all benefit from improved facilities.

Regards,

Leadership Team

Vicky, Christine, Erin and April

From: **Alison Alphonse** <aalphonse@aberdeencity.gov.uk>
Date: Sun, 28 May 2023 at 11:09
Subject: RE: Bridge of Don Skatepark Group - Letter of Support Request
To: Bod Skatepark <bodskatepark@gmail.com>

Hi Kirsten,

I am delighted to give my total support to the Bridge of Don Skatepark Group who are working hard to redevelop and expand the existing unfit for purpose facility. They still have a lot of fundraising to do however, now that there has been a donation from the Common Good fund and others, through their fundraising and other possible revenue streams, I'm sure they will deliver a skatepark that the community will utilise and be proud of. I wish them every success.

Councillor Alison Alphonse

Elected Member for Bridge of Don SNP



29th May 2023

To whom it may concern

The news of a redeveloped skatepark within the Bridge of Don has certainly caused some excitement within our area.

The location of the skatepark is perfect, right in the middle of the community in Westfield Park, with easy access for walking, public transport and with parking close by. This area is already known by many local people of all ages, who use the current skatepark and the other facilities on a regular basis. This enhancement will only increase the foot fall in the area, bringing more people within the community together.

Skateboarding is a very popular activity and is not only by the younger generation but also by the young at heart too. This enhancement will allow more people to enjoy, I have a vision of families completing their runs together, and having a great time. Getting more people outdoors for a break from technology is always a good thing. To have an enhanced dedicated place to do this activity in a safe environment is very important, taking away the worry of where the activity may otherwise be undertaken.

We have seen how important the current skatepark has been to the community, the new enhanced skatepark will continue in the the same vein. The group of volunteers who are leading this are so very passionate, they are proactive in getting the word out there, of what is to come, with some great fund raising activities.

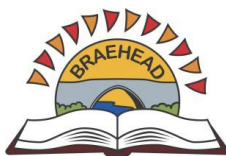
The A Better Bridge of Don is a sub group of the Community Council, this group consists of several groups within the Bridge of Don who work together to improve things within our area for the community. This letter is to give our support for the redeveloped skatepark and the enjoyment and fun it will bring to our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Karen Pratt'.

Karen Pratt

A Better Bridge of Don - Chair

Bridge of Don Community Council - Chair



Braehead School, Braehead Way, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB22 8RR
Telephone No 01224 – 702330 email braehead@aberdeencity.gov.uk

20 April 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

BRIDGE OF DON SKATEPARK DEVELOPMENT GROUP

We are delighted to hear that the Bridge of Don Skatepark Development Group have received funding from the Common Good Fund to enhance the current facility.

As a local school, literally right beside the park, we are so excited to hear of this amazing opportunity for the children of Bridge of Don.

We are happy to support this venture and support any fundraising opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Diane Duncan
Head Teacher



Mrs Elaine Page
Head Teacher
Tel 01224 825062

Email danestoneschool@aberdeencity.gov.uk



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

Danestone Primary School
Fairview Brae
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen City Council
AB22 8ZN
Friday 9th June 2023

To Kaleb Belka

I would like to share my support for the proposed Skate Park in the Bridge of Don. As Head Teacher of Danestone school I know that there is a lack of suitable places for the young people to play safely out of school in this area. I think a skate park would be a welcome addition to our community.
If you need any more information, please contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E. Page

Mrs Elaine Page
Head Teacher

Danestone Primary



'Be the best you can be!'





Bod Skatepark <bodskatepark@gmail.com>

Support Letter

1 message

alan.mcconnachie159@btinternet.com <alan.mcconnachie159@btinternet.com>

29 June 2023 at 16:18

To: "bodskatepark@gmail.com" <bodskatepark@gmail.com>

Hi,

My Wife and I live in the Bridge of Don. We run the Bridge of Don Farmers Market in conjunction with the BOD Men's Shed.

We have hosted the Skatepark fundraising and awareness stall on a number of occasions and have seen a high level of interest from all ages of the public visiting our Market.

We believe that the Bridge of Don being an exceptionally large community would benefit greatly from a vibrant and active Skatepark. It would generate interest from teens to young adults and give parents a safe environment for their family to gain experience and skills in a growing pastime / sport.

We wholeheartedly support the group's efforts to further expand the park and its activities.

Alan & Kim McConnachie

[13 Donmouth Road](#)

[Bridge of Don.](#)

[Aberdeen](#)

[AB238DT](#)

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)



Friends of Westfield Park
42 Turnberry Crescent
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
Ab22 8pd

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing in support of Bridge of Don Skatepark group's proposed redevelopment of BOD skatepark. Friends of Westfield Park are a group of volunteers of varying ages from 25 to 75 who work towards improving and maintaining Westfield Park.

Bridge of Don Skatepark is popular with all ages, but we feel that a bigger and well designed skatepark will help cater to all needs from beginners up to advanced levels. A new skatepark area will help support fitness and mental health in the local community as it will give people an opportunity to take part in a sport, improve their skills and confidence levels and help relieve or escape any stress after a busy day at school or work. At a time when the council are closing many sporting facilities, we need to create more opportunities for physical activity.

Skating provides a fantastic workout for the whole body, improves balance/brain development, can help to improve your mental health and self-discipline which I feel is very important after the past few years of living under covid regulations. Mental health has drastically been affected over the past few years and anything we can do to improve this for the local community is positive.

The current skatepark is in desperate need of redevelopment. It would benefit from an expansion and redesign to make the area fit for all ability levels of skateboarders, scooters, inline skaters and BMX riders and including new obstacles would increase the variety that is on offer. We feel it's important to have a safe environment like a skatepark for people to enjoy rather than using other urban areas/disused businesses that aren't fit for purpose, may cause injuries or damage to property. Bridge of Don is a large residential area and for its size there aren't as many facilities for children and adults to enjoy outdoors as we would like, so it will give the local community something free to do with their families and a space for people to socialise and meet new people which would build on community spirit.

The location next to Westfield Play Park is a great central location as many paths lead to it from all over the area, it has good parking facilities, and it is also supported by many bus routes making it accessible for people from all over the city.

We are confident Bridge of Don Skatepark group will achieve their goal and the Friends of Westfield Park are happy to support it in any way we can.

Yours sincerely

Anneka Duncan
Chairperson, Friends of Westfield Park



Bod Skatepark <bodskatepark@gmail.com>

RE: Letter of Support - BOD Skatepark Redevelopment

Joseph Coleman <J.Coleman@sportaberdeen.co.uk>
To: Bod Skatepark <bodskatepark@gmail.com>

11 May 2023 at 10:45

To whom it may concern,

I give my full support to the The Bridge of Don Skatepark Group's project to expand and revitalise the existing skatepark in Westfield park. The benefits that these facilities bring to a community are immeasurable and the proposed expansion will create new opportunities for the local residents and the wider population of Aberdeen to get active, socialise and foster a sense of ownership and pride within their community.

With a growing local population, rising living costs and increased levels of mental health issues among young people I feel it is crucial that communities have access to public facilities that challenge them and encourage physical activity as well as acting as hub of inter-generational interaction which skateparks do so well.

I am happy to be contacted for further discussion if necessary.

Joe Coleman

Lead Community Sports Hub Coordinator



4th Floor I The Bridge I King's Way
Bridge of Don I Aberdeen I AB23 8BL

07786695239 | jcoleman@sportaberdeen.co.uk | www.sportaberdeen.co.uk



Sport Aberdeen is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (company number SC350981) and a registered charity regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (charity number SC040973)

Councillor Jessica Mennie
Member for Bridge of Don
Town House
Aberdeen
AB10 1AQ

Bridge of Don Skatepark Group
Aberdeen

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Letter of support for the redevelopment and expansion of Bridge of Don Skatepark

I am writing to express my strong support for the redevelopment of the Bridge of Don skatepark situated in Westfield Park, Aberdeen. I am one of the local councillors representing the area of Bridge of Don and have worked with the group since they established.

Firstly, I wish to extend my wholehearted confidence in the group, who are made up of a team of enthusiastic, passionate, and very capable individuals. There is no doubt in my mind that this group will deliver a first-class skate park for the community with the right resource and support. They are an organised, knowledgeable, and driven team with the right expertise to bring this well needed community asset into fruition.

The proposal to revamp the skatepark is not merely an upgrade to a recreational facility; it represents a significant opportunity to foster community empowerment, enhance wellbeing, and promote outdoor play for children and young people. The following are just a few of the numerous benefits that this project will bring to our local area:

1. **Community Empowerment:** The redevelopment of the skatepark is a result of the proactive efforts and collaboration of our community members. This project exemplifies the power of collective action, as individuals and local organisations have united to raise funds, contribute resources, and offer support. By investing in the aspirations of our residents, we are fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment that strengthens the fabric of our community.
2. **Wellbeing and Recreation:** The redesigned skatepark will serve as a safe and inclusive space for people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. Encouraging physical activity and outdoor play is crucial for promoting healthy lifestyles, increasing physical and mental wellbeing. In particular it will provide an outlet for local children and young people to engage in active play, helping to improve their physical health, coordination, and overall wellbeing.
3. **Social Interaction and Cohesion:** Westfield Park has long been a gathering place for our local youth and families, fostering social connections and promoting positive interactions. The redeveloped skatepark will create an even stronger sense of community by providing a high-quality facility where individuals can come together, build friendships, and engage in shared experiences. This will contribute to the social fabric of the Bridge of Don community and enhance civic cohesion.

4. Widening Opportunities: With the cost-of-living crisis, families are more pinched than ever. It is important that communities invest in activities that are open and free to use. This particular sport facility will be free to use, and accessible for everyone. It will be a rare and a welcome addition to Bridge of Don, supporting and encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle for its population. A skatepark will be used by a wide range of people, from parents with young children, families, adolescents, and older adults.

I firmly believe that investing in the redevelopment of the skatepark aligns with our shared vision of creating a vibrant, inclusive, and healthy community. I encourage you to carefully consider this proposal and extend your support to ensure the realisation of this important initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the positive impact that the redeveloped skatepark will have on the Bridge of Don community.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor Jessica Mennie
Aberdeen City Council
Member for Bridge of Don

Ash Armstrong
Tippethill
Hatton
Aberdeenshire
AB42 0RS

Letter of Support re: Bridge of Don Skatepark Development Project

1st June 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ash Armstrong and I am BMX / action sports enthusiast, experienced BMX rider and coach, living in Aberdeenshire. I am writing to express my full support for the Bridge of Don Skatepark development project, an exciting and much needed improvement of the currently underutilised facility in Westfield Park.

I have been following the growth and resurgence of sports such as BMX, skateboarding ect over the past decade and believe the North East of Scotland should be investing in the facilities to meet the demands. This increase is partly due to success of BMX & skateboarding being introduced to Olympics as well as a growing body of evidence that activities such as these can bring long term positive change in mental health as well as physical benefits exercise & movement brings.

There is currently limited access to safely participate and learn about action sports in the North East, with only one indoor skatepark facility – which can be inaccessible to many. Many skateparks, including Bridge of Don as it stands, are out of date, poorly designed, not maintained and lack suitable obstacles to aid progression. This leads to the facility being underutilised and often abandoned & relinquished as a ‘waste of space/money’. With proper consultation, design and input from community and partners these spaces can become an asset to the council rather than a hindrance.

As a coach of BMX Freestyle and other wheeled sports I could see myself using the facility on a regular basis and would love the opportunity to work with groups or individuals keen to try action sports and progress their skills. I am also keen to support fundraising efforts and help with future developments of the park. I am currently developing my own BMX coaching enterprise and my main goal is to increase participation and improve understanding of action sports.

I look forward to hearing more about this project and want to share my full support.

Kind Regards

Ash Armstrong

Bridge of Don & District Men's Shed
Oldmachar Community Hall
Jesmond Drive, Bridge of Don,
ABERDEEN
AB22 8UR

OSCR Registered Charity
Charity No ~ SC047762
E.mail - bodanddmensshed@aol.com
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeofDonMensShed/>

25/04/2023

Hi Holly, I have done a wee bit of research on skateparks and given your request for support for the proposed skatepark a wee bit of thought, so here goes, I hope it's OK.

1. A Skatepark has been shown to improve the health and well-being of its users, reducing social exclusion and anti-social behaviour. The proposed Bridge of Don skatepark will not only benefit users, but will also be seen as an asset to the whole Community.
2. A skatepark in the Bridge of Don would offer its users an outdoor experience, along with healthy exercise for them and is the third most popular recreational activity for teenagers. Finding an activity that gets them off the couch and keeps them in shape, is vital for the youth of today, especially in this time of a national health crisis.
3. Skateboarding is a relatively inexpensive activity that requires little equipment, provided there is a safe place to enjoy it, such as the proposed project for the Bridge of Don, which can also help bind our community together and is much safer than skateboarding in the street.
4. A well-designed and constructed Skatepark in the Bridge of Don will last for many years needing little maintenance, as some have been operating for more than 30 years with little more than the odd tidy-up.

Stay Safe

Kind regards,

Eric
Shed Secretary.



Bod Skatepark <bodskatepark@gmail.com>

RE: Bridge of Don Skatepark Group - Letters of Support

Mhairi Deacon <MDeacon@aberdeencity.gov.uk>
To: "bodskatepark@gmail.com" <bodskatepark@gmail.com>

18 May 2023 at 08:43

Good morning Kirsten,

Thank you for your email and update on the skatepark group's efforts. You have done an amazing job so far, I wish you lots of success and hope the group achieve an amazing resource for the community.

I've asked staff here to help support your group by providing some drawings of the children's vision for the park. I've also suggested we give the children some time in class to complete the survey so you get some decent feedback.

I would fully support the project and the group's efforts in achieving their goal for the children of our community. They would love a new skatepark and it would become a central meeting point and place to socialise with a purpose. If used for the right reasons, it will really boost the children's health and wellbeing, in both their physical health and mental health too. There's also the potential to meet other young people from around the community and create new relationships out with their own schools.

Good luck with the rest of the journey.

Kind regards,

Mhairi



Mhairi Deacon | Head Teacher

Aberdeen City Council | Middleton Park School |

Jesmond Drive | Bridge of Don | Aberdeen | AB22 8UR

Direct Dial: 01224 820873

<https://middletonpark.aberdeen.sch.uk/> Twitter: @park_middleton

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk | Twitter: @AberdeenCC | Facebook.com/AberdeenCC

**ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Tel: 01224 703331

Twitter: @ScotstownS

Email: scotstown@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Website: [Scotstown School \(google.com\)](https://www.scotstownschool.co.uk)



**Scotstown School
Scotstown Road
Bridge of Don
ABERDEEN
AB22 8HH**

25 May 2023

Dear Kirsten and the Bridge Of Don Skatepark Group,

I was thrilled to hear of the project in the area and the amount of money raised by the dedicated volunteers to support this worthwhile cause. Providing opportunities for children to engage in positive extra-curricular activities is crucial, particularly sporting/active pursuits, and this will be well-received by many of the pupils here at Scotstown School.

Development of the local community and area are crucial to reducing anti-social behaviours and providing young people with a purposeful, engaging outlet for their seemingly boundless energy!

I strongly support the project and look forward to hearing about the progress, and sharing this with some very excited pupils who will be keen to use it.

Yours sincerely,

Lara Sharif
Head Teacher





Your Ref:
Our Ref: SS/BODSPG05/23
Contact: Steven Shaw
Location:
Email: stevens@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Date: 3 May 2023

Kaleb Belka
Chair
Bridge of Don Skatepark Group

Dear Kaleb

Bridge of Don Skatepark Group

I can confirm Aberdeen City Council's Environmental Services fully support the skatepark project at Westfield Park.

As Environmental Manager for Aberdeen City Council I have responsibility for Westfield Park, surrounding local greenspace and play areas. I welcome the proposal and see it as being an exciting addition to Westfield Park.

I am confident that the proposals set forward by the Bridge of Don Skatepark Group will be of huge benefit to the Bridge of Don area, both for its residents and visitors to the area.

I wish the project every success and please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Steven Shaw
Environmental Manager

Aberdeen City Council
Operations & Protective Services
Altens East Recycling & Resource Facility
Hareness Place
Aberdeen AB12 3GX

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services online at
aberdeencity.gov.uk

The Reverend Louis Kinsey
St Columba's Church of Scotland
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB22 8UG
tel 07787 145918
email: lkinsey@churchofscotland.org.uk

26th May 2023

Dear Kirsten,

As the minister of St Columba's Church of Scotland, I am writing to indicate the support of the congregation of St Columba's Church for your project towards the construction of a new skatepark in Bridge Of Don.

In June 2023 the congregation of St Columba's Church will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of our church building at the top of Westfield Park, here in Bridge of Don. In those 40 years, our congregation has played its part, along with other community groups, to serve the needs and to improve the well-being of the growing community in which we all live. The many thousands of people who live here in Bridge of Don are soon to be joined by a great many others, once the construction of new housing to the east of the community is completed. Here at St Columba's Church, we feel there is a great need for the provision of more, and better, community facilities.

Our church building, as you know, is situated at the very top of Westfield Park. We know better than most people how very well used Westfield Park is. People of all ages use Westfield Park on a daily basis for sport, leisure, recreation, health and well-being. Lots of young people can be seen every day, enjoying Westfield Park in a wide variety of ways.

At St Columba's Church, we feel very supportive of the idea of a new skatepark.

Many years ago, when the existing skatepark was first built, it was new and exciting. But now there is a need for something more, and better. There is a need for an excellent skatepark to support a community that is already very large, and which is still growing. A new skatepark would be a valuable enhancement to Westfield Park, which is growing in importance as a place of recreation, health and wellbeing, right at the very centre of our community.

St Columba's Church wishes your project well. We hope that you are successful in every respect, and that the eventual result will be a marvellous, new skatepark, bringing a great deal of happiness to lots of people, and greatly enhancing our community for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Louis Kinsey
Minister, St Columba's Church of Scotland



Bridge of Don Skatepark Group

Bucksburn Local Policing Team
Telephone 101

Westfield Park
Bridge of Don
ABERDEEN

25th July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to write to you in support of the proposal to redevelop and expand the Skatepark in Westfield Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.

Police Scotland's purpose is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland. The Bucksburn Local Policing Team are supportive of community activities; such as these improvements to the skatepark, which help to divert people from anti-social behaviour and may reduce and prevent crime.

As we take steps to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to create and embrace opportunities to increase the physical and mental wellbeing of people in our local communities.

I am in no doubt that improvements to this facility will be an asset to the local community, benefitting a wide range of people in the area and will complement the ongoing work of other local community groups attempting to develop and improve the facilities, activities and opportunities for young people and all people within the community.

I wish you well in your funding application and the Bucksburn Local Policing Team are happy to provide any assistance we can going forward.

Yours Sincerely

Sergeant Fiona Duncan