

WELLS SKATE PARK GROUP
Update for Wells Town Council
11th June 2012

History: Following a presentation made by Sandra Jahic and Ben Spittle at the Council meeting in 2010, the Council approved the setting up of an independent Steering Group to take this project forward. An initial £7000 was pledged and a further £1000 added a few months after.

At the Council meeting on 3 October 2011, three proposals were made and voted on:

- a) The TC supports the construction of a permanent skatepark on the recreation field.
- b) The TC is willing to assume responsibility for the skatepark once it has been constructed
- c) The TC is willing to put its name to Reaching Communities lottery grant application. (*this was turned down on the grounds that not innovative enough and not enough funding behind the project*)

Design and construction:

The initial design submitted to the WTC and NNDC was revised in January 2012. Skatepark construction has, over the last year, moved on from wood and steel ramps to free-form sprayed concrete. This has the advantages of higher quality, less maintenance, no replacement parts and produces much less noise. The steering group is considering employing Wheelscape to build the park. A representative has visited the site and consulted with the Group and a dozen or so young people. It is guaranteed for 15 years and an additional 15 years with minimal maintenance.

Planning: Planning application approved. Two conditions to be addressed at later date re flood warning notice and more detailed design spec.

Funding: Target adjusted to £65,000. Received £53,000 (including pledged monies).

On completion:

To be discussed at later date. Either:

- a) Council assume ownership and maintenance
- or: b) A Friends of the Wells Skate Park be established (preferred option for Steering Group): made up of Council members(s), Steering Group and young people.

To meet conditions required by Funders (Norf Comm Fund, Victory Housing and Big Society), the feedback and skate park usage need to be regularly monitored, recorded and evaluations made for 12 months. The Steering Group has agreed to do this.

Access To avoid using the entrances to the Playground we hope to discuss with Ray Hewitt and the Football Club possible alternatives.