



CABINET: 3 SEPTEMBER 2003

FORDINGBRIDGE: PROVISION OF SKATEBOARD FACILITY

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Fordingbridge Town Council has made a request for the funding of an extended skatepark, using developers' contributions.

2. THE SCHEME

- 2.1 The site is the Recreation Ground, Fordingbridge. This site is owned by the Town Council and is their primary open space facility. It has already been the subject of investment by them when a half pipe was installed.
- 2.2 There has been a very significant effort put in by the community to work with local young people and to research the provision of these facilities. There is no other facility in the town and the need for facilities for young people is supported by a wide range of agencies that are working together in the town.
- 2.3 This site is well located for use by young people – being accessible from the village but not surrounded by housing. Also there is an established use of the site with the previous facility.
- 2.4 It has been confirmed that the scheme does not need planning permission. Officers suggest that the scheme be supported given the need in the village and the concerted efforts of the Parish Council to effectively research the project.

3. ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 As is required by the guidelines, comments of the Planning Service and Leisure Service are set out below:

The Planning Service comments are: -

- (a) Is the proposed scheme directly related to the development which it proposes to serve?

Yes, it is centrally located to be of benefit to development area.
- (b) Does the need for the scheme arise from the development and is it relevant to it?

Yes, the need arises substantially from the demands of the adjoining housing areas.

- (c) Does the scheme conform to the adopted Local Plan and Development Briefs for the areas and fall within the terms of the S106 Agreement?

Yes, this is an important open space identified in the Local Plan to provide for a variety of activities.

The Leisure Services comments are:-

- (a) Can the scheme be shown to meet the needs of the people in the development area?

Yes, this provision will meet needs in the community that are not provided for at the moment.

- (b) Does the scheme complement or improve existing or planned facilities in the catchment?

Yes, there is no other provision like it locally and it is part of the agreed schedule of open space provision.

- (c) Can the request be accommodated within the funds available, given the known and anticipated requirements within the area for which contributions are held?

Yes, funds are retained for other schemes and it is still within the initial allocation within the schedule. Compared to the available funds within Fordingbridge, this is a significant draw down. The Town Council understands this but is promoting the scheme as a high priority, given the needs of young people in the town.

- (d) Is the proportion of funding from contributions reasonable, given the nature of the scheme?

Yes, the scheme will meet needs across the town and a significant population of young people.

- (e) Is there financial need on behalf of the promoter of the scheme?

Yes. The Town will fund the maintenance costs but seek an award for construction.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The budget for the scheme is £40,000. There are sufficient funds available to meet the award if the recommendation is agreed.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The scheme makes better use of an existing public open space, which is already in active use by local young people. There can be disturbance issues when young people use facilities like this but this site is well suited given its location and existing use. This reduces the level of potential conflict and makes it also more suitable for the needs of the young people for whom it is intended.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Having accessible local facilities for young people can help mitigate crime and disorder issues. This is particularly so in this case where the facility has been the subject of consultation with young people in the town. It also joins other facilities on this site being used by them already.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There has been considerable consultation, on the ground, about the scheme and the Town Council is itself the lead agency. The proposal has been considered by the internal Open Space Group, which supports the recommendation. There is also a requirement for Planning and Leisure Services to make specific comments on any scheme seeking to use developers' contributions and these are in Section 3.

The Local members fully support this provision, which is much needed in the town, in particular given the involvement of young people in its development.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS COMMENTS

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Leisure supports the recommendation.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is recommended that the sum of £40,000 be allocated from developers' contributions to enable the construction of a skatepark facility at the Recreation Ground, Fordingbridge and that funds be released on the letting of the scheme.

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Background Papers:

e mail from Fordingbridge Town Council
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