

Dersingham Parish Council

New Skatepark Project

Most Councillors will be aware that there was a wooden skateramp on the Recreation Ground until two years ago.

Some vandalism had occurred and when the ramp was inspected for possible repair, it was found to be rotting from underneath. The decision was taken to dismantle it and replace it as soon as possible with an improved concrete facility.

A consultation event was held on 2016 with a skatepark company representative and a draft design was produced, costing at c£30,000.

Since the initial consultation exercise, Council has become pre-occupied with the Village Centre and the project was left pending.

Several months ago, children and their parents attended a Parish Council meeting to ask when a new Skatepark would be built.

A core group of parents and children have set up a Facebook page, got a petition with over 200 names, and have held fundraising events to help bolster funds. Council will be all too aware that the earmarked funds of £12,500 were borrowed to help Village Centre Funds. This was repaid from the precept this year and is in ear-marked reserves. The funds raised will be banked and ring-fenced for the project. In the event the skatepark project cannot go ahead, these funds will be repaid.

Recently, The Allotments Association held an Open Day, the proceeds from which are being donated to the Skatepark fund.

Funding is available from Sport England for this sort of project and applications can be made at any time for up to £100,000. It is a two-step process.

Council is asked to approve-

Invitations to Skatepark construction companies to create a design in consultation with local residents especially young people.

The Chairman will contact Alive Leisure Sports Development Office for assistance.

The design to be chosen by a Task Group of Councillors working with a core group of young people and parents.

People living around the Recreation Ground to be consulted

An initial funding application to Sport England, once a design has been agreed and approved by Council.

Cllr Sue Payne