

Full Council

Date:	29 April 2014
Title:	Skate Park Redevelopment
Purpose of the Report:	To consider and agree funding for the redevelopment of the Park
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Background

1. The skate park ramps are past their recommended life span, with ROSPA indicating that there is limited future use of the facility with an estimated end date of the beginning of 2015. The facility is a popular destination for users from Thame and surrounding villages.

Design

2. Consultation with a number of the wheel based sports users from the skate park by the Working Group provided the detailed specification incorporated within the tender document.

Tender

3. Three out of the six companies invited to tender submitted designs. The evaluation criteria included the following: User preference, design, maintenance, construction and adaptations which highlighted an overall winner.
4. The chosen bespoke design (Appendix 1) incorporates a diverse range of obstacles which will maximize the use of the space, offer more creative ways for varying skill level wheel based users to move around. The 42 features incorporated within the design provided good value for money. Other features included a graffiti backed welcome sign, lockable store cupboard, access path, bins, user identity logo incorporated within the design which still allows space for Chloe's memorial bench. This will providing a destination park which meets the needs of current users and new users as the town grows in the future.
5. The materials and all structural defects will be guaranteed for 30 years by the contractor. The sprayed concrete will be virtually maintenance free and is to British Standards. The design incorporates for the provision of future lighting installation.
6. The awarded design has received positive feedback from current users and new users during presentations to school children and students within the town.
7. Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment.
8. The contract price is £249,997
9. Subject to securing funding the proposed installation date is scheduled for August/ September 2014.

Grant Funding

10. Over the next couple of weeks the Skate Park Working Group will be submitting various grant applications to assist with securing funding as no immediate start date can be confirmed until the funding is in place.

Grant	Amount Applying for	When	Decision Date
SODC Community Grants Scheme	£100,000	April	June
Sport England Inspired Facilities	£100,000	June	September
BLF Reaching Communities	£ 25,000	May	July
Armed Forces Community Covenant	£ 5,000	May	June
Chill out Fund	£ 3,000	May	June
Users Fund raising	£ 10,000	Ongoing	
Sponsorship	£ 10,000	Ongoing	
Total	£253,000		

11. The Town Council is requested to support the project with financial assistance of £65,000 equating to 26% of the total project cost.
12. If grant funding is not achieved the redevelopment project will not be able to proceed. As a contingency for the redevelopment, the Council will need to give a financial commitment to fund the total redevelopment cost of this project which is to a value of £249,997.
13. Other sources of funding will be investigated through Section 106 monies or from the new homes bonus from proposed new developments with the town.
14. The redevelopment of the Skate Park supports the Neighbourhood Plan objectives:
- i) Community, Leisure and wellbeing section supporting the needs of the local people.
 - ii) Environment, sustainability and design quality by improving an existing open space with variety, design and guarantee life span of 30 years.
 - ii) Housing, new developments are to provide appropriate new facilities.
 - iii) Working and shopping, the bespoke design will become a destination skate park encouraging more visitors to the town.

Resource Appraisal

15. There is no current allocated budget for new skate park redevelopment; the £65,000 would require funds to be released from capital reserves.
16. The Council may be required to front fund the total project costs to enable the project to commence and reclaim the funds back from grant awards received.
17. Any Section 106 monies received would be used to fund the skate park redevelopment project.

Risk Assessment

18. The current Skate Park will have to close if sufficient funding is not obtained.
19. Financial implications to fund the total project could put the Town Council at risk unless additional funding is obtained from grant funders or secured from Section 106 monies.

Legal Powers: Public health Act 1875, s164
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19

Recommendation that:

- i) Funds of up to £65,000 to be supported from capital reserve***
- ii) If funding is not achieved that any shortfalls of the project costs of up to £249,997 be released from Council investments.***