

Meeting	Policy & Finance Committee
Date	17 th August 2021
Report Title	Skate Park Audit
Agenda Reference	12
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Officers' Recommendations

1. To note the skate park audit report.
2. To note that the Play Area Working Party to progress with a formal proposal (if applicable) for 'Phase 2' of Haydonleigh Skate Park and bring to a future Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting.

1. Background

- 1.1 This report outlines the costs spent to date on the skate park refurbishment project, the timeline and experiences learnt to assist the Council in future projects. The report also discusses the potential for plans to conduct a 'phase 2' to enhance Haydonleigh Skate Park further.

2. Budget

- 2.1 The budget for the refurbishment of Haydonleigh Skate Park was £80,000.00, however with available budget there were additional improvements to the park to improve the facility such as urban concrete tunnel shelters, a legal graffiti wall and a higher, more robust fence was installed to protect the asset.

2.2 Table of Costs

Item	Costs
Skatepark Build & Equipment (Canvas)	£77,501.78 (inclusive of 5% retention)
Temporary Dropped Kerb	£3,050.00
Hire of a Mini Digger	£472.00
Graffiti artwork	£500.00
Planning application for fence height	£256.00
Planning application maps	£19.50
CCTV	£552.75
Fencing	£11,484.10
Total	£93,836.13



3. Project Timeline

October 2019 – Tender awarded
24 th December 2019 – SBC planning consent granted
January 2020 – SBC inform us a temporary access licence is required
March 2020 – Outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic major impact on progress with officer availability granting licenses, finding contractors and then impact on the supply chain
April 2020 - Temporary Dropped Kerb Licence granted
End April 2020 – Dropped Kerb contractor appointed, tar mac supply problems
18 th – 22 nd May 2020: Dismantling the old equipment & storing at Goodearl
27 th – 29 th May 2020: Temporary dropped kerb installed on Westfield Way
1 st June – 31 st July 2020: Under construction with CANVAS
6 th August – 12 th August 2020: Preparing the ground for the delivery of the concrete tunnels.
13 th August 2020: Digging the footings and ordering materials for the graffiti wall.
16 th August – 27 th August 2020: Building graffiti wall (unpredictable weather delayed the build and it was therefore done as soon as a dry day arrived)
1 st – 3 rd September 2020: Finishing touches, adding additional stencils and safety inspection/ snagging list created ahead of opening
4 th September 2020: Soft opening event
11 th September 2021: Official open event

4. Experience/Lessons Learnt

- 4.1 Experienced delays with SBC and granting planning and licenses that impacted on overall project timeline
- 4.2 Covid-19 was a major factor, supply chain was impacted causing delays. Due to delays with the temporary dropped kerb, planning, delays in CANVAS other projects and HWPC Staff on reduced hours.
- 4.3 The graffiti wall rushed as was being built the week ahead of the opening, so that the brand-new equipment wouldn't be damaged. There was not much time and there was unpredictable weather, which was a restraint. The top course of the wall needed to be repointed due to the weather.
- 4.4 The graffiti wall should have been built after the concrete tunnels had been delivered to allow for more space and more time to build the wall.
- 4.5 The height of the fence was too low causing break ins during the construction period, the fencing could have been considered during the initial planning stages.



- 4.6 The timescale from receiving quotations and the final fencing quotation being approved, also making sure the final specification was consistent with regards to colour, etc.
- 4.7 Securing the boundary edges between the skate park and Haydonleigh School, some of the skateboards go under the small gap in the fencing causing the skateboard to be lost until the school caretaker can retrieve them or resulting in skate park users climbing the fence.
- 4.8 Sessions during Covid-19 worked well to monitor the numbers and give the younger, beginners or nervous skaters time to practice.

5. Considerations for Phase Two

- 5.1 Since the opening many third parties have fed back useful information. The main feedback has been from parents, children, North Swindon Police, the security provider, and skate park users. Ideas 5.1.1-4 will be discussed and brought as recommendations to a future Parks & Open Spaces Committee before proceeding.
 - 5.1.1 **Increase Bins** – Install 2 x more litter bins, this could be cost neutral as the Parks & Open Spaces Team have several old bins in store. These bins are steel framed but would require a new liner, which could be adapted/ replaced easily.
 - 5.1.2 **Increase Benches** – Install some timber sleeper benches for the parents to sit on whilst supervising the children. At present parents stand along the left side fence, the divider between the skate park and Haydonleigh School. If the benches are strategically placed, they would not attract loiterers and would not provide any shelter, they will be made slightly shorter so that several people can't sit closely on the same bench (to avoid groups congregating. The benches will be made to approx. 4ft wide allowing space for two people and then another bench 2m down the fence line spreading the benches out. The timber will be strong enough not to burn to the ground, but if there is an occurrence of fire damage it will only be scorched.
 - 5.1.3 **Connie the COVID Snake** – Some thought has been given to the final location of the pebble snake created during lock down by local residents. The proposal is that the pebbles could be placed back in the snake shape alongside the fence line behind the bus shelter on Westfield Way – this would be inside the boundary fence so would be protected but would still be visible for the pedestrians when walking passed or waiting for the bus. As there are several pebbles still left to paint, a social media post will be put on Facebook asking for people to collect the pebbles and bring them along on Saturday 6th October 2021 to bed them into the concrete with the Head of Parks & Open Spaces, this will then feature as a youth event.
 - 5.1.4 **Create a BMX Pump Track** – This could be created by a soil mound using the spoil from the upcoming POST Facility and other areas generated by the work of the POS Team. The proposal would be to start in the back left corner and



start with a simple ramp, building more along the side. This proposal would be cost neutral, only staff time, and assist with the removal of a large amount of spoil. However during wet weather, the area could be fenced off for use between May and October to avoid the area becoming boggy and the mud ending up on the skate park equipment, but this should be a factor in any weathers and the mound should be compact. Alternatively, there is companies that build bespoke plastic or wooden tracks utilising the existing footprint. Space is limited so this will be a large factor. As a rough estimate £18,300 for the smallest of tracks or there is another company that makes the tracks out of recycled plastic. The idea of the BMX Pump Track will be explored further at a Play Area Working Party meeting. Consideration needs to be given to the proximity of other planned BMX Tracks in the local area before any investment is seriously considered.