

Meeting	Full Council Meeting
Date	22 nd July 2025
Report Title	Haydonleigh Skate Park – Operational Change
Agenda Reference	10b
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager

Officer's Recommendation:

1. To note that the Skate Park will be opened at 7.30am/8.00am as per the planning conditions rather than 8.30am as previously agreed with Haydonleigh Primary School.
2. To consider whether to explore options again for solar lighting to increase the usage of the Skate Park in the autumn/winter months, subject to requests to change the Planning Conditions for the site.

Background

During term time, there is a long term agreement with Haydonleigh Primary School, instigated via the previous Head Teacher, to open the Skate Park after 8.30am as following its refurbishment in 2020, the site was a novelty for children to attend before school, and this was causing late attendance.

Recently, a resident has called to explain that there are a group of Year 5/6 Children that would like to go to the Skate Park prior to school and that they are supervised. Officers acknowledged the new cohort of students, explaining that these previous arrangements had never been queried, and as such continued. Officers recognised that there is an interest for the community to use the Skate Park this couldn't be ignored. The Parish Council prides itself on good working relationships with the school, so the school's input was necessary ahead of making any decisions to change the site opening times.

The new Head Teacher of the school was contacted with a breakdown of earlier communications from school parents, suggesting to trial opening the Skate Park at 7.30am / 8.00am for the remainder of the term as this may be a way to get the children's interest in the sport up ahead of using the facility in the summer holidays. Also, it would be safer for the children to be in the skate park with bikes and scooters rather than queuing on the main road.

The new Head Teacher accepted the previous history, but advised rather than a blanket restriction, if late attendance was noted this would be raised with the parents directly. There were no safeguarding issues to consider and therefore, the School agreed to the trial.

Operationally this helps as the Parks & Open Spaces Team can leave Waterside / the Parish Council Offices / GMF and open King George V Play Area (used as a cut through for Haydon Wick & Greenmeadow Primary Schools) and Haydonleigh Skate Park for usage ahead the school day.

The opening times are 'dusk till dawn', but the early morning time is fine for the Parks & Open Spaces Team, the change will be when the evenings draw-in that the Contractor is instructed to close the Skate Park earlier. Previously, Council has looked at solar lighting to increase the usage of the Skate Park and potentially look at changing the Planning Conditions. This option could be reopened and explored?