

Refurbishment of Croxley Green Skate Park, Baldwins Lane

From details provided by TRDC via email on 23 November:

See attached for Report to TRDC Leisure, Wellbeing and Health Committee 16 September 2017. Further attachments, the Safety Inspection Report dated 22 August 2014 (30 pages) and Annual Inspection dated 20 May 2015 (26 Pages) and be found on the TRDC web site at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/meeting/leisure-wellbeing-and-health-committee-16-september-2015> - item 15.

In summary the proposal is due to:

- Degrading surface which is not usable by skateboards – the ramps are made of concrete and the surface is tarmac, therefore there is a join between the two which expands and cracks and can be quite dangerous for those using smaller wheeled equipment
- Numbers of people using the park has declined over time
- The facility is now quite old and the layout/style is not as appealing to multi-wheeled users as it once was

The proposal is to:

- Remove the entire facility
- Rebuild the facility entirely out of powder floated concrete – designed to be used by skate boards, scooters and bikes

Consultation

- Initial consultation was carried out with existing users of the park
- There is currently a call out to young people to be involved in a focus group to help design the new facility
- Moving forwards there will be formal consultation with all young people, residents and Councillors with an interest as well as a focus group who will be integral to the tender process

LEISURE, WELLBEING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

16 SEPTEMBER 2015

PART I - DELEGATED

15. CROXLEY GREEN SKATE PARK REFURBISHMENT REPORT (DCES)

1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Leisure, Wellbeing and Health Committee that refurbishment of Croxley Green Skate Park forms part of the capital programme for the financial year 2018/19.

2. Details

Background

2.1 Croxley Green Skate Park was first installed in 1999 with wooden ramps and later updated in 2002/3 when the ramps were changed to concrete. The skate park has therefore been in operation in its current form for 12 years.

2.2 Previous committee reports have been presented over the years, specifically for resurfacing the surface (14 September 2010 – L.PP33/10) and urgent repair work in response to a petition by young people (17 September 2014 – LW12/14).

2.3 The urgent repair work was completed in April 2015 and has patched the areas as identified in the August 2014 RoSPA report.

2.4 A further routine annual inspection carried out by another independent Registered Play Inspector Company (the Play Inspection Company) in May 2015 indicated that:

- 1) There is general degradation of the concrete on the platforms to the units, presenting a rough, knarled surface.
- 2) There is degradation to the transitions on the quarter and half pipes creating an unpredictable rolling surface for users.
- 3) There are cracks appearing in the rolling surfaces and these are harbouring weed growth, creating voids.
- 4) There are sharp projecting stones on the surfaces.

These items are currently deemed as low risk and any minor maintenance needed at the park in the short term will be carried out within existing budgets.

2.5 Attendance figures during the school holidays are monitored and recorded and between the period of 2011 and 2014, there has been a 45% decline in overall numbers and specifically a 52% decline in skate board and scooter users.

2.6 In addition, young people have indicated that the park no longer meets their requirements of a challenging space to practise and showcase their creativity and that the existing layout is uniform and too structured, limiting their ability to enhance and develop their skills.

Refurbishment

2.7 The majority of recent capital investment in small leisure projects over the past few years has been focused on play area provision. These play areas have

been updated from unused areas to popular and busy sites, with positive feedback from the local community. It is now proposed that this same investment is focused on Croxley Green Skate Park to form part of the capital programme for the financial year 2018/19.

- 2.8 Multi-wheeled sports continue to grow in popularity, as well as increasing physical activity levels and providing a positive activity for young people to take part in.
- 2.9 Indicative costs to remove the existing park would cost £15,000 and installing a new, concrete multi-wheeled facility would cost £300,000, with a total project cost of £315,000.
- 2.10 In order to finance the project it is proposed that the earmarked £100,000 for Improving Future Schemes is utilised from the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19 to give a total capital budget of £200,000 and that additional funding is sought from other agencies, such as the Sport England *Inspired Facilities* Fund and Lafarge Aggregates and Concrete UK Landfill Communities Fund to meet the remaining funding gap.
- 2.11 However, if external funding is not secured, 2 options may be considered:
- 1) Project does not go ahead
 - 2) Roll the project forward another year and utilise the £100,000 from the 2019/20 financial year and subsequently complete the work in 2019/20.
- 2.12 Further reports will update Members on the outcome of the external funding bids and whether or not the options at 2.9 need to be considered.

3. **Options/Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Leisure, Wellbeing and Health Committee that refurbishment of Croxley Green Skate Park forms part of the capital programme for the financial year 2018/19.

4. **Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The relevant policy is entitled:

Community Strategy 2012-2018:

Priority 1: Children and Young People's Wellbeing

Priority 2: Health and Wellbeing

Priority 3: Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

TRDC Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018

1.1.1 Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime

1.3 We will reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles, support learning and community organisations

1.3.2 Contribute to partnership working to reduce health inequalities

1.3.3 Provide a range of supervised leisure activities and facilities for young people.

2.1.1 Maintain the number of accredited open spaces, parks and woodland areas: - Satisfaction with quality/provision of parks and open spaces

4.1.2 We will strive to improve and monitor customer satisfaction

4.1.3 We will inform and update customers about the Council's work and services.

4.2.1 We will manage our financial resources to deliver value for money

- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators:
- 1.1.1 Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime
 - CP14 – No. of ASB incidents (reported to the Police)
 - 1.3.3 Provide a range of supervised leisure activities and facilities for young people.
 - LL33 – Attendances by young people at leisure venues and activities.
 - LL30 – Vulnerable children's satisfaction with leisure projects
 - 4.1.2 We will strive to improve and monitor customer satisfaction
 - CP05 – Perception of Satisfaction with Three Rivers District Council
 - 4.1.3 We will inform and update customers about the Council's work and services.
 - CO02 – Public perception of how well informed they feel about public services
 - 4.2.1 We will manage our financial resources to deliver value for money
 - CP46 – The perception of value for money from Three Rivers District Council
- 4.3 The impact of the recommendations on these performance indicators is that they will support the Council in achieving these targets.

Leisure and Community Services Service Plan 2015 – 2018

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The affect on the capital budgets is shown below. The bids for capital budgets for these schemes are included in the Leisure Services Plan 2015/18 and will be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

Summary	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Future Years
	Latest	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£	£	£	£
<i>Existing Programme</i>				
Improving General Facilities	400,000	200,000	100,000	100,000
Croxley Skate Park refurbishment	0	0	0	0
Total	400,000	200,000	100,000	100,000
<i>Proposed Programme</i>				
Improving General Facilities	400,000	100,000	100,000	0
Croxley Skate Park refurbishment	0	0	0	200,000
Total	400,000	100,000	100,000	200,000
<i>Difference</i>				
Improving General Facilities	0	(100,000)	0	(100,000)
Croxley Skate Park refurbishment	0	0	0	200,000
Total	0	(100,000)	0	100,000

6. **Legal Implications**

6.1 All proposed works will be tendered within the Council's Constitution and procurement procedures.

7. **Equal Opportunities Implications**

7.1 **Relevance Test**

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	Yes
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	No

8. **Staffing Implications**

8.1 The Croxley Green Skate Park refurbishment will require the time of the Active Communities Officer, Leisure Development Manager and a Building Surveyor to oversee project management, consultation and installation of the new facilities.

9. **Community Safety Implications**

9.1 The local Police Community Safety Officers, Crime Prevention Liaison Officer and the Grounds Maintenance team will be consulted on the final design options.

10 **Public Health Implications**

10.1 Providing free, accessible skating facilities will encourage children and young people to be physically active. This supports the Council in achieving the aims and objectives set out in the Three Rivers Physical Activity Strategy. It also provides a focus point for youth based work around sexual health and drug and alcohol initiatives, supporting the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Hertfordshire Sexual Health Strategy.

11. **Customer Services Centre Implications, Communications and Website Implications and Environmental Implications**

11.1 None specific.

12. **Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

12.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

12.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure and Landscape and Environmental Protection service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within these plans.

12.3 The following table gives the risks if the recommendations are agreed, together with a scored assessment of their impact and likelihood:

Description of Risk		Impact	Likelihood
1	Accident and injury to participants as it is a high risk sport	III	E
2	Incidents of antisocial behaviour	II	E
3	Incidents of graffiti	II	E
4	Unable to source additional funding	III	D

12.4 The following table gives the risks that would exist if the recommendation is rejected, together with a scored assessment of their impact and likelihood:

Description of Risk		Impact	Likelihood
5	Accident and injury to participants due to the condition of the park, which could result in an insurance claim against the Council.	IV	C
6	Poor customer satisfaction with the quality and provision of the park	III	C
7	Continued financial costs to the Council for repairing damaged equipment	III	C
8	Continued declining attendance figures	III	C
9	Increased anti-social behaviour due to the current provision being uninspiring.	III	C

12.5 Of the risks above the following are already included in service plans:

Description of Risk		Service Plan
No	1, 4, 5, 6, 7	Leisure and Landscape
	1, 3 and 4	Environmental Protection
	2 and 8	Community Partnerships

12.6 The above risks are plotted on the matrix below depending on the scored assessments of impact and likelihood, detailed definitions of which are included in the risk management strategy. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood are plotted in the shaded area of the matrix. The remaining risks require a treatment plan.

Likelihood ↑	A						Impact V = Catastrophic IV = Critical III = Significant II = Marginal I = Negligible	Likelihood A = >98% B = 75% - 97% C = 50% - 74% D = 25% - 49% E = 3% - 24% F = <2%
	B							
	C			6,7, 8,9	5			
	D			4				
	E		2,3	1				
	F							
		I	II	III	IV	V	↓ Impact →	

12.7 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of treatment plans are reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

13. Recommendation

13.1 That the Leisure, Wellbeing and Health Committee agrees for the refurbishment of Croxley Green Skate Park to be included in the capital programme for the financial year 2018/19.

- 13.2 That funding for the scheme will be taken from the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Improving Future Schemes budget.
- 13.3 That a further report detailing the options at 2.9 be provided subject to the outcome of external funding applications.

Report prepared by: Charlotte Gomes, Leisure Development Manager

Data Quality

Data sources: Skate Park Attendance Figures

Data checked by: Simon Pollard, Assistant Leisure Officer

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	✓
3	High	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: RoSPA Inspection Report - 2014

APPENDIX B: Children's Play Inspection Report - 2015