

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Event: Public meeting

Location: Upcher Community Shop

Date & time: Thursday 8th October 2009 at 6.30pm

Attendee

Rob Sayles (Chair) – RS
Caz Sayles (Vice Chair) – CS
Connor Sayles
Miles
Sam Hayter - SH
Jasper Pegg - JP

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Youth/U21

Apologies

Dan Sewell (SNT)
Brian Hannah (STC)
Paul Starling
Clive Hay-Smith

Welcome and Introduction

RS/CS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Background Summary

RS summarised briefly the recent developments of the project:

- Reskin & press activity
- Support from SNT, research into links between park closure and town ASB levels
- Need to establish stronger H&S remit, keeping tidy
- Longevity of current park into the winter

Discussion points

The Committee clarified the position on the current structure, how quickly it will deteriorate again this autumn/winter, and the need for a complete rebuild from the 'ground-up' in 2010. RS reiterated the support from Clive Hay-Smith with insurance, materials, and the Big Fix Weekend – the group discussed the funds left in the account, and how long the park would last if patched up every 3 months. The conclusion was that the park might last until early spring 2010.

CS raised the recent application for Community Justice funding for £20,000, how it works, and when the Committee were due to hear back. CS/RS agreed to update the group in 2 weeks, after the Community Justice Board had finalised results & awards of funds.

The group discussed the options for a park redesign; it was agreed that a complete removal of the current park & replacement with a new concrete park would be the best way forward, for the following key reasons:

- Option to design sympathetically for the area
- Massively reduced maintenance costs moving forward
- Increased visibility on the sports map; highly likely to boost sales within the town stores
- Shows that all supporting agencies are serious about supporting generations of young people

RS confirmed that Russ Holbert (Director and lead designer/consultant for Maverick Industries, a UK-based concrete park manufacture company) would be attending the site as consultant on Thursday 15th October at 5pm. This would be to discuss (with attending park users) the viability of different layouts, explain how concrete parks work & 'flow', and capture data to allow for further concepts to be developed & delivered back to the Committee. RS also promised to arranging similar sessions with Gravity Parks and Wheelscape (companies offering similar design/engineering/construction facilities for concrete parks). The group agreed to pass word around.

The group discussed the options for designing a park for skate user predominantly; RS/CS queried design for bladers/stunt bikers/BMXers; this to be covered in detail with Russ & other consultants. Issues including peg damage from BMXers was also raised by JP/SH regards concrete; consultants again to be questioned on this in due course.

SH suggested that the best way to engage skaters was to arrange a regular session that could grow over time; the group decided that a weekly meeting for 30 minutes would give anyone a chance to discuss things, and also ensure agencies (including NNDC) would be able to show willing & support. RS to follow up with SNT/NNDC/Upcher Community Partnership. JP suggested discussing the project with Sam at Drift (Norwich) and Ash at Smashskates.com (Beccles) with a view to arranging prizes, support, and sponsorship moving forward. SH would also arrange video and imagery to be uploaded to sheringhamskate.co.uk, to be used for marketing.

The Way Forward

- Meet at park Thursday 15th October at 5pm to meet Russ from Maverick
- RS to follow up on land searches (drainage/sewerage) with Geodesys
- Committee to arrange & confirm weekly meetings
- Committee to update on Community Justice grant award

Date/time & agenda of next meeting

tbc (likely October 22nd) – will communicate via email/Facebook/website

- Review consultancy and planning progress
- Committee to update on Community Justice grant award
- Seek new funding routes, professional support
- Enrol new Committee members and create maintenance team(s) – inc H&S & ROSPa