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The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the development of a recreation facility for youth in the Wigram Ward.

In March 1998 \$30,000 was allocated from 1998/99 Project Funds for the development of a **Youth Outdoor Recreation Facility in the Wigram Ward**. A summary of research carried out in the Wigram Ward indicated that the Templeton community was in great need of such a facility, and hence was earmarked as the proposed location for this facility.

The Area Parks Officer and Community Recreation Adviser attended the October meeting of the Templeton Residents Association to discuss this possibility, and gauge the local support for a facility. This was a positive meeting, with the end result being the decision to hold some consultation with local youth in order to ascertain what type of facility they would prefer.

A barbecue was held on 20 November 1998 at Templeton Domain, with all local youth being invited to give some feedback. Approximately 60 youth attended, with the overwhelming response being for a skateboarding facility in Templeton.

The proposed site for this facility is Templeton Domain, at the Bailey Street end (by the tennis courts). There are several reasons for this site, which include:

- Safety – this site is visible and open as well as being away from busy roads.
- Popular site – a lot of local youth already ‘hang-out’ at this site.
- Present Usage– this site is already an area of informal play, with a tennis court and playground. The siting of a skateboard facility in this area is consistent with present use.

A canvass of local residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site was generally very positive. Wider consultation with the whole Templeton community is currently being planned, before the site is confirmed.

A design workshop was held on 21 January, with 11 local youth attending. Andy Wylie, a local skateboard design professional, was in attendance to consult with the young people to find out what they would like. This feedback will be used in the facility designs. These include a variety of ‘tricks’ (rather than, for example, a bowl) which allows several people to use the facility at one time. A seating area for spectators was a popular request as was a drinking fountain.

It is proposed that the site confirmation and design be completed by mid March, with construction starting in April.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the information be received and that the final outcomes of the community consultation and allocating the funds to the Templeton facility will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.