

8. LINWOOD PARK SKATE AREA

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Gary Harrow, Area Parks Officer
Corporate Plan Output: Recreational facilities (new) p.9.4.86	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of recent consultation.

Members will be aware that a public information leaflet was distributed in April 1999 which drew a number of concerns regarding the site which was also of concern to the Linwood Primary school next door.

Following further negotiations with the Linwood League Club, a smaller site was identified on the east side of the park near the nursery and tennis club. There is a shingle path with lighting near this boundary.

A further leaflet was distributed early this month with a closing date of 19 May, after the closing date for this agenda. The submissions to date are reported here with further submissions tabled at the meeting. These further submissions will have to be taken into account when Board members consider my recommendation.

Recent consultation with skaters and City Design, taking into account the budget and area now available has confirmed the design (attached). Board Members will see it is a street skating area designed for learners and intermediate-skilled skaters. It will fit between and just to the east of the ends of the two league fields and approximately 10m from the path.

There are 10 responses to date, nine in favour and one against. The response against is signed by 10 residents of Arran Courts, an Elderly Persons complex on the corner of Arran Crescent near Gow Place. These residents are strongly opposed to the project because:

- Similar proposals in other areas have been rejected
- Uninvited happenings in their area
- Additional noise
- Louts, loiterers and the more destructive person will be attracted to the area.
- They seek confirmation that a bowl or large ramp not be constructed as promised

The concern regarding other areas referred to Redcliffs which was not officially consulted by the Council. Some residents voiced their concerns to the Board but there is at present a group of residents in the community investigating a proposal there. Their other concerns are accepted and are common to all new facilities that the Council may put in for youth to use. What must also be taken into account is the wish in the community for activities which draw the youth away from unlawful activities. It is in this respect that the Community Constable is in favour of this project.

The design attached confirms that a bowl or large ramp is not being constructed. The maximum height of the facility is 1.2m with some parts being set into the ground because of the topography.

The responses in favour have the following comments:

- If it will get reasonable use it should be provided
- Perhaps this will remove skaters from footpaths, shopping centres and seats
- Good idea – helps keep children and teenagers off the street
- Congratulations for the initiative
- In a good location
- Excellent, good luck in your (the Council's) proposals.

The responses included requests for rubbish bins and a paddling pool, as well as sufficient safety room between the area and the path.

The respondents have been replied to with a draft copy of this report for their information. Respondents to the previous information leaflet and those who have made comments over the year have also been sent a draft copy of this report.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received and that the Area Parks Officer be thanked for this report.