

9. TEMPLETON DOMAIN SKATEBOARD FACILITY

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Corporate Plan Output: Recreational Facilities 9.4.61	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on extensions and improvements to the existing skateboard facility on Templeton Domain.

BACKGROUND

Board members present at the Templeton Residents Association on 26 February 2001 may recall that some residents raised concerns regarding the operation of the skateboard facility on Templeton Domain.

The main issues related to the behaviour of some individuals and damage to the tennis court net and perimeter fence.

The perimeter fence of the tennis court had been cut to provide an extended flat surface area that was being used by the skaters.

There was general agreement at the meeting between staff and the residents present that collectively using the resources from the Council, local residents and support from the local Community Constable a number of things could be done to improve the current situation.

The Council would undertake repairs to the tennis court to get that facility operational again and respond to requests from local youth and children for an extension to the existing skateboard area. The local community would provide support and assistance for the project by providing casual supervision and an oversight to the area to ensure the facility operates smoothly and effectively.

MEETING WITH SKATERS

The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate and Community Recreation Adviser met a number of local skaters and parents on site on Saturday 24 March 2001, to discuss the issues and extension options.

Board members Ishwar Ganda and Mike Mora were also present at the meeting.

The skaters present suggested a number of improvements to the facility which staff noted and undertook to send copies of the draft design back to all skaters present for their feedback and comments.

Leaf litter and debris being blown into the bowl was also raised as a concern. Supplying a broom which is stored behind the front fence of an adjacent property was seen as the simplest solution which the Parks and Waterways Unit has now done and this appears to be operating successfully.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The Parks and Waterways Unit sent copies of the proposed extension (see attached plan) to all skaters present at the meeting for their comments or feedback.

The feedback was very positive and enthusiastic and we were able to provide everything that the skaters had requested within the financial provision for the project.

A contract has been let for the construction and work is programmed to commence on 5 June 2001. The construction will take approximately four weeks to complete subject to suitable weather and ground conditions.

The tennis court fence has been repaired and a new net is now in place.

CONCLUSION

Providing recreational opportunities on our parks for people of all ages is essential to ensure our open space areas cater for the entire cross section of the community.

This is more easily achievable where the local community and residents are willing to accept and share some responsibility for the smooth and effective operation of facilities on their local park.

A good balance has been achieved in this situation in establishing a positive and supportive partnership between the community and the Council to address the issues and concerns raised.

The Parks and Waterways Unit will continue to work closely with the local community in the future to ensure any issues and concerns are addressed and that the ongoing maintenance and development of our parks meet the needs and expectations of local residents.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** That the information be received.