

Statutory Consultation with the Local Community under Part 8 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for Disposal of Common Good Land – For lease at Banchory Skatepark, Bellfield Park, Banchory – Representations Redacted

Name of Respondent	Do you agree that Aberdeenshire Council should lease the site to Banchory Skatepark Group SCIO for a period not exceeding 25 years for the purpose of building and managing a new concrete skatepark? Yes / No	Comments
Lee Ross	Yes	This would be a welcome facility for our area. We are in need of more options for kids activities that encourage and promote exercise and getting outdoors and away from computer games and devides!
Christopher Gunn	Yes	As a skateboarder in my youth, I appreciate the need for a modern skate park in Banchory. Skateboarding is a fantastic creative sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. I have recently got back into it as I have two boys aged 8 and 11 who are keen to learn and progress in the sport. A modern skatepark would also cater for other wheeled sports eg BMXERS. Ultimately any facility that inspires the children of today to pursue outdoor activities should be encouraged and supported by Aberdeenshire Council.
S Kirk	No	I appreciate that the youth of Banchory require somewhere to congregate but feel taking away land from the park which is well used by generations is not the way to go. By all means redevelopment the existing skateboard park but surely the most sensible place for such a large development is beside the new Sports Centre. Various activities take place in the park, such as the Banchory Show, Pet Show, football training all of which will be affected such a development. Concrete is really not an attractive feature in wuch a lovely green space that is Common Good Land.
Banchory Community Council	Yes	Banchory Community Council (BCC)is in favour of this application. This project appeared in 2017 Community Action Plan as it was supported by a large percentage of respondents to our consultation exercise. There is a real need in Banchory for activities for young people and this project would assist with filling this gap.

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		<p>There have been some adverse comments about its location at the western end of the park and some suggestions that it could be moved somewhere else in the park. Reasons for this included:</p> <p>that it would dominate and prevent families and other groups accessing areas used for picnics and relaxation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that it would obstruct the steps leading down from Station Road • that it would encroach on the play area and narrow the view from the carpark • that it would potentially cause noise and obstruction in the evenings and weekends. <p>BCC discussed the issue at our meeting on Monday 11 March 2019 and took into consideration the views expressed above. The unanimous position of those present was to support the development for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the skatepark will provide a popular and much needed activity for many young people and young adults • it is of good design • it has the potential to attract visitors to the town and, would, therefore, have the potential to boost the economy at a time when the High Street is struggling • it is in a well lit area so allowing easy monitoring of any anti-social activity.
Fund Raising Events Delivered (FRED) (Rosemary Pirie)	No	<p>Belfield Park is, as indicated, Common Good Land and the current suggestion to use it for a specialist Skateboard park would seem to negate its historical status. While we accept that there is a need for such an area its very nature and its proposed size would mean that there would be no open green space for the use of the general public be they families, persons with restricted mobility, individuals enjoying a little fresh air and indeed the youth of Banchory and surroundings who have no marked interest in skateboarding.</p> <p>In addition, various public events are staged in the park and sourcing a suitable alternative location could present a problem.</p>

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		<p>We as a Group are and have been for many years involved in organising the Dog Show of the Banchory Show and the annual Canine Carnival, each of which benefit participants, the public and the charities which benefit from them. Each event occupies one day per year and are well supported. This is largely dependent on ease of access and in the case of the former being adjacent to the "Main Event".</p> <p>In view of the specialist sporting nature of the proposed Skateboard Park it would seem logical that it should become an integral part of the new Banchory Sports Centre at The Hill of Banchory and share the toilet and other facilities which are part and parcel of the Centre thereby leaving a well established public area for "The Common Good".</p>
Anew Ramsay	Yes	I support this proposal to provide more facilities in Banchory – well done to those involved.
Daniel Dawes	Yes	Provides more opportunities & activities for young people in Banchory
David Bruce	Yes	Banchory needs facilities for young people
Stephen Eccles	Yes	
Gary McGee	Yes	
Mrs Emma Christie	Yes	