

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 – Response to Representations and Marr Area Committee Decision

Representation and Responses

The Council received 41 representations in response to the publication of the consultation document. Thirty nine were supportive of the proposal and two opposed it. Banchory Community Council were supportive of the proposal but raised some potential issues of concern requiring the Council’s response (see below). The two representations which opposed the proposal also raised concerns requiring the Council’s response.

RESPONDENT	QUESTIONS/ISSUES/CONCERNS	COUNCIL’S RESPONSE
Banchory Community Council	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, eg. That it would dominate and prevent families and other groups accessing areas used for picnics and relaxation	The new skatepark is proposed to cover an area of 0.15ha. Bellfield Park covers an area of over 2 ha. Therefore sufficient open and green space will remain for the enjoyment of those not at the skatepark.
	That it would obstruct the steps leading down from Station Road	Access to the steps will be retained.
	That it would encroach on the play area and narrow the view from the carpark	The skatepark footprint does not encroach on the existing playpark area (and is not directly adjacent to it).
	That it would potentially cause noise and obstruction in the evenings and weekends.	The area is already used as a skatepark facility during evenings and weekends. The new substrate (concrete) is generally understood to be quieter than steel (the existing ramp material). Existing paths in the park will not be affected by the proposed skatepark which should therefore not cause an obstruction.
Fund Raising Events Delivered (Rosemary Pirie)	Due to size and specialist sporting nature of new skatepark, it would be more suited to the new Banchory Sports Centre in Hill of Banchory.	The provision of a skatepark at the Banchory Sports Village (BSV) site was not in the project scope approved by Aberdeenshire Council Recreation Service and Committee. There is no space left on the BSV site for such a facility.
	Existing activities in the park (such as the Dog Show during Banchory	Banchory Show is mainly held in King George V Park, with only

	<p>Show) and annual Canine Carnival will be negatively impacted by the skatepark. These would be affected as they depend on ease of access and in relation to the Dog Show, proximity to main event. Finding an alternative location would be problematic.</p>	<p>certain events held in Bellfield Park eg. Dog Show and Highland Dancing. The skatepark will only cover an area of 0.15ha and no access paths will be obstructed. It is considered that sufficient space would remain in Bellfield Park to allow these events to take place without being adversely affected.</p>
	<p>Proposed size of skatepark would mean that there would be no green space available for enjoyment by general public, including those with restricted mobility, families and young people not interested in skateboarding.</p>	<p>The new skatepark is proposed to cover an area of 0.15ha. Bellfield Park covers an area of over 2 ha. Therefore sufficient open and green space will remain for the enjoyment of those not using the skatepark. The access paths from the car park into the Bellfield park will be unaffected by the skatepark and therefore access will be retained for those with limited mobility.</p>
	<p>Skatepark negates historic status of the park.</p>	<p>Bellfield Park is already the location of a skatepark facility and therefore there will be no change to the historic status of the park.</p>
S. Kirk	<p>Concrete is unattractive and does not fit in such green space.</p>	<p>The indicative designs in the Feasibility Study show that the skatepark is likely to have sunken areas and any raised areas will be landscaped; both of which should limit visual impact. Visual impact will be a consideration during the final design and planning process. It is proposed to retain the trees adjacent to the skatepark which will also limit visual impact.</p>
	<p>Existing activities in the park (such as the Dog Show during Banchory Show), Pet Show and football training, will be negatively impacted by the skatepark.</p>	<p>Banchory Show is mainly held in King George V Park, with only certain events held in Bellfield Park eg. Dog Show and Highland Dancing. The skatepark will only cover an area of 0.15ha and no access paths will be obstructed. It is considered that sufficient space would remain in Bellfield Park to allow these events to take place without being adversely affected. Football matches are not held in Bellfield park.</p>
	<p>New skatepark would be more suited to the new Banchory Sports Centre in Hill of Banchory.</p>	<p>The provision of a skatepark at the Banchory Sports Village (BSV) site was not in the project scope approved by Aberdeenshire Council Recreation Service and Committee. There is no space left on the BSV site for such a facility.</p>

Marr Area Committee Decision

All representations were considered at Marr Area Committee on 7th May 2019. The committee approved the responses to the representations and having had regard to these representations, reconfirmed its decision of 22 May 2018 to lease the site of the skatepark to Banchory Skatepark Group. The Head of Legal and Governance has been authorised to petition the Court, under 75(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 for authority to dispose of part of the Common Good Land at Bellfield Park for a lease to Banchory Skatepark Group for a Skatepark.

9th May 2019