



# Project Feasibility Study

February 2022



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## 1 Executive Summary & Recommendations

This study has been commissioned by Ythan Cycle Club and Ellon Wheel Park group to access the feasibility of a multi wheel sport area within the town of Ellon.

The results of this feasibility study show that there is a need for such a park and it would be well received by the Ellon and outlying district. It is considered that it could be feasible to raise the money to design, build and operate the facility. There is a lot of community support for such a facility gleaned from a survey and from letters of support from community organisations and the local council.

The Park fits in well with Aberdeenshire Councils desire to create an Integrated Travel Town in Ellon.

The business risk register shows that there is a low to medium risk that this project would not be achievable.

The study proposes the following recommendations to support the further development of the Wheel Sports Park towards fruition in Ellon:

1. It is recommended that Ellon Wheel Park Group engage Aberdeenshire Council to formally progress a lease of the land with a minimum term of 10 years but preferably 20 years at £1/year.
2. It is recommended that Ellon Wheel Park Group agrees to the proposed phasing of the project.
3. It is recommended that a specification for each phase be prepared along with a tender evaluation framework.
4. It is recommended that an open tendering exercise is conducted for a design and build contract through Public Contracts Scotland to provide more accurate costings and designs.
5. On receipt of tenders, a tender evaluation meeting should be held to select a preferred contractor. At this point a contract cannot be awarded, but a preferred contractor can be approved.
6. It is recommended that, using the preferred contractor's design, a full planning application is submitted to Aberdeenshire Council which should also include floodlights provision.
7. It is recommended that Ellon Wheel Park Group, in partnership with Ythan Cycle Club, progress their application to the sportscotland / Scottish

Cycling Facilities Fund, working with sportscotland to complete a detailed online application in anticipation of a formal submission in April 2022.

8. It is recommended that the Group considers grant applications to funders identified within this report at the appropriate time, in line with the funding plan to be agreed.
9. It is recommended that the Group should also continue to undertake fundraising and seek donations to meet the contribution outlined in the funding structure within this report.
10. It is recommended the Ellon Wheel Park Group engage the services of a Project Manager to support the above and assist with the delivery of the project on site.

## 2 Introduction & Background

### 2.1 Project Background & Vision

Ythan Cycle Club in partnership with Ellon Wheel Park Group are looking to provide its residents with an outdoor facility for wheel-based sports within the town centre. It is proposed that this facility will provide three key wheeled sports elements:

- A 600m road bike circuit
- A tarmac pump track
- A concrete skate park



A wheel park is an area specifically designed for combined use for wheeled sports such as BMX cycling, mountain bike cycling, road bike cycling, in line skating, rollerblading, roller skating, skateboarding, and wheelchair sports.

Research has shown that participation in cycling and adrenaline sports can have a positive effect on people’s health and social well-being. The development of a community wheel sports facility on a school site can play a key role in engaging people in physical activity and sport, resulting in more people being more active more often.

The aim of the wheel park is to provide an area where skaters and cyclist can develop their own sport in a safe location away from other vehicles and pedestrians.

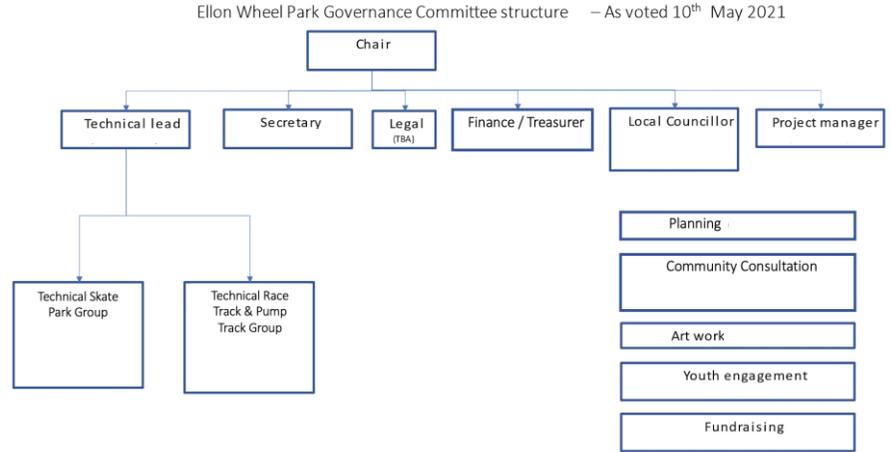
This Park will allow youths to get exercise along with the health and wellbeing benefits out- with the confines of mainstream organised sport which sometimes is seen as a barrier to sport for some individuals.

The town is looking for a facility which will be suitable for local users and provide an area which will become a tourist attraction providing income for local shops,

cafes and other businesses. The group aim to provide a unique facility that will help with the regeneration of Ellon.

### 2.2 Project Group

This project is being developed by Ythan Cycle Club and Ellon Wheel Park Group, with Ellon Wheel Park recently approving the following organisational structure.



Key members of Ellon Wheel Park Group, and Ythan Cycle Club include the following:



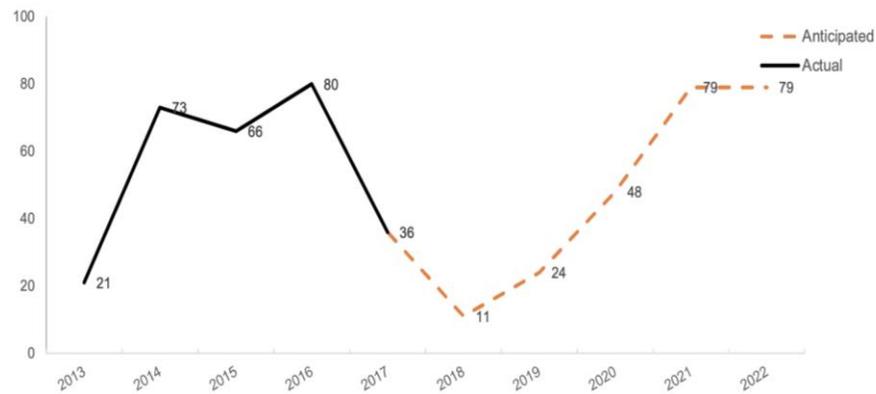


## 3 Market Assessment

### 3.1 Demographic Assessment

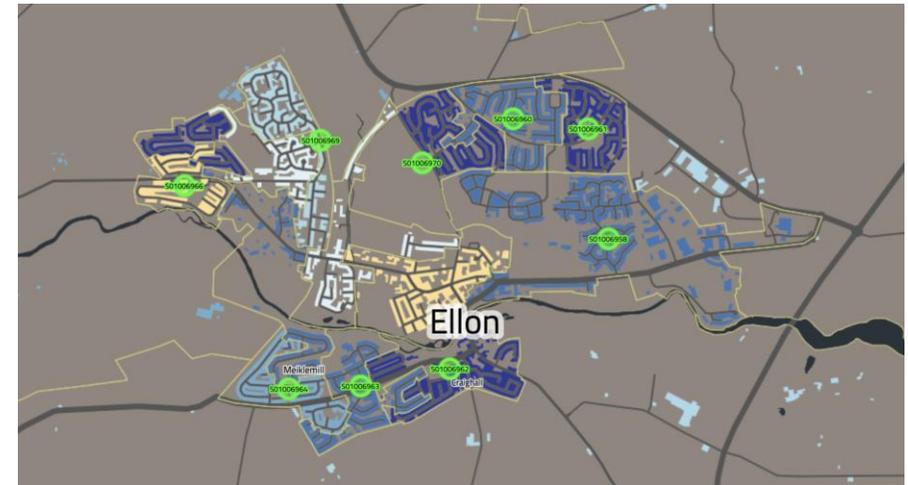
Ellon is a town in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, approximately 16 miles (26 kilometres) north of Aberdeen, lying on the River Ythan. 2016 estimates indicate a population of 10,200. Population Statistics show that there has been a growth of 14% since 2001. The following charts show the age and gender breakdown in the Town, as well as the projected House Build numbers.

	Population	%
Total	10,200	
Under 16	1,810	18%
16-64	6,391	63%
Over 65	1,999	20%
Working Age	6426	63%
Male	4,978	49%
Female	5,222	51%



### 3.2 SIMD Assessment

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the government’s official tool for assessing smaller population zones (average population 800) with the lowest levels of deprivation in the country. The SIMD is used to focus and inform policies and resources in order to tackle social inequalities in Scotland. The following map and table list the indices relevant to Ellon.



Data Zone	S01006958	S01006959	S01006960	S01006961
	Ellon East	Ellon East	Ellon East	Ellon East
Population	1,270	698	1,014	974
Working Age	748	402	658	635
Rank	5,980 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,001 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,817 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,376 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Income Domain	5,375 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,674 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,794 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,870 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Employment Domain	5,728 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,936 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,242 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,360 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile

Health Domain	6,027 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,787 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,459 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,684 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Education Domain	5,399 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,382 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,446 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,693 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Housing Domain	6,666 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,559 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,578 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,806 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Access Domain	3,509 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,921 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	1,252 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decile	1,235 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decile
Crime Domain	3,271 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	868 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decile	6,563 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,699 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile

Data Zone	S01006962	S01006963	S01006964	S01006965
	Ellon East	Ellon East	Ellon East	Ellon West
Population	842	635	660	500
Working Age	520	417	469	308
Rank	6,661 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,761 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,567 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,081 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Income Domain	6,344 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,726 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,718 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,767 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Employment Domain	5,881 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,639 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,610 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,127 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Health Domain	6,113 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,135 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,175 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,563 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Education Domain	4,806 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,130 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,731 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,816 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Housing Domain	5,692 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,789 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,923 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,769 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Access Domain	6,132 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,833 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,318 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,872 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Crime Domain	5,416 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,524 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,684 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,352 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile

Data Zone	S01006970	S01006971	S01006976	S01006977
	Ellon West	Ellon West	Ythanside	Ythanside
Population	636	480	453	807

Working Age	413	284	287	545
Rank	6,507 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,158 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,243 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,626 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Income Domain	6,299 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,191 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,577 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,487 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Employment Domain	5,887 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,603 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,757 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,117 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Health Domain	6,884 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,808 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,108 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,126 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Education Domain	5,987 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,142 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,202 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,231 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Housing Domain	6,846 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,380 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,011 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,758 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Access Domain	2,781 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,194 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	394 1 <sup>st</sup> Decile	444 1 <sup>st</sup> Decile
Crime Domain	5,532 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,928 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,322 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2102 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile

Data Zone	S01006966	S01006967	S01006968	S01006969
	Ellon West	Ellon West	Ellon West	Ellon West
Population	558	604	474	841
Working Age	368	404	269	462
Rank	3,326 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,516 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,178 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,469 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Income Domain	3,304 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,153 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,044 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,299 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Employment Domain	3,158 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,488 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,026 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,373 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Health Domain	3,694 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,734 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,829 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,592 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Education Domain	2,917 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,786 9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	3,641 6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,975 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Housing Domain	4,381 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,151 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	4,197 7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	5,085 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile
Access Domain	2,761 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,194 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	2,906 5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	1,703 3 <sup>rd</sup> Decile

Crime Domain	2,673 4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	6,928 10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	1,868 3 <sup>rd</sup> Decile	5,415 8 <sup>th</sup> Decile
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### 3.3 Rural Deprivation

The Scottish Rural Policy Centre (SRUC) published a report entitled Rural Scotland in Focus which monitors how rural Scotland is changing, focusing on: population trends, the lives of young people, the levels and experiences of poverty and disadvantage and how use of our finite rural land resource is negotiated through planning and other means. With specific reference to the wheeled sports park project in Jedburgh, it is important to consider the aspect of rural inequalities, which, as listed below create challenges to living that are different from communities within larger urban areas.

The continued prevalence of this research is evidenced through the creation of SRUC's working group on Rural Poverty and Health Inequalities, who continue to invest in research in the area, and have worked with the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Rural Policy in recent years.

The following are key aspects of rural life that highlight differences and inequalities in rural life, all of which may increase perceptions of inequality for those living in Ellon and the surrounding Aberdeenshire.

#### 1. Employment Issues and Inequalities

In reviewing employment in rural areas, the SRUC report highlights a significantly larger percentage of those in part time or smaller contract jobs, often with lower hourly rates or salaries than counterparts in urban population centres. Many rural areas have become increasingly reliant on the Tourism Industry, and as a result many jobs are seasonal in demand, reducing the overall hours or contracts available over the year.

#### 2. Fuel Poverty

Living outside larger urban areas is likely to increase the costs of goods overall – primarily due to the cost of the supply chain network required. This can be seen in the cost of petrol and diesel with a predominant market of independent providers, unable to offer the prices of larger national outlets. This issue raises a secondary cost to local residents, with rural communities relying more on private transport, and often having to travel further for services. Ultimately, for residents of

communities such as those in Aberdeenshire, more fuel is required to travel for day-to-day work and leisure, and that fuel is supplied at a higher cost.

A second aspect of fuel poverty proposes that many rural communities will have an older stock of housing on average, thus requiring higher costs to heat. Where newer modern housing common to urban population centres have been designed to be efficient in retaining heat and using energy, the older houses found in rural communities are often significantly less efficient with older windows, colder brickwork, and poorer insulation.

#### Report on Minimum Income Standard for Remote Rural Scotland

The above report, reviewed most recently in 2016, follows on from work and research on the Minimum Income Standard for Scotland. Considering the previously noted inequalities in rural living, the report highlights that the cost of food and consumable goods are between 10-50% higher in rural areas, whilst clothing and household goods are between 30-50% higher than in urban areas.

### 3.4 Trends in Sports & Leisure

Gathering statistical data on sports participation, the Scottish Government has identified the following key trends in sports participation.

- There is a general increase in the overall number of people partaking in sporting activity, measuring respondents who have partaken in activity within four weeks.
- Individuals who rate their health as good are more likely to take part in sports activities than those who rate their health as bad or very bad.
- There remains a gender gap in sports participation, with more male participants than female. It is noted that this gap had significantly reduced over the last ten years.
- Levels of deprivation have a direct correlation with participation in sports and exercise. Significantly lower income households demonstrate considerably less sports participation. Many local authority leisure trusts and facilities have developed concessionary membership schemes and pricing to encourage participation from this demographic and to support the reduction of this gap.

- There is a larger rate of sports participation in young people living in rural areas compared to those living in larger urban towns and cities.

Following the Coronavirus pandemic, and the restrictions in place throughout 2020 and 2021, there has been an increase in those undertaking outdoor leisure activities and exercise. It is thought that this is likely to continue, with parks and public spaces key to supporting participation on outdoor activities.

### 3.5 Trends in Wheeled Sports

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In August 2023, Scotland will host the inaugural combined UCI Cycling World Championships. This historic and innovative event will take place over two weeks and will bring together UCI World Championships for 13 different cycling disciplines in one unprecedented event that will see thousands of the world’s best cyclists visit Scotland.

Cycling has become increasingly popular in Scotland. Fuelled by the huge success of Scottish athletes performing on the world stage, the talent pool has grown and this has inspired more people to take up cycling. We have also seen a record increase in the number of people participating in cycling during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Building on the interest in cycling and the positive impact it has on health and wellbeing will help us achieve our vision of an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. This also has an important part to play in encouraging active travel.

In 2016, The International Olympic Committee announced that Skateboarding would be included within the five new sports added to the, now rescheduled, Tokyo Games. IOC President, Thomas Bach, outlined the ability to draw in young people to sport, and reconnect with a younger audience.

The 2020 Tokyo Games demonstrated the popularity of Skateboarding and BMX Freestyle with Team GB performing to a high level and inspiring future generations.

Across Scotland there has been a rejuvenated interest in wheeled sports, and a significant growth in Wheeled Sports Facilities. This has been recognised and

subsequently supported by **sportscotland**, with the creation of Skateboard Scotland, the Scottish Governing Body of Sport.

As a member led organisation, Skateboard Scotland helps to promote and develop the sports, listing a directory of facilities, supporting the delivery of major events and competition, and advising and engaging groups in delivering new skate parks.

Wheeled sports such as skateboarding and scooting are relatively low cost to access, with most public facilities free of charge. For this reason, increased investment in skateparks, pump tracks and wheeled sports facilities will continue to reduce the barriers to activity faced by those in more deprived and rural areas.

## 4 Consultation & Stakeholder Engagement

### 4.1 Overview

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Wider community support is key to the delivery and ongoing success of any community facility, in particular those focused on a key user group, age group, or activity. In recognising this, Ellon Wheel Park Group requested a detailed consultation survey be undertaken as part of this Feasibility Study.

### 4.2 Community Engagement Survey

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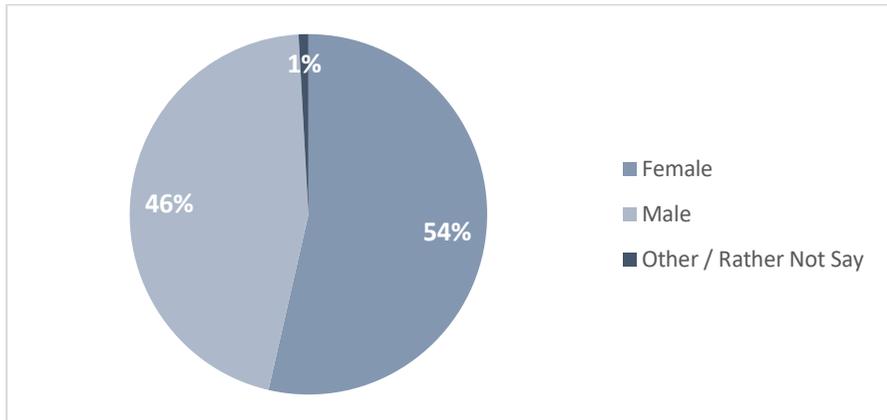
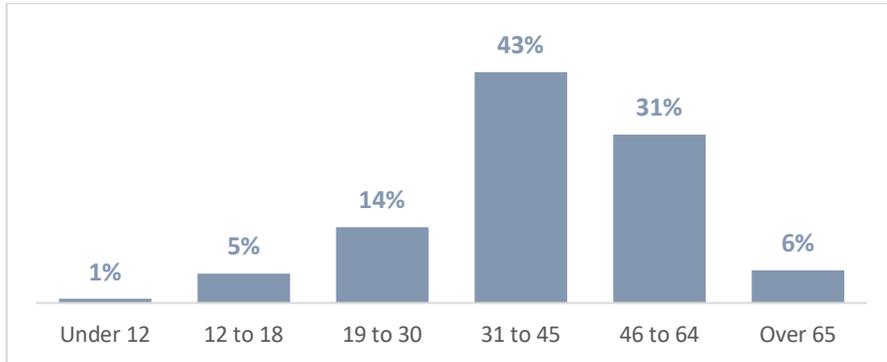
#### Methodology

In support of the Feasibility Study underway to investigate the provision of a new Wheel Sports Park in Ellon, a community consultation survey was developed and shared through social media channels and key stakeholder contacts.

The survey ran from 6th July to 2nd August and received 837 responses. The results of this survey are summarised in this report.

#### Respondent Demographics

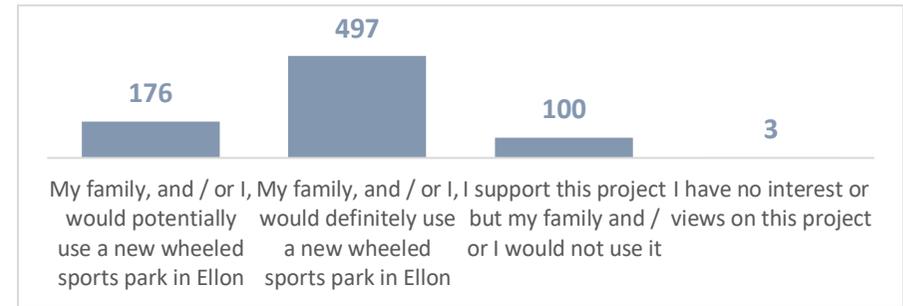
To understand the reach of the engagement, respondents provided their age and gender. These are shown below:



Respondents were also asked to provide their postcode in order to understand the geographic reach of the survey. The top post code areas represented are listed in the table below:

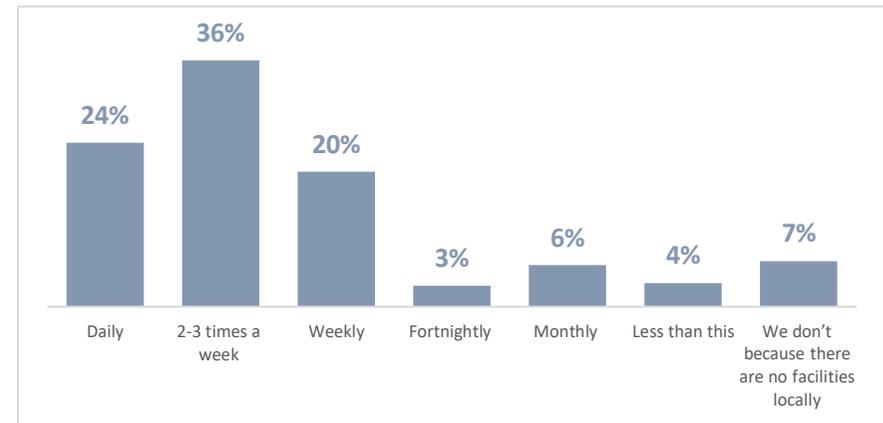
AB41	576
AB51	26
AB42	18
AB24	14
AB23	13
AB15	12

In order to tailor the survey questions, the respondents were asked to select the statement that best suits them. These are shown in the graph below:

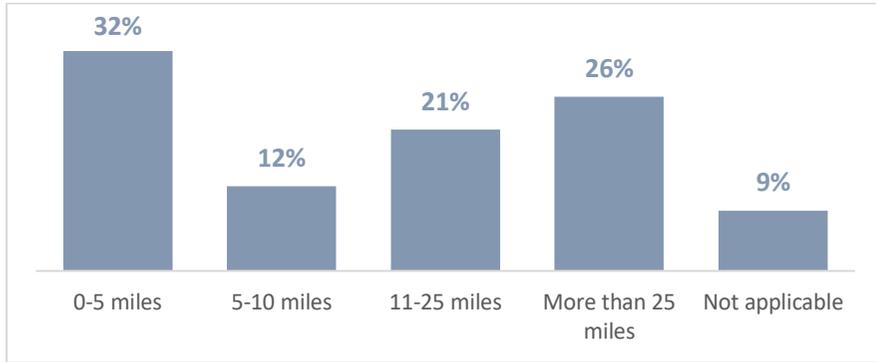


### Current Wheeled Sports Provision

Respondents were asked how often they, or their children, currently take part in wheeled sports, with the graph below showing a significant number (80%) engaging in their sports weekly or more.

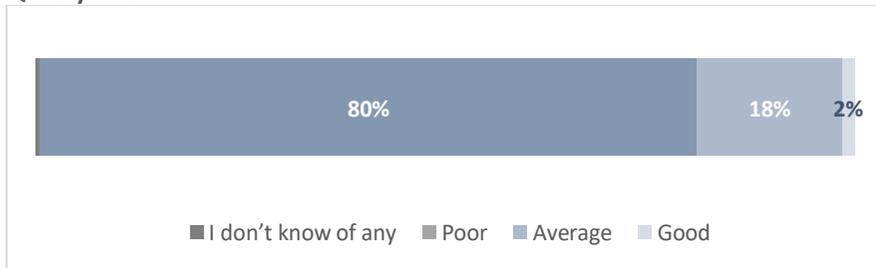


Respondents were asked how far they travel to do so, with the graph below showing 45% travelling over 5 miles round trip:

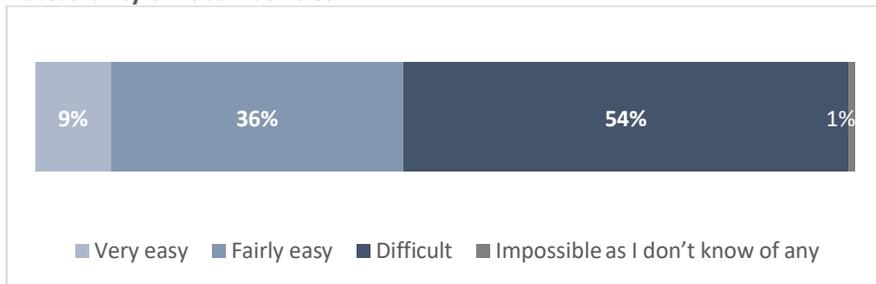


Respondents were then asked how good the provision for wheeled sports was locally, and how accessible (how easy to get to) it was. The results are shown in the graphs below, and demonstrate substantial room for improvement:

#### Quality of Local Facilities

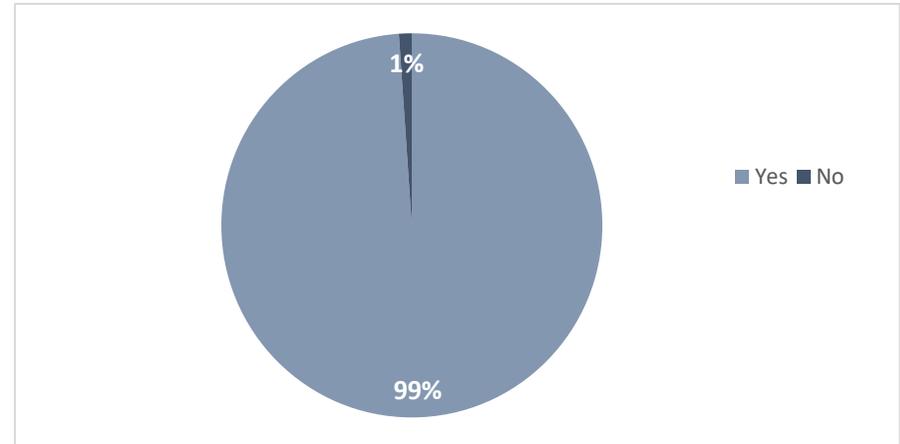


#### Accessibility of Local Facilities



#### Project Support

Respondents were asked if they were supportive of a new Wheeled Sports Park being constructed in Ellon. As shown in the graph below 99% of respondents were in support of the project.

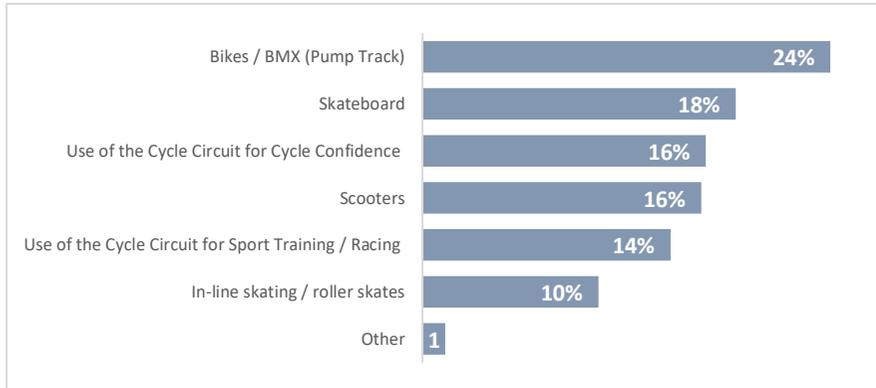


For those who were unsupportive, they were given the opportunity to provide comment and concerns in order that the group can address or mitigate these issues. Only six comments were provided, which are noted below:

- "Congregation of youths in town centre will put off other visitors. Plenty of pathways and quiet routes already available. Money could be spent enhancing the community for all."*
- "There are many other sports that have been trying to get proper facilities for years in the area but always appear to be rejected so why is this any different? Athletics, football, rugby are all as importance also what about children's play parks some don't even have swings for youngsters to use let's get the basics done before we start with anything else"*
- "It would encourage more anti-social behaviour in the area"*
- "It will create disturbance and noises. Putting a concrete Park to replace some green space is ludicrous"*
- "No need. Existing facilities are sufficient."*
- "Plenty of local area's already"*

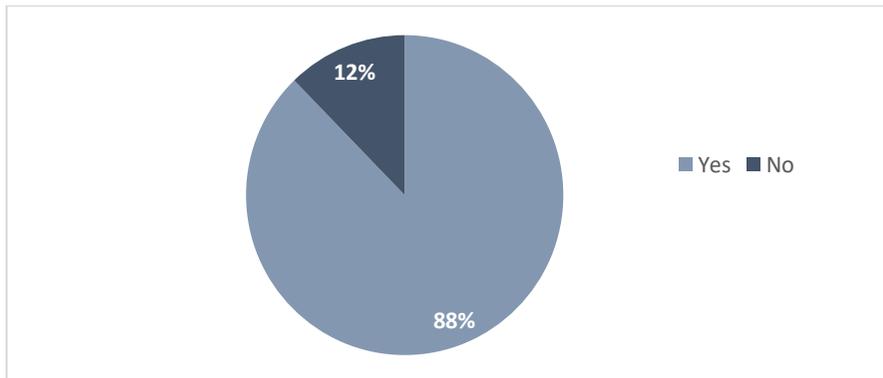
### Design Consideration

Respondents who were supportive of the project, were asked to consider which Wheeled Sports should be incorporated within the overall design for the facility. The chart below lists thee by popularity:

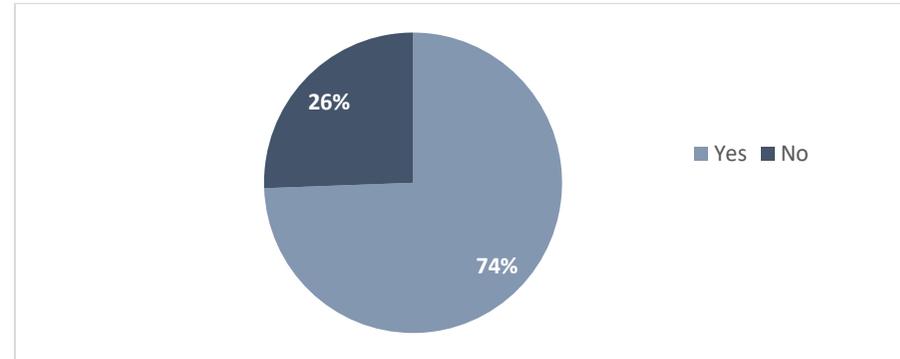


Respondents who selected other indicated a desire for coached sessions, disability accessible designs, outdoor fitness, and shelters / ancillary facilities.

Respondents were asked if they felt that floodlighting should be included in the design and delivery of the facility, with a majority in favour as shown in the graph below:



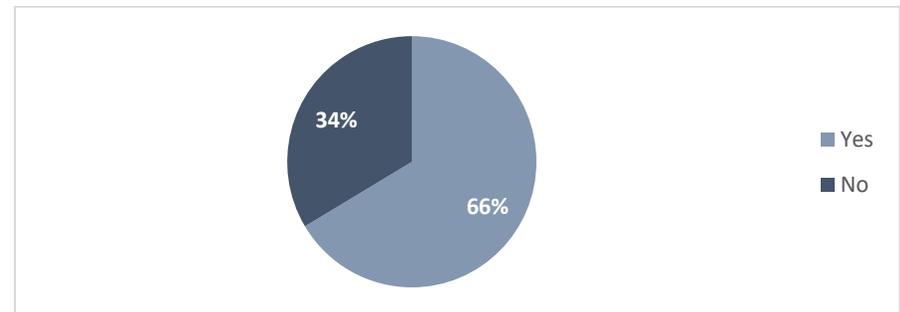
Further to the provision of floodlighting, respondents were asked if they would be willing to pay for their usage. The chart below shows a majority in favour.



In considering a fair cost for the floodlighting, respondents indicated an average fee of **£2.00 per hour**.

### Membership

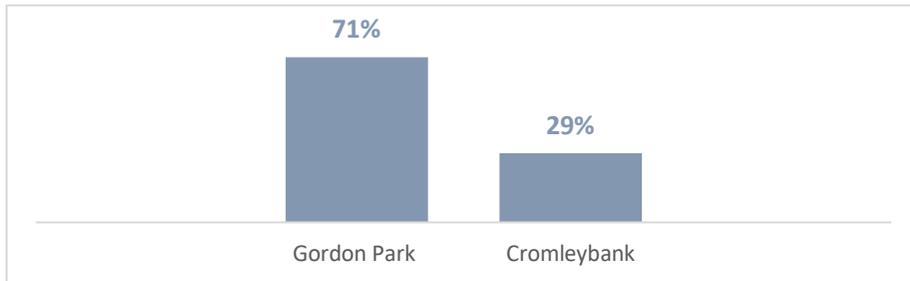
Whilst the park is proposed to be free at the point of use. It was suggested to respondents that a membership scheme may be considered where members receive updates, newsletters and access to coaching, events, and resources in return for their support. From the graph below, there is clear support for this:



Respondents indicated that the annual membership should be **£23 for adults, and £11 for under 18's**.

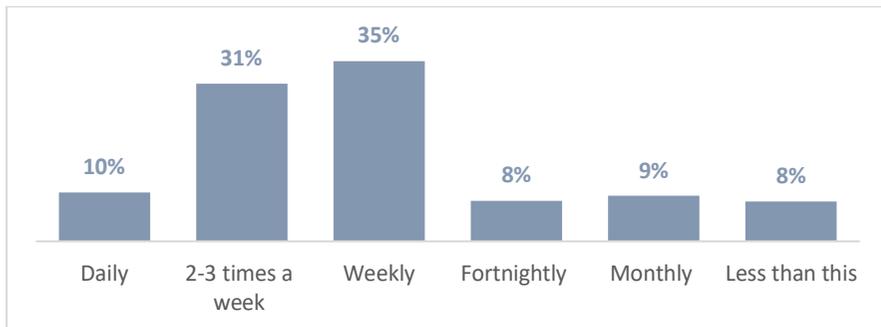
### Site Preference

Respondents were asked to consider the location of the Wheel Sports Park, with Gordon Park and Cromleybank having been identified in previous engagement. The graph below shows Gordon Park as the preferred site.



### Future Usage

Respondents were asked to indicate how often they, or their families, might make use of a new Wheeled Sports Park in Ellon, with the results below showing a significant number proposed weekly, or more frequent, use.



### Further Comments

At the close of the survey, respondents were invited to provide any further comment or suggestion in relation to the project. These are summarised by theme below and included in full in Appendix One.

Theme	Frequency of Response
Positive / Supportive	91
Design Consideration	47
Site Location Consideration	23

Management & Operational Consideration	32
Other	5

### 4.3 Further Stakeholder Engagement

Throughout this project, there has been clear support for a number of key groups and stakeholders in the local area. Letters and emails provided have been included in Appendix Two. Support has been demonstrated from the following stakeholders:

- Ythan Sports Community hub
- Ythan Community Council
- Ythan Valley Rotary
- Trythan
- Refugee Settlement
- Scottish Cycling
- Breeze - Scottish Cycling
- Slains Primary School
- Ellon Community Council
- Ythan Sports Hub Coordinator
- Ellon Rotary
- Boys Brigade
- Civic Pride
- Fortrie farms
- Hillwalking Club
- Lawrence Milne
- Nestrans
- The Coffee Apothecary
- Scottish Adventure
- Ellon Primary School
- Scottish Cycling Coach
- Aberdeenshire Council – Infrastructure Services
- Formartine area manager
- MSP Gillian Martin
- Ellon Councillor Isobel Davidson
- Ellon Police
- Local Active Schools

In addition – support has been provided by Neil Fachie by way of a recorded message provided whilst attending the Paralympic Games in Tokyo – [Click Here to View The Video.](#)

Further support has been clearly demonstrated by the local children as shown in the linked Facebook Video - <https://fb.watch/80sY19hIW9/>

As well as the local support, the park has been highlighted recently in the local press with the following articles reporting the ongoing and historical demand for wheeled sports facilities in the area.

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/schools-family/3255904/this-is-something-ellon-has-been-crying-out-for-hopes-of-unique-bike-and-skateboard-park/>

# The enduring appeal of

# skateboarding rolls on



RAMPING UP THE ACTION: Kitted out and ready to go... youngsters have a pre-opening look at the new skateboard rink at Heathryfold, on July 31 1978.



Councillors teamed up for a performance down at Aberdeen Beach in 1978. From left: Bailie Richard Gallagher, Margaret Wilson, G Murray Park and Kenneth Watmough.

## KIRSTIE WATERSTON

All eyes will be on the skatepark again this week after skateboarding made its hit debut as an Olympic sport during the Tokyo games.

Skateboarding was one of four new sports alongside karate, surfing and sport climbing to be included at the 2020 Summer Olympics for the first time.

A controversial choice, the street sport has unashamedly rolled into the mainstream taking its place in the schedule alongside more traditional events.

Fearless skater Sky Brown is the youngest Olympian to ever compete for Team GB at the tender age of just 13.

With coverage of street and park events featuring competitors ranging from

the age of 13 to 46, skateboarding has proved a surprise hit for games organisers.

But far from being the new kid on the block, skateboarding has a rich and diverse history - from California to Cruden Bay, skateboarding tore on to the global scene in the 1970s.

In this photo from Boxing



Day 1977, below left, these children took their new Christmas presents for a spin down at Aberdeen Beach Promenade.

Although skateboarding was becoming increasingly popular in the Granite City and across the north-east, there were no official facilities.

Instead, streets became skateparks and benches



became makeshift boxes.

By February 1978, skateboarding was still soaring in popularity, and in the words of 14-year-old Mark Adam, below left, "skateboard fever had hit Ellon".

With more than 20 fellow youngsters keen to form a skateboard club in town, Mark approached PE teachers at Ellon Academy to help make it happen.

Mark hoped to find a hall where skaters could practice safely, but ultimately wanted to see a proper ramp built in the town.

Young skaters in Aberdeen were more fortunate - a purpose-built skateboard rink opened at Heathryfold in July 1978.

But the £30,000 complex was closed again within weeks over safety concerns.

City officials were left red-faced when a team of professional skaters who

travelled up to Aberdeen to put on a display refused to use the skatepark.

In this action shot, above right, from 1978, city councillors got down with the kids and teamed up for a performance down at Aberdeen Beach.

Not quite dressed for the occasion, from left, Bailie Richard Gallagher, Margaret Wilson, G Murray Park and Kenneth Watmough, attracted some bemused looks as they skated, and ultimately tumbled, down the beachfront.

Fraserburgh youngsters Darrin Masson and Graeme Dunhie try out their skills at the town's skatepark in this photo, above right, ahead of a championship to be held in August 1979.

Skateboarding was so big in the Broch that the club boasted more than 200

members, and the coastal community became known as the skateboard capital of the north-east.

Billy and his father, a town surveyor, had seen red-faced when a team of

professional skaters who



professional skaters who

professional skaters who

professional skaters who

professional skaters who

were determined to have a similar park in their hometown.

Billy approached the council and after securing funding, the facility was built and attracted keen skaters from across the region.

Talented skateboarders like 14-year-old Spence Nicol, pictured, put Aberdeen on the map in

1979. Aberdeen Grammar School pupil Spence had just been crowned the new Scottish junior and freestyle slalom skateboard champion.

The daring teen, performing a two-board tail wheelie in this photo, was practising ahead of the British junior championships at Kelvingrove Skatepark in Glasgow.

Granite City skateboarders were becoming "well-known nationally for their virtuosity on the boards" according to one skating expert in 1979.

He added that "they are famed for their stylish free skating and slalom skills" despite not having a proper skatepark of their own.

This heartwarming photo, above right, from 1989 shows Cruden Bay kids enjoying a skateboarding ramp which Alex and Edith Noble

allowed to be built in their garden.

The kind couple allowed a 2ft skating ramp to be built alongside their Serald Street property after complaints about skaters elsewhere in the village.

Mr Noble even helped the kids build the ramp and said: "We invited them in. We would rather have them here doing something they enjoy than have them hanging about getting into trouble."

The ramp proved so popular with skateboarders

that busloads of youths came from as far as Peterhead to put their skills to the test.

More than 800 competitors had a go on the ramp, but the overall winner was Pete Dossot of Bristol, with Aberdeen's own Steve Park winning the under 16 competition.

Cruden Bay skateboard club were celebrating in 1990 after fundraising £1,700 to build a new ramp in the community.



around 30 street-surfing youngsters were supported by villagers and parents in their endeavour for a safe practice area.

Hamish Hutton, 14, was first to try out the new ramp in this photo, below.

This dramatic photo, above, of a skateboarder soaring over the crowd was taken during a competition at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre in 1989.

Scotland's biggest indoor skating ramp attracted hundreds of enthusiasts to the city from as far away as Brighton and London.

Comment, Page 26

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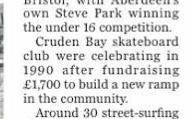
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Comment, Page 26



GOLD MEDAL: Para-cyclist Neil Fachie, right, with partner Matt Rotherham, has lent his support to the proposed new bike and skate park for Ellon.

# Top Paralympian Neil backs wheel park plan

CALUM PETRIE

One of the world's "greatest ever" Paralympians, Neil Fachie, has thrown his support behind plans for a bike and skateboard park in Ellon.

Cyclist Fachie, fresh from breaking a world record at the Paralympics in Tokyo, has lent his support to the proposed Ellon Wheel Park.

Plans are under way for a 650-yard-long, all-in-one park for skateboarders, mountain bikers, cyclists and BMX fans in the town.

Aberdonian Fachie smashed the world record to win Paralympic gold on Saturday.

The 37-year-old finished in a time of 58.038 in the B 1,000m time trial as he claimed his second Paralympic gold, following his London 2012 success.

Chairman of

sportscotland, Mel Young, said: "The world legend is often overused in the world of sport. But that is exactly what Neil Fachie is."

"He is one of the world's greatest ever para-cyclists and it was a joy to see him on that podium once again."

Fachie's support of Ellon is in a video backing the plans, calling it a "win-win for everyone concerned".

The local community has rallied round the project, with councillors, schools, police and community groups giving their backing to the plans, which also received a 99% approval rating in a survey.

The backing of 14-times world champion Fachie has given the Ellon Wheel Park committee another boost.

"There's no doubt the roads around the north-east are beautiful - they're incredible," said Fachie.

"But, getting out there on your bike isn't for everyone, whether that be safety, your ability, or accessibility concerns."

"That's why I'm backing Ythan Cycling Club in their bid to create a wheel park, which is going to have cycling, traffic free, for anyone in the community to come along and have a try."

"I'm all about cycling being for everyone and this kind of facility is the sort of thing that makes a difference."

Particularly to youngsters, to those who aren't capable of getting out on the road, whether it be through different disabilities, whatever the background might be.

"This is a huge opportunity to really develop cycling in the north-east - something I'm very passionate about."

"This sounds like a win-win for everyone concerned."

Fachie's support for the wheel park could start a trend, it is hoped.

Ellon Wheel Park committee chairman Colin Allanach said the committee was "absolutely delighted" with Fachie's support.

He said it was good that Fachie recognised the importance of developing facilities to promote cycling as a recreation and a sport. He added: "Hopefully, this means more Olympians from the area in the future."

Over the summer, the committee successfully raised the £12,000 needed for a feasibility study, which is ongoing. The results are due within the next month.

The next step will see the group come up with

detailed designs for the wheel park. Once these are in place, they will seek planning permission.

The group submitted an expression of interest to sportscotland, after the body launched an £5 million fund for cycling facilities. The fund coincides with Glasgow's hosting of the Cycling World Championships in 2023.

During the 1980s BMX craze, Ellon residents signed a petition in their droves for a dirt track for the town.

The then Gordon District Council rejected the plans. However, funds for that campaign have been redirected to the current project.

The group hopes to open the Ellon Wheel Park in 2023, to tie in with that year's world championships.

## 5 Strategic Links

The following section outlines how the project links to local, regional and national policies and strategies.

### 5.1 Scottish Government's National Performance Framework

The Scottish Government targeted its focus on how Government and public services could help in creating a more successful country, providing opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. The National Performance Framework outlines the following overarching aims and values:

The framework is for all of Scotland and aims to:

- create a more successful country
- give opportunities to all people living in Scotland
- increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland
- create sustainable and inclusive growth
- reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress

The values guide all stakeholder approach, to:

- treat all our people with kindness, dignity and compassion
- respect the rule of law
- act in an open and transparent way

The National Performance Framework outlines 11 outcomes for the people of Scotland, with the following directly relevant to the provision of a new wheeled sports facility in Ellon:

#### **People live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, and safe.**

By increasing the facilities available, Ellon Wheel Park Group will be supporting the provision of activities and sports, ensuring a more inclusive portfolio of possible outdoor leisure activities within Ellon and the surrounding area.

#### **People value, enjoy, protect, and enhance their environment.**

Ellon and the surrounding area benefits from its close proximity to woodlands, and well-kept and respected outdoor spaces within the North East. Engaging in physical activity within this setting is a common pastime for residents and visitors, and as such the proposed facility seeks to minimize impact to the area. The current site is underused and the plans for the provision of three collaborative wheeled sports tracks will develop a leisure site that enhances and respects the local environment.

#### **People are healthy and active.**

By its very nature, the proposed facilities for Ellon promotes active lifestyles, in particular for those who may experience greater barriers to participation. In developing active lifestyles, and increasing the levels of physical activity, participants have a direct positive impact on their physical and mental health. The provision of new facilities in Ellon will help meet this outcome.

By encouraging both improved physical health and increased opportunities to develop social skills and interact with peers, the facilities proposed will improve the quality of life for its users. By increasing and improving the range of skateboarding and cycling facilities, Ellon Wheel Park Group, in partnership with Ythan Cycle Club will continue to expand and develop opportunities for more people to become more active and healthier.

Restrictions due to Covid-19 may continue for some time, or maybe imposed again in the future. A facility such as the pump track and skatepark would provide a much-needed opportunity for residents of all ages to use during allowed daily activity. Once restrictions are relaxed, some people will remain cautious about some types of activity and a wheeled sports park would be a safe way of taking exercise and having social interaction while practising distancing.

### 5.2 Scottish Government's Legacy Plan 2014-2024

This plan sets out the key legacy aims and ambitions and highlights a wide range of initiatives, which will be taken forward with key partners over the next 10 years. The plan focuses on an Active Scotland, Connected Scotland, Flourishing Scotland, and a Sustainable Scotland.

Improving the nation's health is the overarching theme of the plan and the Active Scotland component of the plan includes two key initiatives. Both are aimed at

increasing the availability and accessibility of physical activity and sport to individuals and communities that will in turn contribute to improving the health and fitness of people in Scotland.

These initiatives are the Active Nation and the development of Community Sport Hubs. Active Nation aimed to create a popular and high-profile movement to motivate people of all ages across Scotland to become more active. Community Sports Hubs focused on the bringing together of communities of interest to share best practice and shared values across a range of sports.

The development of wheeled sports provision in Ellon aligns with this strategy, creating a potential wheeled sports hub for young people to socialise, participate in exercise and be diverted from any temptation of antisocial behaviour or activities detrimental to their health or development within the community.

### **5.3 Active Scotland Outcomes**

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The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework describes Scotland's ambitions for sport and physical activity. Active Scotland Outcomes contribute to the delivery of National Outcomes and ultimately to the Scottish Government's overarching purpose of creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish. The framework has been developed collectively with partners through the National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity (NSG), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport. Conclusively, the following outcomes are proposed – and evidently supported by the proposal to develop a new wheeled sports facility in Jedburgh.

- We encourage and enable the inactive to be more active.
- We encourage and enable the active to stay active throughout life.
- We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age.
- We improve our active infrastructure – people and places.
- We support wellbeing and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport.
- We improve opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in sport.

### **5.4 Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan: Updated Programme Pipeline**

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This policy document highlights regeneration activity focusing on ensuring that people live in socially, physically and economically sustainable communities. Increasing the provision of wheeled sports facilities in the area supports a sustainable and economically beneficial facility, creating new opportunities through coaching, instruction, and increased visitor numbers to the local area.

### **5.5 Physical Activity Implementation Plan – A More Active Scotland**

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This new 10-year plan adapts key elements of the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity (which makes the case for increased action in tackling physical inactivity) to Scotland, and links it directly to the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions for the Commonwealth Games. Underpinning delivery of the overall commitments of the plan will be a series of detailed action plans which will define how the plan's commitments will be met.

In addition, the Scottish Government and its partners continue to spread the word about the importance of physical activity, informing people about how and where to get involved through the following websites:

- [www.takelifeon.co.uk](http://www.takelifeon.co.uk) – this gives ideas for a more active lifestyle
- [www.activescotland.org.uk](http://www.activescotland.org.uk) – this gives information on sports and activities available locally – just enter a postcode or an activity
- [www.healthyworkinglives.com](http://www.healthyworkinglives.com) – this helps employers promote physical activity in the workplace

By providing new wheeled sports facilities in Ellon the Group will contribute towards achieving the outcomes of the National Physical Activity Implementation Plan.

### **5.6 Let's Make Scotland More Active**

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The National Strategy for Physical Activity (2003–2022), aims to change Scotland's reputation for inactivity. This Strategy sets out the vision that: "People in Scotland

will enjoy the benefits of having a physically active life. "This needs changes in both policy and culture. However, as the World Health Organisation (WHO) has noted:

"There is insufficient action and limited policy orientation for encouraging the adoption and maintenance of physically active lifestyles within supportive political, social and physical environments... political leaders and decision-makers need to be convinced of the importance of physical activity for health."

## 5.7 Scottish Government Creating Places

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This policy statement on Architecture & Place for Scotland promotes good design, the principles of context, identity and character and six qualities of successful places namely: distinctive, safe/pleasant, easy to move around, welcoming, adaptable and resource efficient. These will all be incorporated into the design of the new facilities, and the considerations as to how they link with existing cycle tracks, transport links etc.

## 5.8 Sport for Life- A Vision for Sport in Scotland

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This is **sportscotland's** Corporate Plan. They recommend an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. In an active Scotland, ways are sought to be physically active every day. This includes the following key areas:

- Keeping moving at home and at work. Taking an active approach to getting around. Choosing to be active in our leisure time.
- More of us will take part in sport because we see it being relevant to our lives.
- Being involved in ways that suit us.
- Meeting fewer barriers.
- Feeling more included.
- We will all experience more of the benefits of sport.
- For some of us, by taking part. For others, through our communities.

The Ellon Wheel Park Group's plans strongly resonate with the above vision.

## 5.9 Start Active, Stay Active

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This UK-wide report, published jointly by the four home countries Chief Medical Officers, includes guidelines on the volume, duration, and frequency of physical activity required at different points in life. With relevance to sports facilities, the report highlights the need for a lifelong approach to fitness and exercise documenting recommendations for each age range. In relation to adults in sport, the report recommends the following:

"Adults should aim to be active daily. Over a week, activity should add up to at least 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate intensity activity in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to approach this is to do 30 minutes physical activities on at least 5 days a week."

By providing new facilities, shaped by community consultation, participants will be more likely to increase their frequency of use, thereby bringing their levels of activity in line with the recommendation of the Start Active, Stay Active report.

## 5.10 Take Life On

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This Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing campaign promotes healthy, active lifestyles through various online, media and event marketing. The focus is on encouraging people to find activities near them, understand the health implications of inactivity and obesity, and to ultimately reduce the resultant strain on the NHS in Scotland. With targeted marketing and promotion of facilities in Ellon, the Group and partnership club(s) can increase the interest and excitement around the project to attract more people into sports and exercise, with a particular focus on young people, and those who perhaps are financially disadvantaged, therefore unable to access paid activities and facilities.

## 5.11 Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21

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This is the key Scottish Government strategy for sport and exercise. Reaching Higher sets out the long-term aims for sport including the vision that everyone should have access to affordable, high quality community sport facilities and advice and guidance. Reaching Higher focuses on two main aspects of sport and fitness –

increasing the quality of sporting facilities, coaching and provisions, and increasing the number of Scottish people taking part in sports and exercise.

## 5.12 Preventing Overweight and Obesity in Scotland: A Route Map Towards Healthy Weight

---

This joint policy directive set forth by the Scottish Government and CoSLA aimed at helping central and local government decision-makers to deliver long-term solutions to obesity and overweight. With lack of exercise cited as a prominent reason for obesity in Scotland, any expansion in sports facility provision will help meet this directive.

## 6 Links to Sports Strategies & Governing Bodies

### 6.1 The Scottish Mountain Biking Strategy

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Recently the **Scottish Mountain Biking Strategy for 2019-2025** has been created in draft and demonstrates significant alignment to this project.

In particular, the Strategy aims to deliver against three key objectives: to increase participation in mountain biking, to achieve sporting success, and to increase tourism and economic growth.

The strategy also indicates the drive to increase the capacity within Scotland for Mountain Biking and Wheeled Sports, noting the prevalence of Scotland as a key destination internationally.

#### **Mountain Biking and Economic Benefit**

The draft Strategy outlines a variety of benefits, and in particular, the potential economic benefit delivered from growth in the mountain biking sector. It notes that in addition to inward investment and tourism, the development of wheeled sports provides an opportunity for local and national businesses to further develop products and services.

#### **Mountain Biking and Health**

The strategy notes benefit to health through participation, highlighting that “Mountain biking can also do much for the nation’s physical and mental health, particularly by broadening participation and thus reducing some of Scotland’s health inequalities. The Scottish Government’s physical activity strategy, ‘A More Active Scotland: Scotland’s Physical Activity Delivery Plan’, highlights the work of Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland in helping to create the infrastructure that provides everyone in Scotland with more opportunities to be active.”

Furthermore, it notes that the development of wheeled sports facilities in and closer to urban areas generates a key opportunity to support and develop areas of high deprivation in Scotland (as identified by SIMD 2017 statistics). It is noted that an effort to align trails and facilities with the availability of bikes and appropriate helmets etc could generate a step change for those who currently have barriers to participation in the sport.

### 6.2 Scottish Cycling – BMX

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In considering the development and strategy for BMX, Craig McCulloch of Scottish Cycling commented on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021 saying;

*“Currently there is no coaching pathway for BMX freestyle although there is for BMX racing. However, the good news is that we are developing one!”*

*We are in early stages and will be launching a nationwide consultation survey next week off the back of the Olympics, in which we seek the views, thoughts and ideas of all those riders, skateparks, shops and industry people.*

*We have formulated some ideas but we want to work with the community to design it. That is quite important for us.*

*Time wise – we aim to have a pilot of the first course up and running next year and then go from there. If you want to be kept up to-date I will keep your details as I will keeping a list of interested parties and periodically updating them.”*

## 6.3 Skateboard Scotland

Skateboard Scotland is the official governing body for skateboarding in Scotland.

They are a membership-based organisation which has been working since 2003 to improve and develop the skateboarding scene across Scotland. Their aim is to support the development of world-class facilities, help community groups get local skateparks built, organise competitions and events, and attract international interest

Ellon Wheel Park Group should engage with Skateboard Scotland throughout this project ensuring they are part of any facilities and competition strategies moving forward.

## 7 Site Considerations

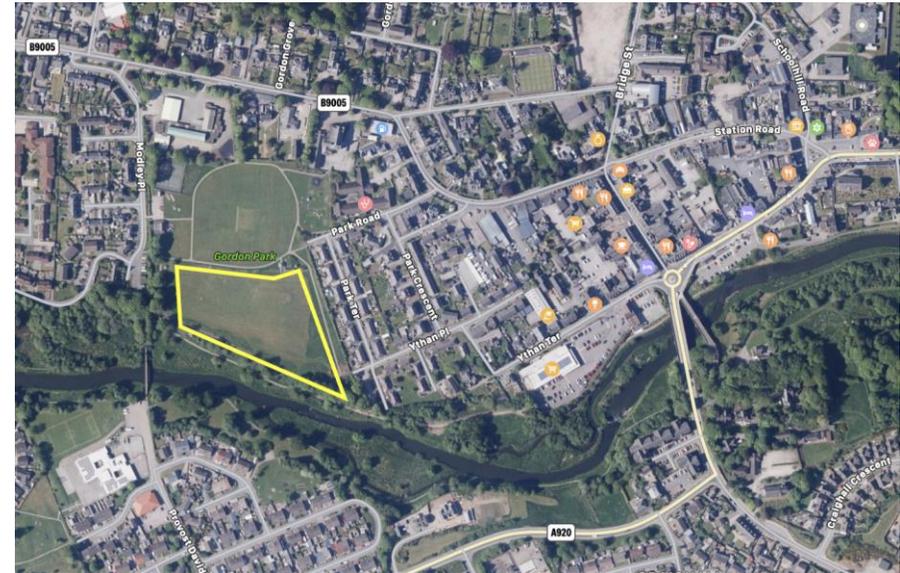
Gordon Park in Ellon has been indicated as the preferred site. Gordon Park is centrally located in Ellon with easy access to shops, cafes and other facilities in Ellon. The lower section of the park is currently utilised as an open field.

The proposed area also has good active travel connections as the Riverside active travel shared path runs along the bottom half of the park and this path joins directly onto the Formartine and Buchan cycle path. Ellon is one of Aberdeenshire Councils Integrated Travel Towns and in the Council's ITT plan published in 2018 there is a desire to create an Active Travel and Cycle Hub. Future development of the wheel park could include this hub.

Gordon Park is in close proximity to two of Ellon's Primary Schools and the path network leads directly to the other primary school and to Ellon Academy.

There is scope for future development of the site. Although not included in this feasibility report there may be an opportunity to increase the length of the cycle circuit to include the top section of Gordon Park which would increase the length of the track to approx. 1.2Km and open up the track to larger events.

The following maps show the location of this site, and how this facility may fit within the proposed space:





## Site Assessment

### 7.1 Site Overview

The following images show the current site situation, including the current play provision, trees and paths.





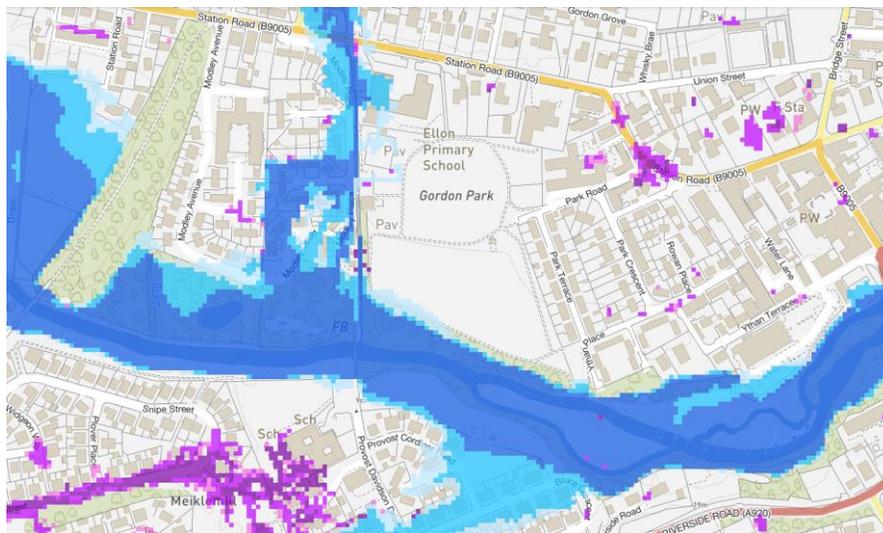
## 7.2 Car Parking

In line with the objectives of this project, there should be minimal increase in car parking demand in the area as the Group seek to encourage active travel in line with the Ellon Integrated Travel Town project.

It is noted that there are existing events held at Gordon Park (Gala Days, Cricket Matches, and Fireworks Displays), and no known parking issues have been identified as a result of these.

## 7.3 Flood Risk

In reviewing the SEPA Flood Risk Map, there is no river flood risk noted on the area currently proposed for the facility. This map is shown below marking risk from river flooding in blue, and surface water flooding in purple.



## 8 Design Considerations

### 8.1 Skateboard Scotland Guidance

Skateboard Scotland highlight three key factors when considering a local skate park, namely:

1. Funding
2. Community Support
3. Location

As the governing body for Skateboarding in Scotland, they outline the following considerations:

Is there a demand?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any specifically skate/BMX/rollerblade facilities existing in the area?</li> <li>• What other facilities for young people have the council provided in the area in the last 5 years?</li> <li>• Do you have a Primary and secondary school in the local area?</li> <li>• Are there skaters/bmxers/rollerblades in your area?</li> <li>• Bring together a core user group comprising of as broad a spectrum of age and gender as possible.</li> </ul>
Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with existing local community groups</li> <li>• Is there is a local youth or sports development officer that can get involved? Having a professional onboard in a paid capacity has been the springboard to successful projects in the past</li> <li>• Hold events in community areas to publicise your campaign. Skate jams in playgrounds or petition signing tables on the high street for example</li> <li>• Build up messaging through online presence and local media outlets to gather support</li> <li>• Gather an action group comprising of the user group and other key figures who support the proposal i.e.: parents, community leaders and local councillors</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to involve as wide a cross section of the community and age groups as possible</li> </ul>
Engaging the Local Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach your local council through your action group with evidence of community support</li> <li>• Engage any local youth or sports development officers (see Community Support section above)</li> <li>• Ask the council about potential skatepark locations and any available funding opportunities</li> <li>• Request any information from local school surveys – a skatepark facility is often near the top of the wish list</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on size – how much money are you aiming to raise to build the skatepark? This is dictated by available space and budget potential</li> <li>• How much funding, if any, will be available from the local council?</li> <li>• Most councils will have an “active children” charter so tying in a skatepark proposal with the desire for young people to exercise and keep fit is an important step in the funding process</li> <li>• Other possible funding sources could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport Scotland grants</li> <li>• Big Lottery funding</li> <li>• Landfill offset grants</li> <li>• Local community grants</li> <li>• Private funding</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Finding a Suitable Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the land usable? Some land cannot be disturbed due to historical, industrial use, or only used at great cost following decontamination</li> <li>• What are the soil conditions? Soft ground won't take the weight of concrete and bedrock will be expensive to excavate</li> <li>• How deep can you dig and how high can you build up? This is crucial to the park design and cost as it's</li> </ul>

	<p>generally cheaper to dig down than build up. Building up can also require specific planning permission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's options do you have for drainage? Is the ground already waterlogged? Is there a water course nearby? Can the drains be routed into existing drains? This requires consultation with Scottish Water and integration has not always been possible in the past</li> <li>• Are there trees on the potential site? Mature trees can rarely be removed, and any existing tree canopies must not be within the proposed skatepark to avoid leaf build up in Autumn</li> <li>• Is the site accessible for excavation vehicles? Large vehicles will need to access the area for construction purposes without significant disruption to the surrounding area</li> <li>• Are there public transport links? This will be essential in the planning process and application to tie in with local council goals for both fitness and environmental impact</li> <li>• Car parking – expect an uplift in demand so is there space?</li> <li>• Will there be good visibility into the park from the surrounding area? The Park shouldn't be hidden from view from nearby pavements or roads. This is a factor in the planning process and essential to getting the police on board with the park proposals</li> <li>• Are there any toilets nearby? Again, an important consideration in the planning process</li> <li>• Are there shops nearby?</li> <li>• Litter management – what are the current rubbish provisions and how will the skatepark impact litter levels?</li> <li>• Police support. Having local community policing support is beneficial to the planning process. Any concerns raised by the police should be addressed prior to the planning hearing</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power supplies. Existing nearby power supplies for lights, CCTV and power points will be significantly cheaper than bringing in power over a longer distance</li> </ul>
Design & Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use your action group to decide what kind of park features you would like to include in the design</li> <li>Visit other skateparks across the country to get ideas for your own park</li> <li>Don't try and cram too much into the space, it will make it harder to skate the park when it's busy</li> <li>Work with the council to draw up a shortlist of potential contractors</li> <li>Speak to Skateboard Scotland for support and advice</li> <li>Contractors with proven skatepark building experience are always preferred and will ideally at least one skater will be on site during the build. Any subcontracted work should be agreed prior to the construction start date</li> <li>Work with contractors to draw up the plan professionally. Most skatepark contractors will draw up a design based on your requests and available space as part of the tender process</li> </ul>
Build Phase, Opening, & Post Opening Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the local user group prevents any use of the skatepark before the official opening date. This can damage the concrete and add extra unnecessary cost to the build</li> <li>Plan an opening event with the user group and local council, inviting local press to attend</li> <li>Start with monthly post opening meetings with the user group, residents, council, and police</li> <li>Reduce frequency of meetings if initial issues are resolve</li> </ul>

## 8.2 sportscotland Guidance

These guidelines have been created by **sportscotland** in response to the growth in extreme sports, which has seen a rejuvenation of skate parks as centres for sports participation.

The guidelines are based on a concrete skate park of around 1,000 square metres, normally associated with large urban areas, which they consider to be minimum appropriate size for a strategic approach to the development of skateboarding and other associated activities as a sport in Scotland. This type of facility will normally be located in main centres of population. Facilities serving rural and small communities will usually be of a different scale and construction and although many of the following guidelines will apply each such proposal would have to be assessed on its own unique merits.

In order to be eligible to compete for sportscotland funding, skate parks should have adhered to the following points:

- Should provide evidence that prospective users have been consulted about the site, design, and operation of the facility.
- Should be designed by a competent and reputable specialist, be constructed from concrete with features allowing skateboarders, BMX riders and in-line skaters of all ages and abilities to be able to participate.
- Should comply fully with British Standard BS EN 14974:2006: Facilities for users of roller sports equipment – Safety requirements and test methods
- Should be floodlit. This will allow a greater usage time.
- Should be complete with litter bins, seats for participants and spectators, secure bike racks and surrounded by a one-meter-high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g., gates, animal grids.
- Should be managed by a User Group. The Group would act as a self-policing force and contribute to coaching and fundraising.
- The Group should contain members representing the various disciplines, age groups, parents, youth, and community groups and, possibly, the local police community worker. A representative of the local authority could also be included as that individual can act as a conduit to and from the council.
- Should be within 50 to 100 meters of a sports or community facility, which is staffed during the majority of times the skate park is open. This will

allow for informal supervision, especially if no members of the User Group are present at the skate park.

- The sports or community facility can also provide toilet facilities, a public phone, first aid facilities and storage for protective gear and simple maintenance equipment (brushes, etc.).
- Should be within 250 meters of both public transport and secure parking and afford easy access for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- Should be subject to a Risk Assessment to identify the risks associated with operating a skateboard park. This assessment should be used to implement appropriate control measures at the design/installation stage and create a management policy for the facility. The risk assessment should be documented, signed, and dated and reviewed annually, unless changes take place – at which point a review should be carried out. The assessment should at least cover such aspects as access/egress, falls/collisions, noise, violence/aggression, vandalism, and maintenance.
- Should be inspected by an independent body or qualified inspector upon completion and at least once a year thereafter. The inspections should follow the recommendations of RoSPA. The latter body can also carry out these inspections. Daily, weekly, and yearly inspections/maintenance should also be carried out as indicated earlier in this paper.
- Should have Public Liability cover of at least £2,000,000. RoSPA recommends a minimum of £5,000,000 and **sportscotland** should follow this latter recommendation.
- Should have appropriate signage. The signage should cover such topics as location of nearest telephone and toilets, the maximum number of users, any restrictions (lower age limits, permitted activities, etc.), protective gear must be worn, no dogs, no alcohol, etc. The sign should also note that ‘all users do so at their own risk’.
- CCTV may also be installed but this sensitive matter should be fully discussed with representatives of the User Group.
- As there is currently no governing body for skateboarding, the operators of the facility will commit to becoming members of the recognised governing body when that body comes into being.
- The skate park operator will also be required to set up a structured skills development programme with particular emphasis on beginners.
- The operator should also be required to set up programmes aimed at increasing the number of females and ethnic minorities participating in the sport.

For facilities in smaller centres of population such as Jedburgh, the following should be adhered to:

- The area for the park should be a minimum of 36m x 18m. This would allow conversion of the area to a multi court at some future point.
- The area should be surrounded by a one-metre-high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g., gates, animal grids and we recommend that ducting is provided to allow the necessary cabling should the installation of floodlighting be a future requirement.
- Whilst concrete is still the preferred construction material other materials may be considered for park in smaller centres of population.
- All other requirements that apply to large parks will also apply to smaller.

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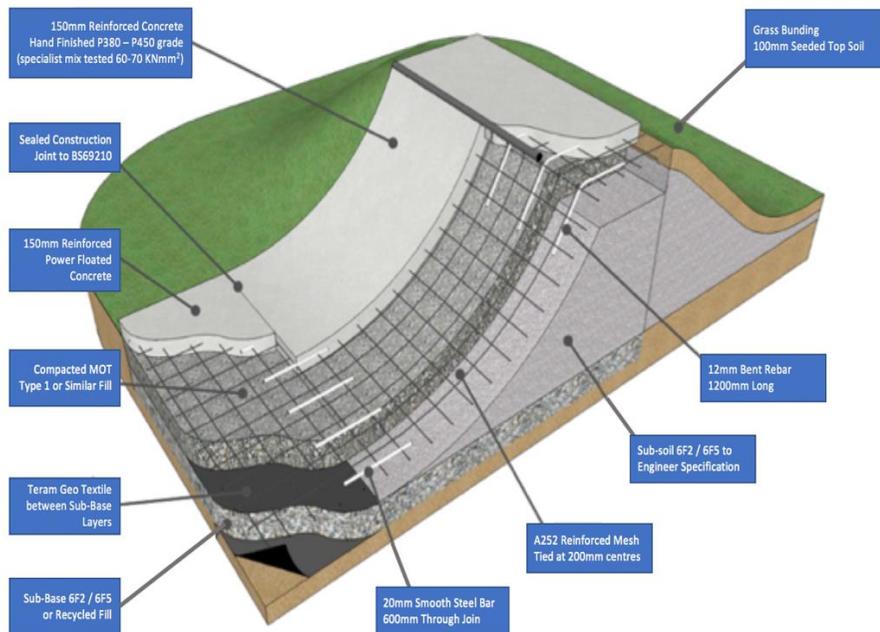
### 8.3 Drainage

It is imperative that drainage is considered in the overall design, the undulating nature of dips and berms and bowled shapes can lead to ponding if not considered in detail. The riding surface should be cambered allowing water to shed as quickly as possible.

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### 8.4 Skate Park Constructions

A general definition for a wheeled sports facility is a purpose-built recreation environment made for skateboarding, BMX, scooters, wheelchairs, inline skating, and other wheeled sports. The main construction methods throughout the years have been wood, metal, or concrete materials. This has caused accidents through wood rotting and metal rusting. As a result, the new focus on building new facilities is that they should be built with concrete.



### Maintenance

The potential maintenance costs of a sprayed concrete skate park are minimal. No replacement parts, fixtures or tools are necessary, except for an Allen Key for clearing the drainage. Considerations should be made for litter and graffiti. One of the most successful ways of combating graffiti is to provide spaces where professional graffiti artists can decorate. It is less likely for users to make unsightly tags when there is attractive art on their park. Additional ongoing maintenance may include minor repairs to the concrete surface made by the impact of stunt-peds from BMX bikes.

### Sustainability

Sustainable construction is considered to be a very economical construction method. An enduring wheeled sports park that does not need to be re-built every few years conserves community resources and effort. This requires the use of reinforced concrete. The sprayed concrete method is more energy and materially efficient than any pre-cast method. With pre-cast, every piece has to be cast in a

mould, then transported to the site and set on a separate in-ground concrete foundation.

Using the sprayed concrete method allows the contractor to use locally sourced materials, reducing environmental impact and reducing the amount of transportation needed, whilst contributing to the local economy. This method uses efficient engineering and precise form work to ensure an optimum build with minimal waste.

### Value for Money

Sprayed concrete construction is the method used on the most renowned wheeled sports parks worldwide. It allows designers the freedom to create progressive and continually engaging designs which users gain ownership of through in-depth consultation. Many parks are guaranteed for 30 years; however, the structural integrity of sprayed concrete parks has proven to last indefinitely and is virtually maintenance free. Wheeled sports parks create a social space that provides long term health and social benefits, leading to reductions in anti-social behaviour and benefits for the local economy by way of attracting visitors to the area.

## 8.5 Pump Track & Cycle Loop Construction

Overtip construction uses imported materials to create an elevated trail surface or an appropriate trail undulation or feature as required. The surface should be finished with a minimum of a 2% cross fall to shed water to the low side of the trail. Drainage should be carefully considered when using over tip construction to avoid ponding on and adjacent to the track. The side batters of the trail should be covered with local vegetation or soil and seeded or left to naturalise.

### Materials

The track should be specified to a very high standard to create a state-of-the art facility. Consideration of a full asphalt surface may eliminate the erosion processes, ensuring the trails require minimum maintenance.

The asphalt should be laid at 80mm compacted depth in a single layer. This has less risk of delamination and improves workability and heat retention, which in turn increases the compaction period. This helps to lower the voids and reduces

permeability. It is through this specification it is possible to surface the steep slopes involved.

### **Machinery**

Given the access issues and nature of the site, all excavators on the site should be a maximum of 5 tonnes to enable a narrow corridor to be maintained during the construction process whilst respecting the site. In less accessible parts of the site appropriate smaller machines may be required.

In most cases, the construction areas do not exceed 5m outside the track's footprint. It is expected that transporting materials along the existing Park's tarmac footpath will be done using a tracked dumper (2.5 tonne). These have a lower ground impact and are more stable than wheeled machines. They also are much more capable at navigating uneven terrain and have less impact on the trail shape, reducing the work required to shape the trail afterwards. As a result, less stone is required to form a suitable surface to transport material along the trail corridor.

Machinery will access the site at points agreed by the client project manager, preferably along the line of the proposed trail corridor. A machinery access plan may be supplied on request, giving indication of compounds; lines of travel and material drop off points.

### **Landscaping**

Due to the nature of the development and the materials used, the trail is to blend in with the natural environment and not impact negatively on the character of the landscape. Extensive consideration needs to be given to the construction of the proposed development to ensure it integrates well with its surroundings and does not harm or detract from the character and appearance of the area. All verges and ditches are to be re-vegetated during the track construction process to ensure visual impact is minimal, immediately after construction. Vegetation that is extracted from the line of the track can be used to re-vegetate the verges of the track to ensure that impact of the trail in the landscape is minimised from the outset.

### **Trail Marking**

The trail will require to be marked with paint and flags/stakes at the beginning of the construction process. The trail marking method will be in the form of coloured surveyor's flags and biodegradable line marker paint.

### **Timescales and Scheduling**

It is envisaged that the construction timetable for this work would be approximately 8-10 weeks based on a team of 4-10. This said, the construction period is difficult to quantify as the following issues may affect the programme:

- Weather conditions may halt some of the works in the winter months;
- The availability of required sub-contractors;
- The size of team available;
- Other site operations, which may inhibit the works;
- Discovery and reaction to of unforeseen ground conditions;

## **8.6 Floodlighting**

As part of the design, the Group should consider the inclusion of floodlighting. Although floodlighting provides a substantial capital cost, its presence will allow for increased usage of the facility throughout the year. Consideration should be made to the management of energy costs associated with floodlighting.

A popular option for outdoor leisure facilities is to install a pre-paid meter (right) with cards available for sale at a local convenient location. This ensures that all energy costs are met by the users through a pre-payment system.



The group can then control how late the lights operate. By incorporating pre-paid card options, there is a significantly reduced risk of vandalism in comparison with coin operated systems.

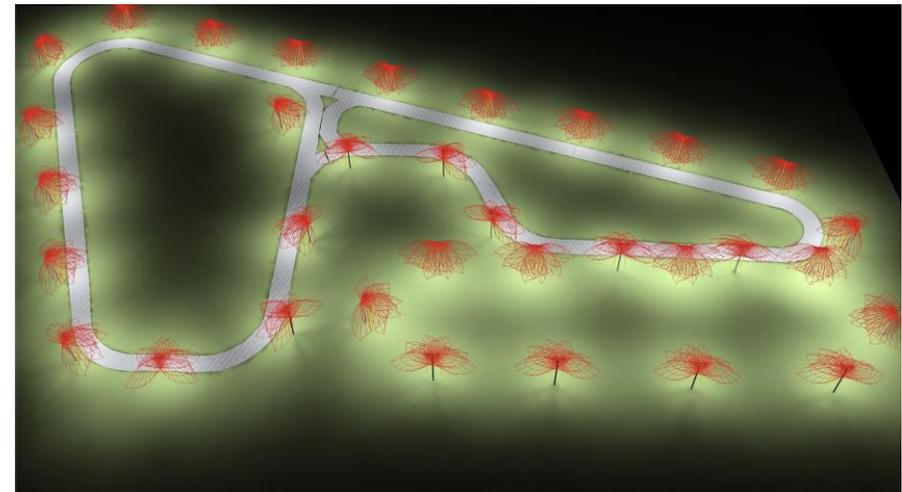
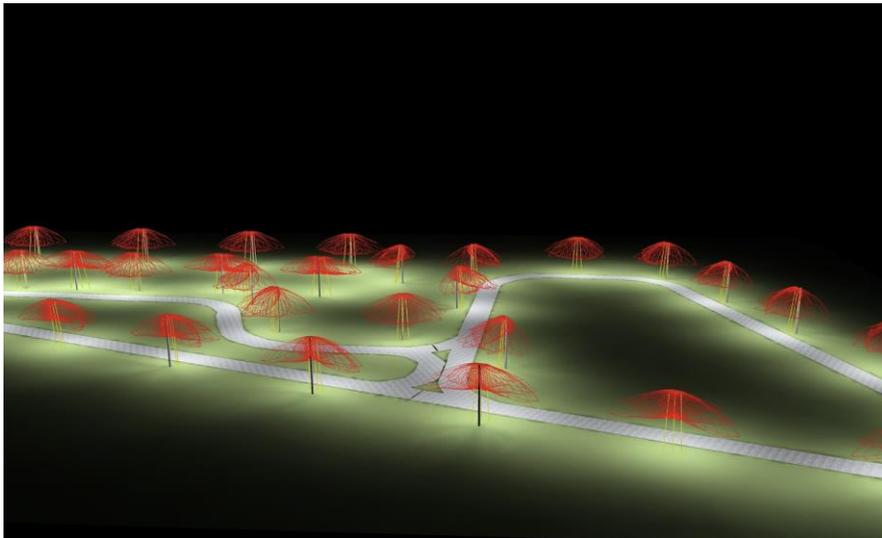
By installing high quality floodlights (and investing a higher initial capital cost), the overall running costs can be reduced. In this instance, the group might decide that

the costs of electricity to operate the lights would be safely within their annual budget.

Where it may be more feasible to phase floodlighting as a secondary aspect of the project, it should be considered that the installation of suitable tracking and ducting throughout the site may be easier at the initial construction stage, futureproofing the site for the addition of lighting and other amenities at a later date.

A possible option for the installation of floodlighting would be the possibility to use solar powered lighting systems, and energy efficient bulbs. There may also be the potential to use, adapt, or add to the existing public lighting in the park in consultation with the Council.

The following indicative images show how floodlighting might be incorporated into the park design in a manner that supports the users, whilst limiting the impact of local neighbours and the surrounding environment. A full specification for lighting will be required at the appropriate time.



## 9 Cycle Hub Consideration

Ellon Wheel Park Group & Ythan Cycle Club acknowledge the work **sportscotland** and Scottish Cycling have undertaken modelling and analysing cycling provision in Scotland. This considered what facilities are available and how much of the population is likely to be able to access them. This research supported the Group in identifying gaps in local provision.

Through community consultation and engagement, we have identified a gap in provision for beginner to club level provision across the three key elements of this project: closed loop cycling, BMX, and Skateboarding. This new facility in Ellon would become the centre of a Cycling Hub in the wider area linking to existing bike trails and providing a stepping stone to higher level competition and facility use throughout Scotland. The creation of the new Wheel Park would meet the aims of:

- Creating a new site that provides learn to ride areas, skills area and a new pump track;
- By creating a Cycling Hub, we will enable coaching and skills development and wider cycling promotion

In addition to proposed tracks, we are planning on promoting links to other cycle-related facilities/activities within and round Ellon and the wider Shire. We consider the following would contribute to the development of the facility in Ellon as a Regional hub for cycling and wheeled sports.

- Enhanced signage – signposting both the park and local active travel routes, cycle paths etc.
- Small shed at the track for brushes and basic supplies
- The potential to include public use bike tool stations
- The development of a website that would include
  - Information and scheduling for the facility
  - Local route maps and information
  - Bike friendly accommodation
  - Other tourism information (Car Parking/Toilets/Travel Information)
- Kids bikes supplied to the new Nursery/School.
- Benches and ancillary facilities on and close to the site.



In addition to reflecting community needs, our project has been guided by the following principles;

- **Inclusive** - Our project engages with people who may experience barriers to participation to support their inclusion in cycling and other activity.
- **Accountable** - Our projects will be well planned, financially viable and have clear and achievable outcomes as outlined in this Feasibility Study.
- **Responsive** - Our projects will be able to adapt to the ongoing needs of their users and local community.

- **Person-centred** - Our projects have a sustainable, community-led approach that gets groups working together to develop a welcoming, safe and fun environment for sport.
- **Collaborative** - Our project has brought together clubs, the community and key local partners who want to develop and grow cycling and the wider sporting offering in the community.
- **World-class** - Our project aspires to the highest possible standards, while seeking to continuously improve.

Our project will be:

- traffic-free ✓
- multi-discipline for club hub and event projects ✓
- inclusive and accessible ✓
- a strategic fit that connects to other local and national cycling infrastructure and initiatives ✓

Our Cycle Hub project will;

- provide inclusive opportunities for people who are under-represented in cycling. ✓
- provide opportunities for people within communities to cycle and help aspiring participants and athletes develop and learn. ✓
- provide opportunities for people to participate in more than one discipline in one place. ✓
- be located at or close to and link into other existing path/cycle networks or a community hub. ✓
- include a learn to ride area that will allow people to develop cycling skills and confidence. ✓
- include entry level routes that enable cyclists to develop their skills. ✓
- work with a Scottish Cycling affiliated club or involve developing a new club. ✓
- provide planned activities for a range of levels designed to recruit and retain users. ✓
- be designed to use sustainable energy systems and constructed using sustainable materials where possible. ✓
- offer leadership opportunities to young people in a range of roles including decision makers, deliverers/coaches, event/competition organisers and technical officials. ✓
- recruit, retain and develop volunteers to maintain sustainable projects. ✓

Ellon has two well established clubs who will benefit from the Wheel Park. Ythan Cycle Club, formed in 1987, is a Scottish Cycling affiliated club and already have a large youth section ((Ythan QL) with 60 youths regularly taking part in cycle training activities. The wheel park will allow the club to expand on that number and be able to provide expand training like road race training on the cycle circuit and mountain bike training on the pump track. The Trythan (triathlon club) also have a burgeoning junior squad (Tristars). The cycle circuit will be designed to tie in with the Riverside path for Triathletes to practice brick sessions combining running, cycling and transitions.

There are women only Breeze coordinators in the area. The aim of Breeze rides is to get more women into cycling. A safe, traffic free circuit will help the Breeze coordinator provide sessions for girls and women to develop confidence before venturing out on the open road.

The local clubs have an already established events calendar including beginner rides and 'introduction to cycling' for groups such as Refugees and adults who want to start cycling.

The clubs have worked closely with other cycling groups such as Cycling UK, Nestrans, Sustrans etc as well as private cycling enterprises for events such as "Learn about e-bikes" day.

It is envisaged that the cycle circuit will enhance the ability to hold these types of events.

The Grampian area has a number of cycle clubs which have youth members. By providing a facility such as this, the riders from other clubs can attend regional training camps and events in Ellon using regional level coaches for each stage of youth cycling development.

The unique design of this facility provides a range of wheeled sport options in one area. These options for youths to try different aspects of cycling will hopefully keep them interested and develop a love for the sport no matter what discipline they want to try.

## 10 Comparable Examples & Indicative Designs

The increase in popularity of wheeled sports has given rise the development of a number of successful new facilities across Scotland. The following examples and indicative designs demonstrate possible options, and best practice, highlighting funded projects delivered by third sector groups, clubs or partnerships.





## Lochgelly Cycle Track

Built 2018

£2.4 million

Operated by Fife Council /

Active Fife

# Hawick Pump Track

Built 2019 By Velosolutions

£400,000

Operated by Hawick  
Community Pump Track Group





**Inverness Pump Track**  
Built 2016 By Velosolutions  
£400,000  
Operated by Highland  
Skatepark Association



A man with a beard, seen from the back, is wearing a black t-shirt with the text 'KELSO SKATEPARK PROJECT' printed in white. He is looking towards a large concrete skate bowl. Inside the bowl, a skateboarder in blue shorts and a brown jacket is performing a trick. In the background, a group of people is watching, and there are trees and a large stone building under a cloudy sky.

KELSO  
SKATEPARK  
PROJECT

**Kelso Skate Park**

Built 2016 By Concreate

£210,000

Operated by Kelso Skate Park  
Project

# Skate Park Design Concept



## 11 Indicative Capital Costs

The following tables outline the indicated costs for delivering this project. Whilst these are based on previous work, comparable examples, and industry standard rates, a full tendering exercises will further detail the accurate costs at the appropriate time:

### Full Project Costs

Concrete Skate Park (approx. 600m <sup>2</sup> @ £350/sqm)	£210,000
Pump Track (approx. 2,500m <sup>2</sup> @ £60/sqm)	£150,000
Cycle Race Loop (approx. 2400m <sup>2</sup> @ £60/sqm)	£144,000
Cycle Race Loop Timber Edging (1,200 linear m @ £25)	£30,000
Drainage Works	£2,500
Trenching & Ducting	£10,000
Signage and Park Furniture	£5,000
Landscaping	£5,000
	<b>£556,500</b>
Professional Fees and Project Management (10%)	£55,650
Contingency (5%)	£27,825
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>£639,975</b>
VAT (20%)	£127,995
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>£767,970</b>

Note, these costs are indicative based upon other projects. The true costs will become available once full tenders are received. These costs include for groundwork such as drainage from the tracks etc.

## 12 Sources of Funding

The following table outlines the plan for capital funding identified as appropriate to deliver the project above:

SportScotland Cycle Facilities Fund 65%	£499,181
Vattenfall Windfarm and Fundraising	£25,000
Aberdeenshire Council Place Based Investment Fund (Balance)	£243,790

In the event of any gaps in funding, the following additional options have been identified:

The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF)*	
• FCC Communities Fund	£40,000
• Suez Trust	£50,000
• EB Scotland	£30,000
• Viridor Credits	£25,000

\*Third Party Contribution required for all SLCF bodies, as outlined in the report below.

### 12.1 Cycle Facilities Fund

sportscotland and Scottish Cycling have developed and launched the Cycling Facilities Fund. This funding stream aims to support cycling facility projects across Scotland through an £8M fund, made possible through a new £4 million commitment from Scottish Government and £4 million from sportscotland through National Lottery funds.

The fund looks to achieve three clear objectives:

- 1) To inspire the nation to cycle
- 2) To grow and develop club and community cycling
- 3) To grow and develop local and regional event opportunities

For Club Hub & Event projects within this fund, funding of up to 65% of the project cost can be sought (up to a maximum of £500,000).

Initial online discussions have been held with Scottish Cycling and sportscotland. Both have indicated that the project strongly resonates with the eligibility of a cycling hub project. They have recommended that an application be prepared for submission to this fund by April 2022.

The proposed facility in Ellon meets all the requirements of the funders criteria.

*This project fully meets the criteria required for funding from the Sportscotland/ Scottish Cycling facilities fund. The Group have been in dialogue with Sportscotland and Scottish Cycling throughout the process and are confident that funding will be made available.*

Sportscotland criteria - We will prioritise projects which:	Does Ellon wheel Park meet this criteria?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide inclusive opportunities for people who are under-represented in cycling.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes- We have support from groups such as Breeze and Belles on wheels which are women's groups who would use the cycle circuit for their confidence building session.</i></p> <p><i>The park will also allow the cycle club to continue working with groups such as the Syrian refugees in teaching their children to cycle and integrate with the local community.</i></p> <p><i>The facility will also allow us to run events such as try an Ebike days. Ebikes allow people who might not feel fit enough to cycle a ordinary bike to get exercise. Previous Ebike days have proved popular but limited area to use them was a constraint.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide opportunities for people within communities to cycle and help aspiring</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes - The cycle club has coached a few youths through to National level. This has been hampered by lack of facilities but the new facility will help develop the aspiration of helping more youth achieve their full potential.</i></p>

<p>participants and athletes develop and learn.</p>	<p><i>In addition, the traffic free facility can help those to cycle and learn rules and etiquette for using their bikes on shared paths and before they go out on the open road.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide opportunities for people to participate in more than one discipline in one place.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes - the wheel park will allow road based cycling on the circuit zone, Mountain biking on the pump track zone and BMX on skate/ BMX zone. Many of the other projects that have requested funding only cover one of these disciplines.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are located at or close to and link into other existing path/cycle networks or a community hub.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes – The park is ideally placed along the riverside path and linked to F&amp;B way.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include a learn to ride area that will allow people to develop cycling skills and confidence.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes – The cycle circuit has been designed to be able to be used by people who are learning to ride or want to gain confidence on their bike. The circuit can be split in two so that two sessions can be undertaken at the same time. Bikeability sessions can be carried out in a safe traffic free area.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include entry level routes that enable cyclists to develop their skills.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes – In both the cycle circuit and the pump track and Skate/ BMX area “learner” areas are included in the design</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide a route into cycle sport by offering local and regional race opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes- Both the cycle circuit and the pump track are developed to accommodate youth race opportunities</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>work with a Scottish Cycling</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes – There is a close link with the well established Ythan Cycle club and their youth club</i></p>

affiliated club or involve developing a new club.	<i>Ythan QL. In addition, the TrYthan triathlon club will use the facility to train their members</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide planned activities for a range of levels designed to recruit and retain users.</li> </ul>	<i>Yes – again the structured coaching sessions at Ythan CC/QL are well established, and this facility will help develop that.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>connect projects to UCI Cycling World Championships 2023.</li> </ul>	<i>Yes – as a Scottish facility the 2023 world championships will offer an opportunity to promote the park.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are designed to use sustainable energy systems and constructed using sustainable materials where possible.</li> </ul>	<i>Yes – this has been requested in the design and barriers etc are to be made of natural materials and biodiverse plants where possible</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>offer leadership opportunities to young people in a range of roles including decision makers, deliverers/coaches, event/competition organisers and technical officials.</li> </ul>	<i>Yes – Some of the youths coming up through the coaching system are also now helping out and volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards system.</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recruit, retain and develop volunteers to maintain sustainable projects</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yes -The Wheel park group has already expanded and will be recruiting and have an organisation fit for the ongoing operation of the park.</i></p> <p><i>The park is also setting out a memorandum of understanding with Ythan Cycle Club and TrYthan triathlon Club to use the facility to develop their coaching and volunteering workforce.</i></p>
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In addition, it is recognised by Scottish Cycling that the North East of Scotland does not have the facilities that other parts of Scotland already have and the funding available is to be spread all over Scotland.

An Expression of Interest has been submitted to the funder and this stage has been accepted to go forward for full application.

## 12.2 Sportscotland Facilities Fund

sportscotland’s Sports Facilities Fund supports capital projects that create or improve places where people take part in sports and physical activity. Having been recently revised, this fund now offers capital funding with a ceiling limit of £100,000. The funding looks to support projects that provide opportunities for people to get involved, increasing participation by targeting their resources on projects that demonstrate commitment to the following:

- Equalities and inclusion
- People development
- Collaboration and impact

## 12.3 Aberdeenshire Council: Place Based Investment Programme

The Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) aims to ensure investment is focused on benefitting local areas by revitalising town centres and regenerating communities and neighbourhoods.

Funded from the Scottish Government (with £38 million allocated for 2021-22), this funding stream is delegated to Local Authorities, with Aberdeenshire Council having allocated it's £2.4 million to 14 local projects.

The PBIP is seen as the first step in creating coherent local strategies to guide investment priorities and to implement the 'place principle' which is a key component of the new Programme for Government.

Central to this will be ensuring that investment decisions are shaped by the evidenced needs of local communities, regenerate and revitalise towns and villages, help tackle inequality and disadvantage and accelerate Scotland towards 'net zero' emissions targets. Another significant feature of the investment will be increased footfall within our town centres which will benefit local businesses.

The Aberdeenshire PBIP Panel looked for projects which can demonstrate local engagement and support, can realistically be delivered in a short timescale, are sustainable and help to transform their places.

Following discussions with Aberdeenshire Council, the Group has submitted an Expression of Interest (January 2022) outlining the project costs as in this report, seeking capital funding of £243,790.

## 12.4 Vattenfall Windfarm

Vattenfall invests more than £2.5 million annually into local communities hosting wind farm projects. Community benefits also include what can be termed "Community Funding", where developers provide monetary payments or benefits in-kind.

Community benefit is tailored to community needs with Vattenfall undertaking dialogue with prospective projects.

Options exist for grant aid funding to support local groups and projects, with further information being found online:

<https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/investing-in-local-communities>

## 12.5 Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF)

The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) is a tax credit scheme, linked to Scottish Landfill Tax that encourages landfill site operators to provide contributions to Approved Bodies, who can then pass the funds onto community and environmental projects. The SLCF replaced the UK scheme in Scotland on 1st April 2015.

Funding must be passed from a landfill operator via Approved Bodies to a project such as the proposed wheeled sports facility in Ellon.

There are a number of approved bodies that have been identified as suitable and relevant for the project. These are listed below. It should be noted that as a general rule these funders look to fund a specific aspect of the project and not a proportion of the overall cost, additionally they will not be able to fund the same aspects of the project should applications to multiple bodies be considered.

Approved Body	Notes
FCC Communities Ltd	The FCC Scottish Action Fund offers funding of between £2,000 and £40,000 to projects from FCC Environment through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.  Further information is available at <a href="http://www.wren.org.uk/apply/fcc-scottish-action-fund">http://www.wren.org.uk/apply/fcc-scottish-action-fund</a>
Viridor Landfill Credits	Viridor Credits Environmental Company is an independent, not-for-profit organization which provides funding for community, heritage and biodiversity projects around the UK through the Landfill Communities Fund and Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.  Funding up to £25,000 Further information is available at <a href="http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-for-funding/">http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-for-funding/</a>
Suez Trust	SUEZ Communities Trust will consider projects which focus on physical improvement at an identified site. Funding is

	<p>typically awarded for the purchase of materials/equipment and the appointment of a contractor to undertake the improvement work. A request for funding for multiple sites or for salaries, running costs, project management or design fees will not be considered.</p> <p>Funding up to £50,000 Further information is available at <a href="http://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/scotland">http://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/scotland</a></p>
EB Scotland	<p>EBS considers various criteria when deciding whether to fund a project; Community Need: It is important to demonstrate wide community support and appropriate consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value for Money: It is important to demonstrate anticipated costs are reasonable and represent good value, usually through a tender or quotation exercise.</li> <li>• Viability: EBS carefully vets all applicants as to their suitability to carry out proposed projects. This not only ensures compliance, but also that the necessary skills and experience are available to projects. It is also important that other funding, planning consents and any contingencies have been considered.</li> <li>• Sustainability: It is important that maintenance plans and budgets are demonstrated.</li> <li>• Added Value: It should be illustrated how SLCF funds lever in other sources of funding, utilise volunteers, enhance disabled access, meet biodiversity targets, and attract local authority support as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>Funding £25,000 <a href="https://ebscotland.co.uk">https://ebscotland.co.uk</a></p>

The above funders have been listed as a funder of last resort, should any of the funding from sportscotland and or Aberdeenshire Place Based Programme fall

short. All of the above funders have frequently funded wheeled sports facilities throughout Scotland in the last ten years.

#### **Contributing Third Party Payment (CTP)**

When a Landfill Operator (LO) contributes to an Environmental Body (EB), it can only claim tax relief on 89% of the contribution it makes and is left with a 11% funding shortfall. Some Los will absorb this cost, or a portion of it, themselves. Sometimes Los will require you to find a separate third party – a Contributing Third Party (CTP) to make the 11% payment or a portion of it.

#### **Who Can Be a Contributing Third Party?**

Almost anyone can be a Contributing Third Party, providing they do not gain a unique benefit from the project put forward for funding. Below is a list of examples of organisations that may be Contributing Third Parties:

- Private Companies
- Public Sector organisations - Local Authorities, County Councils
- Charities
- Voluntary organisations
- Private donors
- Monies from fundraising

#### **Who is Excluded from Being a Contributing Third Party?**

- Any individual or organisation directly connected to the landfill operator, or a contractor of the project
- Any individual or organisation who gains a unique benefit from the project

## **12.6 Fundraising & Club Contribution**

To deliver the project, Ellon Wheel Park, Ythan Cycle Club and TrYthan Club should assess their current financial situation and ringfence any facility or capital funds they may have to contribute to the project. In addition, they should look to their membership for fundraising ideas, donation and opportunities in the short term in order to support the development and delivery of this project.

Ellon Wheel Park should also continue to look at small funding opportunities, fundraising, events, raffles etc.

These smaller funding streams will support the group in demonstrating their drive for the project, and potentially provide the capital to meet the third-party contributions, as well as a modest contribution to the overall cost of the project.

As subsequently outlined, there will be an ongoing expectation following the delivery of the project for the Ellon Wheel Park Group, and user Club's to continue fundraising to meet annual operating costs.

## **12.7 Aberdeenshire Council: Developer Obligations**

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When a development takes place there is a need for infrastructure and services to accompany it. This can include roads, schools or a wide range of facilities depending on the scale and location of development.

Developer contributions are intended to ensure that developers address any impact on infrastructure created by the development but cannot resolve existing deficiencies. The use of funds received from developer contributions must be in line with the original agreement under which they were secured.

It is therefore important that the relevant Council Services and community groups review the scale of development identified in the Local Development Plan and the impact this may have on infrastructure.

Previously, Developer Obligations have been used to support the delivery of Community Sports and Leisure projects in Aberdeenshire, and as such, early contact should be made with the Developer Obligations Team at the Council to identify opportunities for support and raise awareness of this project moving forward.

# **13 Operational Management & Sports Development**

## **13.1 Insurance & Liability**

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The Group currently hold the appropriate Public Liability Insurance required for the operation of public facilities. In delivering this project, they will ensure their policy

is up to date and covers all appropriate facilities. The Group will review their insurance costs regularly and ensure their policy provides competitive value for money.

## **13.2 Routine Maintenance and Upkeep**

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Operating this facility will require a number of tasks to be completed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains appealing, fit for purpose, and safe for users, as well as minimising the possible need for major repair works to be undertaken. The group should use its membership to determine a schedule of volunteers, reducing the need to pay or contract individuals or companies, and avoiding the associated costs. The following tasks should be considered in creating a volunteer rota:

- Litter picking
- Emptying bins
- Periodic checking of the surfaces, entrances, paths, and other publicly open spaces
- Gardening and landscaping works (grass cutting, leaf clearing, weeding etc.)
- Regular monitoring of, and interaction with, users, user groups and their parents.

## **13.3 Club & Partnership Approach**

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Whilst the Wheel Sport Park will benefit the community as a free to access facility, Ythan Cycle Club and the Wheel Sports Group have identified the potential to use the site for the development or the respective Sports (and their individual disciplines). This includes:

- Cycle Skills (Proficiency in younger children)
- Race Cycling
- BMX
- Skateboarding

Ythan Cycle Club is well placed to grow its current operational structure with the Wheel Sport Park as a base. In doing so, and in working to develop the sports as

listed below, the Club will help to attract new participants, raise the prevalence of the sports, and develop athletes to support regional and national talent programmes or performance pathways in line with Scottish Cycling, and Skateboard Scotland’s performance structures and overall strategies.

### 13.4 Coaching & Development – Cycling

There are two established clubs, Ythan Cycle Club and TrYthan Club. Currently Ythan Cycle Club has 45 young people who receive coaching once a week for which they pay £3. The club is well placed to grow its coaching and instruction programme as well as its operational structure with the Wheel Sport Park as a base. This is a good base and the park is commercially feasible even if those figures were not to increase. Although that scenario is highly unlikely and the facility will increase the ability of the local clubs to increase the numbers who receive coaching at all levels.

With new bespoke facilities it is estimated that around 200 participants will receive some form of wheeled sports instruction (See table below).

They will be afforded the opportunity to develop their coaching and participation offering on the site of the new wheel sports park. Focusing on both participation and performance, based on the notional timetable in section 14. The following table outlines the weekly number of participants projected across the first five years.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Preschool	24	24	32	32	32
P1-4 Cycling	16	24	32	32	32
P1-4 BMX	16	24	32	32	32
P5-7 Cycling	16	24	32	40	40
P5-7 BMX	16	24	32	40	40
Teen Cycling	16	24	32	40	40
Teen BMX	16	24	32	40	40

Adult Cycling	16	24	32	32	32
Adult BMX	16	24	32	32	32
Performance Cycling	16	24	32	32	32
Performance BMX	16	24	32	32	32
Girls Only Session	16	24	24	24	24
Total Numbers	200	288	376	408	408

In delivering the above, the following considerations have been made:

- Coaching sessions have been planned at a 1:8 ratio to ensure effective delivery. Safeguarding and operations considerations may require a second adult for all children’s classes– therefore a class may run with 2 coaches and 16 participants, or 1 coach and a volunteer chaperone.
- All appropriate safeguarding requirements are met within the Scottish cycling guidance.
- All coaches will be appropriately qualified to UKCC level or equivalent.
- It is assumed that all coaches will be paid an average rate of £15 per hour. The Club should engage coaches on a self-employed basis.
- Volunteer coaches within the local area should also be engaged – this will help to provide either additional coaching or reduce the overall costs.
- For revenue considerations an average session price of £4.00 per hour is assumed. The club may wish to consider a model where those participating in multiple sessions per week (performance pathway) are charged a lower rate.
- The notional timetable will operate (with the above numbers) across the 40 weeks of the academic year.
- During school holidays, camps, classes, and events will be organised over and above.
- The club will deliver come and try sessions to engage new members supporting the growth in numbers above.

### 13.5 Coaching & Development – Skateboarding

This study assumes a similar approach to the delivery of Coached Skateboarding but notes that the Group may wish to further engage or develop a skateboarding club on site. Noting that the skatepark elements has been recommended as a further phase, this report assumes the park to be available from year three, and so projects the following participation numbers to be targeted in terms of organised coaching.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
P1-4 Skateboarding	-	-	16	16	24
P5-7 Skateboarding	-	-	16	16	24
Teen Skateboarding	-	-	16	16	24
Adult Skateboarding	-	-	8	16	16
Performance Skateboarding	-	-	8	16	16
<b>Total Numbers</b>	-	-	<b>62</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>104</b>

Whilst the delivery of these sessions should be further detailed in line with the development of the park (phase 2), this report assumes the same model and assumptions considered for cycling above.

### 13.6 Community Activity

In addition to a sport specific focus, Ythan Cycle Club and the Wheel Sports Group will use the facility as an asset for wider community benefit. Providing and promoting a free to use facility will open up the opportunity for physical activity with little barriers to access. As well as using this to link and promote the club structures and formal pathways, the Group will work with key local stakeholders to facilitate and support engagement, with a focus to alleviate physical and mental health issues, crime and antisocial behaviour, and community cohesion. In order to do this the following is considered:

- **School Engagement** – The business model for this park allocates a budget from which coaching hours can be paid to deliver school partnership sessions during the day. Working with the local schools, these can be regularly scheduled allowing primary and secondary schools access to the facility supported by appropriately qualified coaching. Providing this within the budget of the club, will significantly support the local schools who face challenges around their budgets.
- **Police Engagement** – Working with the local police, the facility can be the link between local young people and Police Scotland. In many projects across Scotland this approach has supported improved relationships between young people and the community police officers and supported a reduction in antisocial behaviour. Police Scotland may also engage with the group to deliver cycle safety and theft prevention initiatives on site.
- **Local NHS Services** – There may be an opportunity to work with the local health authority where the prescription and direction to exercise for health is becoming more prevalent. Working in partnership to resource and provide coaching at the park for GP patients will provide another avenue to support improved fitness and wellbeing in Ellon and the surrounding area.
- **Other Local Services** – As with the NHS above, the Group will look to work with other local organisations that support people in the community. These may include disability support groups, supported living, mental health outreach charities etc.
- **Equipment on Loan** – In delivering the above, the Group will work to fund and procure bikes, boards, and safety equipment allowing individuals to try the sport, or participate regularly where the cost would normally be a barrier.

## 14 Notional Timetable

The following notional timetable outlines the potential class delivery in line with the numbers in this report. To simplify the operational consideration this timetable assumes that BMX and Track cycling sessions will operate at the same time across both tracks. This will limit the impact on public open use.

Where no class is listed, public open use is assumed. Signage will be used to indicate and communicate spaces closed for formal instruction.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
09:00							Events & Races (5 Per Year)
10:00						P1-4 YCC Coaching	
11:00	School Coaching	Preschool Sessions	School Coaching	Preschool Sessions		P5-7 YCC Coaching	
12:00						YCC Teen Coaching	
13:00							
14:00						TrYthan Triathlon Club Training	
15:00			Women's Breeze Cycling Development				
16:00	P1-4 Coaching	Performance Coaching		Performance Coaching			
17:00	P5-7 Coaching		Girls Only				
18:00	Teen Coaching		Adult Coaching				
19:00							
20:00							

## 15 Project Benefit Assessment

The Ellon Wheel Group considers that the wheel park facility will bring many benefits to the local community.

### 15.1 Overall Demand

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The demand is clear from the higher than normal response to the community survey in the feasibility study. Other similar projects usually attract 300 responses. Banchory Skate Park (recently approved lease had 530 responses) and Ellon had 874. We also have 26 letters of support from school, community groups, local businesses and organisations, Police Scotland and several council services.

Letters of support were received from Ythan Sports Community hub, Ythan Community Council, Ythan Valley Rotary, Ythan Trythan triathlon club, refugee resettlement group (New Scots), Scottish Cycling, Breeze - Scottish Cycling, Slains Primary School, Ellon Community Council, Ythan Sports Hub Coordinator, Ellon Rotary, Ellon Boys Brigade, Ellon Civic Pride, Fortrie farms, Ellon Hillwalking Club, Lawrence Milne, Nestrans, The Coffee Apothecary, Scottish Adventure, Ellon Primary School, Scottish Cycling Coach, Aberdeenshire Council – infrastructure services, Formartine area manager, MSP Gillian Martin, Ellon Councillor Isobel Davidson, Ellon Police, Local Active Schools.

### 15.2 Economic Development

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Currently the open space in Gordon Park is an informal grassy area and our project will upgrade this to a £750k wheeled sports hub which will meet the town's wheeled sports needs for the next generation.

By acting as the lead in this project the Group hopes to secure just over three quarters of a million pounds and the project will only proceed if this funding is secured. If secured this means the council will not have to consider any funding towards wheeled sports in Ellon for the foreseeable future reducing any call on the council's capital budget. In addition, by transferring the lower part of Gordon Park this removes the cost burden of the council maintaining the area within the boundary of the existing paths.

The proposed facilities will be free of charge to use with the only costs being, a voluntary membership scheme and if individuals elect to be instructed or receive enhanced training and coaching at the facility. **All schools will be given access at**

**no charge. Anyone** will be able to **use the facilities for free** which resonates with the council's equality and inclusion aspirations for offering accessible facilities. The schools will be able to use the area for bikeability sessions rather than having to rely on their own restricted areas in their playgrounds. The circuit provides a safe traffic free area where the children can learn how to ride in a road environment before heading out on open roads.

### 15.3 Environmental wellbeing

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It also meets the council and Scottish Government's aspirations for facilities to move towards **reducing our carbon footprint**. This will be achieved in the construction process by using locally sourced materials reducing the number of road miles as well as eliminating the need for local Ellon residents having to travel to other similar facilities in Aberdeen, Inverness and Edinburgh.

The wheel park also fits in with the Integrated Travel Town strategy for Ellon by providing safe traffic free facilities for those who want to learn or relearn how to cycle before venturing out on the shared path network or onto the roads with other traffic. With the cost of motoring and the environmental impact of motoring increasing more and more people will look for cheaper ways to travel and by providing facilities such as this people can learn to ride bikes safely before venturing out on the open road.

The facility will help create a culture where sustainable active travel is an integral part of society and improve the travel habits of the people in Ellon.

### 15.4 Public health

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It is well known that obesity is a major issue in Scotland and providing a wide range of sports that are open to everyone promotes an active lifestyle which can help reduce the issues around obesity.

As well as enhancing physical fitness, sport is strongly tied to mental wellbeing. Cycling, skating and scooting are well known to be a release from the day to day worries of life while concentrating on learning skills and feeling the adrenaline of physical activity.

Ellon has a range of well-established sports but not everyone is attracted to those. By allowing people to choose cycling, skating, scooting etc this park will help more people develop an active lifestyle. We plan to work in collaboration with others (public/ private/3rd sector) in the community to provide facilities for the people of Ellon who want to do more than the mainstream team-based sports.

This facility will provide a fun outside area for youths to meet friends and partake in exercise and learn skills in a non-competitive environment just riding bikes or skating if they want.

This facility will help to increase levels of participation in sport and activity that will in turn improve physical and mental health.

## 15.5 Social Wellbeing

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The facility will be built to an excellent quality and designed for multiple wheeled active sport disciplines and multiple skill levels. It will create a vibrant area and facility that has been missing in Ellon and is needed to help develop our youth, encouraging active lifestyles rather than hanging around and being attracted to anti-social activities through boredom.

In the letter of support from Mark Young, Formartine Police Inspector, he states ***"There are many positives which would come from providing these facilities and they would have a positive effect on reducing anti-social behaviour and also improve the health and wellbeing of the local community"***

Women and girls, ethnic groups and socially deprived members of the community are not well represented in cycling. These facilities have had the support of groups such as; Breeze, Belles on Bikes and New Scots who are trying to redress this balance and will use these facilities to enhance what they are already doing. Breeze and Belles on Bikes provide cycle training for women in a safe women-only environment which can help bring more women out on bikes who may not be comfortable in mixed groups. The local cycle club have run initiatives such as coaching session for Syrian refugees and E-bike days to get beginners onto bikes. This facility will allow these initiatives to expand and grow.

As the park will be free to use, household income will be no barrier to using the facility. The Scottish Government and Sustrans are already working with Ellon

academy to pilot the free bikes for all project in Ellon. This facility will allow these free bike to be used in a safe environment.

Disabled access will be factored into the design process to make the new facilities as inclusive as possible. The facility will be safe for those with disabilities and additional support needs to engage and enjoy wheeled activities alongside their peers. The cycle circuit will allow wheelchair racing on a flat surface. It will be inclusive and accessible to everyone.

## 15.6 Regeneration

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This facility will help Ellon town community development. This is a unique facility – an attraction to bring in others to come and spend the day in Ellon on their bikes, boards, scooters and skates. In turn this will bring income to the local shops and businesses/enterprises. Money spent in town flips 5/6 times and so helps the local Ellon economy thrive. The facility will have a positive economic impact.

This facility is something different and exciting for our town. It provides a facility for use for all groups and will encourage diversity in wheeled sports. Our project ties in with Breeze, Belles on Bikes, New Scots, new cyclists and experienced cyclists. The facility will allow 'turn up and try' events (like the successful E-bike day) to be run for those just starting who need to develop confidence on a bike and for those who want to expand their technical abilities. The design of the park will allow beginners and experts to hone their skills on bikes, scooters and skates.

Because it is unique to have all these facilities in one place this will be part of Ellon's ambitions to become a tourist attraction. There is a burgeoning adventure/adrenaline sports tourism industry growing. Skateboarders for instance will regularly travel to areas to skate the parks that are clustered in an area, especially if they are well built and offer something different from other parks. The wheel group have been in discussions with other skate parks being built in Aboyne, Banchory and Dyce about marketing the area as a network of parks.

Ellon's popular pedal car race day run by the Rotary club and Ythan Cycle Club could be run at this facility in the future. This will allow the main streets of Ellon to be open again on the Sunday morning and make it easier to run a very complex day of activities in a safe area with a great track where people will be able to see all the action. Discussions have started with the Rotary club on how this could be arranged.

The project will provide new training facilities for cycle and triathlon clubs and help those clubs provide more events and develop and grow.

Ythan Cycle Club volunteers coach youth sessions on a Saturday morning with currently 45 youths regularly attending. This number is restricted due to the lack of facilities and there is a waiting list for other youths to join.

This facility will allow the clubs to increase the diversity of the coaching they do and allow them to grow.

## 16 Financial Assessment

The following Financial Assessment outlines the income and expenditure associated with operating and running the park, and with delivering the sports and community-based activities listed in this plan. Whilst opportunities may exist for volunteer support, and for revenue funding, modelling the viability using “actual” costs ensures the risk of not achieving, or losing funding streams is not critical to the project.

### 16.1 Access & Pricing

Through community consultation, it is clear that there is a strong desire for the facilities in Ellon to be free of charge for all users. This was reflected in the survey responses, and qualitative comments. A free to use facilities would also support delivery of the objectives and strategies listed within this report, ensuring the greatest benefit for the widest user groups. In addition, this would help the project meet the requirements of major capital funders.

Whilst the facility will be available free to use for casual public use, if instruction and coaching are provided, these will be done so at a cost. For revenue considerations an average session price of £4.00 per hour is assumed.

Our survey evidenced that 66% of those responding would be keen to access paid coaching (through membership or otherwise). This equates to 552 potential regular users. For our financial projections below, our year one assumes a conservative 200 weekly paid users (approximately one third of these).

### 16.2 Income Assumptions

**We have based our income assumptions on other similar facilities although these are either skate parks or pump tracks and do not include cycle circuits.**

**Inverness Skate Park and Pump track -Free access to all casual users.** Self-employed instructors use the facilities charging £5/session per participant to cover their coaching fees. No income is derived by Highland Skate Park Association who fund their operating costs through membership fees. Estimated annual operating costs covering public liability and routine maintenance £1,100/year fully covered through membership fees and one-off events.

**Hawick Pump Track- Free access to all casual users** No formal classes/instruction, Operating costs floodlights, public liability and maintenance £3,200/year. Income generated through local business sponsorship of lights and one-off events income. Operating surplus £1,200

Hawick Community Pump Track	
<b>Income</b>	
Coaching	£1,200.00
Events	£1,000.00
Donations, Grants and Sponsorship	£1,000.00
	<b>£3,200.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Insurance Policies	£500.00
Maintenance and Upkeep	£1,500.00
	<b>£2,000.00</b>
<b>Profit / Loss</b>	<b>£1,200.00</b>

**Kelso Skate Park- Free access to all casual users** Operating costs of £500/year for public liability insurance. Costs met from one -off events income of around £1000/year. No formal coaching/instruction provided.

**Boat of Garten Pump Track- Free access to all casual users** Only open 3 months plan to offer free access to all. Operating costs projected surplus at £900/year

<b>Boat of Garten Pump Track</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Coaching 20 one off coaching classes Unpaid instructors	£400.00
Events	£1,000.00
Donations, Grants and Sponsorship	£500.00
	<b>£1,900.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Maintenance and Upkeep	£1,000.00
Floodlighting if prepaid card used this will be a net zero cost	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Profit / Loss</b>	<b>£900.00</b>

#### **Banchory Skate Park – Projection, Not built yet**

<b>Banchory Skate Park</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Events	£1,200.00
Donations, Grants and Sponsorship	£1,500.00
	<b>£2,700.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Insurance Policies	£500.00
Maintenance	£1,000.00
Landscaping and Regular Upkeep	£500.00
	<b>£2,000.00</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>£700.00</b>

#### **Class Income**

In considering the class numbers listed above (200 users per week in Year 1), this would generate **£32,000** across the 40 term weeks. We have factored in poor weather impact for approximately 12 weeks/year. This is increased in the five-year projections in line with participant growth, and the inclusion of Skateboarding from

Year 3. Ythan Cycle Club currently charges children £3/ session without the use of bespoke facilities.

At the moment there are approximately 45 children taking part in these cycle training sessions for one hour on a Saturday morning. Of the £3, £1 is allocated for the development of the wheel park and £2 is set aside for coaching development and other club costs. For the wheel park this generates an annual income of (£1 X 45 children X 40 weeks = £1,800).

Once the facility is built, and in use, the cost per session will increase to £4 with £2 being allocated to the upkeep of the wheel park. This would effectively double the income to £3,600 (even without any increase in children). It should be noted that this is still a relatively small cost for sports training but allows those on lower incomes to participate.

There is a current waiting list for children who wish to take part in sessions and with the building of the park it will allow this

The increase to 200 children per week is based up Ythan CC doubling the sessions immediately to two hours per week instead of one. By having the cycle circuit this opens up the facility to road cycle coaching sessions and training sessions by TrYthan triathlon club.

Therefore, there are no anticipated issues over charging for future coaching/instruction at the new facilities.

Whilst the facility will be available free to use for casual public use, if instruction and coaching are provided, these will be done so at a cost. For revenue considerations an average session price of £4.00 per hour is assumed.

Our survey evidenced that 66% of those responding would be keen to access paid coaching (through membership or otherwise). This equates to 552 potential regular users. For our financial projections below, our year one assumes a conservative 200 weekly paid users (approximately one third of these).

#### **Events & Competitions**

The Park will provide an opportunity for the Group to run events and competitions. Across most sports, events provide a key opportunity for funding. This report

assumes 5 events per year with a net revenue of £500 each. This will generate **£2,500** per year. As the events become more established, there may be the potential to increase the revenue through sponsorship, increased entries, capacity etc.

### **Fundraising & Grants**

The Club should actively continue to seek grant funding. Noting the intention to deliver community-based activity, and work in partnership with Schools, Police Scotland and other public bodies, a number of funding streams would be appropriate. For this plan a conservative income of **£2,500** per year has been assumed. The type of grants applied for could be for staging one off events which in themselves could raise some income.

An example if this is the Go-Ride funding grants currently available from Scottish Cycling for clubs to run entry level races, or Breeze funding for coaching classes for women only.

### **Membership Fees**

Following the successful delivery of this project, the group may look to seek more significant revenue funding to cover the costs of maintaining the facilities and creating a sinking fund. One option might be to offer a membership fee. Our survey results showed that 544 respondents indicated they would be interested in taking out membership. The average suggested annual fee was £23/year for adults and £11/year for juniors. If a conservative number 75 adults and 75 juniors took out a membership this could generate £2,550 removing any reliance of small future grant aid.

At this point no decision has been made around membership fees so it has not been included in the projected income but it is a viable option.

### **Holiday Camps Net Income**

The projected numbers for classes in this report relate to the 40-week academic term time. The Group should organise school holiday programmes, assessing and scheduling each to deliver a variety of activities and events. This report assumed a net income of **£1,500** per year from these programmes.

## **16.3 Expenditure Assumptions**

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### **Coaching Hours**

This report assumes a coaching ratio of 1 coach to 8 participants across all classes. In paying coaches an hourly rate of £15 per hour, the cost of delivering the sessions above is **£15,000** in the first year. These increase accordingly as the number of participants increase and are noted accordingly in the five-year projection.

### **Supported Spaces**

In recognising the cost of classes as a barrier to participation, this study has considered the provision of 10% of its spaces free of charge. To recognise this as an investment to the community it is represented as a cost to the group in the financial projections at 10% of class income. This equates to **£3,200** in year one, increasing in line with income in the subsequent five-year projection.

### **Coach Training**

A significant part of the Club's Development plan should focus on coach development and the qualification of sufficient coaches to meet the increasing numbers, and level of participants across the five years. This report assumes a year one cost **£1,500** for courses and associated expenses. This then reduces and levels out in the following years. Future funding may also be available to reduce this cost and should be considered by the group on an on-going basis.

### **Free School Coaching Sessions**

The development of the Club notes a proposition to deliver school sessions on site. The delivery of school sessions will promote the sport and support local schools in delivering their health and physical activity objectives. Noting the challenges around school budgets, it is assumed that this will be delivered at a cost to the Club as part of wider social benefit.

As demonstrated through letters of support (Appendix Two) three local primary schools and the Active Schools Lead have been engaged at this early stage and are fully supportive of the project as a welcome facility for local pupils.

There will be no cost to the schools for these sessions. This report assumes four coaching hours per week across 18 weeks (spring and summer term). This equates to a cost of **£1,080** per year.

This is a cost benefit to the schools rather than an income to the park but these sessions will generate more interest in the club sessions and therefore increase income in line with the coaching/training projections.

**Administration Costs**

Consideration should be given to the administrative requirement of operating the club, and as such, resources should be adequately planned for this. It is assumed that initial requirement of 0.5 working days per week would be required (48 weeks per year). This would be supported by volunteer time (0.5 days per week unpaid). This equates to a cost of **£2,400** per year, increasing to a full day per week in line with club growth and the addition of the skate park programme from year three. Tasks to be considered within this role include but are not limited to:

- Membership management (and registering members with Scottish Cycling)
- Membership fees, payment reconciliation, banking and record keeping
- Scheduling classes, class registers, data management etc.
- Organising and scheduling coaching hours
- Responding to enquiries
- Managing club social media and website
- Reviewing opportunities for funding.

We have no IT costs as volunteers will manage our website and no HR costs as we are not employing staff. We have an accountant on the committee so minimal costs for preparing annual accounts.

**Insurances**

In taking on the lease or ownership of the site, Ythan Cycle Club will require to hold all relevant insurances. This report assumes that Coaches will be insured for activity through governing body membership and therefore the group will require public liability only. This has been assumed at **£750** based on comparable projects.

**Club and Coach Registration (Scottish Cycling)**

Many Sports Governing Bodies require an annual membership fee for clubs, and for coaches. This report assumes there will be a club fee, and that the club will meet the costs of any individual coaches’ fees. A budget of **£500** per year is

assumed, increasing over five years as the club size grows. This fee is already paid for by Ythan CC through Scottish Cycling and Cycling UK.

**Landscaping**

The Group will require to undertake regular landscaping and tidying work on the site. **Whilst this will be delivered predominantly by volunteers**, a cost of £200 per month is considered for equipment and / or the need to engage grass cutting services etc. This equates to a cost of **£2,400** per year.

**Maintenance & Repairs**

The construction methods outlined in this report indicate a low maintenance park. However, a budget of **£500** for small repairs to edging, landscape, ancillary facilities etc. In procuring the tracks, an appropriate warrantee period will be included which will reduce the cost of maintenance in the initial years. For larger future repairs or replacements, a significant sinking fund is proposed and outlined below.

**Depreciation / Sinking Fund**

In recognising there may be a need to return the site to “as found when lease was granted” the group will ensure its depreciation is taken into account. Creating a sinking fund ring fences funds for the eventual replacement of part or all of the capital elements of the project, or reinstating the site to its previous condition. This plan assumes that 50% of operating profits is allocated to this fund. This is projected to be around **£5,585** after year 1, or 50% of whatever the operating profit is for each year, and increases across the subsequent years.

**16.4 Summary of Financial Viability**

The following table summarises the annual financial position of this project based on the income and expenditure assumptions. Having conservatively estimated the projected income and expenditure in year one, if no further growth is experienced, the project will still be financially viable and sustainable year one year. It is the Group’s intention however to continually market, develop and promote the facility widely and is therefore anticipated that this will become a cycling and wheeled sports hub serving Ellon and its surrounding communities, meeting the growth in user numbers cited within this report:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
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Preschool	£ 3,840	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 5,120	£ 5,120
P1-4 Cycling	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 5,120	£ 5,120
P1-4 BMX	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 5,120	£ 5,120
P1-4 Skateboarding			£ 2,560	£ 2,560	£ 3,840
P5-7 Cycling	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 6,400	£ 6,400
P5-7 BMX	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 6,400	£ 6,400
P5-7 Skateboarding			£ 2,560	£ 2,560	£ 3,840
Teen Cycling	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 6,400	£ 6,400
Teen BMX	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 6,400	£ 6,400
Teen Skateboarding			£ 2,560.	£ 2,560	£ 3,840
Adult Cycling	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 5,120	£ 5,120
Adult BMX	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 5,120	£ 5,120
Adult Skateboarding			£ 1,280	£ 2,560	£ 2,560
Performance Cycling	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 5,120	£ 5,120
Performance BMX	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 5,120	£ 5,120	£ 5,120
Performance Skateboarding			£ 1,280.	£ 2,560	£ 2,560
Girls Only Session	£ 2,560	£ 3,840	£ 3,840	£ 3,840	£ 3,840
Events & Competitions	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
Fundraising & Grants	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
Holiday Camp Net Income	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£ 38,500</b>	<b>£ 52,580</b>	<b>£ 76,900</b>	<b>£ 84,580</b>	<b>£ 88,420</b>

Coaching Hours (For Above)	£ 15,000	£ 21,600	£ 33,000	£ 36,600	£ 38,400
Free Spaces (10%)	£ 3,200	£ 4,608	£ 7,040	£ 7,808	£ 8,192
Coach Training	£ 1,500	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 500	£ 500
Coaching - School Use	£ 1,080	£ 1,080	£ 1,080	£ 1,080	£ 1,080
Administratio n Costs	£ 2,400	£ 2,400	£ 4,800	£ 4,800	£ 4,800
Insurances	£ 750	£ 750	£ 750	£ 750	£ 750
Coach & Club Registration	£ 500	£ 700	£ 900	£ 900	£ 900
Landscaping	£ 2,400	£ 2,400	£ 2,400	£ 2,400	£ 2,400
Maintenance & Repairs	£ 500	£ 500	£ 500	£ 500	£ 500
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 27,330</b>	<b>£ 35,038</b>	<b>£ 51,470</b>	<b>£ 55,338</b>	<b>£ 57,522</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<b>£ 11,170</b>	<b>£ 17,542</b>	<b>£ 25,430</b>	<b>£ 29,242</b>	<b>£ 30,898</b>
Depreciation / Sinking Fund (50%)	£ 5,585	£ 8,771	£ 12,715	£ 14,621	£ 15,449
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>£ 5,585</b>	<b>£ 8,771</b>	<b>£ 12,715</b>	<b>£ 14,621</b>	<b>£ 15,449</b>

## 17 Marketing & Promotion

### 17.1 Overview

Regardless of the scale of a project, marketing is an essential part of good management practice. It is a process of identifying user needs, wants, and wishes, and satisfying them. Community, sport and leisure services and facilities depend on satisfied user, especially where the local residents support and involvement is both fundamental in instigating a project, and essential for its on-going success.

By definition, marketing involves creating appropriate goods and services and matching them to market requirements. Therefore, far from being just about selling, marketing is from the beginning an integral part of the process. In the first instance, this report has demonstrated a marketing centric focus in that it has considered the following:

- Identification of target market, population, and local trends.
- Assessment of current provision.
- Assessment of need and market research through consultation with current and potential users throughout the community.

## 17.2 Communications & Promotion Strategy

The following is a proposed marketing actions plan specific to the development of a wheeled sports park in Ellon and should be considered in particular where a sport specific group is identified or developed to support the park's development. It should be considered that success will be measured in the level of usage and the overall satisfaction of all key stakeholders. As a result, the following strategy is set to promote and highlight the facilities to all potential users both locally and from surrounding communities.

	Task Details	Timeframe	Costs	Responsibility
1	Develop website highlighting the new facilities – incorporate user testimonials and photographs.	One Off	Free	Ellon Wheel Park Group
2	Use promotional space in partnership with local user	Periodically	Free	Ellon Wheel Park Group

	groups and organisations to promote the expansion to the facilities.			
3	Use existing social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) and investigate further social media options and promotional opportunities to highlight the new facilities amongst target audiences.	On-going	Free	Ellon Wheel Park Group
4	Press Releases: Further engage with local media to promote the improvements to the facilities and its relevance to the community.	On-going	Free	Ellon Wheel Park Group
5.	Explore the possibility of running events –races, agility tests, skate jams, and community fun days.	Periodically	Cost covered	Ellon Wheel Park Group

## 18 Risk Management & Mitigation

### 18.1 Business Risk Register

The full risk register on the following page outlines the risk and mitigations across all areas of developing and operating this project. The levels of risk are summarised in the following Risk Matrix.

Probability Factor	5					
	4				3	
	3		1	2	4	
	2		3		2	
	1		1		1	
		1	2	3	4	5
Impact Factor						

Ellon Wheel Park		Business Risk Register				Date: September 2021	
		Risk Categories:		0-8 Low Risk	9-17 Medium Risk	18-25 High Risk	
Risk Area	Risk Identified (Describe the risk to be managed)	Probability Factor (1-5, with 5 being most probable)	Impact Factor (1-5, with 5 being most severe)	Risk Ranking (probability x impact = probability)	Risk Management (How the risk will be managed)	Risk Responsibility (Describe who will be responsible for managing the identified risk)	Risk Monitoring
1.0 Strategic							
1.1	Lack of Business Plan and Feasibility Study	2	4	8	This feasibility study has demonstrated a robust and sustainable business model, as well as significant demand for the project. In working with local consultants to deliver this facility, a strong business case has been tested and identified prior to the funding and development stage of the project.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Initial preparation of business plan with reviews annually or in response to changing key personnel.
1.2	No long-term Development Strategy	1	4	4	This has been addressed initially within this Plan but longer term an enhanced development plan will be adopted for the new facilities and their impact to all user groups and the wider community.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Annually or when there are changes to Parks staff involved in the project.
1.3	Business Continuity Management Plan	3	2	6	It is recognised that there is limited annual overheads with the income generated through coaching, instruction and events covering the operating costs.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Reviewed annually or considering significant changes to financial obligations.
1.4	Health and Safety and Regulatory issues	3	2	6	There should be little or no risk as the full design will be constructed in line with all health and safety requirements. All appropriate inspections and relevant	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Focus during and after construction with policies and procedures reviewed periodically.

					maintenance costs have been included within the operational considerations.		
1.5	Convincing the funding bodies that you have a robust business case for obtaining their investment	3	4	12	This Feasibility Study, alongside the evident successes of the group so far will strongly support the case to obtaining funding from the identified funding bodies. In particular the improved access to healthy outdoor activity for young people, and the links to improving quality of life will resonate with funding objectives. Scottish Cycling and <b>sportscotland</b> have already been engaged as the main capital funder, and the project meets their requirements. Given this, it is likely that the project will meet other smaller funders' eligibility, as has been proven in other similar wheeled sports projects.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	One off
<b>2.0 Operational Risks</b>							
2.1	Ensuring effective use of new facilities.	3	4	12	The proposed facilities will cater for various user groups; therefore, it is essential that effective usage be promoted to ensure the facility is enjoyed by, and benefits, the largest potential user base.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	On-going.
2.2	Dealing with any Planning related issues including traffic management and car parking issues	2	2	4	It is not foreseen that there will be many planning issues relating to the development of the skate park. However, the final design should take all consideration of advice and recommendations accordingly.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	On-going throughout the planning stage.
2.3	Trying to meet the needs of different user groups within the physical constraints of the facility.	3	4	12	The local group are keen to ensure the facilities provided cater for skate boarding (skate park) and cycling (small pump track) and both facilities are fully inclusive.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Key to the initial planning stages of the design.

2.4	Facility Maintenance Plans	3	3	9	As outlined in this report, the delivery of a concrete moulded facility will significantly reduce the requirement for significant maintenance. However, the cost of both preventative and reactive maintenance must be considered to ensure any unforeseen issues do not risk the financial viability of the project.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Review annually
4.0 Financial Risks							
4.1	Not securing adequate capital funding	3	4	12	<p>Scottish Cycling and <b>sportscotland</b> have already been engaged as the main capital funder, and the project meets their requirements. Given this, it is likely that the project will meet other smaller funders' eligibility, as has been proven in other similar wheeled sports projects.</p> <p>Due to pressure on all funders, the Group have made the decision that the project will be phased to maximise their chances in succeeding in smaller tranches.</p>	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Dependent on tenders received
5.0 Political/External Risks							
5.1	Relationship to wider community	3	3	9	The Group must work to establish a positive relationship with the local and wider community paying specific attention to alleviate and support through any disruption caused because of the construction work on site.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Frequent monitoring required through duration of construction.
5.3	Securing adequate Community Support for the new facilities	2	4	8	This has been adequately demonstrated through the community survey.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Noted.
6.0 Reputation/Image							
6.1	Media Relations	4	4	16	It is important to utilize the local media throughout the project to keep local communities updated and to encourage local interest. Post construction, it is vital to use the media where possible to	Ellon Wheel Park Group	On-going and frequent throughout the project work with reviews annually thereafter.

					capture events, successes and stories that will promote the facility.		
6.2	Branding and Public Profile	4	4	16	There is an important opportunity to market facilities to potential user groups throughout the surrounding areas, ultimately increasing the awareness and presence in the local community.	Ellon Wheel Park Group	Monitored frequently throughout the project construction phase and annually thereafter.

## 18.2 Wheeled Sports Risk Assessment

Ellon Wheel Park		Facility Risk Assessment			Date: September 2021	
Risk Categories:		0-8 Low Risk	9-17 Medium Risk	18-25 High Risk		
Risk Area	Risk Identified (Describe the risk to be managed)	Probability Factor (1-5, with 5 being most probable)	Impact Factor (1-5, with 5 being most severe)	Risk Ranking (probability x impact = probability)	Risk Management (how the risk will be managed)	Risk Responsibility (describe who will be responsible for managing the identified risk)
Injury or Accident as a result of using park features.	Significant risk of injury from minor or severe resulting from Falls Slips Collisions	4	4	16	<p>Intital construction and design process to consider mittigation of risk through appropriate layout, adeqaute experience and effective flow.</p> <p>Design, construction and maintenance to be carried out by experienced, wheeled sports park specific contactors.</p> <p>Adeqaute signage in place to encourage safe use, direction of use, recommended safety equipment and parent supervision where appropriate.</p> <p>Adequate lighting available.</p> <p>Sufficient emergency access to all areas of the park.</p> <p>Landscpaing to reduce drops from the top or behind the top of ramps, bowls and other features.</p>	Ellon Wheel Park Group

Missues or damage to park	Risk of damage to the facility resulting in: Increased risk of injury Unsuitable surface for skating etc. Cost incurred by group to repair or replace surface or feature.	3	4	12	Development of the park promoted as community led project from the beginning. Adequate lighting Regular checks by operating committee. Promotion of good working relationship between operating committee and user groups.	Ellon Wheel Park Group
Conflicting user groups: - Age group - Activity	Increased risk of injury from wide age range sharing facility. Increased risk of injury from variety of activities sharing the facility. Increased risk of exposing younger users to unsuitable language and behaviour.	3	4	12	Development and promotion of a “rules of the park” notice board highlighting the need to respectable behaviour, language and effective sharing of space. Where possible, grouping of features by complexity and difficulty in the design process. Where possible, grouping of features by likely uses (BMX, skate etc) in the design process.	Ellon Wheel Park Group

## 19 SWOT Analysis

A SWOT Analysis provides an at a glance summary of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the project.

### Strengths

- The Ellon Wheel Park Project is led by a partnership of strong competent groups with a wide range of professional and business skills
- The partnership has a good reputation within the community as well as support from local councillors and Aberdeenshire Council
- They have a significant number of wheeled sports users in the area and good community support for their project as detailed in the consultation.
- The multi-use aspect of the proposed facility will strengthen the case for its development, ensure best value for money, and efficient use of resources.
- The proposed site has sufficient space to meet the needs of all three key elements of the project.
- The proposed site is an existing recreational site, therefore meeting all appropriate planning policies.
- The proposed site appears initially favourable with the local authority for a lease or asset transfer.
- The project aligns with a number of local and regional strategies.
- The project, when phased, is fundable through Scottish Cycling, Scottish Communities Landfill Fund, and several other funders.
- The project reduces the carbon footprint associated with the travel currently required to make use of facilities further afield in Aberdeen.
- Scottish Cycling and **sportscotland** have already been engaged as the main capital funder, and the project meets their requirements. Given this, it is likely that the project will meet other smaller funders' eligibility, as has been proven in other similar wheeled sports projects.
- Aberdeenshire Council have approved our expression of interest for applying to the Place Based Investment Fund

### Weaknesses

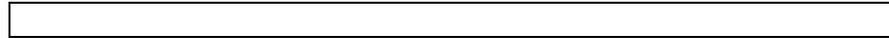
- Aberdeenshire Council has not yet agreed a lease/community asset transfer
- The project will require to make a planning application
- The Group are aware that the demand on capital funding is high, and therefore all applications will require to be robust and strongly align with the funder's eligibility criteria and objectives.

### Opportunities

- The Group has identified a good location for the proposed new Wheeled Sports facility
- They are discussing a long-term lease/community asset transfer from Aberdeenshire Council
- The project has the opportunity to create a Wheeled Sports facility for Ellon and other surrounding communities.
- The Groups plan will support both participation and performance in both sports, based on an existing core membership with clear growth potential.
- Once build, this will become a venue for a range of Wheeled Sports coaching initiatives and one-off events.
- The facility will attract users from out with Ellon, bringing a positive economic impact to the town through secondary spend.
- Opportunities exist for links to Active Schools and other local health and sports initiatives.

### Threats

- Poor weather is always a factor in providing an outdoor facility – in particular around the feasibility of events, and the business planning for year-round use.
- Lack of adequate capital funding may limit the scale or scope of the project.
- Changes to the funding landscape may require a review of the available capital and the project's feasibility at a later date.
- Succession of Coach provision and competent Board Members must be addressed to ensure sustainability for future years, and the capacity to meet the projected user numbers.
- The threat of facility miss-use and anti-social behaviour should be considered in planning stage.



## 20 Project Timeline

The following is an indicative outline of the process and timescales in moving this project forward:

- **October 2021 – March 2022:** Work on Lease, Project Specifications, Submission of Planning Application and update of Group Policies
- **October 2021 – June 2022:** Capital funding applications
- **April 22:** Submission of **sportscotland** application
- **On receipt of capital funding awards:** Tendering and Procurement
- **September 2022:** Commence Construction.

## 21 Recommendations

The study proposes the following recommendations to support the further development of the Wheel Sports Park towards fruition in Ellon:

1. It is recommended that Ellon Wheel Park Group engage Aberdeenshire Council to formally progress a lease of the land with a minimum term of 10 years but preferably 20 years at £1/year.
2. It is recommended that Ellon Wheel Park Group agrees to the proposed phasing of the project.
3. It is recommended that a specification for each phase be prepared along with a tender evaluation framework.
4. It is recommended that an open tendering exercise is conducted for a design and build contract through Public Contracts Scotland to provide more accurate costings and designs.
5. On receipt of tenders, a tender evaluation meeting should be held to select a preferred contractor. At this point a contract cannot be awarded, but a preferred contractor can be approved.
6. It is recommended that, using the preferred contractor's design, a full planning application is submitted to Aberdeenshire Council which should also include floodlights provision.

7. It is recommended that Ellon Wheel Park Group, in partnership with Ythan Cycle Club, progress their application to the sportscotland / Scottish Cycling Facilities Fund, working with sportscotland to complete a detailed online application in anticipation of a formal submission in April 2022.
8. It is recommended that the Group considers grant applications to funders identified within this report at the appropriate time, in line with the funding plan to be agreed.
9. It is recommended that the Group should also continue to undertake fundraising and seek donations to meet the contribution outlined in the funding structure within this report.
10. It is recommended the Ellon Wheel Park Group engage the services of a Project Manager to support the above and assist with the delivery of the project on site.

### 22.1 Appendix One: Survey Comments

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#### Positive / Supportive

- A fantastic idea, that would absolutely be used.
- A really wonderful facility and much needed
- A safe place for the community kids would be lovely
- A town the size of Ellon is long overdue such a facility, I mean even Pitmedden has one! Fully supportive of these plans, the children need something to do and somewhere to go to do it.
- Aberdeen / shire has been crying out for a pump track, there are no similar facilities anywhere in the area
- About time more wheeled sports were provided for in Ellon. Good Survey and fingers crossed
- Access to facilities that help develop skills for extreme sports / competitive cycling in the immediate area and overall, in the northeast is pretty poor. Without local facilities it becomes difficult to create equitable opportunities that encourage progression and development in wheeled sports for all. Facilities could also be utilised by various community groups and coaches to raise the profile and develop youth talent in these sports, without the need to travel constantly.
- After visiting Lochgelly and seeing how popular it is and how good a facility it is the area should get one. Also, promotion of BMX since it's in the Olympics is a great idea
- Any activity that promotes outside exercise must be welcomed & supported by all Ellon & District Age Groups
- As a member of EPIC, I back ANY positive change for our children. Any addition to our area will only bring positivity and people to Ellon. It's time we made a change!
- As a safety case let alone exercise this is much needed.
- Badly needed facility for all ages.
- Best of luck to you all for this worthy and much-needed venture!
- building this in the centre of Ellon will be such a boost.
- Currently there are no facilities for children and young people to safely ride and this causes issues within the town. Providing somewhere safe

and if interest will help with giving the children and young people somewhere to go.

- Ellon is in desperate need of further development to provide facilities for youths and to bring us in line with other villages which are smaller yet already have such provisions
- Excellent idea to provide youngsters and adults with a wheeled sports park which will complement the Meadows Sports Centre. Not all kids enjoy team sports, but this will cater for kids who enjoy a wide variety of individual wheeled sports and want to improve their skills in a safe environment.
- "From a professional point of view (I work in the cycling world!) I think this facility would be hugely beneficial to Ellon and the surrounding areas. There is a big need for us, as a nation, to make a greater switch from the car to our bikes, and this facility will provide many opportunities for cycle training and confidence building, which in turn will help people in making that switch.
- In addition to these opportunities, it will also embed a strong cycle ethos into the local community and will be a great asset to the town."
- Get it done :-)
- Good idea for supporting youngsters in our area.
- Good luck
- Good luck
- Good luck wholly support this facility not just for children but elderly (60+) wheelers to have a facility for regular weekly training.
- Good luck!
- Good luck.
- Great idea
- Great idea for the town
- Great idea.
- Great idea. Ellon needs something like this.
- Great idea. Let's do it!
- Great initiative and something positive for Ellon. We'll done
- Great way to encourage physical activity for all ages.
- Great work. What a bonus it would be for the town
- Having spent the last few years having to travel to various locations throughout Scotland to access skateparks a good one so close to home would be extremely welcome. I know that my two would also love the bike track for BMX and may be encouraged to try road bikes too

- Hope to see this happen as there's a severe lack of this kind of facility in the shire, good luck.
- I feel this would be a real attraction to Ellon
- I fully support the idea of a wheeled park in Ellon. My 7-year daughter and 4-year son love to visit parks in neighbouring towns and we take my daughter to transition weekly for lessons. Having something closer will build her confidence and allow her to carry out her chosen activity out with formal 'lessons'!
- I look after looked after children and it depends on the age group that I have but all the children I have been given bikes
- I love going to new skatepark and pump track
- "I personally know of young people in their teens who no longer travel to Knockburn and further a field for cycle coaching.
- If, as a society and community, we wish to keep teens active, which in turn will keep them active as adults, thereby putting less pressure on health (physical and mental) health services, then we should be willing to provide facilities. Instead, all the rhetoric, action is required. "
- I think a dedicated facility for 'wheels' in the North East would be hugely beneficial for training, racing, and encouraging new riders.
- I think it would be a brilliant facility to have in Ellon that would be very well used. I know my husband and children would love it and would use it all the time!
- I think it would be a great facility for people to get on their bikes in a safe environment and to encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- I think it would be great to have something like this in Ellon. My child is getting older and may not get much use of it but plenty of kids in Ellon will use it.
- I think it's a great idea and would be a good facility for children, local to Ellon and otherwise.
- I think it's a great idea for youngsters in the town, it's something that would encourage them to be active and sociable and should be funded by the government as it has health and well-being benefits. It should be free as the poorer kids are probably more needing of such a facility.
- I think this is an excellent idea and to be honest, something the council should have supplied years ago at their expense
- I think this will be an excellent resource for Ellon, with links to the F&B Way and on the route of a proposed long-distance route between Fyvie

- and Newburgh and Council proposals to link Ellon to Aberdeen, Newburgh and Foveran Ellon could be a centre of Cycling Excellence. Good luck!
- I think this will provide families with a much-needed space - our closest wheel sports park is quite a trek away in Tarves. Would be lovely to see occasional skills events being held there too! E.g., skateboarding lessons/ bike confidence.
- I think this would be a great addition to Ellon, an attraction for outsiders and a positive focus for a whole range of people
- I think this would be a great space for teenagers. My children are too young yet.
- It would be a great asset in an area where activities are lacking
- It would be a great edition to the community and give children somewhere to spend time
- It would be an ideal place for children and teenagers to learn and improve on existing skills in a safe environment and not on pavements and roads.
- It's about time the North East had this type of facility to develop future sport stars & save having to travel to the central belt for this kind of facility.
- It's badly needed and I'm sure once it's built it will be easy to fund the external lighting etc by the members who use it
- Let's get it built, it's badly needed!!
- Yes please. Go Build it.
- I think would be great asset for Ellon and surrounding areas. Would mean don't have to commute to Aberdeen to partake in children's activities.
- If you build a skatepark using a recognised concrete skatepark company it will be heavily used by folk throughout Aberdeenshire, everyone is crying out for a change of scenery.
- It is long overdue!! Ellon has a ridiculous number of houses and a massive lack of facilities
- It is very long overdue! My son is now an adult, and this was spoken about years ago when he was a child!! Ellon badly needs this facility
- People are prepared to travel & pay / donate to good facilities. Distance and money are not an issue. Designing them right to be desirable and fulfil their intent is.
- Please
- Please let it be soon!
- Pump tracks can be transformational facilities for a local area. This can only be a good thing for NE Scotland!

- Sounds like a great idea!! My child is a bit young at the moment, but I definitely see him using one in the future!!
- Thanks to all progressing this long overdue project.
- The current provision in all the surrounding villages is lacking or ageing such that they are no longer fit for purpose.
- The local community needs it, it would be a positive edition as long as all can access and not expensive.
- "The more activities there are for youth the less likely they are to get in trouble.
- Also great for health of all who use the park both mentally and physically
- Growing up with a lack of sports facilities in Inverurie and other areas was a real shame.
- More support in this area is needed for young people to have the best chances they can at life "
- The town needs something like this to happen to give the younger ones something to do
- The Ythan Community Sport Hub have recently re-started re-engaging with clubs and partners in the area to develop a plan for the area. At a priority planning meeting in March 2021, it was identified that improving facilities was the top priority for the sporting community locally. This project would make a significant contribution to this.
- Think it would be excellent facility for all
- Think it's a fantastic idea to bring the community together and encourage children for outdoor activities and build their confidence. Can see many children using the skate park at Stonehaven when visiting there.
- Think this is great and much needed for the area, other areas should be considering doing the same. I remember back when BMX was a craze and tracks got built virtually everywhere and I for one song with loads of mates used them all the time so I don't see why we can't have modern places that can be used for all levels of biking/wheeled sports
- Think this would be a safe space for youngsters
- This has been a long time coming, considering smaller villages (pitmeden, old Meldrum, tarves) have skateparks and there are multiple plots of land in Ellon that are screaming for it.
- This is a fantastic opportunity for Ellon - well done to all those involved in getting this going! Keep up the great work!

- This is defiantly needed for the town of Ellon, there is a lack of facilities of this sort for all ages. I'm close to 50 & excited by the prospect of a safe area to skate!
- This is desperately needed in Ellon, children have to have a focus for getting on bikes and enjoying physical exercise outside rather than sitting at a screen.
- This is something that will improve youth wheeled sports in the area. It's about time as we are so far behind the central belt regarding these types of facilities
- This would be great for the area, there is a lack of these facilities in Ellon
- This would be such a boost to help keep our young population, in particular, as active as possible. In the current climate, anything that encourages young people to develop heathy, active pursuits is of benefit to them and our stretched NHS in the long term.
- This would be such a great facility for the North East, not just Ellon. Please make it happen 🙏
- Very much needed considering the amount of people that have taken up these sports over the past year or so.
- We are in need of such facilities so hope it happens soon.
- With the increasing popularity if cycling more facilities for children young and old to train and learn in Aberdeenshire is long overdue.
- Would be a massive benefit to kids, thank. You for organising
- Would be amazing to get a wheeled sports park in Ellon, would definitely be an asset to the town
- Would be great to have this facility and a lot safer environment for users. There is definitely a need for this in this area

#### Design Consideration

- Aberdeenshire has always been full of street skaters and bikers, yet it seems every park that gets built is focused on bowls. Oldmeldrum, Alford, kemnay, Stonehaven, Kincorth, Cults and even the indoor at the beach are all heavily transition based. With the exception of the recent Westburn extension, there is almost nowhere for us to go to skate legally and safely. A plaza style park would be an asset to Ellon and the surrounding area.
- An actual skatepark would be used way more than a pump track
- "As previously mentioned regarding a play park this would be good, with two children of different ages it's hard finding something for both,

however I can also sometimes see the frustration on older kids 10+ who are trying to improve their skills when also trying to dodge children aged 2-5 who may just be playing on the ramps so it would be good to have a couple of sections maybe! My daughter is 4 and enjoys going on her scooter just to go down the ramps but I always feel bad in case she gets in one of the teenagers' ways when they are doing skilled tricks

- Bridge of don and west burn skate parks both have play parks right next to them which is a bonus for all ages
- Westburn has a great skate park layout also compared to others that you see "
- Bad drainage is one of the biggest issues I've seen at good skateparks around Aberdeenshire, so I think proper drainage would greatly improve footfall and hopefully lower cracks brought on by freezing water of the winter months.
- Build a basic facility, that's free to use and can't be easily vandalized
- Consider growth in electric wheeled rides.
- Controlled access or free-for-all?
- Ensure a well-established skatepark builder is contracted and not thrown up by the council. A good mix of transition even a bowl. Also think about the flow of the park. Take Inverness or Livingston as inspiration
- Ensure the design works for all disciplines of wheeled activities. I've been to a few and some pump tracks only work with bikes, i.e., required pedalling. Also, the pumping wasn't enough to keep the momentum on a skateboard.
- "Good luck.
- A clubhouse where refreshments can be sold (to raise funds) and where parents could wait while their kids played.
- Sometimes, these facilities get taken over by young folk as a hangout which can indirectly intimidate others and hence limit its use by all."
- Have free to use outside BBQ stands and plenty of picnic seating areas so family and friends can observe whoever is enjoying the skatepark and have a nice time too
- Have you considered security cameras with everything you guys are putting into it?
- Hopefully it will be very inclusive allowing all age groups to use.
- Hopeman skate park is worth looking at for ideas. Lots of ramps and half pipes. Community built and no graffiti. Far Better than a concrete bowl design

- I feel like a skatepark can be used for a greater number of wheeled sports whereas a pump track isn't as easily accessible
- I recently passed by a similar one in Muir of Ord that had an undercover area. This was very popular with the local kids
- I think this would be a great suggestion. Personally think it should be longer than 600m to be a competitive race circuit for cycling with options to reduce the length. Local clubs would hold races weekly during the usable months
- It should be accessible to all interest groups.
- It should have a spine ramp because that would make it different to other outdoor parks in Aberdeenshire.
- It should have CCTV
- Lighting is essential for year-round use.
- Lights would be good although my kids would only be using them in daylight at the moment.
- Make it worthwhile. A small, basic park won't be used, and it will turn into another area for small kids. The older kids have nothing to do in Ellon so a wheel park that has challenges and plenty to do will attract them. The idea has great potential as long as it's not blocked by a small location therefore size of facility is small, a location along busy roads with poor access for the older kids to get to on their own and nothing else around it.
- Make some weatherproof viewing & waiting areas.
- Make sure it is built by someone good like Velosolutions, who build the best pump tracks
- "I would like to add that CCTV from the start is a must.
- This would mostly cut down on vandalism from occurring but would also give parents of the children using the facilities some security/ piece of mind in the event something did go wrong/happen.
- There has been a history of fire related damage or just mindfulness surrounding skate/wheel parks in the past in Ellon and for it to be a success (which I have no doubt it will be) I would urge that CCTV is fitted. If people have an issue with it – they are up to no good. Simple.
- I would also like to encourage the use of a refill station for water bottles. This should help cut down the potential littering opportunities. If people know to bring a bottle – they are not going to be throwing anything away/down. – You could also sell branded water bottles/ merch to raise running/overhead costs.

- Can I also take the opportunity to request that when the time comes – please don't be afraid to approach local business to ask for funding/donations. The likes of Ellon timber/ Jamison Quarries & even Brewdog have all helped local organisations in the past when it comes to things happening IN Ellon.
- With all that said. Good luck and all the best!"
- I'm undecided about flood lighting. It would ensure the site got maximum use - but it would need to be designed to prevent light pollution to the surrounding area (to the detriment of wildlife and local residents). Some designs fail to take this into account - please do some research and choose a good design.
- In order for teenagers and adults to benefit as well as small children the tracks would need to be long enough to be worthwhile using. Seems a shame to use Gordon Park as it is already used for many things at the moment.
- Install a bicycle repair station similar to what's in Aberdeen, where tools are locked to a wire and can't be stolen.
- Not sure about the floodlights as it might just end up as a youth drinking den
- Parking for those of us who live outside of Ellon.
- Parking in the area isn't ideal.
- Perhaps a sheltered seating area and small cafe with toilet could be incorporated into the design for more inclusivity.
- Please be aware of environmental impact on wildlife and energy use for lights and other machinery. Perhaps consider making totally off grid.
- Please consider future expansion when choosing a site, potentially for a toddler area for balance bikes etc, a refreshment kiosk and loo for us parents that spend hours at the park!
- Please get a shit hot pump track team in. The brand with the red lines!
- Please make a good, smooth concrete skate park with a good variation of street and vert sections and not just an asphalt pump track
- "Preferably toilets available near by
- Flood lights for safety would be excellent
- Somewhere central "
- Road circuit should be wide enough to host races and also be joined to path network on other parts of the park to extend the length of the track for bigger events. This will require the other paths to be widened

- Simple obstacles and design are better than complex, more beginners and skaters will use a simpler park
- The focus should be on a decent/large sized skatepark. I understand the interest around a pump track due to the cycling community in Ellon, however a skatepark has much more longevity and caters to all hobbies (skateboard, BMX, scooter, and bikes). I've been a skateboarder from Ellon for 13 years and have a real interest in bringing a skatepark to Ellon that not only "does the job" but is unique enough for users around Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire and even further to take the time to come and use it
- The skatepark needs to cater to all abilities. It also needs to include street/plaza style architecture as well as traditional transition style elements. Skateboarders should be consulted on the design.
- There should be a road cycling track around the outside even just a nice bit of tarmac
- There should be lighting so that winter use is possible. No charge for lighting given that LED technology allows for low running cost. Lights off at 10pm etc.
- Try and get cycling people involved in the design stage, there is an ideal circuit built down at Lochgelly, in Fife. Try and do the same if possible.
- With the advancement of solar power floodlights could be powered by this, or even a scheme from the energy companies to supply power
- Would it be at all possible to set up a shed area with lockers? Also, could an area be earmarked for a future rental (e.g., skateboards, in line skates, helmets etc.) storage area and cafe, should the park be successful?

#### Site Location Consideration

- Cromleybank better as less non wheeled sports people to interfere or be disturbed.
- Deer Park
- Don't use a present park.
- Gordon Park is the most underutilised park in Ellon
- Gordon Park would be a great central location for this project, but consideration would need to be given to the displaced footballers
- Gordon Park would be a wrong move, too many walkers and dogs
- "I do not think that this is a good use for Gordon Park. This would do away with the football pitch and football should not be played on the Cricket

Square. Under the terms of the gift not the Park to Ellon, the Cricket Club have first priority. The Gordon Park is a fantastic asset to Ellon as an open space for all ages, pets etc. An installation of this sorts needs access to toilets and possibly hot/cold food/drinks.

- No mention is given on who will maintain the facility. The Council have no money and I fear it will soon become a hardly used eyesore. If this is so, who will be responsible for removing all trace and returning the ground to its present condition."
- I don't believe Gordon Park would be a good area due to poor parking, noise etc. I also feel that this project could engage with youths and give them the sense of pride that they are part of this project. Which in turn would help them take responsibilities to want to look after the facility.
- I don't believe the Gordon Park is a suitable location due to the variety of users who also use the park e.g., pedestrians of all ages and it's a main path into town centre. The Park has problems with antisocial behaviour at nights so would probably be destroyed.
- I think anywhere in Ellon (that you don't need a vehicle to get to) would be amazing, this would really benefit the children of our town and also the adults and give families something to do together
- Needs to be at Cromley
- Needs to be central and accessible for youngsters travelling to. If using lighting, worth capping times to ensure that neighbours are not unduly disturbed. Would be good to see more options on this survey to be meaningful to those who may not be looking to use the facility, but would certainly support the need for one (grandparents, etc can be excellent fundraisers lol)
- If the wheeled sports park should be within Ellon, say Gordon Park then the main advantage is ease of access, but would you get kids hanging around the venue in the evenings, arsing about, glass getting broken etc. If it's Cromleybank, towards Ellon Academy then the kids that would head there, are they more focused in using the actual facilities for the purpose they were built for? Either way I'd have to drive or cycle to the venue which is about 10miles from home residence.
- Needs to be somewhere fairly accessible and central, not near main roads would be preferable. The Gordon Park is central and the residents surrounding are used to activities taking place there.
- Not Gordon Park as this is very busy and would be spoiled by changing it.

- Not Gordon Park, as it is a green space for Ellon Gala, firework displays, travelling carnival. It is used as a gathering spot for underage drinkers who constantly smash glass bottles, having the skate park there I think would encourage more of this type of behaviour. The parking around the town centre side of the park (Park rd. / terrace) is bad enough during school drop off/pick up times.
- Please do not ruin Gordon Park for this - the park space is used by a great many people who would have no interest in a wheel park.
- See if the landowner/developer of Cromleybank housing allocation would be interested in contributing to the site/facility as part of upfront developer contributions for their future housing. It would go well next to the academy, possibly encourage more cycling to school and likely attract families from wider than Ellon so there is plenty parking
- Skatepark at the castle park community centre using the old tennis court. Pump track in MacDonald woods
- The children and youth of Ellon and surrounding area would benefit greatly from this park. Gordon Park is a perfect location increasing the overall foot traffic to the site with the existing play parks, courts and sports field making it an overall more populated and hence safer place all, less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviour and vandalising.
- The creation of a wheel park should obviously take into consideration all stakeholders and users of Ellon amenities, particularly those living nearby. If located in Gordon Park, those living adjacent to the park may be adversely affected by the proposed floodlighting, potential noise, and increased footfall. Also taking into consideration Ellon's current problem with youth misbehaviour and vandalism, I am concerned, that the wheel park could become a hangout area for such people to congregate and could prevent users from accessing the facilities. Because of this I think the park needs to be located outside the centre of Ellon.
- The only issue with Gordon Park is vandalism and child safety in the evenings from youths.
- While I fully support the initiative, I do not think the skate park should be built in Gordon Park. Although I understand the appeal of its centralised location, Gordon Park is a well utilised green space and I believe it would be a loss to Ellon if the facilities were placed here. Has utilising a section of the deer park been considered?

## Management & Operational Consideration

- A possible idea would be the fundraise yearly to cover as much as you can to keep membership as low as possible, to keep it available to all or as many as possible. We currently pay for yearly parking for Haddo for example so would buy for this as feel we would use enough across the yr. You might want a daily rate too, for tourist/visitors or so people can try before they buy etc?
- "Absolutely brilliant idea, as there is nothing remotely like this in our area. Travelling to Tarland or Aboyne for a pump park, or Kemnay etc for a skatepark - it is a bit of a deterrent for many. Having a local area for this will be a massive draw and will be used massively with the amount of people already in the sport, not to mention the volume now entering the sport as a result of taking it up recently."
- The only potential downside I could see would be, as with most skatepark/pump tracks, is loitering people using it as a meet up hub with no intention of using the facility properly. Think bored teenagers causing graffiti and litter as seen in many other local towns"
- All potential facilities must be continually open for members of the public and not booked out by the various bike clubs preventing public use. There has been talk of this being a concern if it opens. That it is for the bike clubs more than the general public.
- Anti-graffiti and vandalism precautions to be taken
- Costs would need to be kept low for the park otherwise it becomes something that the kids can only do once a week, rather than every day
- Could also have use and be used for people who are in wheelchairs so they can do stuff to do with it as well
- Discounted Family membership options
- Family membership
- Family Membership should be available to ensure its affordable for everyone. It would also be nice to have separate times for disabled wheeled sports.
- Hopefully this project gets the go ahead, great for young and old. A suggestion for lights would be machine that activates the lights once someone has paid for the 1-hour usage. Inverness skate park has a similar set up for the floodlights.
- I think a reasonable annual cost would be £25 per child. It would only allow me to go up to £20.
- I think it would be worthwhile contacting Seed Skate shop and Transition extreme in Aberdeen to help promote the fund raisers and events on social media or even with surveys as skaters from all over the shire would travel to use a new park and they also have first-hand knowledge of what works and what doesn't when it's comes to skateparks.
- I think it would benefit our younger generation immensely as there is very little for them to do. My only concern would be whether it would be taken care of in light of the number of vandalisms that have been occurring lately
- I think that Ellon needs this, although I know that costs need to be covered where possible there needs to be opportunities to ensure families on low incomes do not lose out from using any facilities
- I think there's opportunities for people to make money on teaching people how to ride BMX or for training. There's a massive hole in Ellon for the sort of thing and this project could have a lot of support behind it
- It would be best if it could be manned as it will land up being vandalised.
- Local advertising would be great to see, to help promote this new facility.
- Maybe monitored regularly or have adults supervising the site on a daily/ weekend basis. I personally think there should be responsible adults on site very regularly which would help maintain the overall safety and smooth running of such a facility. It's a great idea to have a facility like the proposed, but to have it unmanned at all times would not be so good. It has to be considered a safe place for all users of all ages, a place where everyone can go and have fun doing what they enjoy.
- If membership is being considered, how about a family membership which would be slightly cheaper than purchasing for everyone in the household individually?
- Needs to be free for anyone, especially young families, who are struggling financially. Needs to be 'girl friendly'
- Needs to be safe for children. Gordon Park has anti-social behaviour problems with teenagers and lots of broken glass / sharps. I fully support this but should be in an open and visible location that can be overseen and patrolled often to prevent this great idea turning into something that parents do not want their kids to go to.
- Offering family membership as well as individual. Possibly membership for clubs too
- Other uses - model car, drone racing, provision of water station,

- Perhaps consider offering a variety of membership types. For example, simple use only memberships that are very affordable and contribute to insurance and upkeep (as they have at Hopeman skate park), vs full memberships which include events and coaching.
- Rather than annual membership I would rather have a pay as you go option if there was specialist coaching or events being offered. Would love to see adult cycling activities for confidence building and it would be great to have wheel friendly access routes from all areas in the town to wherever the facility might be built. Would be great if sessions could be booked for different organisations e.g., Girlguiding, Scouting, Childminders, Schools and Nurseries etc and with professional coaching Perhaps being free is not necessarily the way to go, yes have free times to make accessible to all but also bookable, payable slots which would also help with the upkeep. My biggest concern is the potential vandalism which will without doubt occur if left open to all at all hours. Good luck!
- "Skating lessons would be great, as I would imagine there would be a lot of kids interested but unsure how to skate, would also enable younger kids/families to get involved.
- This is a brilliant initiative, Ellon is long overdue this type of facility. If we could have something like the park, they have in Inverness that would be awesome.
- My son is 6 and he would love skateboarding. I'll be looking into going to transition extreme in Aberdeen with him, might be worth adding a question to see how many families have to travel elsewhere for skate/BMX sessions? "
- The idea is great but need to have community buy in or it'll face numerous hurdles. When built it'll attract users and those who want to spoil it for others. I think the design and money raising is (kind of) straightforward but the management going forward would be the difficult element. Also doing it right as opposed 80% "it'll be fine" would be a waste of time and effort. Hawick pump track/Inverness track with the velo solutions type areas look sustainable and offer something to all? Is it too close to the proposed Stonehaven track?
- The only concern I have is the policing of the area
- While I concur a membership fee/charge is appropriate, it should be waived for any users who cannot afford it. While this may be problematic to administer, it is the disenfranchised who would benefit most from use

of the wheel park, so the effort would be worthwhile if it facilitates their engagement

- "While I think this is a great idea and I hope it can be created, one concern is that some of the young people of Ellon will see this is a place to gather so there may be antisocial behaviour - noise, litter, vandalism. This has to be taken into consideration when choosing the location and design.
- The flood lighting is an interesting point. I heard that planning would not allow flood lights to be installed at the Community Campus playing fields as it would harm the water voles at the Ythan - sounds like a daft story but I was assured it was true."
- Would be great if there is bike rental station.
- Would rather pay as you use rather than membership

#### Other

- I would like to be kept informed of any developments for this project
- if you're going to spend the money, do it right. I have seen so much money wasted on facilities that are not fit for purpose. If you're going to do it, do it properly. The Oldmeldrum skatepark for example is way too small and the bowl is too shallow
- "The questions are ambiguous as If it was membership only to use the park then we would obviously buy membership as it would be on our doorstep but if it was optional, I feel majority of people would not be up for this and would have some people paying to use the facility and others not which wouldn't be fair. So, think a membership option should be all or nothing.
- Would it be a free for all park as in no restrictions on times etc. Would love to see this go ahead in Ellon. " We travel to visit pump tracks there really isn't many, but it is very popular for everyone not just people specific to wheeled sports

## 22.2 Appendix Two: Letters of Support

**GILLIAN MARTIN**  
**MSP**  
**ABERDEENSHIRE**  
**EAST**



### To Whom It May Concern

Our Ref: GM/KJH/

23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2021

Dear sir/madam

### Ellon Wheel Park Group

I write in support of the proposed Wheel Park in Ellon, funding for the construction of which, I understand, Ellon Wheel Park Group have applied to your organisation.

I would like to add my own voice to the large number of supporters locally who have highlighted the positive good which would accrue to the community were this project to reach fruition. A facility of this sort would represent a major boon to cyclists of all ages, capabilities and interests, in Ellon itself and the surrounding districts.

Scotland has some of the most challenging climate-change targets in the western world, and increasing the opportunities for people to cycle forms a core element of this strategy. Any facility which encourages or facilitates greater uptake of cycling represents not only a tangible gain locally, but wider benefits for our country, environment and health.

I am hopeful that you will consider this application in a favourable light. Nonetheless, please don't hesitate to get in touch if I can be of any further assistance whatsoever.

With very best wishes,

**Gillian Martin MSP**

SUITE A, UNIT 6, COLPY BUSINESS PARK, OLDMELDROM, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB51 0FU  
TELEPHONE: 01651 871750  
[GILLIAN.MARTIN.MSP@PARLIAMENT.SCOT](mailto:GILLIAN.MARTIN.MSP@PARLIAMENT.SCOT)

**Elaine Brown**  
Formartine Area Manager  
45 Bridge Street  
ELLON  
AB41 9AA  
Telephone: 01467 539508

[elaine.brown@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.brown@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
LP-2 ELLON

22 July 2021

Ythan Cycle Club  
West Ardganty  
Dudwick  
Ellon  
AB41 8EX

To Whom it may Concern

### Letter of Support – Improving Access Funding

In my capacity of Formartine Area Manager, I would fully support the application to the SportScotland Fund to construct the new Ellon Wheel Park.

The provision of a wheel park in Ellon will provide a unique all-in-one park for skateboarders, mountain bikers, cyclists and BMX fans and will create a safe environment for children and young people to pursue wheeled sporting activities. Although the main benefactors of this project will be the youth in Ellon and the wider Formartine area, the cycle circuit can be used for adult cycle classes for those who want to learn or re-learn cycling in a safe environment before venturing out on the open road. Having this facility in the north east will capitalise on the increasing adventure tourism sector, bringing skaters and cyclists into Ellon who will use the local facilities and increase the footfall in the town. The local schools can also use the circuit for bike ability sessions

This application incorporates all of this and provides a safe area for physical activities and promotes good health and wellbeing for children and young people, therefore supporting the delivery of the Formartine Community Plan. It will also be of economic benefit to shops and food outlets in Ellon and will benefit both residents and visitors to the town and the North East area.

Yours sincerely

**Elaine Brown**  
Formartine Area Manager

Councillor Isobel Davidson  
Ellon and District Ward  
Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeen  
AB16 5GB

Chair  
Ellon Wheeled Park Project

01358 723926

20 July 2021

Dear Colin

**Ellon Wheeled Park Project**

I am writing in support of your project to develop a community wheeled sports park in Ellon. This type of facility has been a community ambition for a long time and I am delighted to see it coming forward with significant local support.

As Chair of the Formartine Area Committee, I recognise the need to promote our area and fully support facilities that will encourage the enjoyment of the outdoors and exercise for all. This initiative will not only provide additional recreational facilities in the town but also can serve as a tourist attraction for the whole of the Northeast.

I wish you well with your venture.

Yours sincerely

Cllr. Isobel Davidson  
Chair, Formartine Area Committee



Proposed Ellon Wheel Park

28/07/2021

To Whom It May Concern

As a club dedicated to outdoor activities, we feel this project would be a huge benefit to the local community and beyond and would fully support and encourage its building. There is nothing similar in Ellon or nearby.

By improving outdoor sports facilities in the local area, we encourage young people to take part and grow in confidence as they train and improve. For cycling it is so important, at any age, to have a safe off- road area to gain sufficient experience and knowledge before riding on the road.

The tremendous increase in cycling lately for commuting, exercise and fun, has shown there is a desire for this type of activity, and it is to be encouraged. Team sports are not for everyone. A wheel park will allow all ages to experience other forms of exercise in an off- road environment, and give opportunities to meet and socialise with like- minded others.

Outdoor activity promotes physical fitness leading to good health and mental well -being. We feel the Ellon Wheel Park would be welcomed by many in the area.

Regards,  
Irene Jamieson

HG/JH

23 July 2021

### Ellon Wheel Park

Ythan Valley Rotary supports the development of a multi wheeled, multi disciplined sport facility in Ellon that is accessible and inclusive to all and which will inspire people to get on a bike, scooter or skate.

This will be a fantastic resource for people who live in Ellon and surrounding areas.

Hilary Gordon  
President  
Ythan Valley Rotary

20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

To Whom it May Concern

Dear Sir / Madam

### Ellon Wheel Park Project

As a local Breeze Champion I meet many women who are cautious about heading out cycling on our local roads as many of them haven't been out on their bike in years. To have access to a local traffic free area would be amazing. It would be of huge benefit to enable more ladies of all ages, out on their bikes, to build their confidence and to see them grow in their ability having had the opportunity to use the wheel park. I'm sure it will be very welcomed by many including Breeze participants whilst it will allow us as Champions, to co-ordinate more traffic free cycling.

Yours faithfully

Allison McKenzie  
Breeze Champion – Scottish Cycling

Our ref CJM/STRAT-ELL/WHLPK

Chair Ellon Wheel Park

By Email.

Please ask for Chris Menzies

7 July 2021

Dear Colin

**Ellon Wheel Park project**

Developing facilities that encourage, smart, sustainable and active travel is the cornerstone of Aberdeenshire Councils award winning Integrated Travel Towns project and I am delighted to see community and partner led initiatives like this coming forward.

Achieving the right mindset to promote active lifestyles requires the creation of the right physical environment and facilities such that proposed for Ellon go far in supporting this approach. The Council currently delivers active travel events in partnership with many local groups including Cycling UK and Sustrans in Ellon and having a dedicated resource and space will be an exemplar for others in the area.

I fully support community resources like this as they create the right environment to support a more active mindset and I am therefore delighted to endorse your proposals and would like to thank you for the continued collaboration on the wider ITT project and support shown to date.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Menzies**  
Team Leader, Strategy Development.

**Infrastructure Services**

*Transportation*

Woodhill House

Westburn Road

Aberdeen AB16 5GB

Tel 01467 620981

Fax 01224 662005

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

LP-3 Aberdeen 3



28/02/2021

Club secretary  
trythan triathlon club

Dear Sir / Madam

I'm writing today on behalf of Trythan triathlon club to put forward our thoughts, ideas, benefits and support of Ellon having a wheel park built in the centre of the town

Trythan triathlon club based in Ellon is a new triathlon club founded in 2019 and officially an affiliated club with Triathlon Scotland, with a total of 86 members of which 30 of those are children in the tristar's age group (8-16 yrs) and 56 Junior and adult members, the club is growing successfully, this showing with members of our tristar's section already involved in training with the Scottish development academy. On top of that we have members of the club who are already competing for Great Britain and age group level and being successful at that also.

In 2020 Trythan were awarded Triathlon Scotland club of the year in the annual awards which is a great achievement. The club also work closely with other clubs in the Ellon area like Ythan CC and the swimming club and are part of the Ythan community sport hub.

The club is growing quickly and with a huge interest in the sport of triathlon in the Ellon area we are really struggling with places to train safely in Ellon and currently have to travel over to Oldmeldrum to use the school grounds there to train on, which is not ideal due to the travelling restrictions, distance, getting equipment and bikes over and fitting in using the grounds as its very restricted.

The building of a facility in Ellon specifically for cycling would be a huge benefit to the club and the local community.

Being able to train in a safe, controlled and risk assessed environment in the town centre would allow for our club members to train safely in bike skills, gain knowledge and confidence in cycling. This would certainly be of benefit to our tristar's and ladies, on the purpose-built track they would be able to develop the skills for stepping up to road cycling more confidently and feel safer when doing this.

With so many of our members entering races and being involved various levels of the sport and racing, the track would allow for us to race train, which we are currently unable to do on open roads. Many of the races that our tristar's enter are all on specifically built cycle tracks with running areas at hand for competing in duathlons (races the triatstars first compete in). The wheel park at the Gordon park would also allow for the club to host our own racing with having plenty run routes that already go around the perimeter of the site.

The site already has welfare facilities on the grounds that can be used for welfare and changing for the groups using the park, and two of the local primary schools are very close to the site and would greatly benefit from the building of a wheel park.

Being affiliated to triathlon Scotland our club is already doing work with triathlon Scotland in looking to progress 'skills schools' with the local primary schools. Skills schools are run by triathlon Scotland and supported by local clubs to deliver coached sessions to schools in the sport as part of the school curricular and after school clubs. The building of a wheel park would be ideal for the delivery of skill school sessions for the schools and benefit the children in getting more active and get them involved in cycling and triathlon.

Overall the opportunities for the community with the building of a wheel park would allow for local clubs, schools and groups a facility to learn and develop in a range of skills in many disciplines of cycling and allow for the opportunity to get involved and for clubs to work together to achieve and develop.

Regards

Dennis Chalmers

Club Secretary



Balmacassie Brae, Balmacassie Commercial Park  
 Ellon AB41 8BY  
 Tel: 01358 720220 Fax: 01358 724181  
[www.lawrence-milne.co.uk](http://www.lawrence-milne.co.uk)  
 email: [info@lawrence-milne.co.uk](mailto:info@lawrence-milne.co.uk)



Mains of Fortrie  
 Auchnagatt  
 Ellon  
 Aberdeenshire  
 AB41 8UY

Craig (m): 07720 887 968  
 Ian (m): 07713 984 652  
 Fax: 01358 701 241  
[bartlet@fortriefarms.co.uk](mailto:bartlet@fortriefarms.co.uk)

NM/KM

30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

To Whom It May Concern

**Ellon Wheel Park**

We have been made aware of the plan to try and get a Wheel Park built in Ellon. We would like to add our support to this going ahead and point out how desperate Ellon is for a facility like this. With the decreasing participation of young people in sport this would be a great facility to encourage people of all ages out to exercise. BMX, skating and biking in general are getting more and more popular and it would be great if Ellon could capitalise on this surge in interest.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Milne  
 Managing Director

**ELLON WHEEL PARK.**

What a fantastic idea!! In this world where our concerns surround climate change, healthy eating, fitness and exercise, mental health, substance abuse, what better way to get youngsters involved in a project which can help solve many of these problems in one sweep.

All kids love bikes and this would be a way to encourage them to get out into a safe environment to burn off their excess energies!

The project can appeal to the older generation as well, safe and easy to access.

The possibility of attracting visitors is also extremely worthwhile in terms of footfall to local business.

As a local company we are in full support of the proposed development.

Ian Bartlet.



Painters & Decorators and Retail Stores.  
 Quality Decorative Work Inc. Internal and external Painting.  
 Ames Taping, Coving and Wallpapering.  
 Wide Range of Wall Coverings and Paints.  
 Fabrics & Making Up of Soft Furnishings.



**YthanCC**

to [info@scottishcycling.org.uk](mailto:info@scottishcycling.org.uk)

To whom it may concern

I write on behalf of Ythan Community Council to support the proposal to build a wheelpark in Ellon.

Ythan Community Council is the community Council which surrounds Ellon. Whilst we are essentially a rural community, all sports and educational activity is Ellon based so we are supportive any initiative which will enhance the area and this project will be an excellent facility for Ellon and surrounding district.

Cycling is increasing in popularity, and this will give adults and children an opportunity to develop their skills and confidence in a safe environment. The increase in popularity of organised cycling events sees many cycle users well outside the boundaries of Ellon , hence our support for this project

We strongly support Ythan Cycle Club and Ellon Wheel Park Group in their efforts and look forward to the completion of the project in the future.

very best wishes, Charles Coulson

Charles Coulson  
secretary  
[mail@ythan.org](mailto:mail@ythan.org)



July 19<sup>th</sup> 2021

Rotary is one of the world's largest and most successful global membership and humanitarian service organisations, with 1.2 million members in 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries. We have a unique position of being rooted within our own communities, but with a global outlook, ready to tackle challenges at home and abroad.

Ellon Rotary have been established for over 40 years and have been involved in many community projects in our area. We are delighted to learn of the Ellon Wheelpark and wish to give it every possible support. Any facility which can improve our community is to be welcomed.

David Cowe  
President



06.08.2021

RE: Letter of Support, Ellon Wheelpark

To whomever it may concern,

I write this letter representing the views of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ellon Boys Brigade section that has over 100 members and many more friends and families supported in the Ellon town and surrounding areas.

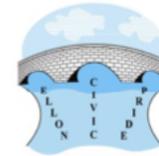
We firmly believe that a wheelpark in Ellon would be a huge asset to the town. It would be well used to benefit many young people as cycling is one of the most popular activities we carry out at Boys Brigade. This facility would be a real benefit in providing a safe place for young people to learn and develop their cycling skills, which is also a great opportunity for completing their Boys Brigade adventure sport development badges.

The wheelpark would also provide a safe and supportive hub for young people (and the wider Ellon community) to meet at to try new, healthy activities. It would be a real asset to the town, providing more activities and things of interest for people to enjoy and benefit from both socially and from a personal health perspective.

We therefore fully support the Ellon Wheelpark proposal!

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Hailey  
Officer-in-Charge 1<sup>st</sup> Ellon Boys Brigade Company Section



80 Station Road  
ELLON  
AB41 9AY

03 August 2021

To Whom It May Concern

ELLON WHEEL PARK

Ellon Civic Pride is a voluntary group whose aim is to brighten up the town with various floral displays and hanging baskets as well as carry out environmental initiatives in order to make Ellon more attractive and appealing to both residents and visitors. Our group very much support the proposal to create a Wheel Park in the town. This will provide a much needed, multi-use, facility that can be enjoyed by all age groups, from novice to expert, in a safe and controlled environment. It can only encourage more to take up cycling and contribute to their overall wellbeing.

Whilst wheeled sports is very much the focus in this initiative it is hoped that due consideration will be taken in the planning process with regard to adequacy of car parking as no doubt the facility will attract a good number of users supported by family and friends whose mode of transport will invariably be of the four-wheeled variety. Nevertheless the creation of an Ellon Wheel Park can only be good for the town and Ellon Civic Pride wish those behind the initiative every success in its planning and implementation.

Yours sincerely

Frances M Watson  
Co-ordinator, Ellon Civic Pride

Archibald Simpson House  
27-29 King Street  
Aberdeen AB24 5AA

t. 01224 346680  
[www.nestrans.org.uk](http://www.nestrans.org.uk)

nestrans

By email

6 August 2021

Our Ref: N13/11/RD/JB  
Your Ref

#### ELLON WHEEL PARK

I write to you to confirm Nestrans' support for the development of a Wheel Park in Ellon. This facility, as has been proven with similar projects in other communities across Aberdeenshire and elsewhere, would undoubtedly prove to be a tremendous asset to the town and encourage greater participation in cycling, particularly amongst younger people.

The Park would provide an excellent venue for events, one example being the E-Bike Day held in early 2020 which Nestrans and Getabout were involved in along with other partners. While the Victoria Hall was adequate, having a tailor-made venue such as this, where kids and adults alike could safely and confidently ride the bikes, would have been even more worthwhile and enjoyable.

The plans for the Wheel Park align very closely with Aberdeenshire Council's Integrated Travel Town project and can only help encourage more people to consider walking, cycling or wheeling around the town and more sustainable and active travel as part of their daily lives.

Siting the Park somewhere in the centre of Ellon, if practicable, with good active travel linkages for users to come and go would be a perfect example of long-term, joined-up thinking.

I wish you, and the Committee, the very best with the project and look forward to seeing it take shape.

Yours sincerely

Rab Dickson  
Director



The Transport Partnership for Aberdeen City and Shire



THE COFFEE  
APOTHECARY

The Coffee Apothecary  
Udny  
Ellon  
AB41 7PQ

&

21 The Square  
Ellon  
AB41 9JB

17 August 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

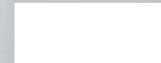
I write in support of the project to build Ellon wheel park.

This project would bring a unique offering to the local area, provide entertainment for many and benefit local businesses such as ours by bringing more people into Ellon.

This is an amazing opportunity with many potential community benefits and benefits to the individual. I believe it would have environmental benefits, social benefits and help people's physical and mental wellbeing.

If there is more we could do to support as a local business, please let me know.

Yours,



Alison Aspden

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Glenna Hendry  
Tel: 01358 281110  
Email: [slains.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:slains.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
Website: <http://www.slains.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

Slains Primary School  
Collieston, Ellon  
Aberdeenshire  
AB41 8SA

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear

I write on behalf of Scottish Adventure Cycling in support of the Ellon Wheel Park proposal to design, build, operate, and maintain a multi-use wheeled sports facility in the Ellon area of Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Having discussed this project with our 150+ membership community, we strongly support this project because we believe successful delivery will encourage children and adults alike to enjoy wheeled activities. We also believe it will create opportunity for people to access wheeled activities more easily in the northeast which appears to be lacking at present, particularly in the Ellon area.

Through this letter, we acknowledge our responsibilities to provide a reasonable amount of support to ensure project success and this might include:

- Financial support via our Not-For-Profit organisational status with the ability to fundraise for other organisations working on cycling-related projects.
- Physical and experiential support via our membership of people who enjoy riding bikes including hand cycles and other adapted cycles.
- Strategic support via our leadership team to support the project team in decision making, risk, governance, and general commercial and project management.
- Marketing support via our social media channels and our website to extend the reach of the Ellon Wheel Park social media messages.

We believe it is important that the Ellon Wheel Park project is successful, not only for the local area; but as a success story for cycling in Scotland showing that Scotland is a world leader in creating opportunities for people to access wheeled activities at a reasonable price.

As an organisation, we commit to championing the support for the Ellon Wheel Park project.

Best regards

Mr Roy Milne *FInstLM, FCMI, FIET, CMgr*  
Founder & Director



**To whom it may concern,**

I am writing as the Acting Head Teacher at Slains School in support of the building of the multi-wheel park in Ellon. I feel this would be a wonderful facility for the young people in the Ellon area and beyond. This is a perfect time for a park like this to be built after all the excitement of the recent Olympic games.

Yours Sincerely

Glenna Hendry



16 September 2021

### Ellon Wheel Park

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is written collaboratively by the two Headteachers of Meiklemill School and Ellon Primary and Community Resource Hub.

My name is Jonathan Cordiner and I am Headteacher at Meiklemill School and my colleague is Leighanna Whalley, Headteacher at Ellon Primary. Both our schools sit on the boundary of Gordon Park. We are very passionate about the proposed plans for a Wheel Park in Gordon Park, and we wish to write in support of the project.

Schools are at the heart of communities, and we are always looking for ways to bring positive outcomes to children, and also for ways of bringing our local community together. We feel strongly the Wheel Park will facilitate both of these priorities in the town. Ellon is such a strong and thriving community, and we believe the proposed Skate Park will continue to build on this agenda.

Youngsters in Ellon travel far and wide to use the proposed facilities in other towns. In our schools, we have many children who are members of Ythan Cycle Club, or Trythan Tri Stars, or local running clubs and other organisations, who are forced to travel great distances to use such facilities. We have some really talented youngsters in this community, and we feel our job as local citizens is to harvest this talent, and give young people the opportunity to progress and fulfil their potential. There is no doubt children in other towns have more opportunities to do just that when they have such facilities in their town and on their door step.

Furthermore, having such facilities so close at hand, will inevitably encourage others to try biking, boarding, running and all of the other activities this project looks to facilitate. There are many children and families who do not have the means to travel to neighbouring towns and beyond to access such facilities and so children miss out on these opportunities to express themselves, to exercise, to improve mental health, to enjoy and compete in these sports. Providing youths (and actually adults too) opportunities to use such facilities in Ellon is not only equitable, will not only contribute to positive mental and physical wellbeing of residents, but will give local people the chance to develop new skills and achieve in wider ways.

Of course when we encourage positive endeavour in our local community, it has a positive effect on undesirable behaviour too. As a community, we want to engage children and young people in positive activity which will benefit their mental and physical health and by doing so, we inevitably discourage undesirable behaviour. Such undesirable behaviour could be too much gaming at home, or even worse anti-social behaviour.



Education & Children's Services  
Mr Jonathan Cordiner  
Head Teacher  
Meiklemill School  
Provost Davidson Drive  
Ellon  
Aberdeenshire  
AB41 9BQ  
Telephone 01358 281100  
[meiklemil.ecs@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:meiklemil.ecs@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
[www.meiklemill.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.meiklemill.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

One more point for consideration is that both Schools would love to fully support events at Gordon Park. It is in the perfect location. We would happily lease out both schools as facilities for events. This means the 2 schools could be used for parking, toilets, registration etc.

Ellon has a strong history of organising large scale and successful, national events which attract people from all over the country – The Youth Cycle Crit and Pedal Car Race in August being a perfect example. The introduction of this facility could provide yet another exciting opportunity to bring the local community together for competitive events, enjoyed by people locally and beyond.

We fully endorse this proposal and would be very excited to contribute to this development. We wonder even if the schools could perhaps be in some way involved as this project unfolds.

If there is anything we can do to further support this proposal, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Jonathan Cordiner  
Head Teacher  
Meiklemill School

Leighanna Whalley  
Headteacher  
Ellon Primary and Community Resource Hub

# Ellon Community Council



Ellon Community Council

Chair  
Ellon Wheel Park Committee

27 August 2021

Dear I,

I write to formally state that, following discussion at a recent Ellon Community Council meeting, we unanimously agreed that a project to bring the facility of a Cycle Track/MTB pump track/skateboard & scooter park to Ellon would be an excellent asset for Ellon and the surrounding area and that we fully support this.

Having also had the opportunity to discuss this with the local Councilor's and the Ellon and Formartine Police Inspector, Mark Young, it was seen by all as a real opportunity to promote the health and well-being of the local communities.

There is not such a comprehensive facility currently in the North East of Scotland so we also consider that this would positively impact on local businesses by attracting a number of visitors to the area.

We wish you every success in this project and thank your committee for its endeavors.

We also offer our full support and assistance as and when this is required.

Sincerely,

Vice Chair – Ellon Community Council

Web Address: <https://www.elloncc.org.uk/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EllonCommunityCouncil>

**colinallanach@aol.com**

**From:** colinallanach@aol.com  
**Sent:** 16 September 2021 20:50  
**To:** 'Colin Allanach'  
**Subject:** FW: Cycling Facilities Fund Aberdeenshire Meetings [OFFICIAL]

**From:** I  
**Date:** 3  
**To:** col  
**Subject:** Fw: Cycling Facilities Fund Aberdeenshire Meetings [OFFICIAL]

Col,

Thats the new police Inspector Mark Young now given us some words of support below

Cheers

**From:** Young, Mark  
**Sent:** 02 March 2022 11:57  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Cycling Facilities Fund Aberdeenshire Meetings [OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**  
Good evening Nick

It has been a while since I have seen or heard from you so I hope you are keeping well and retirement is keeping you busy.

Andy kindly forwarded your email in relation to cycling facilities across Aberdeenshire and it is definitely something that we (PSoS) are extremely supportive off in the Formartine area.

There are many positive which would come from these facilities and they would have a positive effect on reducing antisocial behaviour and also improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.

It is likely, unfortunately, in the coming months with the better weather, the schools going back and the relaxing of some restrictions, we may see an increase in ASB within Ellon as there are limited locations for youths to socialise and therefore congregate in groups with very little to do. With the proposals for the development of these facilities would provide a location for them to socialise responsibly and

perform stunts/race etc away from the town centre. This was commented upon today by a resident unfortunately.

The facilities would also help increase the number of diversionary activities we can offer along with our partners - you will recall the good old days of 'Street Football' or 'Street Dance' and this would give another string to the bow if the facilities can be used for initiatives. I am sure companies similar to Transition X-Treme (I'm not sure if there is a similar organisation in Ellon or nearby) would be keen to get involved.

Moving away from the benefits to Policing, this would also help approach the Healthier Communities priority for the area. Not only will it improve the overall health of residents of Ellon, it will provide an opportunity for people (not just the young) to connect and in turn this will improve their mental wellbeing which will reduce welfare/concern calls in respect of individuals both young and old. I am sure a representative from Health would probably be able to improve my knowledge re. this aspect.

I think starting with the facilities mentioned is great and may lead youngsters to considering joining cycling clubs which gives them another focus and later in life they will make more informed decisions on their mode of transport with Ellon being a commutable to/form on bike.

Keep me posted on the progress and I am more than happy to assist wherever possible - if it gathers a good bit of traction, I can look at involving others such as PSVV or getting a couple of cycling cops involved.

Anything at all drop me an email or give me a phone

Mark Young  
Formartine Inspector  
Ellon Police Station  
Bridge Street  
Ellon

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 16 September 2021 13:36  
**To:** Colin Allanach  
**Subject:** FW: Facilities

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**From:** '  
**Date:** 27 February 2021 at 16:27:39 GMT  
**To:** Colin Allanach, Colin Allanach  
**Subject:** Re: Facilities

Yes,

As former RDO for the North East I have seen first-hand how Ythan have made the best of the limited areas they have and the negative impact on the club and the development of youngsters when they lost access to the Academy. A new purpose built facility will certainly allow them to grow and progress as a club

It is unusual for cycling clubs to be directly linked to a facility, unlike, football, rugby etc. There are huge advantages to having direct access to facilities, this has underpinned the success and accessibility to cycling for youngsters in Dundee at the Discovery Junior Cycling Club. We have direct access to purpose built MTB facilities at the Templeton Tangle and the velodrome area at the Regional Performance Centre at Caird Park. The club has access to storage for bikes at both venues, ensuring there is no discrimination on participation by not having access to bikes. You want to ride? We'll help you. Both facilities give opportunities for all types of cycling, Mountain Bike, Road bike, Track bikes. We have recently extended the club offering as well, now running sessions for women, targeting the less active, getting them to take part in leisurely accompanied rides. Without access to facilities, this would not have been possible.

Secretary/Coach  
Former RDO Scottish Cycling

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 16 September 2021 12:55  
**To:** Annette Allanach  
**Subject:** Fwd: Wheel Park in Ellon

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:**  
**Date:** 1 March 2021 at 10:27:05 GMT  
**To:** colin.allanach@scotland.nhs.uk, Kelly Green, kelly.green@aberdeenshire.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Wheel Park in Ellon

Hi Colin,

This looks absolutely fantastic. Active Schools would absolutely support this and look at how we can link to the club. I have included Kelly Green in this email, as she is the Active Schools Coordinator for Ellon. The first thing we would need to do is get a new partnership agreement in place so we are then ready to start working together. Kelly will be in touch directly with yourself to get that process in place. Between Ythan CC and Active Schools we can then look enhancing opportunities for children and young people within the Ellon Network and surrounding Networks.

Kind Regards  
Tracy

Tracy Siwek  
Active Schools Lead (North Aberdeenshire)

If you know someone who's still living life at home, why not tell them about our range of online activities and resources? See: <https://bit.ly/LLAhome>



1

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 16 September 2021 13:44  
**To:** Colin Allanach  
**Subject:** FW: Fraserburgh Sport Hub

**From:**  
**Date:** 1 March 2021 at 09:01:51 GMT  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Donald  
**Subject:** RE: Fraserburgh Sport Hub

Morning Colin,

Thanks for the update on this. This is definitely a project I would be keen to support as part of my hub officer role. A key part of the barriers that was discussed at the recent Ythan hub meeting was around facilities for Cycling and Running and that's an area where we'd like to focus some efforts. We do have a contact with Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action that can provide 1:1 funding advice for projects and it might be worth touching base, I can put you in contact if it's of interest. Is there any scope for one of the tracks to be used for running as well? Lack of facilities was an issue raised by the Athletics club as well so there could be a potential link there

I'd recommend mentioning the Ythan CC's engagement at the recent Ythan and Fraserburgh hub meetings when discussing the project with SS. Including any links you have with Active Schools. SportsScotland will be interested to hear how your project can link with their national flagship initiatives.

I'd be happy to sit in on any of future the project meetings if you thought that was appropriate?

**Regards,**  
**Roy**

**Roy McPherson**  
**Community Sport Hub Officer (North)**  
**Gateway Community Centre**  
**Victoria Terrace**  
**Turriff**  
**Aberdeenshire Council**