

**Report for
Settle Town Council Extraordinary Meeting
24th April 2019**

Item 3	Skateboard Park
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1. Purpose

To seek authority to appoint a contractor to install a skateboard park within the playpark on Bond Lane, to agree a new location within the playpark for the existing play equipment, to discuss with the family of William Toothill a new location within the playpark for the memorial to William and to inform Craven District Council that the beech tree in the playpark (currently subject to consultation re a Tree Preservation Order) requires tree surgery.

2. Background

Young people in Settle have wanted a skate park for many years and since 2004 Craven District Council and Settle Town Council have been involved trying to establish a skateboard park within Settle. The temporary skateboard parks in the town had always been well used, a survey in local schools in 2011 confirmed the high demand and young people produced a DVD and attended the Town Council to promote the project. In 2014 the Council formed a Sub Committee to find a suitable site. The committee consist of Settle Town Councillors, the clerk, a CDC and a NYCC councillor, NYCC Youth Worker and a local residents.

The following sites were all explored and found to be unsuitable:

1. *Millenium Garden,*
2. *Rear of Victoria Hall*
3. *Under the Railway off Kirkgate*
4. *Settle Cricket Club*
5. *Settle Football Club*
6. *Land along Riverside walk (directly opposite Arla factory)*
7. *Giggleswick Playing Fields*

The preferred site was on land adjoining Settle Swimming Car Park, a site open to public view, central and accessible with a flat grassed area. The site is owned by NYCC and maintained by Settle College as it is adjacent to the school and its split sites. Although discussions were held with all interested parties it was not possible to fully resolve land ownership and access issues.

As the Town Council needed to own or lease the land to attract Sport England funding the search for a suitable site switched to land owned by the Town Council or partners and on 5th June 2017 it was agreed part of the playpark on Bond Lane could be used for the site. As a result of resolving the land ownership issues over the following 18 months funding of around £120,000 was secured for the project.

2. Appointment of Contractor

The Council agreed to invite three contractors to design and build a skate park area at a cost of £100,000 plus fencing costs etc. Attached at Appendix A is a report from STAL UK) Ltd the project managers appointed by the Town Council to manage the project.

3. Move the Existing Play Equipment

As part of the skateboard installation it will be necessary to move the existing play equipment within the play park. The Council may wish to agree a location and request the clerk to cost moving the equipment and prices for a new safety surface and some new play equipment. This work could be part funded from savings on the deletion of the fencing from the project and the community could be consulted re the location and new equipment.

4. William Toothill Memorial

The Council will be aware of the memorial to William Toothill, who died in September 2005 which is adjacent to the play equipment. The Council may wish to discuss with the family a new location for the memorial possibly as part of the new play equipment.

5. Tree Preservation Officer

As part of the planning application for the Skateboard Park, Craven District Council have started the consultation process to put a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the beech tree within the play area. The Town Council own the tree and do not wish to remove it, however the tree does need some tree surgery and the Council may wish this information to be passed to Craven District Council by 10th May 2019 as part of the TPO consultation process. To address the concerns re the beech tree the Council have agreed to withdraw the fencing requirement for the skateboard area as this might have affected the roots of the tree. Planning permission for the fencing was not required under permitted development legislation.

6. Legal and Financial Comments

The Town Council have the legal powers to install and manage a skateboard park. Funding for the skateboard park has been identified from grants, s106 funds, Town Council funding and partnership contributions.

7. Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

1. Appoint a contractor to build the preferred skateboard to the approved design.
2. Agree that the existing play equipment will be moved within the play park and involve the community in the new location and any new equipment to be purchased.
3. Meet with the family of William Toothill to discuss a new location for William's memorial.
4. Inform Craven District Council the beech tree located in the play park needs tree surgery but the Council does not object to the Tree Preservation Order.

Report of Town Clerk	Date: 23 rd April 2019
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