

BOLLINGTON SKATE PARK GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT BOLLINGTON REC. 29/01/09

PRESENT

Mark Pinches (Chairman), John Kershaw, Michael Burdekin (Friends of Bollington Rec.), plus 22 skate park users and 2 PCSOs.

INTRODUCTIONS

All present were invited to introduce themselves and their interests. The skate park users included skate boarders, in-liners and BMX riders. During these introductions several of the existing users stated that the present skate board facility at Adlington Rd, Bollington, was dangerous because it was too small and it was made of metal which led to slippery surfaces in wet weather and to hard edges. The nearest 'really good' skate park was Manchester. The Friends of the Rec. expressed support for improved skate boarding facilities at Adlington Rd. The PCSOs stated that they would welcome additional youth activities in Bollington.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Mark Pinches described what was happening elsewhere in the Macclesfield area, referring to the activities of the Macclesfield Skate Park Group (web site www.macc-skate.org.uk). He mentioned that £15k had been raised to expand the facility at West Park and the proposed development at South Park had reached the stage where planning approval was now being sought and funding was understood to be available. The objective of the present meeting was to establish the need and support for a new facility at Adlington Rd and to discuss the best type of design and the process by which this could be made to happen.

The meeting supported strongly the need for a new facility, to be suitable for use by all three types, skate-boarders, in-liners and BMX riders. It was felt that the priority should be a split level jump box and a mini ramp of a decent size and there should be a section for beginners. It was noted that the Macclesfield and Poynton skate parks would include bowls and it was probably best not to replicate that in Bollington. Other features suggested included a half pipe and rails. The preferred material was concrete to reduce noise and improve safety.

Mark set out the process and likely timescale to achieve the project, highlighting the need to get support from the Town, Borough/Cheshire East Councils as well as the local community. He indicated that initial discussions with the Councils had suggested that an area equivalent to most of the existing football play area could be available for the proposed skate park, with the existing play equipment area retained and improved as well. On this basis the total cost was likely to be of the order of £50k, (£250/m²). The anticipated time scale would be to build in summer 2010, but fund raising was critical and it would be necessary for all the potential users to seek to contribute by bringing in whatever funds they could by sponsorship etc. to demonstrate to grant awarders the commitment of the community. The possibility of a starter park under the Middlewood Way arches was raised but it was agreed to leave this until a later stage and concentrate on trying to produce a block park at Adlington Rd with a design that would attract users of all types and ages.

It was agreed that updates on progress would be posted on the website and a further meeting called in due course.