

FINAL
REPORT

Papplewick Playing Field
Skate Park Project

Date of Report: 30th June 2007

Prepared by Papplewick Parish Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Papplewick Parish Council was initially approached by two residents, Lee Wright and Patrick Ortega, at its meeting on 10th July 2002. These two boys had, of their own volition, collected signatures from around the parish to a petition calling on the Parish Council to provide skateboarding facilities.
- 1.2. The Council had been previously approached by a resident of Linby Lane requesting similar facilities during 1999. On that occasion, after making some preliminary enquiries into the provision of mobile skateboarding equipment, arrived at the conclusion that the costs were prohibitive and therefore the idea was abandoned.
- 1.3. The petition included some 130 signatures from across all age ranges. It was explained to the Council that not only did the youngsters in the parish require this facility but adults, including a number of pensioners, were supportive of this initiative as it would provide a much needed resource. At that time, facilities in the parish aimed largely at people of teenage years were virtually non-existent.
- 1.4. The Parish Council agreed to consider this request in greater depth. It was appreciated from the outset that because the Parish Council had very limited resources, the prospects of it being able to secure the desired skateboarding facility without outside assistance was remote.

2. FINANCE

- 2.1. It soon became apparent that a skate park facility could cost around £30,000. Because of the Parish Council's limited resources, a number of supportive parents agreed to undertake fund raising and formed themselves into the Papplewick and Linby Leisure Enterprise Group (LEG).
- 2.2. Thereafter, LEG arranged a number of events to raise the necessary finance. Each summer, on an annual basis, a number of private gardens around the parishes of Papplewick and Linby were opened to the public upon payment of an admission fee. In conjunction with the Parish Council, an annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display was also held on the Playing Field each November.
- 2.3. As funds accumulated, donations were made to the Parish Council. The first item of equipment purchased was a youth shelter for erection on the Playing Field at Papplewick.
- 2.4. LEG also put in hand enquiries with manufacturers of skate park equipment to determine the cost of such items and approached various outside funding agencies with a view to securing grants.
- 2.5. LEG obtained outline approval for a grant of £17, 175 from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd. (WREN). When the project was handed over to the Parish Council in October 2005, the Parish Council obtained confirmation of this grant and entered into an Agreement with WREN on 30th October 2006.
- 2.6. In the meantime, LEG agreed to provide a grant to the Parish Council of £8,000 from its own funds. When it became clear that these funds were

available, Papplewick Parish Council resolved to proceed with the project and contribute the balance of funds from its own accounts.

- 2.7. After revisions to allow for alterations to the works (see below), the overall cost of the project was calculated at £41,318.88 (£35,165.00 net). VAT to be recovered by the Parish Council.

3. **THE WORKS**

- 3.1 The Playing Field behind Papplewick Village Hall, on Linby Lane, Papplewick, was the only suitable area of land within the parish on which the skate park could be constructed. The Playing Field being owned and maintained by Papplewick Parish Council for the benefit of local residents.

- 3.2 It was decided to divide the project into two phases. Phase I comprised the construction of a concrete base and Phase II the installation of skate park equipment onto that base.

- 3.3 In order to ensure that the whole facility complied with the most up-to-date specifications, the British Standards Institution's PAS 35:2002 'Specification for wheeled sports facilities' was adopted as the model against which the project would be built. This, in turn, meant a review of the specification for the concrete base. PAS 35 required that concrete curing to a compressive strength of 50 N/mm² after 28 days from laying be utilised to ensure longevity of the riding surface.

- 3.4 Due to the increased complexities associated with using this specialised type of concrete, the original Phase I contractors withdrew from the project.

Eastwood Construction were then instructed to proceed with these works on the basis of a quotation at £14,198.00 plus VAT.

3.5 Work on site began on 4th October 2006 (photograph A). Phase I included the excavation and disposal on site of some 96m³ of spoil, the laying of approximately 100 tons of MOT type 1 crushed limestone 150mm in depth, followed by the erection of shuttering and the pouring of some 50m³ of 50 N/mm² concrete onto steel reinforcing mesh (photograph B). The Parish Council's contractors, Eastwood Construction, concluded Phase I on 3rd November 2006.

3.6 Following the conclusion of grant formalities with WREN, a contract for the supply of equipment under Phase II was agreed with Playdale Playgrounds Ltd. on 31st January 2007. The following equipment was purchased for installation on the above mentioned concrete base:

Quarter Pipe V15035
Quarter Pipe V15033
Funbox 4 V15014
Rail Slide V15022

3.7 Thereafter, Playdale Playgrounds Ltd. commenced installation work on 25th June 2007 (photograph D). The skate park was completed on 29th June 2007.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The completion of the Skate Park represents the culmination of five year's hard work by LEG and the Parish Council. Without enthusiasm from the parishioners of Papplewick, who liberally supported fund raising efforts by LEG, the whole project would not have proved possible. Our grateful thanks extend to everyone who took part.

- 4.2 The Parish Council is also indebted to WREN for the very valuable grant that organisation provided towards the project. Equally, had WREN decided not to support the grant application, it is unlikely that the project would have proceeded in its current form.
- 4.3 Such was the demand for this facility that local teenagers were prepared to wait on site for two days until installation work was complete in order to make use of this facility. Initial reactions from youngsters using the skate park have proved very favourable. They regard it as superior to a nearby facility in Hucknall and intend to use it on a regular basis.
- 4.4 Whilst the initial aim of providing a much-needed facility for youngsters in the parish has been met, the benefits from this project have been much more widespread. Due to the need to raise funds, social functions in which the entire parish could participate were arranged. In turn, these attracted widespread support, encouraging a greater sense of community spirit and further strengthening the close bonds of support that were already evident within the parish.

Cllr Colin Womble AIIRSM
Chairman

30th June 2007

Appendix A

Photographs



Photograph A – Excavation work gets underway (4th October 2006)



Photograph B – Steel reinforcement for the base (28th October 2006)



Photograph C – Laying the concrete base (November 2006)



Photograph D – Arrival of the skate ramps (25th June 2007)



Photograph E – Successfully installed and in use for the first time (29th June 2007)



Photograph F – Enjoyment for many (29th June 2007)