

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – Friday 9th July 2021

KGV ALIVE – SKATEPARK

Meeting 2

Present: Chair – Mike Edmund
Freestyle Collective – 4 representatives
SCCF – 1 representative Angela Coakley
KGV Committee – 1 representative– Simon Foot
Sarratt Parish Council – 2 representatives – Cllr Peter Thorp & Caroline Owen – Clerk

In attendance: District Councillor Ciaran Reed
23 Members of the public (M.O.P)

Meeting held at KGV Pavilion, KGV Fields, Sarratt.

Start time: 19:33

Minutes

30. Chair detailed the protocol necessary for the meeting regarding Covid-19.
The protocol for GDPR and data protection regarding names and addresses held was also detailed. It was confirmed that names and addresses would only be used for the purposes of the NHS Track and Trace.
31. Chair informed audience that there has already been one meeting this evening. All minutes will be displayed on SPC website and SCCF website and the results of the survey will be circulated at the end.

32. Chair requested that any member of public when speaking may be asked to initially clarify if they are a resident or not for purpose of correct representation.
33. Chair explained that he is not here to answer questions but to direct those questions to the relevant group. It was emphasized that members of the public in attendance listen to the facts and ensure any comments are made in an appropriate respectful manner throughout.
34. Personal Introduction given by Chair detailing his 24-year background and association with Sarratt.
35. Background of KGV recreational site including historical background. Site was given to the village in 1932 and designated as an outdoor leisure facility. As such it is owned by SPC as Custodian trustees. The maintenance is overseen by KGV management committee.
36. Chair read out quote from 2012 Parish Plan that included a public survey.

“Whilst the younger age ranges are well catered for in terms of activities offered in the parish, older teenagers are less well served. to some extent the problem especially for 14 – 16-year-olds and the 17+ groups may experience transport difficulties which restrict their ability to visit activity centres outside the parish.”

37. It was also detailed that at that time the parish did not feel they had enough say which is why tonight’s public consultation has taken place.

Chair confirmed this was the first official public meeting to discuss the issue, which arose when a young parishioner wrote directly to SPC to request a skatepark.

38. Chair gave process/agenda/objective for the evening.
 1. For the parishioners to understand the issue at stake.
 2. To hear who ‘Freestyle’ are and what they do.
 3. Proceed to answer questions.
39. Freestyle introduction. Purpose is to make communities active by hearing what communities want and what they do not want and to educate the myths surrounding skateparks.

Their job is to find out what the communities hopes, dreams and fears are. There was a tender process that freestyle won. No decisions have been made, freestyle is not being paid for this presentation, this is public consultation is part of the whole process. Freestyle’s goal tonight is to listen to what Sarratt want and what Sarratt needs and to hopefully mitigate any fears.

There is an obvious provision for young people under 7. Great provision for the older generation, great provision for sporting individuals ie football pitch, tennis court. 86% people do not engage with traditional sport and leisure. Football pitch attracts 15% of the people. The 86% that do not participate in football, tennis etc want facilities that enable the use of bikes, boards, scooters, parkour. Overwhelmingly skateparks are for children who do not have the confidence for competitive sports, it is a non-judgemental activity.

40. Questions and Answers.

M.O.P asked if teenagers of both genders in Sarratt have been specifically addressed to find out what they actually want.

Cllr Thorp replied that out of the customer group of ages 7 – 18s 76 said they would like a skatepark, 20 were neutral, and 3 were negative. The respondents in that category were evenly split between boys and girls.

M.O.P asked how many of those children live in Sarratt.

Cllr Thorp stated that 87% of the 240 responders live in Sarratt and surrounding villages.

M.O.P questioned why we are asking those who live in surrounding villages.

Cllr Thorp reminded the audience that the questionnaire was only posted through the doors of those residents of Sarratt Village.

41. Freestyle commented that female participation in skateboarding is not down to the activity its down to the aesthetic. Part of the objective is to capture the young girls and to get them active prior to senior school. Freestyle continues to state that it is imperative that skateparks are placed next to playground to enable progression.

M.O.P raises the government figure that says 85% of skateparks are used by boys. Why are we doing something just for boys.

Freestyle state that the reason behind this figure is due to bad design and that councils tend to position skateparks away from playgrounds.

Chair requests that Cllr Thorp answers whether the gender split from those surveyed was 50/50 and is it therefore credible to say that as many girls as boys want it?

Cllr Thorp is unable to confirm this from the statistics at hand. It was confirmed looking at totality that 155 people out of 240 wanted the skatepark, 57 were neutral, 28 negatives.

Freestyle confirmed the figures are a robust piece of data.

SCCF representative, Angela Coakley stated that it was decided that the question of what gender are you would not be asked instead it could be offered.

There was the option of Male/Female/Rather not say.

42. Cllr Garvey applauded Freestyle for their park in Oxhey. Most fears are about anti-social behaviour. Cllr Garvey continued to say that as a private tutor she has had the opportunity to ask 14 – 16-year-olds if they want a skatepark and none of them were interested nor did they fill out the survey however when asking the 7 – 11 age group there was interest. Question is are we addressing the right target group.

Freestyle stated their designs are focused on the concept of increasing participation and health.

43. Cllr Garvey asked about how it will be maintained. Costing.

Freestyle responded that an application is only approved if demonstration of proof that maintenance is sustainable.

44. 14-year-old M.O.P states that he would love to have a skatepark here. The perception unfortunately is that young kids trash things. That is not reality. Skate parks are not anti-social and its not an issue.

Chair confirmed privately with the parent of young parishioner that the audience would want to hear his personal views as someone who is in the age group at the heart of tonight's discussions.

PCSO Steve Jacobs - PCSO Steve Jacobs- size of Sarratt KGV park is much smaller than other parks in the area.

PCSO Jacobs confirmed a stabbing had taken place at a park in Croxley Green but not in the Skatepark and confirmed that it had no connection to the users of the skatepark although social media reported incorrectly.

PCSO Jacobs confirmed that Sarratt will not attract anti-social behaviour due to its size and location. Skaters tend to look after each other and their skatepark.

Freestyle stated that users of Skateparks are often used by dyslexics and children who have mental health issues. If they don't have a level of confidence, they do not want to be

involved in competitive sports so they tend to go for skates, boards, bikes and scooters. They are also less likely to use drugs and alcohol.

45. M.O.P asked if there will be sanitary facilities?

Freestyle responded that it will only be people from Sarratt using it and that it will not attract users from outside.

Simon Foot confirmed that they had not considered feasibility for toilets.

46. M.O.P asked if KGV is the only place under consideration for the skatepark.

Chair replied that KGV is the only recreational field in Sarratt. It was given to the village for recreational use.

M.O.P continued to ask how large the park will be.

Freestyle replied that the area has been mapped out on the field to demonstrate the comparison in size to Croxley skatepark. Sarratt potential park is delineated by orange cones, Croxley in Yellow cones. It is approximately a ¼ the size of Croxley Green.

It is approx. 220 sqm. It will come under Permitted Development.

M.O.P observation is that it will be a huge amount of concrete.

CLlr Thorp advised that the volume of concrete would be less than that used for the tennis courts.

47. M.O.P asked who will be responsible for supervising the park?

Freestyle commented that the majority of skateparks are not supervised it is usually community policing that takes place.

Simon Foot explained that the feasibility study will investigate and consider CCTV, locking of gates etc.

M.O.P questioned how we can stop the older children using the park at 10/11 o'clock at night. How will that be policed.

Chair explained that we are only at consultation stage, and these are yet to be discussed.

Closing time and policing of this will be considered.

48. M.O.P requested for stats to demonstrate noise levels.

Freestyle will send data. Reiterated that skateparks are not noisier than most other sports and recreational facilities.

It will be designed to be silent.

Simon foot requested that the data could be put into context with a comparison to a tennis game.

M.O.P stated that it is the quality of the noise produced as well as volume that is important.

Freestyle commented that all these considerations will be in stage 3 of the design, this is just consultation stage.

M.O.P says she lives next to KGV and has never heard the swings etc, enjoy listening to the children playing however skateboarding noise is an annoying noise.

Freestyle commented that 70% of skatepark users will be scooters, 20% BMXs,5% skateboarders, 5% inline skates. You will not hear the BMXs, unlikely to hear scooters due to their rubber wheels.

49. M.O.P asks what we are offering the older teenagers as it seems this is targeted at the younger ones. Should we not be asking them?

Chair asks if there is anything in the survey data regarding the 17+ age group?

Cllr Thorp replied that there is evidence that age group unfortunately did not respond.

50. M.O.P asked if the survey asked if there was anything they would want other than a skatepark.

Cllr Thorp explained that the reason a Skatepark is being looked into due to a letter sent to SPC by a 14-year-old boy asking SPC for a skatepark. It was because of a direct individual request.

Council then voted unanimously as did SCCF, KGV Management Committee, to look at a feasibility study. The results from the survey that are handed out are a direct result from the question "Do you want a skatepark?"

Chair raises the point that is it appropriate that the target age range should be asked an alternative question "What do you want?".

Freestyle recommends that the users now should not only be the ones considered, but we should also be looking for decades to come.

51. M.O.P suggested climbing walls, bouldering etc. Other activities should be considered.

Young M.O.P stated that due to knee problems he is unable to do climbing and football and feels physical ability should be considered.

Simon Foot – Other facilities have not been explored but should and this will be part of the feasibility study.

Freestyle comment that budget is large factor plus area/size of site.

52. M.O.P raised the question of where the budget is coming from?
Cllr Thorp - £6000 is in the SPC budget of public held money and the balance will come from private donation and fundraising.
53. District Cllr Reed thanked all for input this evening. Is this proposal for Sarratt unique for the community or will users continue to travel elsewhere?
Young M.O.P explained that it takes him 40 minutes to cycle to others.
Freestyle – uniqueness is always accessibility.
Chair- refer to the 2012 Plan regarding accessibility for young people.
54. M.O.P questioned PCSO whether the young people he tends to see at KGV are residents of Sarratt or do they come from elsewhere.
PCSO Jacobs responds saying it is predominantly younger people from Sarratt rather than elsewhere. Sarratt does not attract young people from outside.
Chair raises question that if something is built here will it increase police presence.
PCSO – unless complaints come in then no.
55. M.O.P asked what the next stage is in the process.
Cllr Thorp states that all information gathered and evidence from this consultation and the survey will go to all groups for ratification or not. All evidence will be published.
Chair suggests that all evidence and deliberations could be put on other platforms rather than just online for transparency and inclusivity.
56. Chair gives thanks to all contributors.

Meeting Concluded: 20:50