



RYDE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICER REPORT

Committee:	FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date:	17/10/2023
Report Author:	Tara Bloomfield
Report Title:	Ryde Skatepark Project

1. SUMMARY

RTC have been approached by John Cattle's Skate Club CIC to support a "DIY" concrete skatepark in the form of match funding.

The "DIY" concrete skatepark is an interim solution to provide facilities to enthusiasts whilst larger long term plans are explored by RTC after the previous facility was condemned and destroyed in April this year.

A full report from John Cattle's Skate Club is attached.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

RTC are being asked to match fund a grant of £5,000 that John Cattle's Skate Club CIC have been awarded, with the total project costing in the region of £10,000.

Currently, RTC only have £2,000 remaining in the budget this year for the skatepark facility, and therefore £3,000 would be taken from the Facilities Earmarked Reserve of £25,000.

3. OPTIONS

Option 1: Agree to contribute up to the remaining £2,000 budget for the project.

Option 2: Agree to match fund up to £5,000, of which, £3,000 will be taken from the Earmarked Reserve.

Option 3: Do not provide any funding for the project

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Option 2 - Agree to match fund up to £5,000, of which, £3,000 will be taken from the Earmarked Reserve.



RYDE SKATEPARK PROJECT 2023

**WIGHT
TRASH**

FAO: RYDE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND: In July 2022, John Cattle's Skate Club C.I.C along with some Ryde Skatepark users, took part in the 'Ryde's Time to Shine' Funding event. After completing a presentation based on knowing the park was in need of significant repairs and at risk of ramps having to be removed, we were successful at being awarded **£5000** (funding through Hampshire Police & Sovereign Housing). After some extended discussions with RTC about the future of the park, it was decided that due to safety the ramps would be removed, this was completed in April 2023.

PROJECT IDEA: With the secured funding of £5,000 Ryde skatepark users suggested this would be best spent on a 'meanwhile' project for the skatepark area, after having assurances from RTC that a longer term plan of regenerating the skatepark area would be a priority for them.

It was felt that using any available funding to create a 'DIY' skatepark area would be an exciting development for park users.

There are many examples of DIY skate parks across the country. These are usually created in unused or neglected sites, where skaters (and other park users) build their own concrete obstacles, often with the knowledge that these will be temporary however there are several examples of DIY parks that have become significant to skate scene and made permanent, notably Bournbrook in Birmingham and Goose Side in Manchester.

AIMS: There are currently no concrete skate parks on the island, and no DIY skate areas. This would be an exciting project offering new experiences to Ryde skatepark users.

The nature of DIY parks is that it is community led, and hands on. This helps create community cohesion and a positivity around the area. We also hope that skills can be passed on and local park users can gain some experience throughout the planning and build.

With the original ramps now removed, it is important that the space is continued to be used and that people still understand the space as a skatepark. Creating some DIY obstacles will assist with this.

DIFFICUTIES: One of the problems we have faced is that there are no experienced people on the island who have a good knowledge of building such sites. We have connections to people who work with concrete, and have vast experience in creating commercial and public realm concrete structures, but do not have an understanding of transitions and the scope required for usable skate obstacles.

SOLUTIONS: We have used our connections with skatepark communities across the UK to seek support with this project. We feel that having someone or a small team who have already completed DIY park projects assisting in leading on the build will give more assurances to the quality of the end results.

COSTS: An advantage of a DIY type park is that there is flexibility, where obstacles can be created as and when money is available and to suit the space, adding to the park site over time. It can just start with creating something small like a curb, and park users will develop the site over time when resources are available.

For Ryde however we would like to try and make the initial builds as impactful as possible in the first stage and then potentially complete further builds in the future. What can be achieved will be dictated by the amount of funding available.

We have been liaising with a variety of people and companies to get initial costs and see what support may be available to us. Please see summary of quotes and responses...

GRAVITY SKATEPARKS: Specialist Skatepark Designers - Southampton.

'Thanks for getting in touch about the Ryde project. We know how keen your local skating community are to get the park back up and usable.

Due to our current programme of work we would struggle to fit this type of project in. In order for us to consider, we would need to look at minor projects in the region of £50k. I know that this is currently beyond your budget so at this time we would have to decline to quote for this work. If however we can be of any other assistance then do get in touch, and we would welcome working with the Ryde community on any future longer term park plans'.

JJC GROUNDWORX CIVIL ENGINEERING: Island Company (Run by an experienced skater)

'This looks like a great project, unfortunately for me this has come in at the wrong time. I have just been contracted on several Isle of Wight council construction jobs which will make it really hard for me to commit to the time scales needed, so I won't put myself up for quoting for this job. However do let me know how you get on and start dates once you have it sorted as if I can help then I will volunteer some time'.

Sphaeracon - Specialist Construction workers - Midlands (Run by experienced skatepark users)

'Having looked at the scope for this project and the local material prices you have provided we can provide you with the following breakdown:

Based on a 7 Day job

Running costs - **£1220 +vat**
Labour for 2 Skilled workers and two Skilled labourers - **£3584 +vat**
Travel and accommodation - **£1488.00 +vat**
Tool hire - **£255 +vat**
Blocks for walls - **£267 +vat**
Timber - **£510 +vat**
Steel reinforcement - **£250 +vat**
Aggregates - **£600 +vat**
12m3 concrete - **£1714 +vat**
Misc materials/consumables - **£575 +vat**
£10463 +vat @cost (£12555.60)

We know that this is coming in over your desired budget and that this is down to the labour costs. Cutting the labour at this time is tricky as to prepare and pour and have some solid organisation getting concrete slots or any issues with the weather could stretch the time frame. Due to some of our booked commercial work, to complete the Ryde project in the time frame required, would mean we are having to take people off site, so that bumps up the required payment needed. We do however have an alternative, which is to work with a different team who can dedicate additional hours to the build. Details to follow'

Zach Williams - DIY Park Build Experience

Alistair Gleeson - DIY Park Build Experience. Skatepark Planning & Design.

Alice Beckford - Clown Skateboards Project Manager.

'We would love to be involved in this project, and having worked on several DIY builds over the last few years appreciate that things need to be done on a budget.

We would work to 9 full days of being on the Island with a team of 4 people leading the project build (Having some extra people especially on concrete pour days will be helpful - we can timetable this in so you can recruit volunteers). We can do this in October for you, in the hope that we avoid the full on winter weather.

We can be flexible in our approach, having determined a minimum that we would want to get done in that time, including a manypad, Hip, Curb, and transition obstacles, but if more money allows then we can add in extra (either on this build or in the future if time/weather works against us). We would happily work to a budget of £8-£10,000. Once you know final budget availability then we can draw up final plans'.

CONCLUSION: In order for us to start this project as soon as possible (leaving it much longer would realistically mean heading into Spring 2024 to avoid a build over winter), and to bring the project in at a maximum cost of £10,000 we would look to use the independent team to assist with the build. Having spoken to them and seen previous projects they have been involved with we are confident in their abilities. They are keen to include people from the community and are enthusiastic at being able to create something on the island.

I am volunteering my own time to project manage so as not to deplete any budget we have.

REQUEST: We would kindly request that Ryde Town Council help us with this project by agreeing to add additional funding. Match funding the already required £5,000, to allow the project to come in at **£10,000**. This would allow for a greater amount to be achieved in the park area.

Your consideration on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards

Zoe Thompson

JOHN CATTLE'S SKATE CLUB C.I.C

WIGHT TRASH SKATE COMPANY