



Skate Park Feasibility Study

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2 Executive Summary & Recommendations

Alan Jones Associates has been appointed by Forres Skate Park Initiative (FSPI) to undertake this following feasibility study into the development of a Wheeled Sports and Skate Park in Forres.

The study appraises four identified sites and presents the results of a wide-reaching community survey. In addition, and assessment of similar projects and key considerations around operations and management demonstrate the sustainability of the proposed facility.

The study concludes the following recommendations to support the further development of the Skate Park towards fruition:

- It is recommended that Forres Skate Park Initiative select the Grant Park as the preferred location, acknowledging the findings within this report.
- It is recommended that Forres Skate Park Initiative then engage Moray Council to discuss the potential for transfer or lease of an appropriate area of land within this location.
- It is recommended that FSPI secures the funding to commission a supporting Business Plan.
- It is recommended that an open tendering exercise is conducted to provide exact costings and designs for the park, using a detailed specification and selecting a design and build contractor.
- It is recommended that, on receipt of the above design work, a full planning application is made to Moray Council.
- It is recommended that Forres Skate Park Initiative commence applications to funders within this report, noting that some will require the above planning application to be approved, or in progress. FSPI should also continue to undertake small fundraising and seek donations to meet the third-party contribution required for Scottish Landfill Funders.
- It is recommended, that on receipt of full funding, Forres Skate Park Initiative engage the services of a project manager to oversee the delivery of the park, and undertake all requirements as determined by the funders.

3 Introduction & Overview

3.1 Project Background

Forres Skate Park Initiative is a Scottish Charity (SC049947) formed in 2020 to develop a skate park in Forres. The Group identified four potential sites in the town. Following a number of previous efforts and discussions to deliver a Skate Park in Forres, the group have appointed Alan Jones Associates to undertake this Feasibility Study and Options Appraisal, in order that a suitable site be selected, and the appropriate next steps identified.

3.2 Forres Skate Park Initiative

The FSPI have a small but very competent committee with a good range of professional skills and interests to take the project forward, both through the project management phase, and also once the project is completed to oversee the day-to-day operations of the new facility. Below are very brief summaries of the committee's skills and interests.

Shaun Moat, Chair of Forres Skate Park Initiative - Shaun Moat is owner of Moray Digital Ltd and 3rd Pixel Ltd which provides marketing and websites to clients across the UK. He is also currently the Chair of Forres Osprey Bus SCIO and Director of Forres Area Business Association (CIC). Shaun was previously the Chair of Forres Community Council (2019-2021) and Chair of Forres Area Soccer 7s (2009-2019). A Veteran of the RAF he has lived in Forres since 1997.

Shaun has a passion in community involvement and is very keen to ensure the youth of Forres have a place to call their own.

Sandra MacLennan, Secretary of Forres Skate Park Initiative – Sandra is a retired Primary School Head Teacher. During her working life she was Head of Pilmuir Primary school and Forres and Applegrove Primary schools for a total of 25 years. She has always believed that young people need to have as wide a range as possible of experiences and opportunities for exercise and developing lifelong interests.

The Forres Planning for Real exercise identified the wish to have Skate Park facilities in Forres. As a member of the Steering Group for this survey and a Director of Forres Area Community Trust, Sandra agreed to support FSPI becoming the Board's Secretary.

Sandra is also Secretary of Forres in Bloom and attend Forres Open Spaces Group meetings. These groups are particularly interested in the development and maximisation of public land in Forres.

Michael Robertson, Treasurer of Forres Skate Park Initiative – Michael is the owner of ESP, the north's board sports specialist providing the finest snow, surf, skate, and dart boards, along with footwear, clothing, and accessories. He has been working to deliver a skate park for the past 15 years and has been actively involved in the previous committees prior to this charity. Michael has extensive knowledge of skate parks and is also a keen skater.

Kevin Skivington – Working as a Police constable based in Lossiemouth, Kevin was previously stationed at Elgin and Forres. Whilst in Forres he was the Community Police Officer building connections with all schools and Head Teachers in the Forres area. Outside work he is involved with Forres Highland Games and Forres Osprey Bus (SCIO). Kevin have previously been the Child Protection Officer for Forres Area Soccer 7s and was involved for many years as Operations Manager for the European Pipe Band Champions in Forres

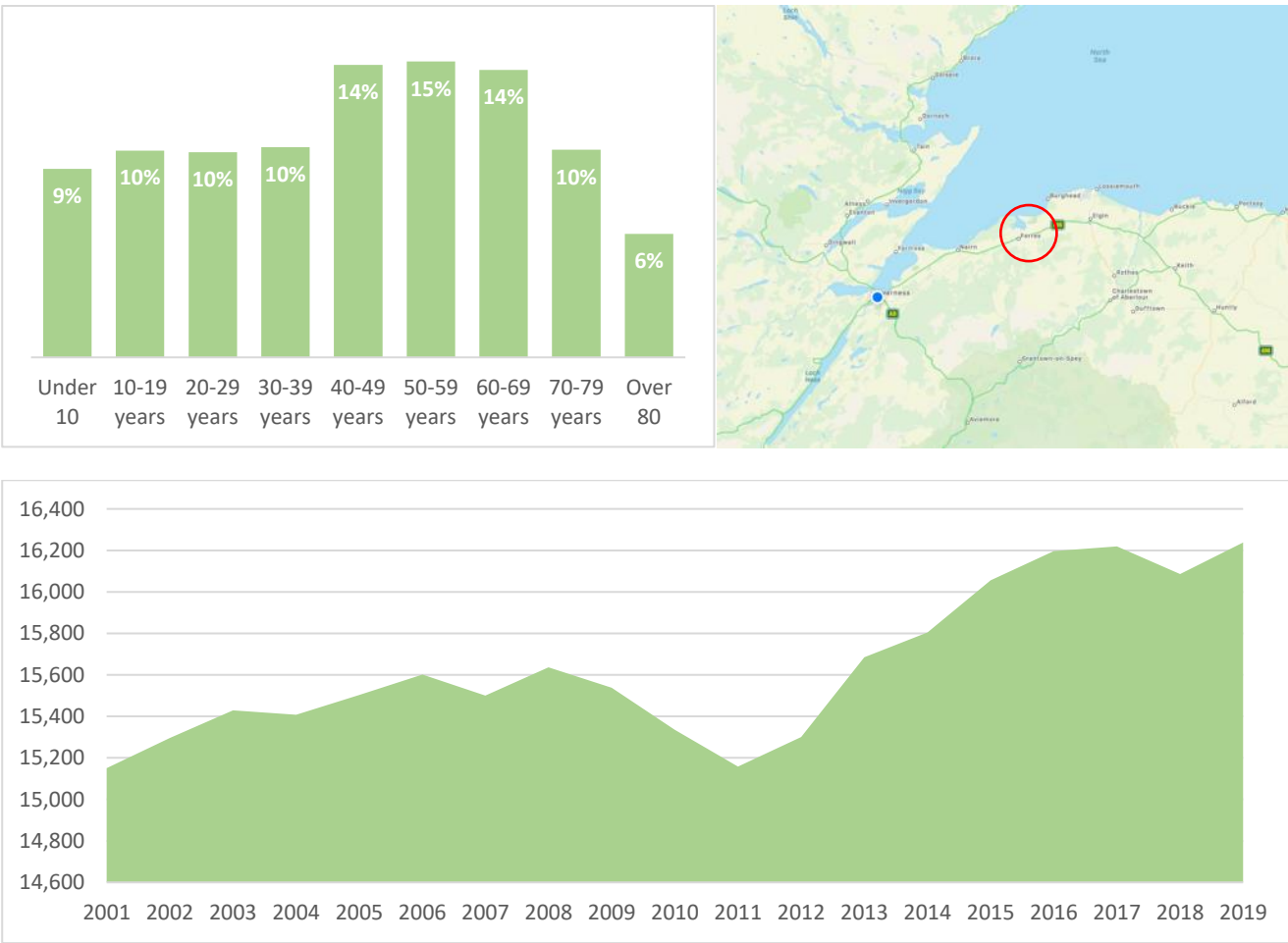
Fiona Rodgers- Fiona has previously worked in children's activities, community arts, musician youth & leader at regular roller discos. Fiona's children have all grown up and she has now taken up roller derby exercise. Fiona feels locally there's a very strong need for a skate facility and is the reason she is involved with the skate park group. Since being part of the group, she has run successfully fundraising events and took part in further training.

4 Market Assessment

4.1 Forres

Forres is a town and former royal burgh situated in the north of Scotland on the Moray coast, approximately 25 miles northeast of Inverness and 12 miles west of Elgin. Forres has a population of around 10,100 and is served by 4 Primary and 1 Secondary school (excluding nearby private schools). The town is well connected to larger cities of Inverness, Elgin, and Aberdeen with the A96 trunk road and railway line.

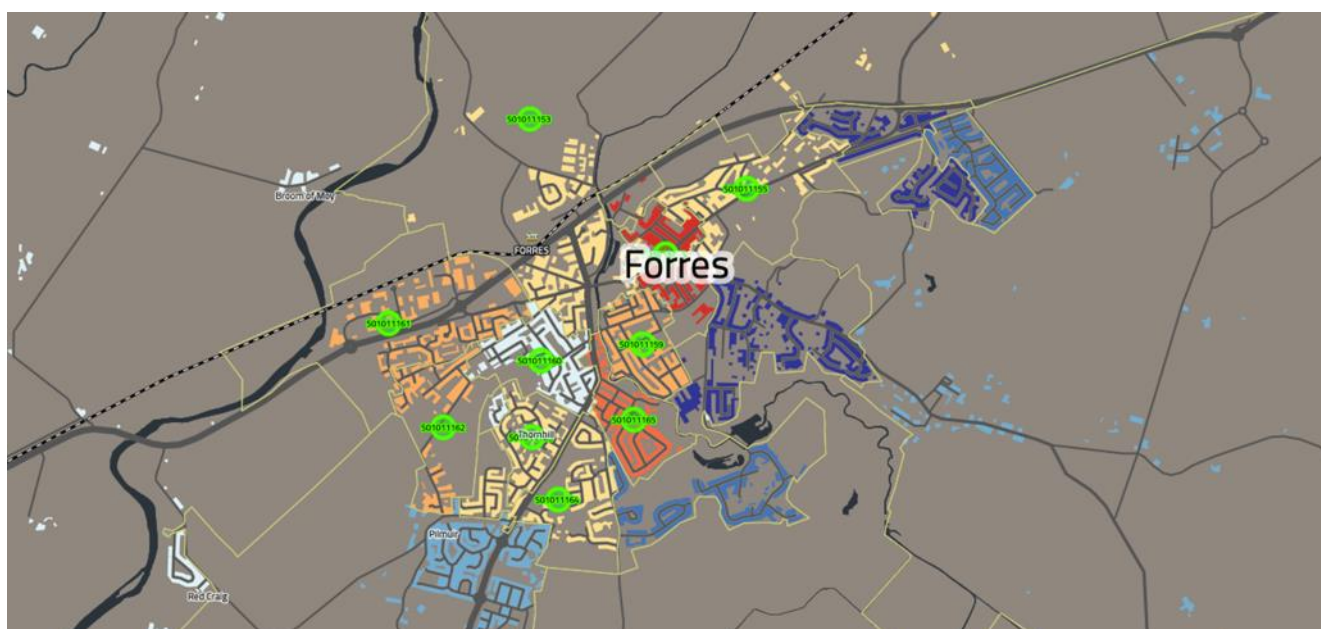
The charts below show the growth in population and the age breakdown for Forres, and the surrounding rural areas as listed by the Scottish Government



4.2 SIMD Assessment

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the government's official tool for assessing smaller population zones (average population 800) with the lowest levels of deprivation in the country. The SIMD is used to focus and inform policies and resources in order to tackle social inequalities in Scotland.

The following map and table note the 10 most deprived datazones in and around Forres, highlighting the key areas in the top 10, 20 and 30% (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Decile) of deprivation in Scotland.



Datazone	S01011153	S01011154	S01011155	S01011159	S01011160
	Forres Central East & seaward	Forres Central East & seaward	Forres Central East & seaward	Forres South West & Mannachie	Forres South West & Mannachie
Population	852	541	633	550	898
SIMD Rank	3,251 5 th Decile	1,377 2 nd Decile	2,900 5 th Decile	2,147 4 th Decile	4,053 6 th Decile
Income Domain Rank	2,820 5 th Decile	1,615 3 rd Decile	1,787 3 rd Decile	1,907 3 rd Decile	3,479 5 th Decile
Employment Domain Rank	2,737 4 th Decile	585 1 st Decile	2,754.5 4 th Decile	1,478 3 rd Decile	2,992 5 th Decile
Health Domain Rank	4,019 6 th Decile	3,003 5 th Decile	4,333 7 th Decile	2,879 5 th Decile	4,602 7 th Decile
Education Domain Rank	5,045 8 th Decile	3,395 5 th Decile	3,391 5 th Decile	2,999 5 th Decile	4,083 6 th Decile
Housing Domain Rank	4,021 6 th Decile	1,724 3 rd Decile	2,690 4 th Decile	4,262 7 th Decile	4,102 6 th Decile
Access Domain Rank	4,210 7 th Decile	6,489 10 th Decile	5,865 9 th Decile	6,033 9 th Decile	5,001 8 th Decile
Crime Domain Rank	778 2 nd Decile	130 1 st Decile	2,471 4 th Decile	1,149 2 nd Decile	4,426 7 th Decile

Datazone	S01011161	S01011162	S01011163	S01011164	S01011165
	Forres South West & Mannachie	Forres South West & Mannachie	Forres South West & Mannachie	Forres South West & Mannachie	Forres South West & Mannachie
Population	576	515	747	919	724
SIMD Rank	2,626 4 th Decile	2,110 4 th Decile	2,873 5 th Decile	2,983 5 th Decile	1,601 3 rd Decile
Income Domain Rank	2,194 4 th Decile	1,985 3 rd Decile	2,712 4 th Decile	2,384 4 th Decile	1,526 3 rd Decile
Employment Domain Rank	3,213 5 th Decile	1,973 3 rd Decile	2,950.5 5 th Decile	2,453 4 th Decile	1,568 3 rd Decile
Health Domain Rank	4,348 7 th Decile	3,889 6 th Decile	3,448 5 th Decile	4,344 7 th Decile	2,501 4 th Decile
Education Domain Rank	1,293 2 nd Decile	2,259 4 th Decile	1,696 3 rd Decile	3,167 5 th Decile	889 2 nd Decile

Housing Domain Rank	4,181 6 th Decile	4,823 7 th Decile	2,446 4 th Decile	6,296 10 th Decile	1,626.5 3 rd Decile
Access Domain Rank	3,150 5 th Decile	1,712 3 rd Decile	4,011 6 th Decile	2,811 5 th Decile	4,264 7 th Decile
Crime Domain Rank	2,770 4 th Decile	1,199 2 nd Decile	3,951 6 th Decile	5,109 8 th Decile	2,693 4 th Decile

4.3 Rural Deprivation

The Scottish Rural Policy Centre (SRUC) published a report in 2014 entitled Rural Scotland in Focus which monitors how rural Scotland is changing, focusing on: population trends, the lives of young people, the levels and experiences of poverty and disadvantage and how use of our finite rural land resource is negotiated through planning and other means. With specific reference to the Forres Skate park project, it is important to consider the aspect of rural inequalities, which, as listed below create challenges to living that are different from communities within larger urban areas.

The continued prevalence of this research is evidenced through the creation of SRUC's working group on Rural Poverty and Health Inequalities, who continue to invest in research in the area, and have worked with the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Rural Policy in recent years.

The following are key aspects of rural life that highlight differences and inequalities in rural life, all of which may increase perceptions of inequality for those living in Forres and the surrounding rural areas.

1. Employment Issues and Inequalities

In reviewing employment in rural areas, the SRUC report highlights a significantly larger percentage of those in part time or smaller contract jobs, often with lower hourly rates or salaries than counterparts in urban population centres. Many rural areas have becoming increasingly reliant on the Tourism Industry, and as a result many jobs are seasonal in demand, reducing the overall hours or contracts available over the year.

2. Fuel Poverty

Living outwith larger urban areas is likely to increase the costs of goods overall – primarily due to the cost of the supply chain network required. This can be seen in the cost of petrol and diesel with a predominant market of independent providers, unable to offer the prices of larger national outlets. This issue raises a secondary cost to local residents, with rural communities relying more on private transport, and often having to travel further for services. Ultimately, for residents of communities such as those in Forres, more fuel is required to travel for day-to-day work and leisure, and that fuel is supplied at a higher cost.

A second aspect of fuel poverty proposes that many rural communities will have an older stock of housing on average, thus requiring higher costs to heat. Where newer modern housing common to urban population centres have been designed to be efficient in retaining heat and using energy, the older houses found in rural communities are often significantly less efficient with older windows, colder brickwork, and poorer insulation.

Report on Minimum Income Standard for Remote Rural Scotland

The above report, reviewed most recently in 2016, follows on from work and research on the Minimum Income Standard for Scotland. Considering the previously noted inequalities in rural living, the report highlights that the cost of food and consumable goods are between 10-50% higher in rural areas, whilst clothing and household goods are between 30-50% higher than in urban areas.

4.1 Trends in Wheeled Sports

In 2016, The International Olympic Committee announced that five new sports will be added to the Tokyo 2021 Games, including skateboarding.

The thinking was that skating would draw a young audience in. "We want to take sport to the youth," said IOC president Thomas Bach. "With the many options that young people have, we cannot expect any more that they will come automatically to us".

Throughout Scotland there has been a growth in the number of dedicated wheeled sports facilities, with increased support from sportscotland. Skateboard Scotland was formed in 2003 as the official Governing Body for the sport. As a member led

organisation, Skateboard Scotland helps to promote and develop the sports, listing a directory of facilities, supporting the delivery of major events and competitions, and advising and engaging groups in delivering new skate parks.

Wheeled sports such as skateboarding and scooting are relatively low cost to access, with most public facilities free of charge. For this reason, increased investment in skateparks and wheeled sports parks will continue to reduce the barriers to activity faced by those in more deprived and rural areas.

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4.3 Trends in Sports & Leisure

Gathering statistical data on sports participation, the Scottish Government has identified the following key trends in sports participation.

- There is a general increase in the overall number of people partaking in sporting activity, measuring respondents who have partaken in activity within four weeks.
- Individuals who rate their health as good are more likely to take part in sports activities than those who rate their health as bad or very bad.
- There remains a gender gap in sports participation, with more male participants than female. It is noted that this gap had significantly reduced over the last ten years.
- Levels of deprivation have a direct correlation with participation in sports and exercise. Significantly lower income households demonstrate considerably less sports participation. Many local authority leisure trusts and facilities have developed concessionary membership schemes and pricing to encourage participation from this demographic and to support the reduction of this gap.
- There is a larger rate of sports participation in young people living in rural areas compared to those living in larger urban towns and cities.

Following the Coronavirus pandemic, and the restrictions in place throughout 2020 and 2021, there has been an increase in those undertaking outdoor leisure activities and exercise. It is thought that this is likely to continue, with parks and public spaces key to supporting this increase in outdoor activities.

5 Consultation & Stakeholder Engagement

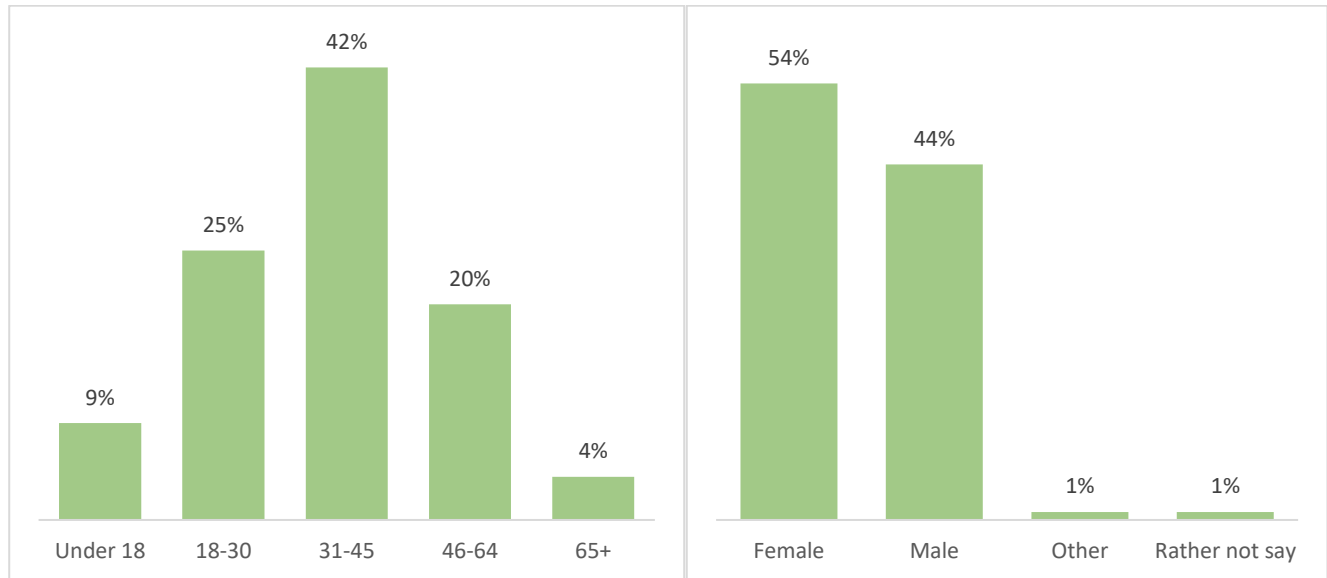
5.1 Community Survey

Community support is key to demonstrating the viability and demand for any new Wheeled Sports facilities in Forres. In delivering this feasibility study, a community engagement survey was undertaken, using the wide number of stakeholder contacts and key groups. The survey, promoted through Facebook, Instagram, and through stakeholder contact lists resulting in 702 responses.

The results of the survey are outlined below.

Respondents Demographics

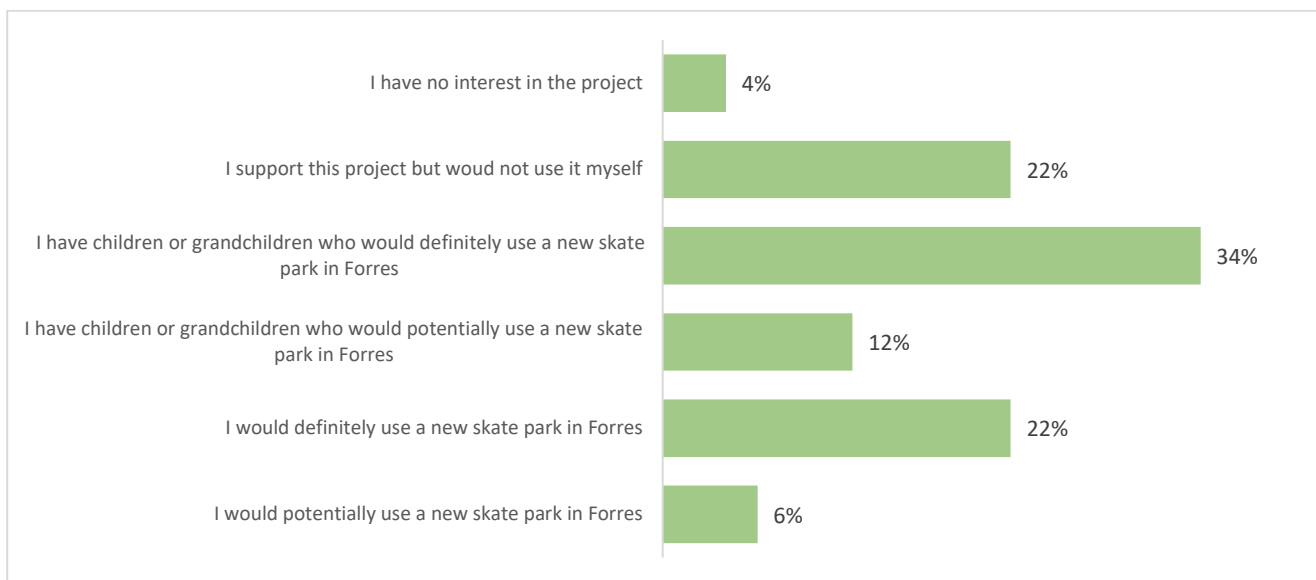
The following graphs show the breakdown of age and gender:



Respondents were also asked to provide their postcodes in order to demonstrate the reach of the survey. The table below shows the most common post code areas reported:

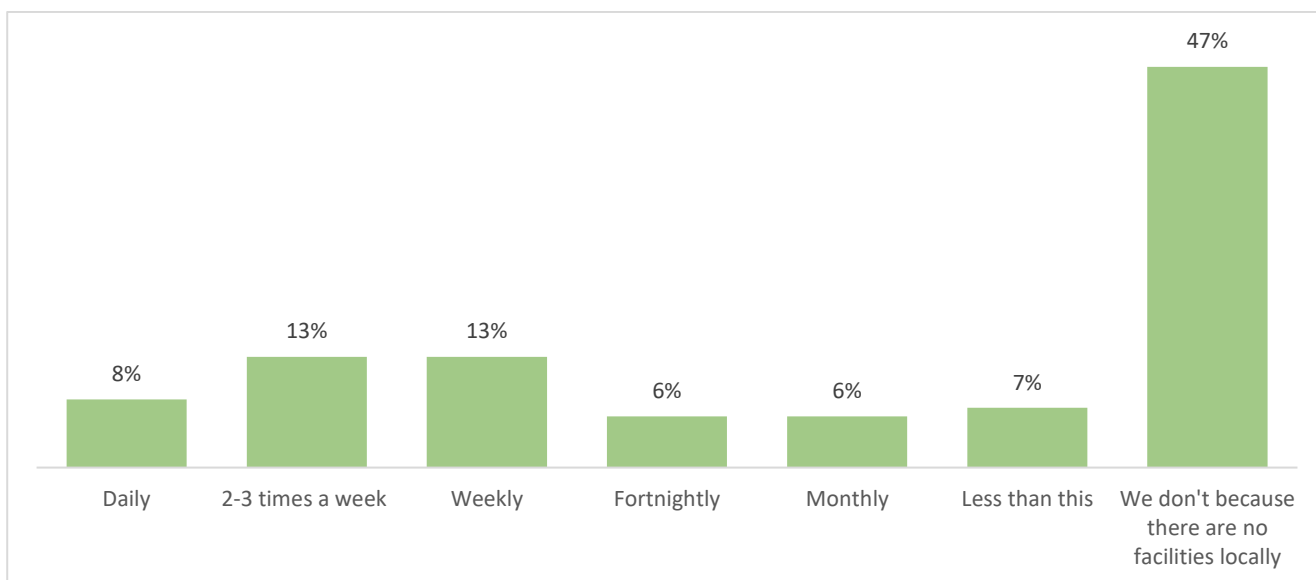
IV36	539	EH15	1
IV30	39	EH7	1
IV12	11	G31	1
IV31	6	G44	1
IV2	5	G5	1
IV3	5	IV4	1
AB24	2	IV46	1
IV15	2	PH22	1
AB12	1	PH26	1
AB22	1	SL9	1
AB56	1		

In order to understand each respondent's perspective, and to ensure they were asked relevant questions, they were asked to indicate which of the following five statements best suited.



Current Wheeled Sports Participation

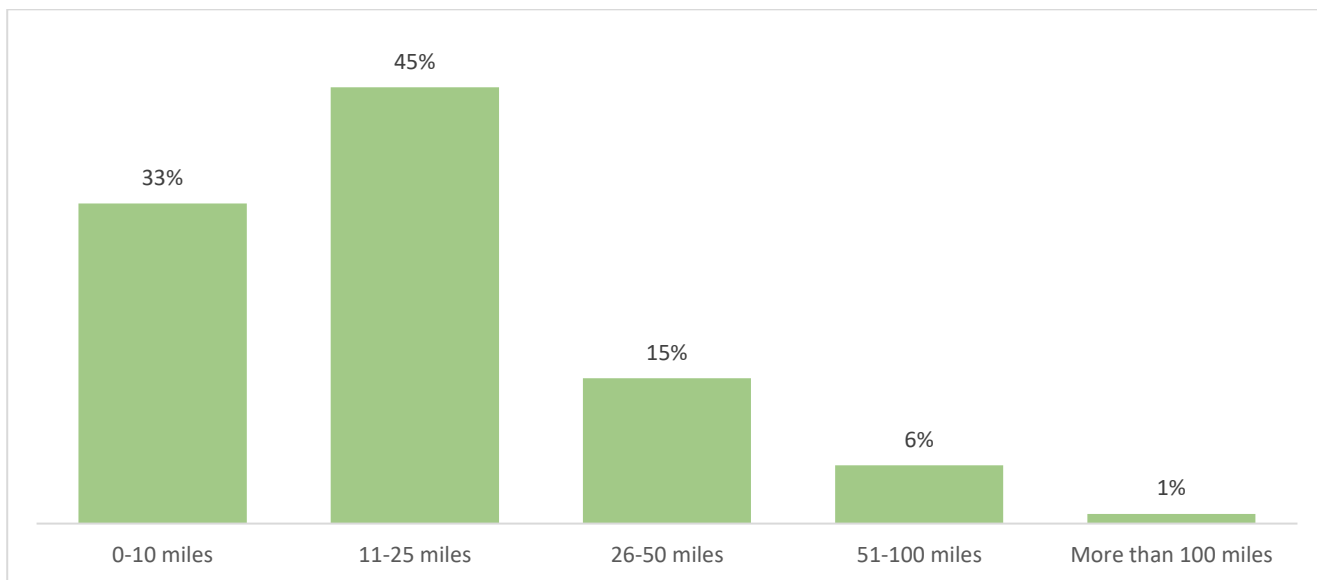
Respondents were asked how often they, or their children currently take part in wheeled sports (skating, scooting, biking etc). The results are shown below:



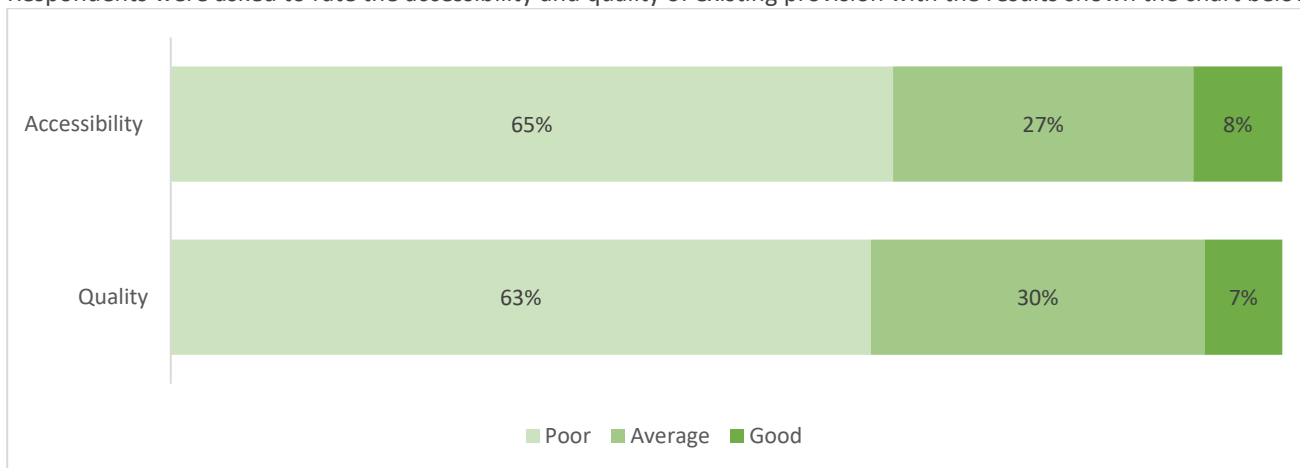
They were also asked where they currently take part in these activities, with the results listed by most common below:

Hopeman	116	Edinburgh	3
Elgin	113	Buckie	3
Inverness	51	Burghead	2
Sanquhar Woods	16	Beauly	2
Nairn	16	Glasgow	2
Forres	10	Lossiemouth	2
Aberdeen	9	Glenmore	1
Aberdeen	7	Muir of Ord	1
Culbin Forrest	4	Cluny Hill	1
Fochabers	3		

The chart below shows the distance travelled by respondents to take part in their wheeled sports activities:

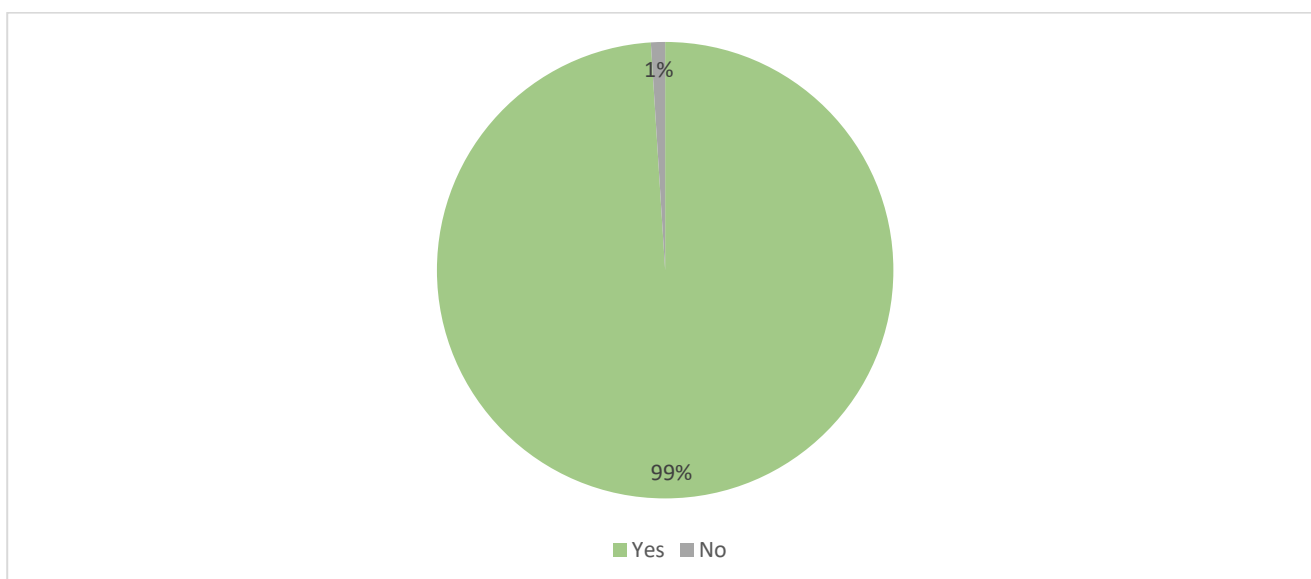


Respondents were asked to rate the accessibility and quality of existing provision with the results shown the chart below:



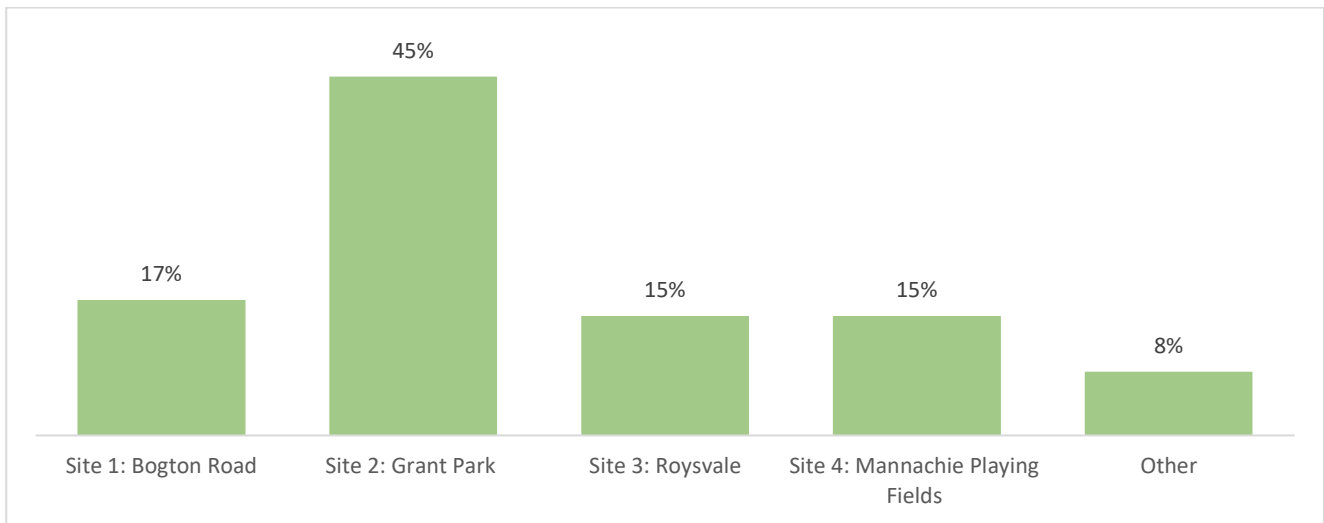
Project Support

Respondents were asked whether or not they support the proposed development of a new skate park in Forres. As shown in the chart below, 99% of respondents were supportive. Those who were not supportive were given the opportunity to explain why, but no comments were received.



Site Considerations

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferred site from four options on a map. The results are show below:

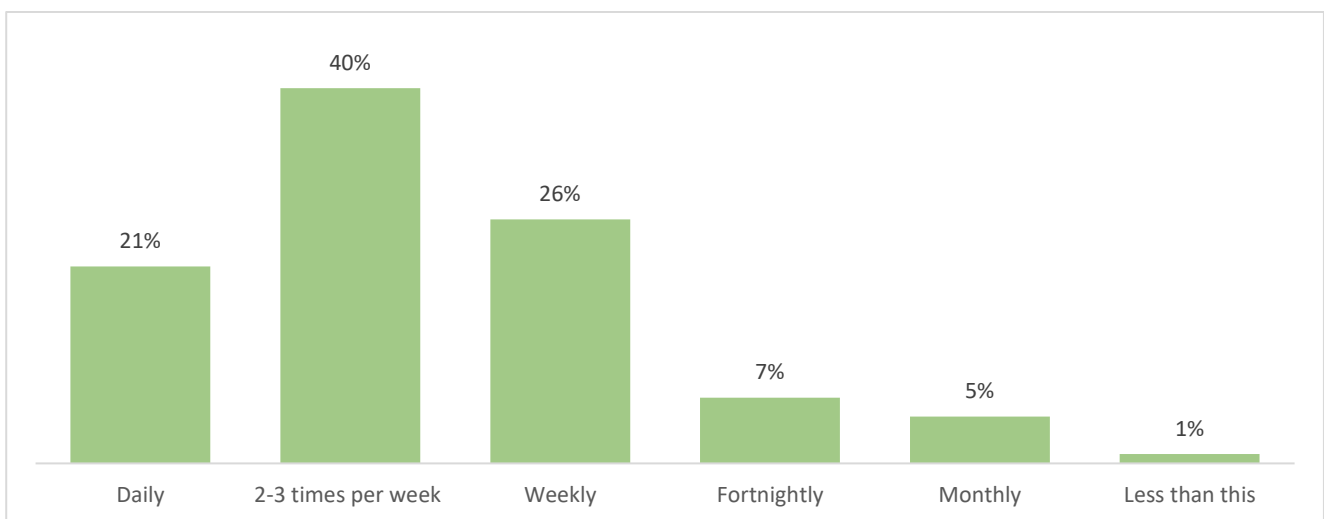


For those who selected other, most indicated that they had no preference, whilst a number suggested the Academy.

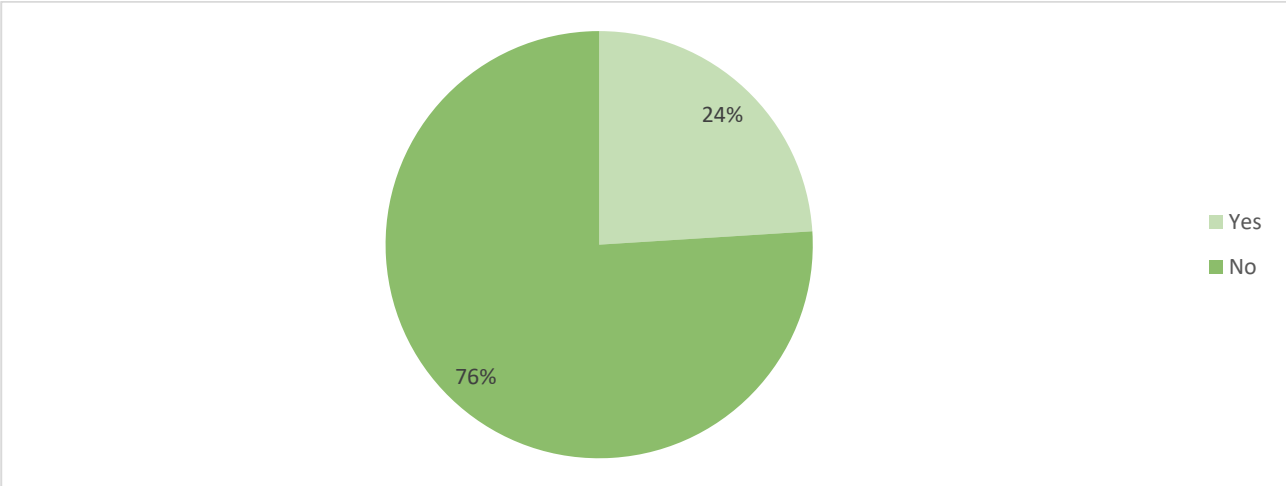
Respondents were asked to outline why they have chosen that site, with the comments included in Appendix One.

Potential Usage

Respondents were asked how often they would make use of a new skate park in Forres, with a high number indicating weekly or more:



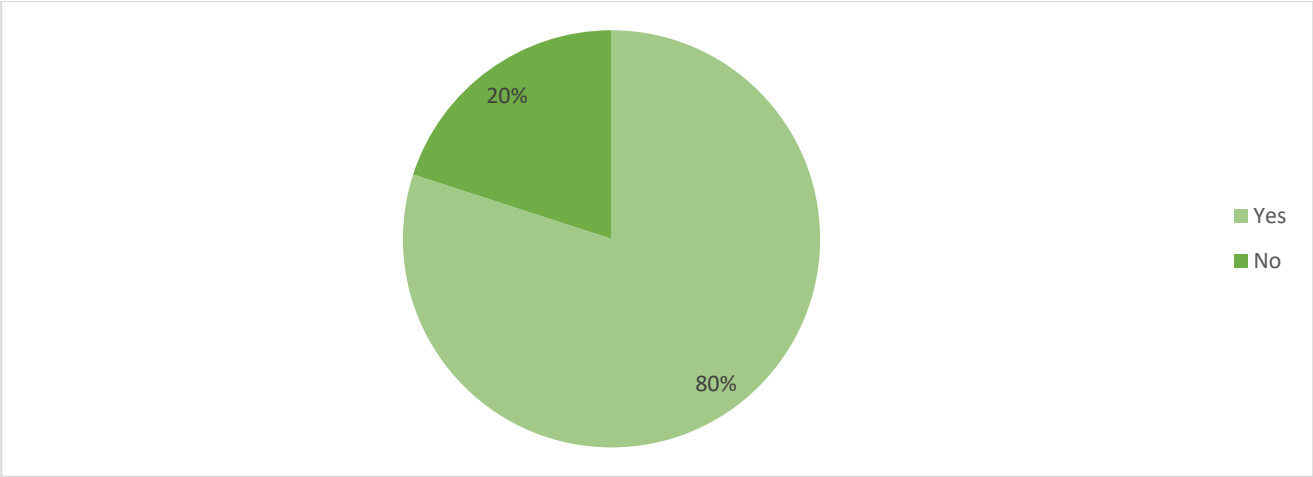
Respondents were then asked if they felt there should be a charge for the facility – as shown in the pie chart below, the majority were against a charge or fee.



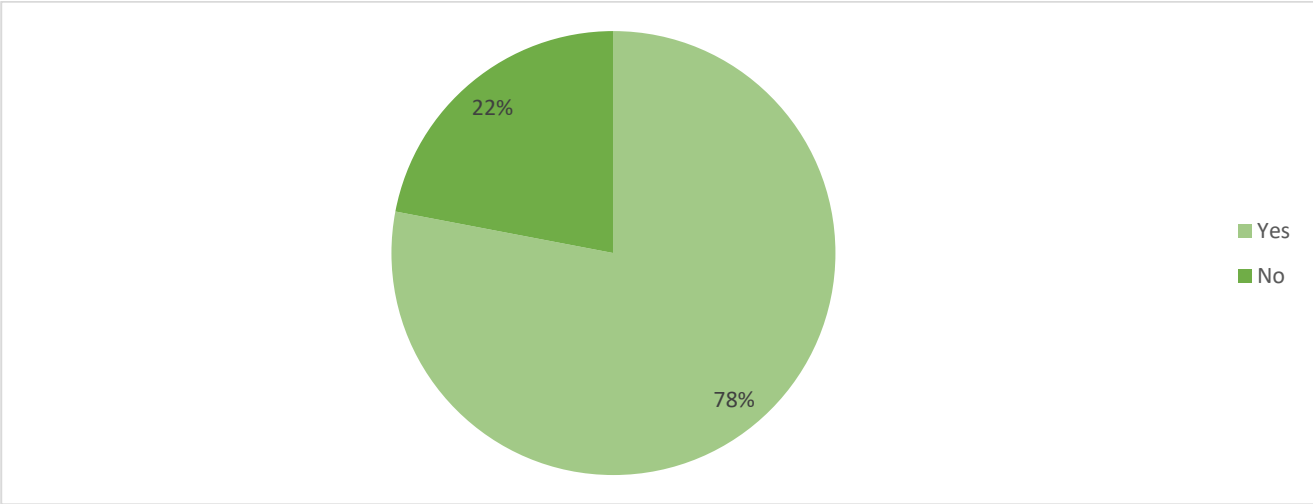
When asked about the prospect of a membership scheme, set up, 229 respondents were supportive of this. These respondents were asked to indicate the rate they felt would be appropriate, with the average results in the chart below:

Adult Membership	£30 per year
Under 18 / Concession Membership	£16 per year

Respondents were asked if they would support floodlighting, with 80% in favour:



In order to meet the costs of the electricity for the floodlights respondents were asked if they would be willing to purchase a pay as you go card, with the results below showing 78% in favour:



Respondents were then given the opportunity to provide any further comments, feedback, or suggestions in relation to the project. These have been grouped by the following themes and included in Appendix Two.

Theme	Frequency
Positive / Supportive	134
Comments on Management and Operation	47
Comments on Design	48
Site Considerations / Concerns	12

5.2 Wider Stakeholder Support

Letters of support for the development of a Skate Park by Forres Skate Park Initiative have been provided by the following groups. These have been included in Appendix Three.

- Douglas Ross (MP)
- Richard Lochhead (MSP)
- Cllr George Alexander
- Cllr Aaron Mclean
- Police Scotland Chief Inspector
- Forres Community Council
- Logie Primary School, Forres
- Forres Health Centre
- Forres Gazette

6 Site Options Appraisal

6.1 Overview

In considering the provision of a skate park in Forres, the following four sites have been identified, with a detailed options appraisal undertaken to identify the most favourable option. After Meeting with Forres Community Football Trust Roysvale was removed from locations to look at.



6.2 Options Scoring Criteria

For this project, the following 12 scoring criteria have been considered for each site. Each of these has been weighted according to the importance to the project, as well as the extent to which a low score may limit the project's feasibility.

Criteria	Considerations	Weighting
Site Ownership	In considering operations, management and funding potential, the option for owning a site will be more favourable than a lease. For leasing, a longer lease will score higher than a shorter lease.	5
Site Size	Where the site size can accommodate the project comfortably, and provide the potential for further future development, it will score highly. Smaller and more restricted sites will score lower.	5
Site Location	Sites are scored on how favourable the location is, with the most appropriate site scoring highest, and the subsequent sites scoring lower.	5
Site Topography	In considering the works that may be required to develop the space, sites with challenging topography will score lower than those where the construction process may be more straight forward.	5
Site Burdens	Burdens such as drainage, utilities etc on a site may prove problematic and costly for development, as such, a site with more burdens will score lower on this criterion.	5

Traffic & Roads – Site Access	The site is scored on accessibility for road and pedestrian traffic, as well as public transport where appropriate. Less accessible sites will score lower.	5
Traffic & Roads – Car Parking	The site is scored according to the availability, or potential availability of parking appropriate to the number of potential users.	5
Ancillary Facilities	If the site capable of accommodating or is close to other cycling related facilities (bike storage, e-bikes, shelter etc) it scores higher.	5
Affinity with Existing Space	Where a site allows synergy with other amenities and ancillary facilities (leisure centres, parks, toilets etc.) it will score higher. In addition, sites where the development may impact the aesthetic of general feel of the area, resulting in negative local feeling, a low score will be applied.	10
Planning Issues	Consideration of planning issues, compliance with planning policy framework, and links to local strategies will be assessed, with options that best fit scoring higher.	10
Community Support	Following a community wide questionnaire, the sites will be scored according to the apparent community preferences indicated.	20
Safety & Security	Each site will be appraised on risks to safety and of antisocial behaviour. A more open, and well-lit site, with the existence or potential for CCTV, greater passing footfall, and better visibility will score higher.	10

6.3 Options Appraisal Scoring

Criteria	Assessment	Scores
Site Ownership	All sites are owned by Moray Council but Bogton Road is on Common good land so scored lower than others Ownership by the local authority would indicate a greater likelihood of lease, sale, or transfer for a feasible project, rather than land owned by a private owner..	Site 1: Bogton Road 4 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 5 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 5
Site Size	Bogton Road was felt limited on space for any future development. All other sites are of various but suitable sizes. But Grant Park has been indicated as the most suitable in terms of size.	Site 1: Bogton Road 4 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 2 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 5
Site Location	- Mannachie Park has been identified as near both existing areas and access, and the development of new housing planned for Forres. - Bogton Road is located close to the main trunk road and furthest from many residential areas. - Grant Park is in the centre of the town and easily access by all	Site 1: Bogton Road 1 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 3 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 3
Site Topography	In assessing the sites and discussing with Moray Council it was clear that no site is impacted by any topography issues but Bogton Road has the best topography.	Site 1: Bogton Road 5 Site 2: Grant Park 4 Site 3: Roysvale 5 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 4
Site Burdens	Moray Council have indicated that there is no evidence of contaminated land on site 2-4. For Bogton Road, further investigation may be required if the site is a favoured option.	Site 1: Bogton Road 3 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 5 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 5
Traffic & Roads – Site Access	- In reviewing site access, all sites are in proximity to a local or main road. - Only Bogton Road was felt displayed restrictions that would impede access for vehicle and supply during the construction phase.	Site 1: Bogton Road 3 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 5 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 4
Traffic & Roads – Car Parking	- Discussions with the local Authority identified some existing parking in Grant Park - From a mapping assessment, the other sites have some street side parking.	Site 1: Bogton Road 3 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 3 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 4
Ancillary Facilities	There are limited ancillary facilities for the sites, except for Grant Park where public toilets are located.	Site 1: Bogton Road 2 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 3 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 2

Affinity with Existing Space	- Mannachie Fields and Grant Park is existing leisure and recreation spaces with a focus on play, sports, and physical activity. - Bogton Road sits close to an industrial area of town.	Site 1: Bogton Road 1 Site 2: Grant Park 3 Site 3: Roysvale 5 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 2
Planning Issues	All sites are currently designated for recreation and as such there are no significant issues.	Site 1: Bogton Road 5 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 5 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 5
Community Support	The community survey sought the views on each of the sites, and these have been scored proportionately to the respondent preference.	Site 1: Bogton Road 4 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 3 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 3
Safety & Security	For this project, the sites have been scored in relation to how visible they are, noting that this would reduce the instances of anti-social behaviour, and any risk to users.	Site 1: Bogton Road 3 Site 2: Grant Park 5 Site 3: Roysvale 4 Site 4: Mannachie Fields 3

6.4 Summary of Appraisal

The following table summarises the scoring for each site, concluding a ranked preference.

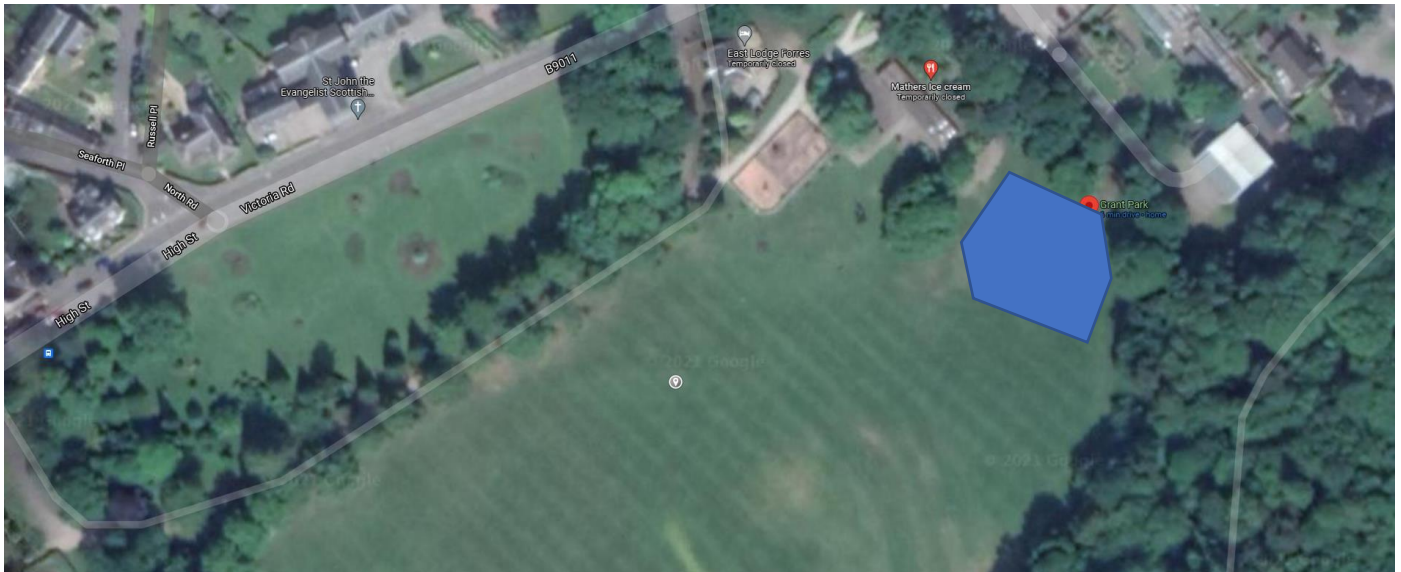
Criteria	Weight	Site One: Bogton Road		Site Two: Grant Park		Site Four: Mannachie Playing Fields	
		Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score
Site Ownership	5	4	20	5	25	5	25
Site Size	5	4	20	5	25	5	25
Site Location	5	1	5	5	25	3	15
Site Topography	5	5	25	4	20	4	20
Site Burdens	5	3	15	5	25	5	25
Traffic & Roads – Site Access	5	3	15	5	25	4	20
Traffic & Roads – Car Parking	5	3	15	5	25	4	20
Ancillary Facilities	5	2	10	5	25	2	10
Affinity with existing space	10	1	10	3	30	2	20
Planning Issues	10	5	50	5	50	5	50
Community Support	20	4	80	5	100	3	60
Safety & Security	10	3	30	5	50	3	30
		Total	295	Total	425	Total	320

The options appraisal has concluded that **Grant Park** would be the most appropriate site for this development.

7 Design Considerations

7.1 Site Overview

The following images show Grant Park – the preferred site for development.



7.2 Skateboard Scotland Guidance

Skateboard Scotland highlight three key factors when considering a local skate park, namely:

1. Funding
2. Community Support
3. Location

As the governing body for Skateboarding in Scotland, they outline the following considerations:

Is there a demand?	• Are there any specifically skate/BMX/rollerblade facilities existing in the area? • What other facilities for young people have the council provided in the area in the last 5 years? • Do you have a Primary and secondary school in the local area? • Are there skaters/bmxers/rollerbladers in your area? • Bring together a core user group comprising of as broad a spectrum of age and gender as possible.
Community Support	• Engage with existing local community groups • Is there is a local youth or sports development officer that can get involved? Having a professional onboard in a paid capacity has been the springboard to successful projects in the past • Hold events in community areas to publicise your campaign. Skate jams in playgrounds or petition signing tables on the high street for example • Build up messaging through online presence and local media outlets to gather support • Gather an action group comprising of the user group and other key figures who support the proposal i.e.: parents, community leaders and local councilors • Try to involve as wide a cross section of the community and age groups as possible
Engaging the Local Council	• Approach your local council through your action group with evidence of community support • Engage any local youth or sports development officers (see Community Support section above) • Ask the council about potential skatepark locations and any available funding opportunities • Request any information from local school surveys – a skatepark facility is often near the top of the wish list
Funding	• Based on size – how much money are you aiming to raise to build the skatepark? This is dictated by available space and budget potential • How much funding, if any, will be available from the local council? • Most councils will have an “active children” charter so tying in a skatepark proposal with the desire for young people to exercise and keep fit is an important step in the funding process • Other possible funding sources could be: • Sport Scotland grants • Big Lottery funding • Landfill offset grants • Local community grants • Private funding
Finding a Suitable Location	• Is the land usable? Some land cannot be disturbed due to historical, industrial use, or only used at great cost following decontamination • What are the soil conditions? Soft ground won’t take the weight of concrete and bedrock will be expensive to excavate • How deep can you dig and how high can you build up? This is crucial to the park design and cost as it’s generally cheaper to dig down than build up. Building up can also require specific planning permission • What’s options do you have for drainage? Is the ground already waterlogged? Is there a water course nearby? Can the drains be routed into existing drains? This requires consultation with Scottish Water and integration has not always been possible in the past • Are there trees on the potential site? Mature trees can rarely be removed, and any existing tree canopies must not be within the proposed skatepark to avoid leaf build up in Autumn

	• Is the site accessible for excavation vehicles? Large vehicles will need to access the area for construction purposes without significant disruption to the surrounding area • Are there public transport links? This will be essential in the planning process and application to tie in with local council goals for both fitness and environmental impact • Car parking – expect an uplift in demand so is there space? • Will there be good visibility into the park from the surrounding area? The Park shouldn't be hidden from view from nearby pavements or roads. This is a factor in the planning process and essential to getting the police on board with the park proposals • Are there any toilets nearby? Again an important consideration in the planning process • Are there shops nearby? • Litter management – what are the current rubbish provisions and how will the skatepark impact litter levels? • Police support. Having local community policing support is beneficial to the planning process. Any concerns raised by the police should be addressed prior to the planning hearing • Power supplies. Existing nearby power supplies for lights, CCTV and power points will be significantly cheaper than bringing in power over a longer distance
Design & Construction	• Use your action group to decide what kind of park features you would like to include in the design • Visit other skateparks across the country to get ideas for your own park • Don't try and cram too much into the space, it will make it harder to skate the park when it's busy • Work with the council to draw up a shortlist of potential contractors • Speak to Skateboard Scotland for support and advice • Contractors with proven skatepark building experience are always preferred and will ideally at least one skater will be on site during the build. Any subcontracted work should be agreed prior to the construction start date • Work with contractors to draw up the plan professionally. Most skatepark contractors will draw up a design based on your requests and available space as part of the tender process
Build Phase, Opening, & Post Opening Management	• Ensure that the local user group prevents any use of the skatepark before the official opening date. This can damage the concrete and add extra unnecessary cost to the build • Plan an opening event with the user group and local council, inviting local press to attend • Start with monthly post opening meetings with the user group, residents, council, and police • Reduce frequency of meetings if initial issues are resolved

7.3 sportscotland guidance

These guidelines have been created by sportscotland in response to the growth in extreme sports, which has seen a rejuvenation of skate parks as centres for sports participation.

The guidelines are based on a concrete skate park of around 1,000 square metres, normally associated with large urban areas, which they consider to be minimum appropriate size for a strategic approach to the development of skateboarding and other associated activities as a sport in Scotland. This type of facility will normally be located in main centres of population. Facilities serving rural and small communities will usually be of a different scale and construction and although many of the following guidelines will apply each such proposal would have to be assessed on its own unique merits.

In order to be eligible to compete for sportscotland funding, skate parks should have adhered to the following points:

- Should provide evidence that prospective users have been consulted about the site, design, and operation of the facility.
- Should be designed by a competent and reputable specialist, be constructed from concrete with features allowing skateboarders, BMX riders and in-line skaters of all ages and abilities to be able to participate.
- Should comply fully with British Standard BS EN 14974:2006: Facilities for users of roller sports equipment – Safety requirements and test methods
- Should be floodlit. This will allow a greater usage time.
- Should be complete with litter bins, seats for participants and spectators, secure bike racks and surrounded by a one-metre-high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g., gates, animal grids.

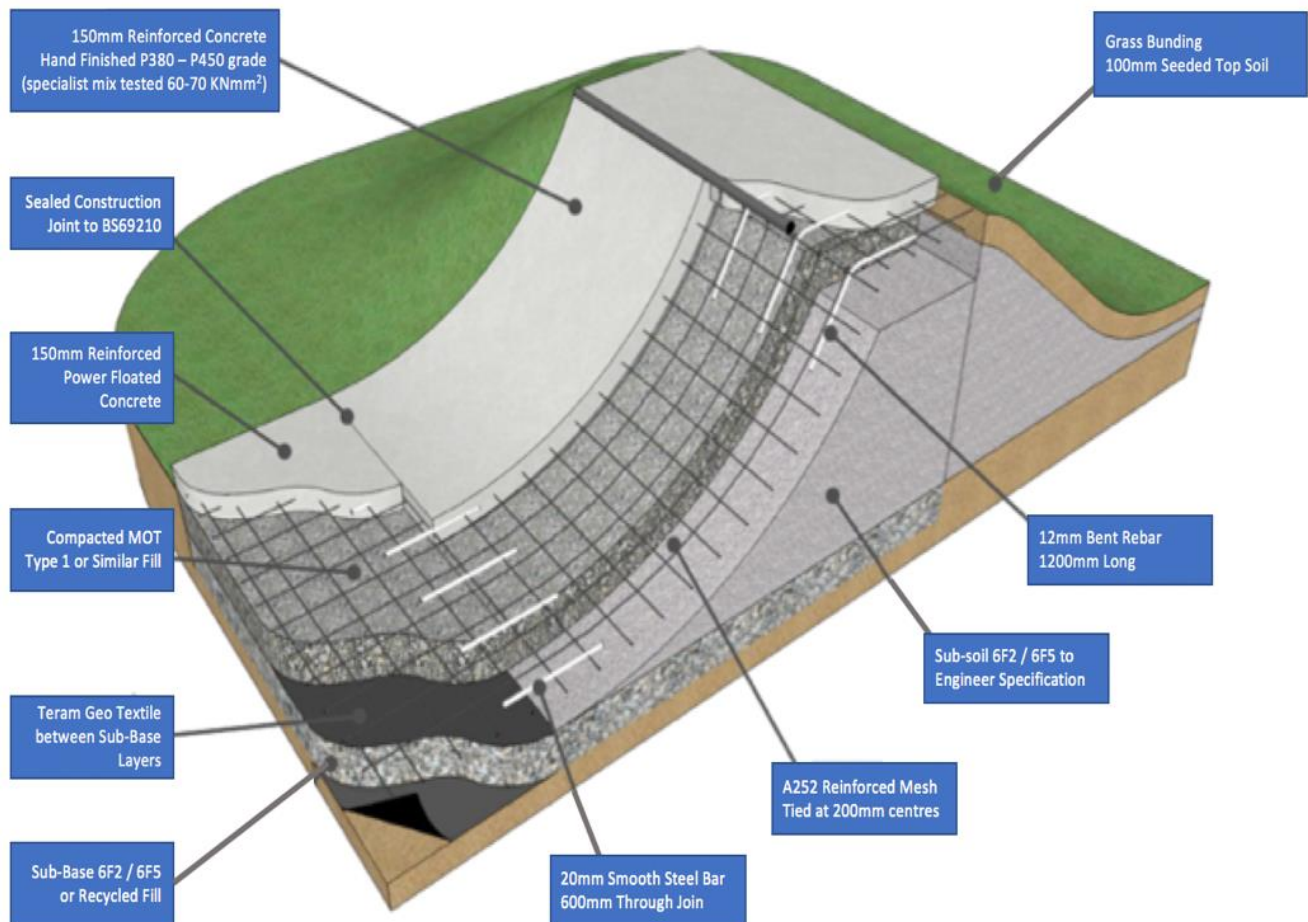
- Should be managed by a User Group. The Group would act as a self-policing force and contribute to coaching and fundraising.
- The Group should contain members representing the various disciplines, age groups, parents, youth, and community groups and, possibly, the local police community worker. A representative of the local authority could also be included as that individual can act as a conduit to and from the council.
- Should be within 50 to 100 metres of a sports or community facility, which is staffed during the majority of times the skate park is open. This will allow for informal supervision, especially if no members of the User Group are present at the skate park.
- The sports or community facility can also provide toilet facilities, a public phone, first aid facilities and storage for protective gear and simple maintenance equipment (brushes, etc.).
- Should be within 250 metres of both public transport and secure parking and afford easy access for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- Should be subject to a Risk Assessment to identify the risks associated with operating a skateboard park. This assessment should be used to implement appropriate control measures at the design/installation stage and create a management policy for the facility. The risk assessment should be documented, signed, and dated and reviewed annually, unless changes take place – at which point a review should be carried out. The assessment should at least cover such aspects as access/egress, falls/collisions, noise, violence/aggression, vandalism, and maintenance.
- Should be inspected by an independent body or qualified inspector upon completion and at least once a year thereafter. The inspections should follow the recommendations of RoSPA. The latter body can also carry out these inspections. Daily, weekly, and yearly inspections/maintenance should also be carried out as indicated earlier in this paper.
- Should have Public Liability cover of at least £2,000,000. RoSPA recommends a minimum of £5,000,000 and **sportscotland** should follow this latter recommendation.
- Should have appropriate signage. The signage should cover such topics as location of nearest telephone and toilets, the maximum number of users, any restrictions (lower age limits, permitted activities, etc.), protective gear must be worn, no dogs, no alcohol, etc. The sign should also note that ‘all users do so at their own risk’.
- CCTV may also be installed but this sensitive matter should be fully discussed with representatives of the User Group.
- As there is currently no governing body for skateboarding, the operators of the facility will commit to becoming members of the recognised governing body when that body comes into being.
- The skate park operator will also be required to set up a structured skills development programme with particular emphasis on beginners.
- The operator should also be required to set up programmes aimed at increasing the number of females and ethnic minorities participating in the sport.

For facilities in smaller centres of population such as Forres, the following should be adhered to:

- The area for the park should be a minimum of 36m x 18m. This would allow conversion of the area to a multi court at some future point.
- The area should be surrounded by a one-metre-high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g. gates, animal grids and we recommend that ducting is provided to allow the necessary cabling should the installation of floodlighting be a future requirement.
- Whilst concrete is still the preferred construction material other materials may be considered for park in smaller centres of population.
- All other requirements that apply to large parks will also apply to smaller.

7.4 Trends in Construction Materials

A general definition for a wheeled sports facility is a purpose-built recreation environment made for skateboarding, BMX, scooters, wheelchairs, inline skating, and other wheeled sports. The main construction methods throughout the years have been wood, metal, or concrete materials. This has caused accidents through wood rotting and metal rusting. As a result, the new focus on building new facilities is that they should be built with concrete.



7.5 Benefits of Concrete Construction

Maintenance

The potential maintenance costs of a sprayed concrete skate park are minimal. No replacement parts, fixtures or tools are necessary, except for an Allen Key for clearing the drainage. Considerations should be made for litter and graffiti. One of the most successful ways of combating graffiti is to provide spaces where professional graffiti artists can decorate. It is less likely for users to make unsightly tags when there is attractive art on their park. Additional ongoing maintenance may include minor repairs to the concrete surface made by the impact of stunt-pegs from BMX bikes.

Sustainability

Sustainable construction is considered to be a very economical construction method. An enduring wheeled sports park that does not need to be re-built every few years conserves community resources and effort. This requires the use of reinforced concrete. The sprayed concrete method is more energy and materially efficient than any pre-cast method. With pre-cast, every piece has to be cast in a mould, then transported to the site and set on a separate in-ground concrete foundation.

Sprayed concrete parks are self-supporting monolithic structures which minimize concrete volumes and thus costs and emissions.

Using the sprayed concrete method allows us to use locally sourced materials, reducing environmental impact and reducing the amount of transportation needed, whilst contributing to the local economy. This method uses efficient engineering and precise form work to ensure an optimum build with minimal waste.

Value for Money

Sprayed concrete construction is the method used on the most renowned wheeled sports parks worldwide. It allows designers the freedom to create progressive and continually engaging designs which users gain ownership of through in-depth consultation. Many parks are guaranteed for 30 years however the structural integrity of sprayed concrete parks has proven to last indefinitely and is virtually maintenance free. Wheeled sports parks create a social space that provides long term health and social benefits, leading to reductions in anti-social behaviour and benefits for the local economy by way of consequential passing trade.

7.6 Floodlighting

As part of the design, the group should consider the inclusion of floodlighting. Although floodlighting provides a substantial capital cost, it's presence will allow for increased usage of the facility throughout the year. Consideration should be made to the management of energy costs associated with floodlighting.

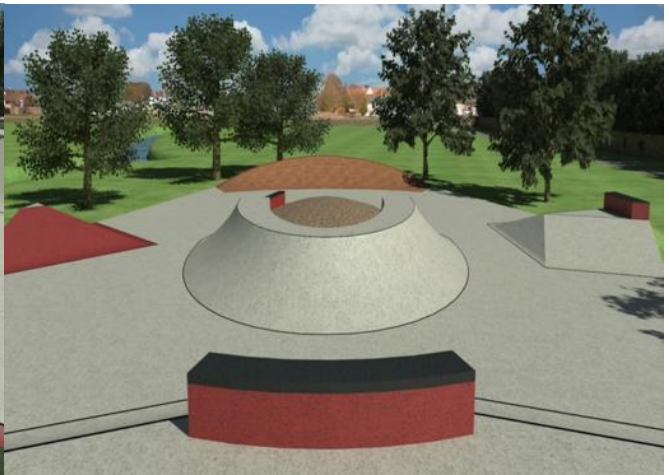
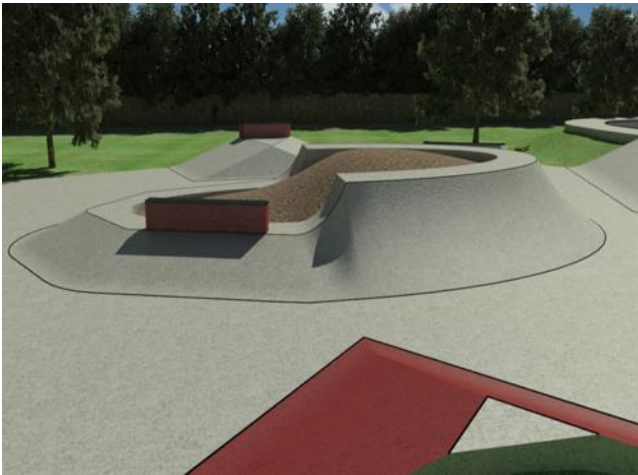
A popular option for outdoor leisure facilities is to install a pre-paid meter (right) with cards available for sale at a local convenient location. This ensures that all energy costs are met by the users through a pre-payment system. The group can then control how late the lights operate. By incorporating pre-paid card options, there is a significantly reduced risk of vandalism in comparison with coin operated systems.

Where it may be more feasible to phase floodlighting as a secondary aspect of the project, it should be considered that the installation of suitable tracking and cabling throughout the site may be easier at the initial construction stage, futureproofing the site for the addition of lighting and other amenities at a later date.



8 Indicative Designs





9 Capital Costs

9.1 Comparable Examples

The following projects have been identified as similar to the proposed skate park in Forres, all of varying sizes. These parks are all concrete built, developed by third sector community / wheeled sports groups, and supported by similar capital funders to those within this report.

Park	Raigmore Skate Park, Inverness	Kelso Skate Park	Bught Skate Park, Inverness
Group	Community Action for Raigmore Estate (CARE)	Kelso Skate Park Group	Highland Skate Park Association
Approximate Size	25m x 12m	40m x 15m	55m x 45m
Construction Date	2019	2018	2014
Cost	£115,000.00	£200,000.00	£400,000.00

9.2 Indicative Capital Costs

The following table outlines the indicative capital costs for delivering this project. These costs are based on experience with previous wheeled sports facilities but should be further detailed through the appropriate tendering and procurement process.

Ground Works	£25,000
Concrete Skate Park	£90,000
Floodlighting	£30,000
Seating & Signage	£5,000
Landscaping	£5,000
Professional Fees (10%)	£15,500
Contingency (5%)	£8,525
Net Cost	£179,025
VAT (20%)*	£35,805
Total Project Cost	£214,830

10 Potential Sources of Funding

10.1 Summary of Possible Funding Plan

sportscotland	£75,000.00
Scottish Communities Landfill Fund – FCC	£40,000.00
Scottish Communities Landfill Fund – Viridor	£25,000.00
Scottish Communities Landfill Fund – Suez Trust	£50,000.00
Scottish Communities Landfill Fund – EB Scotland	£25,000.00
Berryburn Wind Farm	£15,000.00
Total Project Cost	£230,000.00

10.2 sportscotland

sportscotland's Sports Facilities Fund supports capital projects that create or improve places where people take part in sports and physical activity. Having been recently revised, this fund now offers capital funding with a ceiling limit of £100,000. The funding looks to support projects that provide opportunities for people to get involved, increasing participation by targeting their resources on projects that demonstrate commitment to the following:

- Equalities and inclusion
- People development
- Collaboration and impact

10.3 Scottish Communities Landfill Fund

The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) is a tax credit scheme, linked to Scottish Landfill Tax that encourages landfill site operators to provide contributions to Approved Bodies, who can then pass the funds onto community and environmental projects. The SLCF replaced the UK scheme in Scotland on 1st April 2015.

Funding must be passed from a landfill operator via Approved Bodies to a project such as the proposed Skatepark in Forres.

There are a number of approved bodies that have been identified as suitable and relevant for the project. These are listed below. It should be noted that as a general rule these funders look to fund a specific aspect of the project and not a proportion of the overall cost, additionally they will not be able to fund the same aspects of the project should applications to multiple bodies be considered.

Approved Body	Notes
FCC Communities Ltd	The FCC Scottish Action Fund offers funding of between £2,000 and £40,000 to projects from FCC Environment through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Further information is available at http://www.wren.org.uk/apply/fcc-scottish-action-fund
Viridor Landfill Credits	Viridor Credits Environmental Company is an independent, not-for-profit organization which provides funding for community, heritage and biodiversity projects around the UK through the Landfill Communities Fund and Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Funding up to £25,000 Further information is available at http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-for-funding/
Suez Trust	SUEZ Communities Trust will consider projects which focus on physical improvement at an identified site. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase of materials/equipment and the appointment of a contractor to undertake the improvement work. A request for funding for multiple sites or for salaries, running costs, project management or design fees will not be considered. Funding up to £50,000 Further information is available at http://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/scotland
EB Scotland	EBS considers various criteria when deciding whether to fund a project; Community Need: It is important to demonstrate wide community support and appropriate consultation. Value for Money: It is important to demonstrate anticipated costs are reasonable and represent good value, usually through a tender or quotation exercise. Viability: EBS carefully vets all applicants as to their suitability to carry out proposed projects. This not only ensures compliance, but also that the necessary skills and experience are available to projects. It is also important that other funding, planning consents and any contingencies have been considered. Sustainability: It is important that maintenance plans and budgets are demonstrated. Added Value: It should be illustrated how SLCF funds lever in other sources of funding, utilise volunteers, enhance disabled access, meet biodiversity targets, and attract local authority support as appropriate. Funding £25,000 https://ebscotland.co.uk

Third Party Contribution

When a Landfill Operator (LO) contributes to an Environmental Body (EB), it can only claim tax relief on 89% of the contribution it makes and is left with a 11% funding shortfall. Some LOs will absorb this cost, or a portion of it, themselves. Sometimes LOs will require you to find a separate third party - a Contributing Third Party (CTP) to make the 11% payment or a portion of it.

Who Can Be a Contributing Third Party?

Almost anyone can be a Contributing Third Party, providing they do not gain a unique benefit from the project put forward for funding. Below is a list of examples of organisations that may be Contributing Third Parties:

- Private Companies
- Public Sector organisations - Local Authorities, County Councils
- Charities
- Voluntary organisations
- Private donors
- Monies from fundraising

Who is Excluded from Being a Contributing Third Party?

- Any individual or organisation directly connected to the landfill operator, or a contractor of the project
- Any individual or organisation who gains a unique benefit from the project

11 Operational Considerations

11.1 Management

It is proposed that the Forres Skatepark Initiative will assume ownership and responsibility for the management and liabilities associate with the completed skatepark. It is important that the group ensure its constituted structure can effectively undertake all elements of the facilities ongoing management, maintenance, and promotion. It is also important that the group's legal structure allows the appropriate insurances to be in place, and the limits the liability on each individual.

It may be necessary to undertake a skills audit in a subsequent Business Plan, to identify and mitigate against any gaps in knowledge prior to the delivery of the project. The following lists a number of tasks and activities that should be considered following the delivery of the project:

- Managing all income and expenditure
- Managing social media and events
- Organising coaching sessions and promoting participation
- Ensuring sufficient members of the committee and succession planning
- Ensuring all policies and insurances are up to date and in place.
- Encouraging and deploying volunteers
- Fundraising
- Conducting committee business
- Dealing with sponsors
- Facilities management
- Regular monitoring of, and interaction with, users, user groups and their parents.

11.2 Land Ownership / Lease Arrangements

In order to meet the needs of most capital funders, and for project security, it is recommended that a lease of a minimum 20-year term is agreed with the Local Authority.

11.3 Insurances & Liabilities

As the owner or leaseholder of the site, and the provider of the facility, the Group will require to ensure all appropriate insurances are in place. They will require to have adequate public liability insurance, and given the nature of the sport, the group should ensure that their liability insurance is sufficient to cover a full spectrum of potential claims.

The Group may require having the insurance in place during the development phase of the project, as this will be required by many funders as part of the application process.

The Group should look to other existing facilities and wheeled sports providers to assess possible insurance providers and ensure best value for money.

11.4 Maintenance & Upkeep

The Group will be responsible for the on-going maintenance and upkeep of the facility. Whilst the proposed concrete construction method will reduce the overall maintenance on the park, regular preventative maintenance will reduce further the risk for any costly repairs.

Considering best practice from other facilities, the Group may wish to look to its users and members (where applicable) to support with a schedule of basic maintenance. This is likely to include sweeping the track, weeding, and tidying surrounding landscaping, litter picking, and highlighting or reporting any issues with the park surface. The main activities for maintaining the facility will be;

- Encouraging and deploying volunteers
- Litter picking
- Emptying bins
- Periodic checking of the surfaces, entrances, paths and other publicly open spaces
- Gardening and landscaping works (grass cutting, leaf clearing, weeding etc.)
- Periodic checking of lighting, switches, locks etc.
- Regular monitoring of, and interaction with, users, user groups and their parents.

The Group should also ensure a budget heading allocated against the park's annual income towards repairs, ensuring cash reserves are built up annually to allow for larger works where required.

12 Risk Management & Mitigation

12.1 SWOT Analysis

A SWOT Analysis provides an at a glance summary of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the project.

Strengths
- Forres Skatepark Initiative is a strong competent group with a wide range of professional and business skills - The Group has a good reputation within the community as well as support from local councilors and the Moray Council - They have a significant number of wheeled sports users in Forres and good community support for their project - They have carried out an options appraisal of 4 possible sites arriving at a preferred option - The proposed site is an existing recreational site, therefore meeting all appropriate planning policies. - The project aligns with a number of local and regional strategies. - The project is potentially fundable through Scottish Communities Landfill Fund, Sport Scotland, and several other funders. - The project reduces the carbon footprint associated with the travel currently required to make use of facilities further afield in Elgin or Inverness.
Weaknesses
- Moray Council has not yet agreed a lease/community asset transfer - The project will require to make a planning application - Securing adequate capital to fund the project with increasing demand on all funders. - Access to the area is through an existing play area therefore a temporary road is potentially required in order to allow contractor access.
Opportunities
- The Group has identified a good location for the proposed new Wheeled Sports facility - They are discussing a long-term lease/community asset transfer from Moray Council - The project has the opportunity to create a Wheeled Sports facility for Forres and other surrounding communities. - Once build, this will become a venue for a range of Wheeled Sports coaching initiatives and one-off events. - The facility will attract users from out with Forres, bringing a positive economic impact to the town through secondary spend. - Opportunities exist for links to Active Schools and other local health and sports initiatives.
Threats
- Constant threat of poor weather - Lack of capital funding could affect some elements of the project.

13 Recommendations

The study concludes the following recommendations to support the further development of the Skate Park towards fruition:

- It is recommended that Forres Skate Park Initiative select the Mannachie Playing Fields Site as the preferred location, acknowledging the findings within this report.
- It is recommended that Forres Skate Park Initiative then engage Moray Council to discuss the potential for transfer or lease of an appropriate area of land within this location.
- It is recommended that FSPI secures the funding to commission a supporting Business Plan.
- It is recommended that an open tendering exercise is conducted to provide exact costings and designs for the park, using a detailed specification and selecting a design and build contractor.
- It is recommended that, on receipt of the above design work, a full planning application is made to Moray Council.
- It is recommended that Forres Skate Park Initiative commence applications to funders within this report, noting that some will require the above planning application to be approved, or in progress. FSPI should also continue to undertake small fundraising and seek donations to meet the third-party contribution required for Scottish Landfill Funders.
- It is recommended, that on receipt of full funding, Forres Skate Park Initiative engage the services of a project manager to oversee the delivery of the park, and undertake all requirements as determined by the funders.

14 Appendices

14.1 Site Related Feedback

Site One: Bogton Road

- Bogton is close to the centre of town, where there are toilets and places to buy food and drink - these facilities will be important for users of the skate park. It is also an area that seems not much used currently, and not a very beautiful area, so people might be less likely to complain about the skate park spoiling the look of the place, as they might about Grant Park? Another consideration is potential disturbance for local residents at night - but I'm not sure which of the four suggested sites might be best in that regard.
- Close to home and wouldn't spoil any nice spots in Forres like Grant Park
- less busy area, makes more sense to place a skatepark where there aren't already a lot of activities going on
- Accessibility for all the town close to the A96
- Grant Park will have little kids running all over it.
- Closest to home and doesn't interfere with other activities in grant park
- Proximity to A96, rail station and local amenities
- Access
- For ease of access to also allow younger children to attend
- It is close to town but not in town. Anywhere but grant park. That would be a mistake.
- Far enough away from built up area for noise pollution worries. Can easily be accessed by anyone wanting to use it
- Coming from Kinloss, sites 1&2 are easier to access than 3&4. Saying that however, if the sites 3&4 afforded for better quality and variety skatepark, the location would be less relevant.
- It's where the BMX track was, it's near the local football ground.
- Good use of the space
- Safety, accessibility, topography, and reality of building a large structure surrounded by people's homes. Grant Park already has football, cricket, sledging and is used as Anderson's Primary school pitch. Roysvale is already used as a training ground for the Forres Mechanics and Forres Academy sports lessons. Would consider site 4 too but not sure where it is.
- Like the area
- It has the best chance of going ahead all the others will get objected by the local residents
- It's out the way
- Already empty
- Cause I think it would be a good place for it to be, out the road of people
- Not so many houses either said or too close by and the site is laying empty or only used for the odd dog walkers. The area would benefit from this I feel.
- Next to football stadium... and quite a few parks are situated by other sporting facilities. and having lights there shouldn't affect anything as already lights at football stadium and a bit away from houses
- Near to family where we would be visiting to attend the park
- Great place for the skate park and near swings and other park facilities making it easy for younger kids to go from one to the other
- There is plenty spare land there
- Good use of the land that has been sitting empty for too long
- People are used to noise of traffic and football matches /training going and going by, so a skate park wouldn't affect them as much as the other areas. The locals are used to flood lights being on down there as well so well-lit skatepark shouldn't be much bother.
- It's far away from houses
- Disused area, good access, not ruining existing green space
- There is plenty room for it and potential parking not far from the site. Grant Park already has facilities and parking, but I think it'd be good to spread things out a bit. Use an area away from the busy park to benefit Forres and its wheeled sports.
- This park is far away from houses so hopefully nobody should be annoyed with the noise that comes of the skateboards and children etc.
- It's the nearest Tesco and there are loads of room.

- I would be happy with any site but feel that Bogton Road is a large space that is relatively unused and unkempt. I think that building a Skatepark on this site would rejuvenate a neglected area of Forres. As this site is also near a main road this location would less likely affect locals in regard to noise and with being near to transport links would, could be easily accessible for those traveling from neighbouring towns or further.
- Close to home
- Because it's out of the way and there will be low noise. If it's put near the football stadium that would be great
- Access
- Fields at Bogton are empty spaces that could benefit from a skatepark, Mannachie fields/Roysvale are used by the school for sport- might get in the way
- Seems like a good place as lots of space for it down Bogton also Bogton used to be the old BMX site so seems right.
- Close
- It is highly accessible and is that area is completely unused
- Access
- Good space away from roads and would be safe for me and others
- I feel this location would be best suited for a skatepark as there is large amount of space to use
- Location
- Anywhere but grant park would be acceptable. Grant Park is bust with Gov walkers and children
- It's central
- Bogton seriously needs some kind of over hall. That space beside the football ground has been used for years. It needs to change.
- Grant Park already has a good footfall spreading the facilities will also spread the reward.
- I think it's the best location and close to town center for transport
- Closer to the road
- Think it would be the most private and not disrupting to any residents
- Separate from busy park and Bogton needs to use the valuable spare space
- Plenty of space and pretty out of the way for those who don't want it
- It's an eyesore at the moment and needs something done with it
- Because its laid empty for years
- Nice open area
- I drive past the existing park area in Bogton regularly and see it is fairly unkempt and could be doing with a new lease of life
- Bogton Road is the most out of the way, making it more likely for the public to be on board, as it's the least invasive/disruptive spot. It's a lovely area that doesn't get used to its full potential but, any of the options would be great!
- There is nothing there at the moment. Mannachie already has the best play area in town. I remember how popular the BMX track was at Bogton in the eighties.
- All other sites already have some sort of play park or are being used as football pitches
- Lots of space to put in a park
- It good
- The three other options are used for other things. However, I would be concerned about the bypass as it stands at the moment and the parking situation. So perhaps there is a more appropriate destination.
- There is a big space that could be used.
- Close to home, and don't want to detract from the beauty of grant Park.

Site 2: Grant Park

- A good hub near toilet facilities and parking
- Close to existing play park facilities
- Site has parking
- Open space away from houses. Toilets, shop, parking and overseen by public when out for exercising and dog walking.
- It's really central to walk to.
- Access & facilities
- Perfect amount of space, there's already a play park for kids there and it would support local businesses.
- It's a great central space so accessible, with access to existing toilets and a fantastic local cafe (Mather's). There is plenty of extra space in the park and it would be lovely to see it being used and enjoyed by more people, especially young people.
- By toilets, facilities, central.

- Central to Forres for everyone it attracts a wide group of people already and less likely to be vandalised there and near toilets and police station
- I feel the grant Park is far enough away from houses but would encourage all ages to use the park and show the community that teenagers are not all bad. It would let wee kids see how cool skating/BMXing is.
- Best access to facilities
- easier access, open spot
- It's central and already recognised as a leisure place, not too close to residential properties and easily accessible
- Any site will do, but if it's hidden away, i.e. Bogton then it may get mistreated. Therefor my choice is Grant Park where it's less likely for vandalism, good parking, already a range of activities, being a park for younger children and dog walks whilst older children skate.
- Near the playground for my other child
- Nearest to us!
- Close to amenities, public transport etc.
- Grant Park seems the obvious choice as it can co-locate near the existing children's play park and other facilities.
- It's a large, central easy to access location.
- More accessible and already a hub for various sports. There is parking and toilet facilities, something the other options don't have. The other options are in residential areas too which can be problematic if trying to get a buy in from the NIMBY. close to police station too, so the ne'er-do-well aspect of our community will think twice about congregating for trouble making.
- Central and accessible
- Well established location already
- This adds to the centralization and mixed age leisure use by the community of Grant Park which has poor play park facilities given its popularity
- beautiful setting
- Parking, toilets, and other facilities.
- Plenty space, toilets, parking, and local amenities near by
- Public toilets, dust bin, central,
- Good parking and toilet facilities
- Cafe there for me to get some food, they can play at the park too while we're there. Easier access!
- Great site
- Order of preference: 1. Grant Park / 2. Roysvale / 3. Bogton Rd.
- Facilities and in the centre of town meaning there are more people about in case of accident or requirement for help, safety, and security.
- Accessible, plenty space, scenic
- It's close to community park also so makes it more family friendly. Centre of the town also very accessible
- Central. Accessible by all. Toilets and other facilities nearby.
- Easy access, sufficiently spaced from housing to limit social friction. It would allow family groups to visit with mixed ages to also use existing facilities.
- Central location
- Grant Park has a great deal of space, it is very popular with locals and already has a large play area. I feel the skatepark would add to the current facilities while not intruding too much on the rest of park.
- I think it would be the most accessible
- Easy access
- It is central, easy to access
- I think its most central and would have better usage or otherwise site 1 would be ideal but only found by locals
- It can be policed properly from Grant Park.
- Accessibility
- it is easy to access, plenty of parking nearby. Loads of space on where to build.
- Best location
- Easy to get to
- Because it is in the middle of Forres, so it won't be far to go for anyone in Forres
- Close to us plus other reasons to visit park
- Easily the best option for our skatepark local facilities close by and easy access in case of an accident
- Because there is a lot of people in grant park, so it won't get damaged
- it has nice green space there. I would also want to check that pavements and paths to the skatepark were suitable for rollerblades, as the quality of pavements can be less than desirable. If there was smoother access elsewhere, I would definitely consider that in choosing a site
- Good site

- Closest to public toilets, free car parking if required, there is the shop which sells food and drinks so there would be an economic benefit to there also. It's also closest to my home address.
- Parking available. Play Park and other facilities. Shouldn't be too close to the playpark though.
- Huge space, public toilets, cafe
- Central
- because it is in easy access for everyone
- Centrality. Good for dropping off and/or collecting.
- Central location
- It's central for all to access
- Car parking facilities/toilets. Also in an open public space which I think will be a safe space for children and young people to use
- There are no houses overlooking grant park, parking facilities, fairly central, lots of wide-open space, easy to find.
- Good access, central location
- It's central
- Would be a fantastic addition to a great park
- Loads of space, fairly central.
- Central enough but could potentially be situated by the squash courts being sympathetic to the surrounding area
- Because it is central, easily accessible for all, already has parking and toilets etc. Not a residential area so less noise disruption. Would be used by a larger age group...more family friendly.
- Car parking close by, toilets and a small sweet ice cream shop on site.
- We often visit this site as a family. My youngest will play in the park and my eldest two children will kick a football about but would love a skate park on site too.
- Easily accessible by everyone with other park facility's and toilets and a local food outlet for local business
- The most central to the community
- Very near
- There used to be ramps at the Bogton location and they were used a lot by skaters. I feel that grant park is much more accessible with greater facilities. It is also a bigger statement for the community and visitors that skaters are welcome, we care for our kids and provide facilities for them to enjoy themselves. Rather than the site being tucked away in a not so well-known area.
- Easy parking
- It's a park and has plenty of open space that could be utilised for a skate park.
- Already a good area and ample parking around used by many.
- Good parking, near police station if older youths misbehaving evenings and on bus route
- Central location, easily accessed by all, good parking facilities. Large area for holding events etc.
- Safety as would be visible and ease of access
- It's on the land that was gifted to the people of Forres. Bring the area into the modern times. It's close to the bus routes for non-drivers. Has toilets and parking facilities.
- Near toilets, older children can skate whilst younger siblings are at play park with mum. Granny (me) can watch, I love watching them skateboarding Also think it would be safer as so many people walking by it would prevent others from using to abuse as just hangout i.e. leaving litter, broken glass which a skateboarder would never do
- To me it's the Option that is the most visited of all the options already by others which I believe would act as an antisocial deterrent and to me seem to have the best existing facilities. Apart from grant park I could also see it located the green space along Grantown road on the opposite side to the Health Center.
- Central and local, can't tie in with existing park, plus Kinloss, Alves has easy access to parking, as well as tourists.
- Central location
- It's a huge field and very local, also has 3 nearby schools so I imagine lots of children would use it!
- It is quite central and easy to access
- Central in town, easy access
- Convenient- most central to residents, toilets, car park and in Grant Park. Teenagers should be integrated with the rest of society enjoying the outdoors, not put to another area like Bogton. 2nd choice Roysvale
- Always wanted a skatepark there
- Great location. And other activities can be done at same location. I.e. drop the older ones of at the skate park and go for a walk with the little one.
- Because the most popular spot for tourist and locals.
- It's the best area for people to get to
- Easily accessible & amenities close by
- Central and safe access for many children from local schools which are close by Its hub for kids who use park and woodlands on bikes and foot

- Central location, parking, amenities.
- Easy access
- Central location, large space
- Great space next to toilet and park for smaller children. Next to police station so I would assume less likely for teenagers to cause hassle.
- Access to other facilities, central location. I think it is where the skate park would get the most use.
- Good, central location
- Easiest place to access
- For us it would be better because of the age group of the children and they don't all share the same interest - therefore if one is at The skate park the other one can go to the playpark while the other one is there. No hanging around and getting bored for the next sibling.
- Parking, away from houses so no grumpy residents will complain. Grant Park is massive so the skate park would still leave plenty of green space as well as using some of the largely unused space. Anywhere in Forres will be ace
- It's a nice spot
- Somewhere more central, less likely to attract vandals and trouble after dark if more people around
- easy to access. central for the whole town. more public/inviting for other people to come try it out not JUST people who currently skate. near kids play park so it could inspire kids to skate etc. in the future
- Nice and quiet location so won't bother anyone with noise etc.
- Open area
- It is the most accessible via the bus routes
- Closest to public parking and toilets
- Central to the town.
- This would be an ideal location for families and children of various ages. This is also nearby facilities such as toilets and food/coffee kiosk which would be beneficial to users of the skate park. Parking is also an added bonus.
- Easy for everyone to get to, Bogton Road has house and poor parking, so not a good place for it
- Accessibility from high street and car parking
- Local park so much space and would be amazing to see more people using the park
- Plenty of space and the one that is likely furthest from residential areas. Would likely not be popular with the locals so Bogton as second choice.
- Good surroundings facilities and safe space away from residents
- It's a location known by many
- Accessible to all
- It is visible to the general public and therefore naturally more inclusive to all. It also has other facilities close by that would be great for families with children of all ages all in one area. It would also open itself up to potentially holding competitions with ample parking and local facilities close by.
- Plenty of space and easy to get to
- Under develop at park, Nairn has far better facilities at beach.
- Feel it should be in the centre of Forres.
- Safe and accessible
- Already a good play area for children and takeaway cafe facilities and toilets there.
- Several other facilities there including a playground for young children and public toilets.
- Easy accessibility.
- It's bigger and more open, away from the main roads and keeps family entertainment together
- It's middle of town
- Easy access, toilets, drinks etc. from kiosk.
- Public toilets. Police nearby as deterrent for anti-social stuff
- Because of the other facilities already there
- It's at the heart of the town. My 6-year-old loves the playground, and it would be amazing to have something for my 10-year-old too as he's very active
- More central to town, access to toilets, an easier to be monitored for anti-social behaviour.
- Central and safe area for younger children
- Because it would be a great additional to the town and park. It's a meeting hub for young people and families.
- Central location, access to toilets, close to police station therefore children would feel safer.
- Seems like a decent central place with other amenities nearby.
- Plenty space for it and other kids could see it and could get interested in doing it themselves plus its ideal location very central if not there then the old Tesco would be best
- Central to the high street, bus stops, not too close to houses, great space

- Nearby w/c and refreshment facilities; accessible by public transport; waste management already in place; not too close to residential housing so noise issues shouldn't be a problem
- Central area, easily accessible, not too close to houses, close to the bus route.
- A skatepark in my opinion needs to be in clear view to stop any anti-social behaviour.
- Great location if possible
- Close to toilets and ice cream shop with lots of bins for litter also
- The grant park needs more facilities added for both young and older children. It is close to the high street/public toilets. I feel it would be more inclusive to everyone if it was situated here, more families are likely to use it rather than just teenagers. The grant park is a safe environment which is used frequently by so many already.
- Easy access for all
- Easy to get to, and good parking facilities, other facilities there for families.
- More open and more green space.
- It already has a nice play park, toilets, and takeaway cafe so the skate park would make a great addition for family days out
- Centre of town and ease of accessibility.
- The Park was given to the people of Forres for recreation and sports. There is parking and facilities there for users to go to the toilet, get an ice cream etc. This is an opportunity to develop the Grant Park as a place of fun for kids and adults. The park caters for: Young people - play park Mixture of ages - football and other organised sports Older people - sunken gardens and bowling Where are the facilities for teenagers? This is a great opportunity for Forres to show their commitment sport and recreation for all ages of society. This is an opportunity to bind the local community and should be embraced.
- It's away from main rds. and keeps play areas together for families to enjoy.
- A central enough location, with a big enough space and access to local amenities.
- Locality and plenty of green space
- Easily accessible with parking and easily found by people coming to Forres. But really any site would do
- Centre of town. Access for emergency services. Located close to police station to keep the area safe.
- Central
- Easy access
- It's central for everyone to access. Near the police station.
- Central easy to get, visibility, facilities toilets refreshments
- Easy access
- Close
- Fantastic location that suits the whole family
- Safe area and near town centre.
- Because all other sites are linked to specific areas of the town and would strongly benefit the local kids in that area to the detriment of all others. This affects their safety & security. Grant Park is a neutral site and more closely matches the main considerations noted within this survey.
- It is a large space, but in no way do I condone the destruction of already in place nature.
- Central and also well used already. lots of footfall in the area to keep an eye on things.
- Central in the town
- Access and facilities
- Having children of various ages one could be at play park and other at skatepark
- Good spot. Makes sense. In line with Elgin's skate park which is in the cooper park. Convenient for young people, schools, parking, and the space lends itself to the installation of a skate park.
- easy access, near park too
- large open area, lots of land to build on, popular location, easily found and accessed
- East accessible, close toilets and cafe. Playground close by so kids can choose/ swap between activities. Safe open public area for teen to hang out with friends with facilities close by.
- Handy location for all
- big area
- Central location for all in the town and has the car parking, toilets, cafe, and other play area

Site 4: Mannachie Playing Fields

- It is closer to where I live
- We live nearby and it is very spacious
- Near home
- It's very close to my house - I have two boys who would love to have a skate ramp round the corner!
- Nearest my home
- Central location for housing areas where children are familiar to get to independently. Safe public space with residential development surrounding
- It is huge, has very little character and could really benefit from a skate park maybe with trees and some other landscaping/ wildflowers incorporated into it. It's close to large areas of housing and is also quite an unused space currently by people or wildlife
- Easy to access
- Closest
- I think either this or the bogton site. Both seem like there is good space to build a good facility, 1 being more central and accessible and 4 being more out of the way which would hopefully stop people from misusing it
- it is closest to where I live :)
- Best available place
- There are more and more house getting build at this side of town.
- Seems easily accessible and a good site.
- Not in a Council Estate.
- Best facility available other than grant Park, but plenty of events throughout the year ,prior to covid held there ,so that's why I selected mannachie park
- The site is close to the purpose-built bike trails and in a nice safe area.
- easier to get to for me
- It's far away from houses and build up areas
- Not overlooked by residents who may not want it. Also the grant park doesn't have enough parking for a skate park too
- Closer to home, but any would be great.
- It's close to a lot of families
- As its further away from grant park and in a nice area, often when skate parks are near swing parks small children without skateboards use the ramps as slides and play area while we are trying to skate.
- It's around the corner and spread the crowd from the centre
- Closer to all new housing in Forres and easiest to access
- A large open space with a lot of unused potential
- Close to parents/grandparents' house
- Easily accessible, also by car by those living outside Forres. In an open space, but no fast road so feels like a visible, safe space. Lots of new family housing still being built in that area. Grant Park would be great as it's central, but a skate park would change the distinct character of the park. Bogton too near the bypass and Roysvale too out of the way, neither would feel safe for younger kids.
- Close to home 😊
- Central location nearest the most users. Site has large unused areas
- Closer to home But Bogton is also a good area
- Close to my house, middle of nowhere for the sounds of skateboarding, most distance away from houses
- It's a big open space, already has a kids play park. Parking is on sight.
- All are decent options
- because as the town stretches it will be close to middle of it
- Most central
- Spacious, easy to reach, not on top of neighbourhoods. Grant Park should stay as is.
- Closer for my kids to go to
- Plenty of space there that currently isn't well utilised, easily accessed to a wide area of Forres, nice surroundings
- It's nearest to where we live so my children could access it easily
- It's not far from the schools etc.
- A bit more out the way than other options
- Bang in the middle of town and easily monitored due to being close to a main road and houses, but not so close as to cause disturbance
- Looks like a good spot. Local and out the way
- Less likely to be vandalised in such a public place with plenty homes around it too more eyes kept on it

- Its near my home, it's in a residential area so plenty of people to watch over it.
- close to me
- Grant Park is already busy and has enough amenity. People in Roysvale already have footfall from school, swimming pool, Sanquhar. Mannachie appears to have most space. It's also away from A96
- As there are lot of pace and I could take my other children to play at the park my son play at skate park
- Because it's closest to where we live but we would honestly be happy with any site
- best site
- Close but not too close
- It's not a well visited place and I think this would make people go to that area more often
- Open space and good catchment area
- No other facilities at Mannachie and easier to police from the main road
- It has a lot of open space that isn't being used for events
- We live near it
- Nearby

Other

- We would be driving to the site, so all are appropriate
- All good locations for parking / access
- I don't know the area well enough to comment on the ease of access
- Skate boarding creates persistent relentless noise. Consideration of residents living in proximity to a skateboard park must be upheld with regard to noise pollution. However the park will need to be supervised to prevent accidents and antisocial behaviour.
- Its central away from houses and less likely to be vandalised as near to the police station
- Last year me and about 15 other roller skaters cleared and swept the old Tesco site. We use it regularly for skating and are about to start clearing it again after winter. Please include roller skate space when you plan a skate park. We need wide clear space with a smoother surface than the roads or pavements round Forres so if you're looking at taking the Old Tesco site then PLEASE include us in you plans! Our age range goes from teens to 50s and is predominantly women.
- I do not live locally but work locally and support this for kids and families I work with.
- No preference for site. I will have to drive to use it so wherever the best park can be built would suite me.
- Central location
- Fairly central location. Near to school, parking available in Academy car park
- It doesn't matter where it is. Just build it
- Central
- It's in Forres
- The area there is wasted & has ample room for family's to picnic/watch on in the adjoining grass area
- Forres has such a large skating community, and it would be amazing to see it come to fruition
- I am really not fussed where the facility goes as long as we get in the Forres area. I will go for sure, wherever it is.
- Not directly adjoining houses, can be accessed via Mannachie road, not sure if still owned by school though
- Where the original site was
- It's already in a safe and established play area.
- does not matter to me where it is park design is more important
- This is needed in Forres wherever it is located
- It saves taking away any space otherwise used by other people for parks, dog walking etc.
- Happy with any of these locations, my children would just be delighted with a skate park.
- I have just filled in the survey, but forgot to say the other perfect location is the car park spot at Sanquhar beside the hut for the mountain bike trails, in the trees, sheltered, dry, noise away from houses and safely accessible by kids, or as I said in the survey, the field next-door, get Springfield to do the electrical now for the floodlights as the digger is already there, a kind gesture from Springfield, in fact they have the expertise for the whole thing, a concrete donation, all the contacts, it's a drop in the ocean for them and the PR not that they need any.....
- Dry ground away from too many houses, noise, litter, what kids like to do

14.2 Survey Comments

Positive Supportive Comments

- Desperately needed! Thank you
- We know a lot of other families with children and youngsters that would equally enjoy it. The advantage is also that it can be used outdoors anytime despite any future Covid development. Thank you so much for the initiative!
- Forres is a perfect location for a skatepark- we have an academy and a lot of youth here who would greatly benefit from a place for physical activity and healthy outdoor spaces
- I think it's been a long wait for the kids, young adult and recycled teenagers that have super mobility n flexibility, a place to be creative in their skills, to grow n encourage others.
- I grew up in Findhorn and hang out in Forres all my teen years in various shopping centre car parks ... it would be much better to have a dedicated skate park. I now have 3 kids that LOVE skating, and BMXing and they currently have no other youth clubs they belong to.
- I would be very supportive of a new park in Forres, and I would be happy to travel to use a high-quality facility
- The kids need a focus and somewhere to socialise. It would need to be run professionally so it is respected and looked after. The last one wasn't and sadly got a bad reputation due to a minority of youngsters, so it was shut down.
- This should if happened years ago.
- There needs to be more for kids/adults to do in the area, skatepark is a great thing to add.
- I think it's a great idea and much needed
- Skate Park must not be in Grant Park
- Forres and our young people need this! The old skatepark was so well-used and loved and provided a great safe space for young people. This has been a long time coming and I really hope it happens this time - fingers crossed!
- This is long overdue and it's time for funding to be directed to the younger folk in Forres
- Thank you and fingers crossed we have something that I as an adult will use and also as a safe social point for teens.
- Providing the dynamic infrastructure that can be shared by children and young adults should be a priority for any local authority. This is a no-brainer for any forward-looking community.
- I hope this feasibility study leads somewhere. This project has been talked about with much paper shuffling for a long time! Good luck
- Forres need this
- I think the skatepark would be a good incentive to get kids out and about on sunny days, far too often I have been driving down the High Street and have seen kids on BMXs or Pushbikes cycling down past the post office towards the roundabout at the mosset. Having a skate park will allow them to at least make use of the facilities and have a common area for them to meet each other.
- DO IT!!!
- I think this would be such a great addition to the community :) thank you for considering a skate park
- This would be such a great thing for the children of Forres
- Make something fun and safe for the kids :)
- Although I would not use it myself, my brother, daughter, friends, and family would. I was a teenager when the original skatepark was built and spent a lot of time there. It broke my heart when it was scrapped. Not only would a new skatepark improve users physical health, but it would also improve mental health too. Forres needs something for young people and adults alike to keep their minds and bodies busy.
- I think adding a skate park in Forres would be so beneficial for the community and is something that is greatly required.
- I have friends whose children would definitely use a skatepark and I work in education. The availability of a skatepark will provide a space for young people who otherwise may not exercise much or may feel there is no provision for them.
- The wheeled sport community in Forres is absolutely brilliant for putting taking this proposal forward - well done
- Skateboarding and BMX biking are major sports and there is nowhere in Forres for these to take place . Dedicated facility urgently needed otherwise kids use roads (currently the case e.g. road leading from a96 to the recycling centre) and that is completely unsafe.
- I BMX'd as a kid and I made so many friends and it kept me out of trouble and fit. Great idea. Elgin and Hopeman's park get used a lot so why not Forres?
- "Being a wheeled sports enthusiast for approx. 20 years, it has been great to see an acknowledgement of their value to a local community, in particular as a safe hub for creative pursuits.

- Forres has fallen behind in the trend where places like Elgin, Buckie and Inverness have brought an exciting new concrete facility to fruition and it is a shame - with it being on the A96 and Inv-Abdn rail line, it is still poised to be a relevant venue for action sports recreation and development.
- I welcome the plans and ideas at this stage and hope to roll on a new Forres facility in due course."
- I skated when I was a kid it was great for socialising and keeping fit without me even realising. Will be good for modern kids too.
- Even us old dudes still skate and ride, it's not just a kids sport, and it would help me keep fit.
- The old skate park was a huge success, it was a massive part of my growing up. I was there every single day. Towards the end it was in its prime with friends travelling through from Aberdeen for jams and events. The quality of the local talent was noticed across the northeast of Scotland. These free outdoor activities can have huge benefits to the mental health of the less fortunate that can't afford more expensive outdoor sports or expensive classes. Low upkeep costs for the sports associated with skateparks give families a far cheaper day out and to have that option on the doorstep would be fantastic.
- The skate park would provide a space for the youth to go and hang around instead of hanging outside of shops.
- BMX facilities would be an asset for Forres, as at the moment travelling to Inverness is the only option for my son and grandchildren.
- I have so many friends who are skaters and who are desperate to see a skate park back in Forres, personally I don't skate, but I still agree Forres needs a skate park back. It makes so many people happy and gives kids a place to go to keep out of trouble. There aren't any places in Forres for the youth to hang out. Every skater I know is extremely kind and more than happy to help teach people how to skate, especially younger generations because they want to keep the sport alive. There's a real sense of family and community amongst the skaters here and they've tried so much for years to get this project off the ground and its 100% time they're hard work pays off.
- I find that my friends and their children are having to travel weekly to Inverness to use skate park, but limited number of bikes allowed on trains so not everyone can join in
- A skate park would be a great asset to Forres and would be well used by the youngsters. We need to encourage outside activity and give the young ones in Forres a park that they have been asking for years.
- Best of luck. Don't listen to the NIMBYs.
- This would be an amazing facility for Forres and important to improve the health of our children. Also having a park would give kids ownership of something that is theirs
- I think it would be great to have one in Forres I know many skateboarders who would love to have this, and I think it will be good for the community
- When I was 15 my skate crew were campaigning for a concert park in Forres that was 23 years ago, let's get this done now.
- This is long overdue and needed now to provide a safe outdoor activity especially in the current climate
- The lack of anything for kids and young adults in the town shows the N. I. M. B. Y. that is prevalent through the area, noise and litter is a fear, have these adults seen the high Street after a night out? If you give nothing to the young to have some pride in, to utilise and to have positivity in then you can be sure the destructive nature of boredom and apathy for those who set the environment that the bored folks then live in will see a downward spiral in the local environment, Mark my words if you don't invest in the youth then the future is darker than it could be.
- it is definitely needed; skateboarding is popular and good exercise hopefully encouraging children to go out more.
- I'm sure a facility like this will be well used. I have friends who used to take their children to Hopeman to use the one there.
- I think it would be a great idea to have a skate park in Forres and it would be a great way to get people in Forres out and about
- It's so where safe for the kids to go
- I spent most of free time as a teen in the old Forres skate park, it kept me off the hi street even thou I don't skate now I still have the friends I made down there.
- Get us a park been on fence since afore I was a teen in 40 now
- This would be great. Our children are always asking to go to Hopeman to use the skatepark there, but it is not always possible to do that. Having a skate park in Forres would provide children with an additional facility that promotes physical activity and social connections with friends
- Making this skate park would make a lot more kids lose weight
- Best of luck to you.
- I think it would be a good addition to the community and get the younger generation into more physical activities and off their games consoles.
- Thin' this is a great idea for local kids as nothing else in local area for them to do.
- Forres needs a skatepark. Great sport for children.
- Great idea for the young people of Forres and surrounding area.

- I think it would be great for local kids to have a place to hang out, practice their skills and socialise.
- There are numerous skate boarders and BMX riders from a variety of age groups in Forres who have nowhere to practice their skills. This has led to a number of areas of waste ground being used with makeshift and sometimes dangerous ramps and jumps. I believe it would be in the interest of the community to provide such an area where these people can enjoy their activities safely. Furthermore, there are a number of skateboarding clubs around the Moray area and a custom skateboard park could be used to stage events with these other clubs.
- I think it's a great idea and long-awaited adults and children of all ages could use the park
- Forres is in desperate need of this. I'm a 40-year-old adult with 3 children and there is nothing to do for kids here except for the play parks, football etc. The interest in wheeled sports has never been bigger and the number of kids you see in town on BMX bikes and skateboards is proof we need a facility in Forres.
- I think it would be a wonderful thing for our children to have, I only say mine wouldn't use it yet as they are just young x but, knowing where your child is, having a safe space to hang out, keeping active - what is not to love about this? Bring it on! I had always hoped the area where the old Tesco was could be a roller-skate park with a milkshake bar! thank you for fighting for this park x
- I used to skate in Forres 25 years ago and we were campaigning back then, I feel it would be a fantastic asset to the town and as always encourage people to be outside. Skateboarding and other wheeled sports are hugely beneficial on many levels for everyone involved
- When I grew up in Forres there was the old skate park down at the academy. It was a great facility and used by many. It was awful when they pulled it down. The kids need somewhere to go and will stop them getting into mischief.
- I think that further outdoor spaces to encourage socialising, physical activity, skill development for children and teens in the future is vital to counteract the online/tech life that is progressing.
- Get it done :-)
- It'd be great to have a skatepark in Forres. It'd provide a safe place to go for people interested in wheeled sports. If it was lit/floodlit it would potentially make it safer at night for people to use/gather at. I think there should be ramps for all abilities too.
- Just want a good skatepark near where I live
- Please do this
- I would definitely love to see this happen in Forres. I would love to get involved and get my kids involved.
- Sooner the better for children due to covid restrictions
- It's something Forres has needed for a long time will help a lot of young people actually do something instead of sitting about drinking because there is nothing else to do
- After only getting into skating recently but having an awareness for the large local community that look for somewhere to skate and have fun a park seems the obvious option. Despite not living there anymore I would happily come to skate there if there was a well-designed park and feel it is a needed addition to Forres which has a lack of options for youths currently
- This needs to go ahead to help kids stay out of trouble and focus on something that provides exercise, social skills and hobbies that will all help to boost confidence and have people to talk to.
- Fantastic idea I hope this idea makes progress and provides a valuable asset to the youth of Forres who have been completely deprived during the global pandemic.
- Good for the youths of Forres to have a safe place to hang out
- Fabulous idea, definitely needed in the town
- "Children, teens and adults that enjoy skating etc. need somewhere to be able to enjoy their activity. A lot of people are unable to drive to Elgin or Inverness for a skate, so we need something local.
- I will use it often. I know an awful lot of people in Forres that will use it a lot more than myself. Please keep going so we can get our Forres skate park. "
- I'm currently studying in Edinburgh but was previously involved in projects around the build of a skatepark in Forres and would love to have a skatepark in my hometown, where I will likely return after my studies.
- The reopening of a skate park in Forres would be a great addition to the town and for the youth community.
- "I think this is a great idea
- The town has missed an area like this since the BMX track was taken away years ago!"
- Good luck!
- The town needs to cater for the local youth culture
- Forres needs this!
- Good luck
- Youths need an outlet to be social that deters drinking and drugs.
- I am not a resident but grew up in Forres in the 80s. There was a total lack of facilities then and it caused social problems.

- This is such a fantastic idea and would really give teens and older children a place to go after school and at weekends, as there really isn't much to do in Forres.
- I really hope a new skate park is built there is nothing to do in Forres
- Having been involved with youngsters in the old BMX racetrack etc. & supported previous efforts for skate park, I know a definite need for in Forres. We are lagging behind many towns & we are as a town growing monthly
- Forres has been needing a skatepark for ages I think it would keep young people busy and out of trouble.
- I have seen the introduction to one of these in Raigmore, Inverness. The residents' guest thought it would lead to noise/bad behaviour and other negative outcomes, but it was the opposite. It is so well used by the children; it is a pleasure to see, and the youngsters do need something fun and exciting.
- I have seen the benefits of skate parks in Hopeman and also in Kemnay, Aberdeenshire - both of which are well used and appreciated by the youngsters. Would be nice for the Forres kids to have a similar facility - they certainly seem to enjoy the area near the school which was cleared for them last year.
- I think it will be greatly beneficial for the young people to make good use of it, as they do not have many facilities to enjoy.
- 100% a worthy project. Forres needs more active areas for people to enjoy
- It is a much-needed facility for the youth of Forres
- I feel a skatepark in Forres would be a valuable and beneficial addition to Forres, it is not always appropriate or possible for young children to travel to Elgin to use the skatepark there, so one in Forres would give the youth of Forres something to do which is healthy, outdoors and fun.
- Much needed - there is nothing for young people in Forres.
- honestly, I just wish you the very best of luck!
- I would be willing to help with support. It's a great thing.
- good luck!
- Skate Park should only be a beginning.
- When compared to other towns Forres has very little to offer the children and especially the youths. Has long been a source of disappointment for myself and others which is a great shame as I love my town."
- Just get it done and stop messing about, why is Forres always so backwards about doing anything? Can't remember a fuss like this with the Elgin or Hopeman skate park
- Great idea, hope it comes to something and isn't lost in red tape like so many council projects.
- As a kid growing up in Forres there was nothing like this to do, we had to almost always go to Elgin or travel to find stuff to do, and what do bored kids do? They vandalise and find other things like alcohol to feed their boredom.
- A skate park would ultimately give youths an alternative option to seek a passion in skateboarding or just simply hanging out with mates at the skate park watching others kickflip. "
- Thank you for all the work and commitment to getting a park in Forres again. I miss the old one far too much.
- Currently have no personal need for a skate park but may have kids or grandkids down the line who would. My husband hasn't skated in a long time but may be keener if he had somewhere close to home to meet his friends who would definitely be there!
- I have friends with kids who would deeply benefit and friends who are part of the team working hard to make this happen for our town. There's not much to do around our town if you're not into long walks so anything that provides entertainment to our youth and takes them away from more negative hobbies/activities can only be a good thing!
- It needs to go ahead ASAP, a safe place for teens to hangout and have fun is much needed in the area
- Need one now
- Definitely needed.
- Good skate parks are lacking in the northeast. Even semi flat concrete is hard to find. People need somewhere to skate.
- Think it's a great idea gives family's and kids something to do
- There is a definite need for facilities like this in Forres. There has been a real surge in kids on scooters/skateboards over the past few years. Although I think it needs to be accessible to people using wheels of any safe description.
- Forres desperately needs something for younger people/teenagers to do. There are hundreds of new homes being built in Forres and absolutely no provision of facilities for the young people that live in them.
- There is a need in Forres area for this type of facility.
- Better to have it set up as a charity sponsored by local charities would be better for funding.
- I think a skate park is a great idea and will give young people somewhere to go and hopefully keep them out of trouble.
- I am confident that a skatepark in Forres would be very popular and in constant use. I also believe a membership cost might be a good idea to help for any repairs or charges needed for the park.
- It's a brilliant idea

- The kids of Forres would benefit immensely.
- I would be so happy for young people to have a skate park. I had one near where I lived as a teenager and me and my friends enjoyed it so much.
- I feel the younger generation of this town need something more. there's very little for them to do here and so many love skateboards etc... it would be good for them to have a place to go and meet mates and enjoy their sport at the same time
- I see a lot of kids and teenagers in Forres with skateboards trying to build makeshift ramps to practice and improve their skills therefore a Skate Park would be really beneficial to them
- Was fantastic in my Forres academy days when there was a skate park there. It was very missed after it went. Will give teenagers a place to go. There's nothing for them to do in Forres.
- I fully support provision of new skate park in Forres. It's long overdue and would be used by generations to come. Forres is sorely lacking this kind of facility
- Been waiting 20 years for this!
- It will be good for the spirit of the community
- This has been in the pipeline for near 20 years, it really needs to happen, the facilities in Forres for wheeled sports and youngsters in general is near non-existent.
- Do it
- They never should have got rid of the skate park; it has been missed since it was gone
- Really supportive of the initiative!!
- Fingers crossed!
- A skatepark in Forres would provide opportunities for young people to enjoy their sport in a safe space designed specifically for that purpose. It has been a facility that is sorely missed in Forres.
- Very much looking forward to the development!
- We desperately need a facility for the young people of Forres. There is nothing remotely similar easily accessible. Let's make our young people feel important and listened to
- Forres has needed a skate park for such a long time and there is nothing that the children can say belongs to them in Forres

Comments on Management and Operations

- Having not had the opportunity to use such a facility I don't mind a fee but perhaps a pay as you go option as well as an annual membership would encourage more people to try it
- The Elgin and Nairn parks are free of charge simple designs and well used
- I would pay for my child to have some lessons. Also it would be nice if there were some kind of code of conduct.
- "I would like to see no charge for a skatepark, so that kids & young folk & folk on lower incomes could access the facilities. Charging for kids could result in the park being used by kids from families within a certain income bracket, which would contribute to a further divide within the community. I appreciate this is a difficult task, in raising funds, but this park has the potential to bring folk together, so I think it's worth pursuing.
- Having areas of the park for scooters, skates & boards I think would make it more inclusive & encourage non-boarders to use the park.
- Very best if luck."
- I would up the 1hr floodlit slot...i.e. 5 kids can chip in £2 each for 1hr.
- Charging for a skate park is defeating the whole point which is to provide outdoor space for everyone to use not just for people whose parents will pay a fee. How would that work? Will the space be clean and safe and free from glass, litter, dog crap and weather damage? Would that involve fencing it in and employing someone to clean it and keep it maintained? If you're going to floodlight it then the neighbours will rightly object, so that raises issues of local goodwill, if you don't floodlight it will your insurance cover you? There isn't enough background information on this questionnaire to properly answer the questions.
- Would be great if it was regulated/monitored potentially?
- Maintenance and general upkeep are likely to be an issue.
- A paid facility would obviously only attract serious users - which is great, and I would definitely be prepared to pay for this for myself and my children - however, all other outdoor facilities in the area are free, such as the rad park at Inverness and a lifetime membership at Hopeman is only £5. If you have to man the park to ensure members only are using it there would be the further cost of employing someone to do this, otherwise how would it be policed?
- "A skate park in Forres would be amazing. So many people would be able to use it and with the cycle track out to Kinloss, we could skate in and back home again. Definitely a very welcome plan!
- Wouldn't mind paying membership if it helped some younger children that maybe can't afford or unable to pay the chance to use it too, without charge"

- Our town needs this venue
- Needs to be supervised
- I feel that as a committee fund raising could be done to raise funds for maintenance of the skate park. I think that a thought should be spared for equity and equality, there are many families who would struggle to afford memberships. Is it fair that these children should miss out?
- CCTV/a police/or community interest to stop any anti-social behaviour as is specifically an issue in Elgin but not in Hopeman due to location next to the beach and play park and it is visible. Making it visible and sociable removes anti-social potential.
- Part time care taker or voluntary group to keep an eye on the park.
- My boys love going to skate parks. There are certain things that you learn as a parent watching your kids at a skate park. There are some things that I would really like you to consider when you build the skate park.
 - Clear rules for use of the skate park. Park etiquette. Quite often, children and parents have no idea how to safely use a skate park. Clear signs to say that you must supervise children under a certain age at all times.
 - We would happily pay to attend the park. If it uses the money to keep the park safe and lit. Even better if it is covered. We live in Scotland and wet concrete is slippy.
 - There is a pump track at Inverness skate park. This is excellent for smaller kids. It gives them confidence and a feel for the flow of a skate park. It also gives smaller kids something to do at the skate park. And keeps them off the more dangerous obstacles. You can even throw in a few small kids version of the obstacles that they will see in the park. To practice and gain confidence.
 - The park must be able to be used by both kids, teens and adults. With the inclusion of BMX in the Olympic more and more people are using skateparks. If the skate park is good enough we will attract others to come and try it out. Attracting BMX tourists to our town. Which could be a valuable bonus to local trade. Make it unique and stand out. Make it somewhere to go.
- Hopeman is a good model as a starting point. Folks tend not to look after things that are free, therefore a cheap membership scheme (within the realms of child pocket money) generates value. Similarly this would provide an ongoing funding stream for maintenance, improvements and even some solar panels / battery bank to allow sustainable lighting.
- This is a brilliant venture - let's hope it gains some traction and support!
- I'd be happy to pay in membership or per use punch but it needs to be accessible to all, and there are many who won't be able to afford a charge.
- I would like to say id happily support a membership towards maintenance or lighting costs if that was only option. don't really agree with pay separately for lighting. just simple. being tried and tested at Inverness and doesn't really work as it's not fair. I go pay lighting for other people. Fairness and equality should be applied. also fundraising for lights is an option surely
- Membership brings in money but you can't police it unless you have a fence all round it. Others will use it so why should some pay and others not. I get that folk will want to because they care and want to use and maintain it. But I feel a continuation of fundraising through events or competitions would be far more beneficial and thrilling for the users.
- Needs to be well run and supervised
- A family membership would be a good option
- If there is a membership cost and there are suitable fencing etc. it's likely to avoid any criminal activity and those who are using the facility are likely to care more for the area and disband anyone looking to cause damage or trouble in the park. I dislike the idea of my child or myself going to a skate park and it being filled with smashed glass and crude spray paint. I would be willing to pay a premium for a well-kept, secure and monitored skate park where myself and my child and their friends could spend time in.
- Cost of flood lights should be paid for out of membership fees
- Power the flood lights of the main streetlights. Problem solved. Every home owner/tenant pays enough council tax to run another couple of floods off it.
- Rather than a flat charge it could be open for donations/optional. Charges would exclude some people and that would be a shame.
- When I was a kid, we got a skate park built in Dingwall via lottery funds and local fundraising. I'd be happy to help with any of this again (I had no part in organisation the last time, just helped out) we had a skate competition to open the park and charged a small fee for entry (mainly kids 13 - 16, they don't have a lot of cash) and a raffle, that mostly paid for the event. Just put on Facebook or announce locally if you need help with anything
- Maybe increase fitlife and that pays for the use etc.
- Kids memberships should be a low amount so accessible to all however not free so it is something that is not taken for granted.

- I've lived in Forres for 23 years and it's always needed something like what this could this possibly be. As an adult wishing to use this facility, I'd be more than happy to pay for a membership if it was secure and private so it won't be easily ruined by those that litter, glass etc. We wouldn't want this to turn in to a ruin and a waste. My whole family would also get use out of this. An area for quad/incline skaters would be amazing. A booking system/gate & key situation would be ideal to avoid overcrowding and if I was paying for a membership, I'd like to be able have the space I'm looking for having even gone to the facility in the first place. I would personally be fine paying an extra fiver for the cutting of a key, I'm sure there's lots of adults that would appreciate and would do the same. Great idea about the floodlights, a meter system would be fantastic if it was a possibility, this could even trim the membership price. There's a wide community in Forres looking for a well-kept, respected and loved area that could be enjoyed all. If this could be cared for and managed like our local pitches and tennis courts then it'd be a gift to many. I am ecstatic at the thought of what this could be.
- If membership was part of the skate park, I would hope that it would be fenced off in a way that it is safe for younger children to use maybe at specific times for different age groups.
- The idea of membership may mean it excludes some from being able to use, however it would give the incentive to keep the place nice and make sure its maintained. The old skate park was such a great meeting place and there were many talented skaters of all ages, so something proper, concrete and usable would be wonderful.
- If there was a membership going, I would only agree to do this if I think it was worth it. So before this plan goes ahead somebody needs to put his thinking head together and come out with a great plan for people willing to pay for the site. If it was just a place to hang out with buddies, then I don't think it is necessary to have fat floodlights and anything extraordinary.
- Pay as you go needs to be available as kids interests change and we wouldn't pay a membership If we could only go in the holidays like some will only be able to. Memberships for the adult pros is a good idea though.
- I don't agree with pay as you use for floodlights as other people could use the skatepark at the same time (without paying) as the person who pays.
- This should be a no cost commodity for people in the local area. A true community project.
- I think the park should be free to use, there should be a separate area for beginners / small children, this keeps them safe from experience skaters and stops frustration for people who just want to skate from having to constantly watch out for little children.
- We recently moved from an area that had a brand-new park created, it was a wonderful addition to the local area beginners were encouraged by the older more experienced skaters and given advice which created a great community comradery.
- The only negative was that some of the younger / teenage visitors created a ridiculous amount of litter, not just small amounts, the whole park was awash with bottles and wrappers. It was a real shame that a few ruined a beautiful park for the many. I don't know how this can be policed, maybe better education towards to impact of such behavior?"
- I would definitely consider an annual fee if there was more information available about the facility as well as upkeep, maintenance etc. - if the facility was excellent and well maintained then a fee would be appropriate. It would also be helpful to know how a membership would work - e.g. how would it work in terms of members accessing the facility over non-members. Thanks! This would be so amazing!
- Name it the Mickey Campbell memorial skate park, look into local history and you'll realise many people would appreciate the sentiment
- "There is a circular argument against a skatepark being built here, that "there's not enough people to use it."
- The reason it isn't visible that there's people to use it, is because there is no skatepark here. Along with the misconception that a skatepark is where younger kids will go and do things they shouldn't, that may be the case but a skatepark isn't the reason for that, it's happening anyways and if anything it will be easier to stop younger kids doing such things, as they would be in one place. A skatepark is a self-governing space too, built on kindness, support and respect for others. Forres has not got a lot of things to do, nothing that's very appealing to a lot of people anyways. The benefit of a skatepark here would be massive, it's something for people to invest their time in and progress in that is also pretty cool, it's very gratifying to get better at skateboarding and I believe it would boost the morale of anyone who goes, bringing more confidence and self-esteem to those who may feel like they've got nothing else to put their time into. Plus the obvious fitness and health benefits, it's common that people believe Forres has "nothing", we need to give Forres something! I see 0 negative impacts for building a skatepark here.
- The floodlights could be operated by a meter.
- Those that use the skate park must be encouraged to take responsibility for it and surrounding area to keep it clean, tidy and safe.
- Bins would need to be provided for the youth to put their rubbish in.
- "You need to think of a way to get more people, especially young people, to be more actively involved with Forres Skate Park Initiative.

- I could be wrong but I don't think enough wheeled sports fans have been engaged so far. "
- This needs to be inclusive no charges should be made otherwise it becomes exclusive and divisive
- I do not believe there should be annual costs for electricity which could be generated by purely eco-friendly, cost effective ways or contributed for by local wind farm income. There should be no general membership as this could potentially discriminate and exclude poorer children and how would that be managed in the first instance in terms of policing it and costs to administer membership.
- Should be free for all abilities and maybe managed by the Academy to create ownership for the kids
- Facilities should be free at the point of use and offset by the reduction in vandalism, damage and crime that stems from bored adolescents; if managed correctly, this could be supported by Youth Workers to guide our children's mental health and substance abuse advice.

Comments on Design Consideration

- I think that it would be amazing if there could be a flat track course created of roller skaters to exercise on as not everyone wants to do tricks, but we still love to roll. I also feel that bikes and scooters should also be permitted to roll.
- "It's important to make the facility accessible to young people who come from deprived families. It would be deeply wrong to somehow exclude those who cannot afford to pay. Bear in mind that the pandemic has devastated the income of so many, and we are now facing a long recession.
- Our young people need every opportunity to blow off steam and channel their energies creatively, without barriers to access.
- It would be ideal to have Youth Workers keeping a friendly eye on the use of the skate park in the evenings. "
- Use solar to power the floodlights, the scheme must be sustainable, this way one off fees will not need to be charged for use of lights. Please incorporate some trees and wildflower areas around the skatepark with areas for families to meet
- I think floodlights would disturb the neighborhood as people would be able to skate there all night
- It is important to take into account the opinion of those who shall live near to the proposed site. This survey should not exclude those who have no interest in using the skateboard park as it shall introduce bias in this survey and as a consequence shall not render an accurate assessment of public opinion on this matter.
- Floodlights are a good idea but with the available daylight here anyway it wouldn't be necessary. The winter seasons where the floodlights would be needed wouldn't have suitable weather for activities anyway.
- I don't think floodlights are a good idea at all. This could become a hub for the youth of the town (and further afield) for the wrong reasons. I wholeheartedly support this idea though, and I think it would be a positive thing for the town.
- Purpose built area rather than have second rate eyesores all over the place.
- Make sure the ground is smooth similar to Elgin because it's impossible to skateboard in Hopeman as the ground is so rough
- It should be suitable for age groups ranging from very young to older people. A good one may also encourage tourists to spend time in the town this supporting other businesses. It be used for competitions. Forres town is expanding, more youngsters will require activities locally.
- Contained area instead of self builds all over the place.
- The Park should be designed so multiple users can use it at the same time in different sections. Inverness Park does this well, Elgin does not.
- I would like to see a more emphasis on obstacles suitable for BMX as to too many parks across the country cater to heavily to skateboarding. Scotland has a big BMX scene and one of the top BMX companies in the world based in Glasgow. BMX riders and skaters will travel a long way to ride a new or great skatepark. I do, on a regular basis. My views on paying for lights at night is pay-as-you-go does not work. you have one person who is using the park paying for everyone to use the park. at times no one else is willing to spend any money and it is a little frustrating if you were the only one paying. In Inverness they use advertisement space to help pay for lighting in the evenings . this idea seems to work quite well for Inverness. Ideally a skate park in Scotland would benefit some sort of roof or covering so that during the winter months and the wet weather in the rest of the year the skate park is able to be used all year around without depending on ideal conditions
- It should definitely be lit as this puts kids of vandalizing equipment.
- I said no to the lights only because it might end up being the same people paying for them all the time and others just coming down when they see the lights on. Not sure how best to monitor that but they are a great idea. Happy to pay an annual fee a bit like Hopeman do but more official. My 2 would definitely come through from Elgin on bus or train on a regular basis for a decent skate park - especially now they should soon be able to get on the buses for free. Good luck!

- I think there should be facilities for younger children too, like a scooter area and swings. For example, Brodie Castle new play area is great for under eights but what would a twelve-year-old do? I think a skate park would be used more if it encompassed younger and older children accompanied by a parent. Also an ice cream stand would be fab.
- Don't put up lighting as that would encourage older youths to gather late at night and spoil it for us who really want to use the skate park sensibly.
- "If this is to go ahead as a significant development with funding to develop, operate and maintain I am supportive. Hi would not be keen in seeing a small /cheaper development that is more likely to fail.
- Lighting will be important but needs to be sensitive and avoid light spill and adding to light pollution."
- Wondering if it could be used for rollerblading/roller-skating?
- Parking would need to be considered. I strongly against the grant park for a site as not enough parking.
- Not sure if it would be worth looking into solar powered flood lights. Understand they may be more doish.
- Solar or renewable energy systems should be investigated to reduce energy costs for using floodlights or other powered systems at the park
- Can you use solar power light system?
- A relatively low maintenance facility that would provide much needed facilities for a wide age group. Membership with low cost could help generate a sense of ownership and lessen the chance of vandalism.
- Minimum cost of membership (means tested option a possibility e.g., school dinner recipients don't pay?) would help ensure all could use it while providing cash for ongoing costs. "
- Try make it friendly for beginners but challenging enough for experts
- Make sure there's a three- and four-foot mini ramp!!
- Many skateparks have been built in the five area by Concrete that are amazing were built at a relatively small cost complete with floodlights
- The park should be fenced off and gated so separate from the rest of the park. CCTV nearby would be good to deter vandalism.
- This area should be aimed at all ages and abilities. There should also be a community maintenance group to help in its maintenance alongside with some of its users to promote sense of responsibility and belonging.
- As a family, we wouldn't personally need floodlights as my children are young but I think it is a good idea for older children. I think it would be best to keep the skate park free to use if at all possible, but would be happy to pay a small fee.
- A decent street course, ledges, stair sets, rails etc.
- A surrounding pump track and small race track on its perimeter would also be good.
- Ensure its inclusive for people of all abilities and disabilities in places
- A decent size obviously. A mix of street/ Flat ground and ramp style would be amazing to have.
- I think it is important that it is seen as a welcome part of the community and not hidden away. I also think that if it is more visible it will reduce likelihood of abuse of the facility. It would also be great to have ramps/jumps suitable for a range of ages and maybe the possibility of lessons which would open it up to a wider range of people.
- There will need to be toilet facilities near the site and someone responsible for safety.
- I would hope to see adequate seating for spectators as well as rubbish bins. If membership is required, an induction should also be required by each member on joining on the use of the facility and safety equipment etc.
- Some signage around the facility could be used for local advertising (like around a football pitch) to generate income.
- Regular inspections of the site should be done to keep it safe and in good order. "
- I have a 7yr old who would love to learn how to skate.
- But I understand that teenagers would also love to hang out. If the layout would be stretched out giving everyone a place to practice would be awesome!"
- Include scooters and bikes from the off, they will use it anyway but will give you more of a presence when building support size and relevance. Similar park opened years back in Nantwich, Cheshire. Bikes and scoots as abundant as boards.
- I think ideally it would be free so that all kids could use it and not just those whose parents could afford it. Don't think floodlights would work due to the surrounding properties and these would probably be heavily opposed
- I love roller skating I yearly throughout summer (dry days as wet wrecks the wheels) skate around manachie and surrounding areas where paths are smooth a flat smooth track for seating around would be fantastic along with skate ramps having been at other parks for skating, they work well if maintained. So this may need to be factored in too.
- I don't think floodlights is a great idea as this would attract teenagers hanging out late at night
- A site for kids to cycle. Lots of kids in Forres and its surrounding area, cycle. A place where they can practice, safely, would be ideal.
- Hopefully it wouldn't impinge on green space, but would rather make use of some of the unused concrete areas

- Ensuring there are plenty bins so that the people using it do not harm the environment with litter in and around the park.
- If a skate park was built in Forres I think that it should be a street styled park with a mix of bowl
- Get Springfield to hook up the flood lights now, the digger is already there, people never want to pay for anything, just build it and the kids will come, in fact this is a drop in the ocean for Springfield a humane gesture
- Use of floodlights would draw people there at night causing a disturbance for the neighbours. Flood lights would be good in the winter and should be timed to go off so as not to disturb neighbours late in the evening.

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28th April 2021'

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

As one who has witnessed the need for a skatepark in Forres for many years, I have no hesitation in supporting the efforts of the Forres Skate Park Initiative to achieve this aim. Skateboard enthusiasts in the town have either to travel to neighbouring towns to access such a facility or be satisfied with creating temporary jumps in carparks or similar well surfaced open areas where risks to safety are high.

I am

Yours sincerely



Douglas Ross MP
Member of Parliament for Moray



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Shaun Moat
Chairman
Forres Skate Park Initiative

By email: shaun@forresskatepark.org.uk

30th April 2021

To Shaun & Mary Condon,

Forres Skate Park Initiative

I am writing in support of the above project which is a fantastic initiative that would be an asset to the town of Forres and its young people.

I understand that the Forres Skate Park committee have already secured funding for a feasibility study and options appraisal to assess the need and possible location for a skate park in the town. They are also working to create a business plan to progress this extremely worthwhile project.

In my opinion, facilities for young people in towns such as Forres are vital, as its young people may be otherwise unable to access sports centres with a wider range of facilities located in nearby towns and cities.

A facility such as a skate park would offer somewhere for young people to go and enjoy their sport safely with friends and peers, which is vital for their wellbeing.

I would therefore ask that my letter of support for the Forres Skate Park Initiative be considered to assist their efforts and I am keen to offer any assistance I can to move this project forward.

Yours sincerely

DOUGLAS ROSS MP

Constituency Office:
63 High Street, Forres, Moray, IV36 1PB
Tel: 01309 679253
Email: douglas.ross.mp@parliament.uk

OFFICIAL

11 May 2021

Your Ref:

Our Ref:



Shaun Moat
Chair
Forres Skate Park Initiative
8 Kinloss Park
Kinloss
FORRES
IV36 3xy

31-33 Moray Street
Elgin
IV30 1JL

101

C3DivisionServiceCentreGlasgow @scotland.pnn.police.uk

Dear Shaun

I write with reference to your recent correspondence regarding the Forres Skate Park Initiative and your drive as a collective in the area to provide a modern Skate Park facility for the Community.

There is no doubt that there will be benefit in regenerating surroundings and providing facilities that will divert young people from anti-social activities, but the greater benefit is perhaps the fact that it has endless opportunities to become a safe, positive and fun environment that with further enterprise can go on to offer even more.

The impact on young people from a physical, mental and social perspective is yet to be fully realised as we look to get on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, so it is hugely valuable that there are developments for people to focus on and help tackle any of the negative effects from the pandemic.

The local Community Officer, PC Michelle MacDonald stated that "the proposed skatepark would encourage young people of all ages to become active again and will allow an opportunity for young people to be off the street and in a safe place".

I look forward to hearing more from you on the matter going forward and wish you well with this project, but please get in touch if we can be of any more assistance.

Yours

Norman Stevenson
Chief Inspector



**The Community Council
for the
Royal Burgh of Forres**
Chair: Community Councillor Fiona Graham
The Tolbooth,
High St, Forres
Contact: 07954150311
Email: info@forrescc.co.uk

10 May 2021

To whom it may Concern

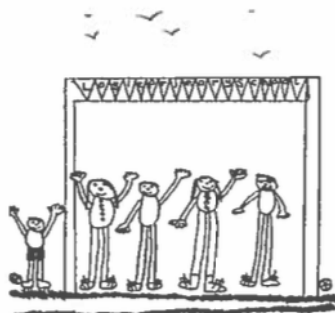
Forres Skatepark Initiative

On behalf of Forres Community Council we would like to offer our whole-hearted support to the Forres Skatepark Initiative. Over recent years so many facilities for the young people of our community have been withdrawn and considering the further impact that Covid restrictions have had, such an initiative could not be more important or timelier. It is vital that our young people have the opportunity to participate in active and challenging activities for both their physical and mental wellbeing, and this facility will be extremely beneficial to them and the wider community.

Yours sincerely

J H Lenihan

Jo Lenihan
Secretary
Forres Community Council



LEARNING FOR LIFE AT LOGIE

LOGIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dunphail, Forres, IV36 2QG

Tel: 01309 611258 • Fax: 01309 611538

admin.logiep@moray-edunet.gov.uk

www.logie.moray.sch.uk • [@LogiePrimary](https://twitter.com/LogiePrimary)



Helen Douglas, Headteacher

School Information Line: 08700 549999 pin: 031330 (calls to this number will be charged at 2p per minute service charge plus your call providers access charge)

May 7th 2021

Shaun Moat
Forres Skate Park Initiative
8 Kinloss Park
Forres
IV36 3XJ

Dear Shaun

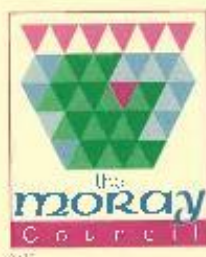
Thank you very much for your email and congratulations on moving this long-running project forward.

Logie Primary is happy to offer its support in principle as you prepare your Feasibility and Option appraisal. We would note that the pupils here at Logie have recently been discussing how to create a more inclusive society, particularly for those children with disabilities, and have been dismayed by the general lack of accessible facilities. If the skate park were to include these thoughts in its planning and make necessary adaptations to the skate park plans, they would be delighted.

If you and the FSPI would like more support from our pupils, we will be looking at this topic again in August and could also steer discussions towards it during Politics Week in November.

With best wishes,

Moira Dennis
Administrator



Councillor Aaron McLean
Ward 8 - Forbes

16 Thornhill Place, Forbes, IV36 1LR

Tel: 07875 034226

E-mail: aaron.mclean@moray.gov.uk

Our Ref: EDOC-341-1029-AMcL/mmmt

11 May 2021

To whom it may concern

I am delighted to show my full support to the Forbes Skate Park Initiative in their efforts to secure a skate park for Forbes.

I have been aware of the Initiative since it began in 2019 and applaud the hard work which has already been undertaken by the group. I know too that the Initiative has the support of the community as a whole.

A skate park would be a great asset not only to the community of Forbes but also to the surrounding areas.

I am excited to see plans progress and look forward to a successful outcome.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Aaron McLean

Forres Gazette
74-76 South St,
Elgin
IV30 1JG

Hi,

I would like to state my support for the Forres Skate Park Initiative (FSPI) project.

I have covered its progression since its inception (Google 'Forres Gazette - Skate Park') because it is so important to the community in the Forres area, particularly young people.

In my lifetime we have had a BMX track at Bogton and a skate park at Sanquhar/Plasmon.

Despite both being very popular, they were shut down and removed so there is no longer any such facility in the town.

Unfortunately Forres is lacking in sports facilities, especially in comparison to neighbouring towns, and the community here has been calling for a skate park for at least 14 years.

In recent years, FSPI has been a focus for this and has made great progress in raising funds for a professional feasibility study.

Kind regards,

Garry McCartney

Reporter

Forres Gazette

Forres GP Practices

FORRES HEALTH & CARE CENTRE, GRANTOWN ROAD, FORRES, IV36 1JG
Tel: 0345 337 1120 Email: gram.forresclinical@nhs.scot

19th May, 2021

Feasibility and Options Appraisal

To Whom It May Concern

Forres Skate Park Initiative (FSPI)

We provide primary care medical services to the population of Forres and the surrounding area, with over 16,000 patients registered at our Practices.

We have been approached by Forres Skate Park Initiative (FSPI) and asked to provide a letter of support for this proposed local development.

The benefits of a project such as FSPI in the local community are numerous and provide our patients with the following opportunities:

- To get children and young adults involved in physical activity, particularly for those who are not involved or interested in traditional team sports
- A safe place for the development of wheeled sport skills, resulting in better coordination, flexibility, balance, physical stamina and overall physical fitness
- To give opportunities to learn and develop new skills
- To provide a safe alternative to street skating
- To build a sense of community and help reduce anti social behaviour
- To learn patience, respect and concern for their own safety and that of others
- To provide therapeutic benefits to improve mental well being, including reducing boredom, providing escapism, building confidence, reducing anxiety and stress, cross-cultural and all-age social interaction, as well as increasing self-esteem

These benefits have the potential to be far reaching and would provide not only the opportunity to improve physical health through exercise and physical activity, but also to develop social skills and enhance community responsibility, as well as the providing the opportunity to improve mental health and wellbeing for those who would use this facility. As such, we would support the development of a local skate park in Forres.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona C. Harris
Practice Manager
On behalf of the Culbin & Varis GP Partnerships



Richard Lochhead
SNP MSP for Moray

17 May 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in my role as Member of the Scottish Parliament for Moray in support of Forres Skate Park Initiative's endeavours to create a skatepark for the community in Forres.

This exciting Initiative would offer a much needed facility for youngsters and encourage physical, outdoor activity. As can be seen at other skateparks, they are frequented by skateboard, BMX and scooter enthusiasts of a variety of ages and prove to be a popular attraction.

I wish the Forres Skate Park Initiative well in their venture and I'm pleased to offer this letter in their support.

With best wishes,

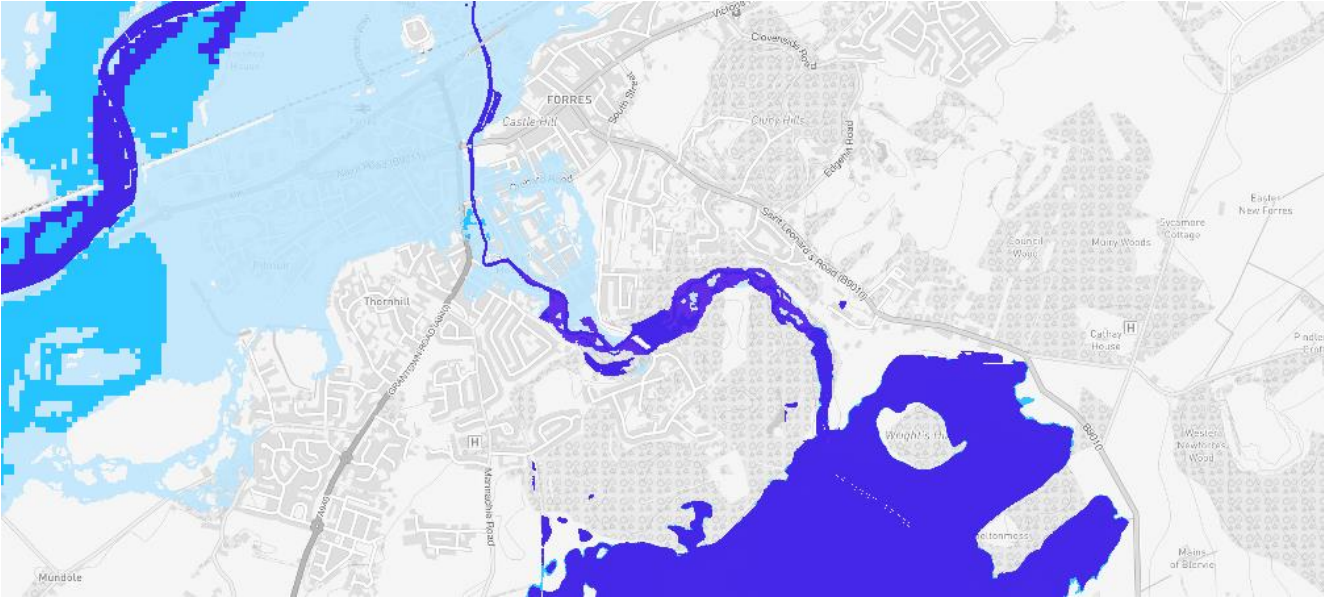
Yours sincerely,

Richard Lochhead

80 South Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1JG
Tel: 01343 545077
richard.lochhead.msp@parliament.scot | fb.com/richardlochheadmsp
www.richardlochhead.org | twitter.com/RichardLochhead

14.4 Appendix Four: Flood Risk Maps

River Flood Risk



- High
- Medium
- Low

Surface Water Flood Risk



- High
- Medium
- Low