

Skatepark Working Group Feedback Report Appendix 3

	For	Against
Noise	There will be increased noise when the skatepark is in use but this should be considered positively as it is the sound of children playing and this is a function of the park	There will be noise from the skate park and also from the voices of young people and 'tinny bluetooth speakers'. There is a high number of older residents in the area who prefer quiet surroundings and families with young children who may have bedtimes disturbed.
Visual	It is a small skatepark and would only take up a small percentage of the park	Concrete will destroy the look of a grass park, it is not as attractive and it would take up some of the last open green space in the town. It is also on a major route in to Oakham and wouldn't make an attractive approach for visitors. It would be a sacrifice to some of the last green space within Oakham. Concerns that Centenary field is becoming a 'dumping ground'.
ASB/CRIME	There are case studies which indicate that ASB/Crime is reduced when a skatepark is in use. The skate community and the crime community are separate. The local dedicated neighbourhood team feel positively towards a skatepark and feel it would be easy to police. The youth of Oakham are respectful and polite to officers and PCSOs.	When not in use, the skatepark would become a meeting place for deviant adults, teens and drug users. Concerns that there are existing ASB and drug use problems in the park, particularly in the wooded area and that policing presence is low.
Memorial	Centenary Fields has no real historical links to World War 1, the plaque was placed recently as it was a suitable open space. The memorial is to a member of RAS. Many teens died in WW1 and this could be seen as a fitting tribute.	The field is a designated memorial field and should remain as a peaceful area for reflection and remembrance.
Litter & Graffiti	The skate community do not like litter in their space as it makes the sport unsafe. By placing the park on OTC managed land, a robust litter management plan can be implemented and maintained. OTC can be contacted easily and will get bins emptied swiftly whenever contact is made. Graffiti can be reduced by a commissioned mural for the users 'to be proud of'	Skatepark users would over fill litter bins which would not be emptied regularly enough, there are already times the bins overflow and there is frequent littering in the wooded area of the park including drug paraphenalia. Park is a major walking route to high school so litter can already increase suddenly. Graffiti will be a problem on the structure.
Lighting	Lighting would extend hours the skatepark could be used and further reduce potential for ASB. Token paid lighting would reduce issues for local residents.	Being unlit would increase ASB issues. Being lit would be a nuisance for local residents as will ruin the outlook from their homes.
Site safety	Almost all feedback was positive about having a skatepark in Oakham. Skateparks are very safe spaces. They have a definitive etiquette. Riders support each other in a multi-age, multi-skill way. Any site safety would need to be assessed at planning but as there is a school and a play park already, the assumption among supporters is that it would be safe. Children and teens travel to the area safely everyday for school. There is a crossing. The road is at its busiest immediately before and after school and as park users would mainly either come from school or at the weekends it would not clash and may even slightly reduce parking issues. Engaging in sport reduces the vulnerability of children and therefore reduces any predator based crime.	There is a pond in the field which may cause a health and safety risk. A skatepark which would encourage teens to the area may become a target for county lines drug gangs. A small percentage of local residents have fears around sharing the park with skaters. The road next to the park isn't safe, the access would be over a field which wouldnt be safe. Parking may increase which would cause road safety problems. It is often an unsupervised sport and that may not be safe for children. How will the structure be maintain long term.

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Why skatepark?	<p>There are multiple sports catered for by an all wheels concrete skatepark. Skateboarding, scootering, skating, WCMX and BMX. The sports are growing in popularity. They are popular with children from age 4 to young adults. There is no where in Oakham suitable for these sports currently. They build resilience, work ethic, confidence and encourage social skills as participants are very encouraging to each other and self teach so tend to share skills and tips. It is easily accessible to all and free to use so reduces socio-economic boundaries and differences which are seen as common challenges facing children in Oakham. The sports are popular with SEN children in particular and WCMX is specifically for wheelchair users. The mental health of young people has struggled during and after covid lockdowns. There are links between participation in sport and being outdoors and good mental health.</p>	<p>It caters for a very small percentage of the population. It is mainly boys and isnt accessible for disabled or SEN children. There are other more popular sports which lack facilities in Oakham.</p>
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