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| **Report No. 2022/33****Appendix:****Agenda Item No. 11** | **Council****Date of Meeting: 7 December 2022** |
| **OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL** |
| **Report Author: Skate Park Working Group**  | **Title: Oakham Skate Park Project** |
| **Subject: To update Council on the project and to make further recommendations**  |
| **Strategic Aim.** **2. Ensure that Oakham remains a viable and pleasant environment in which to live, work and play.****3. Improve and increase facilities within the town.****4. Maintain and improve OTC land and buildings for the benefit of the community.****5. Promote the town as an attractive place to visit and stay.****6. Work with and in partnership with Rutland County Council and other partner groups.** |

The skatepark Working group was put together in November 2021 to make recommendations to council in order to answer the question of whether, in principle, a skatepark could be sited on land owned or managed by Oakham Town Council. This is not a formal planning process, this proposal is a request for council to debate the option presented and decide whether they wish to offer an agreement in principle which would then move the proposal on to a formal stage.

The group has worked consistently over the past year to consider the options available in order to make recommendations to council. The most comprehensive feedback was gained though open sessions where residents were asked to come to the working group to share their thoughts, feelings and concerns. The working group received a lot of feedback, all of which has been carefully considered before recommendations were agreed upon. A report on the feedback received has been attached to this paper.

It is undeniable that this is an emotive subject with strong feelings both for and against. As a reflection of this, the process has been lengthy to give the councillors on the working group ample time to gather and collate feedback and formulate an opinion.

There has been overwhelming support for a skatepark in Oakham, there has however, been significant opposition to specific locations which led the working group to focus on the pros and cons of Oakham Town Council land. This process identified Centenary Field as the most appropriate location.

The working group is making the recommendation that council agrees, in principle, to site a skatepark on Centenary Field. This would be the first step in allowing a formal planning process to take place.

**Proposals:**

1. That Oakham Town Council agrees, in principle, to site a skatepark on Centenary Field subject to a full formal planning process.