

Update for Chippenham Area Board

Update from	Vincent Albano, Asset Portfolio Manager Strategic Asset Management
Date of Area Board Meeting	Monday 01/09/2015
Subject	Chippenham Skate park – update

Update

The successful contractor, Wheelscape (www.wheelscape.co.uk), has been working to refine the design of the skate park and prepare the necessary documents and reports for the submission of the planning application. The predicted date of submission for the planning application is late November.

Currently the contractor is working through the various technical issues associated with the site chosen by the Area Board. At this time the contractor is working to refine the noise assessment as recommended by the previous reports. This is important as it will define the level of noise attenuation that needs to be provided in order to protect the residential amenity of the surrounding residents, something that the Area Board has been very mindful of. Wheelscape have appointed acoustic consultants to undertake this further work which should complete in August. Area Board's chosen site for the skate park in front of the Multi Use Games Area and in close proximity to the river presents 2 other significant constraints. These are drainage and flood risk

The interaction between acoustic mitigation, flood risk and drainage mean that the site is technically challenging to deliver and this is taking time to resolve. The main constraints issues....

Acoustic attenuation

The current noise assessment recommends attenuation for noise in the form of 4m barrier. This could be achieved in the form of a 4m high wall/bund around the park or digging the park down 4m. The further acoustic work being undertaken is seeking to clarify the exact requirements.

Drainage

The proximity of the site to the river means that the water table is less than a meter below ground level. Digging down to far will mean that water can't drain and the skate park will fill up with water when it rains. Also, much like digging a hole on the beach, the proximity of the site to the river will mean that ground water will want to fill the site from the bottom. These further limits how far the skate park can be sunk down thus meaning a higher acoustic bund around the site.

Flood Risk

Given the drainage issue means that the skate park cannot be sunk down to any great degree. This would mean that the noise bund (currently recommended at 4m high) would need to be mostly located above ground. Depending on how this is constructed, the bund would take volume out of the flood plain, meaning that flood water would need to be displaced somewhere else. This is the remit of the Environment Agency and they too are being consulted on the specifics of the scheme.

The interaction between these constraints needs to be resolved prior to submission of the planning application and prior to any further discussion with skate park users.

With the above in mind the predicted timescale is....

- Additional acoustic work completed – mid August
- Subject to review of the above and other constraints design workshop with LYN- late September
- Revised designs and proposals- mid October
- Approval- of designs by Client – late October
- Prepare 2D drawings for submission- early November
- Submit planning application- Late November

