

# Chippenham Skatepark Project

## Summary of Public Consultation Meeting

### 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012

#### Welcome & Introduction

Councillor Desna Allen, Chairman of Chippenham Skatepark Project Task Group, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained the following:

- The meeting was a public consultation not a formal council meeting
- The majority of the meeting would be devoted to “Question & Answer” time after presentations
- Those present were asked to respect all points of view expressed, everyone was entitled to express their opinion
- As many questions as possible would be answered at the meeting, but a comments sheet and box were provided for any additional comments or questions
- As this was not a formal meeting no minutes will be produced, however, key points discussed will be recorded and uploaded to the website. Hard copies will be available upon request.

#### Background of Project – Why the Skatepark is a Priority

- It was always intended that a replacement would be provided for the Skatepark facility that was removed
- The provision of a Skatepark for Chippenham was identified as a priority in 2005 in the Chippenham and Villages Community Plan
- A Skatepark remained a priority when the Community Plan was reviewed in 2009
- The Youth Development Service and Extended Schools Service (Chippenham Children’s Parliament) have advised Chippenham Area Board that children and young people in the area continue to site a Skatepark as one of the facilities they would most like to see in the town.
- Chippenham Vision Board identified a Skatepark as a priority for the town in their draft strategy
- In response, Chippenham Area Board made the provision of a Skatepark an Area Board priority in May 2010
- The Skatepark Task Group was set up in November 2010 and the Terms of Reference for the group were agreed at the Chippenham Area Board meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010
- Chippenham currently has one Skate facility, “The Skate Shed” at the Bridge Centre which is available 2 days a week for young people over the age of 11.
- The Bridge Centre is due to close as part of the redevelopment of Bath Road site. An agreement between Wiltshire Council and the developers ING was signed in December 2011. The Bridge Centre will be demolished and alternative locations are therefore being sought for the range of facilities and services currently being delivered from the Bridge Centre.
- There is currently no S106 money specifically designated for the installation of a Skatepark.
- Wiltshire Councils Strategic Projects & Development Manager is in negotiations with ING regarding the relocation costs of existing Council facilities at the Bridge Centre. One of these items relates to the skate facility. No figure has been finalised to date.

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#### Explanation of criteria used

- The Task Group considered available land (Wiltshire Council, Town Council and land in private ownership NB no funds to purchase, enquiries made with a view to land being made available by owner e.g.: Rugby Club
- Central - Less “territorial issues” The Task Group does not recommend a remote location on the outskirts for young people,
- Sufficient space (An average Skatepark is 45m by 25m)
- Good access
- Safe for users
- Supporting infrastructure (Toilets, refreshments etc)

#### The Role of the Task Group

- To investigate options and provide updates to every Area Board meeting, Task Group members are always present to answer any questions
- To make recommendations to Area Board, the Task Group is not a decision making body
- Best practice from other Skatepark Projects (e.g. Devizes) has been adopted
- Conscious of historical problems with the last facility (installed by the previous authority NWDC) the Task Group is keen to consult with the public and other users on the work to date before making a recommendation to the Area Board.

#### Summary of Progress

Councillor Peter Hutton, Vice Chairman of Chippenham Skatepark Project Task Group, provided a brief overview of other sites that were considered but not taken forward:

i.	<b>Abbeyfield/Hardens Farm</b> This site is named in the Core Strategy for houses, business start up and employment
ii.	<b>Bristol Road</b> This area has a known flooding problem. It is narrow and secluded, which may pose security issues. The Police did not feel it was a good option.
iii.	<b>Bumpers Farm</b> This land in the ownership of a private developer and it is understood that there is a covenant on the land which would not allow it to be used for a Skatepark.

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iv.	<b>Charter Road (1)</b> This is a flood plain and conservation area. Not felt to be a suitable option by the police due to anti-social behaviour in the area. Territorial issues anticipated.
v.	<b>Charter Road (2)</b> This is a flood plain and conservation area. Not felt to be a suitable option by the police due to anti-social behaviour in the area. Territorial issues anticipated. An existing play area owned by Chippenham Town Council would need to be moved. Redevelopment costs would be prohibitive.
vi.	<b>Derriads Barn</b> This location has a listed building on it and is also adjacent to a pond and wildlife area/nature reserve. It is also very close to residential properties.
vii.	<b>Forest Gate</b> This site was felt to be too far out of town to be suitable.
viii.	<b>Hygrade</b> This site would need considerable redevelopment. Redevelopment costs would be prohibitive. It is understood that there are plans for residential/retirement flats. The area is on a flood plain.
ix.	<b>John Coles Park</b> It is owned by Chippenham Town Council. This is a formal park which does not lend itself to any additional facilities as it already has a MUGA.
x.	<b>Ivyfields</b> This area is prone to flooding and has underground pipes. The conservation area would need to be taken into account.
xi.	<b>Kingsley Road</b> Not central and some territorial issues anticipated. Not felt to be the best option by the Police.
xii.	<b>Lovers Walk</b> Next to a very busy road with several large over hanging trees. Roots of the trees and water culvert would impact upon construction. Above ground construction would be required due to underground culvert. On culvert means potential weight issues/restrictions.
xiii.	<b>Lowden Yard</b> Redevelopment would be required as there was previously a garage on this site. The cost to redevelop would be prohibitive. Very close to residential properties.
xiv.	<b>Network Rail</b> Network Rail submitted a planning application for the site in August 2011 to extend the current Station Car Park and to have the land designated operational land for the railway.
xv.	<b>Rugby Club</b> Chippenham Rugby Club was approached but declined to make any of their land available as they have other plans for the area.

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<b>xvi.</b>	<b>Rugby Club (Disused Road)</b> Narrow site adjacent to footbridge with overhead cables. Energy companies require space for maintenance. Isolated and not central.
<b>xvii.</b>	<b>Stanley Park</b> Chippenham Town Council formally considered making land at Stanley Park available for a Skatepark facility at their meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2011. The decision was: <i>Chippenham Town Council rejects the request made by the Chippenham Skatepark Task Group that land at Stanley Park Sports Ground be made available for the provision of a future Skatepark.</i>
<b>xviii.</b>	<b>Westcroft</b> Redevelopment would be needed as this was previously a rubbish tip, the ground is therefore contaminated and the cost of making this good would be prohibitive.
<b>xix.</b>	<b>Wood Lane</b> Currently a car park. It is felt that the loss of car parking spaces would not be appropriate. Adjacent to residential properties.
<b>xx.</b>	<p><b>Indoor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Cost</li> <li>• Ongoing maintenance costs (e.g. lighting, heating, building maintenance)</li> <li>• Employee Costs (Training, salaries, CRB checks)</li> <li>• A charge for use will need to be made to at least cover costs; therefore not all potential skaters will be able to use the facilities when they want because of cost or session bookings.</li> <li>• Usage tends to be session based and therefore money making sessions (such as parties) will take precedence over casual skating</li> <li>• Normally operated by an entrepreneur therefore no guarantee of longevity</li> <li>• Access restricted to opening times</li> <li>• The general public and skaters do not get a chance to mix or casually observe the users in action.</li> <li>• The Task Group is of the opinion that an indoor facility should complement an outdoor facility, not be pursued instead of an outdoor facility</li> </ul>

**Advice from Independent Contractors/Site visits**

- 3 independent contractors were invited to view shortlisted sites
- Advice and guidance from all 3 was broadly similar, all finding Monkton Park to be the best option

**Rationale for proposal of River Island site**

- It meets the criteria
- Available land
- Central, less “territorial issues”
- Sufficient space
- Good access
- It is a safe widely used park environment
- Informal supervision (i.e. people using the park) will limit opportunities for anti-social behaviour
- Supporting infrastructure. It is situated adjacent to the town centre (access to toilets, refreshments,

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first aid etc)

- It is situated close to the town centre which may well bring economic benefits to local shops in the High Street
- Monkton Park has regular & frequent patrols by the Neighbourhood Police Team
- The Youth Development Service has activities based in The Olympiad Leisure Centre nearby
- It has been assessed as suitable by independent contractors
- It has been assessed as suitable by an independent noise consultant
- A new Skatepark will be of concrete construction and will reduce noise levels significantly and mitigate against noise issues that were a problem with the previous steel construction Skatepark installed by NWDC
- The materials used to make the wheels on scooters, skates and skateboards have improved in the last decade and also reduce the noise issues of the past
- There is good access to the site for emergency services and construction crew
- Car parking and good access by public transport (bus and train), good, safe access by foot (easy to avoid busy roads and road crossings)
- The map used in the consultation was just an indication of the area, not to scale, size
- Initial informal consultation with young people and parents - confirmed they like the site

#### Results of Public Consultation

- Consultation was carried out via:
  - "Survey Monkey" on line
  - An article in the Town Council "Talk of the Town" Newsletter
- 727 received on line
- 285 by post
- Total 1012
- 628 supported the site
- 376 did not support the site
- 8 did not state Yes or No and chose just to provide comments

#### Current use of space

- The Task group vision is to make the space as flexible as possible, not to prevent other activities, the group welcome input from other users
- There are innovative designs available which would enable continued occasional use of the space for other events and activities (e.g. Folk Festival)
- The Task Group very much hopes that other users will contribute to the design

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- It is unfortunate that until now the majority of comments in the press have been negative, referring to the Skatepark as “an ugly monstrosity” and “a blot on the landscape” this need not be the case with careful planning, there are some innovative designs examples available
- The Task Group would like to form a design team made up of skaters and other existing users to agree a design that meets all needs.

#### **Noise Assessments**

- The Skatepark Task Group resolved to follow best practice and commission a comprehensive independent noise impact assessment and then follow the acoustic guidance.
- The Senior Public Protection Officer gave an overview of how his team is consulted on Planning Applications and how an application of this type would be dealt with.
- He also spoke about BS4142/LAMax for residential impact
- He advised that is no recognised tool for impact on commercial premises. Office users have the right to an open window for ventilation; this will also be taken into consideration by the Task Group.

#### **Community Benefits of a Skatepark**

A member of ChAP (Chippenham and Villages Area Partnership) outlined the following Community Benefits for a Skatepark:

##### **Skating Community**

- It is recognised that skateboarding and other associated activities contribute to fitness and health.
- The pursuit of sporting and athletic excellence which is demonstrated every day in every quality Skatepark could be nurtured in Chippenham through the provision of a free-to-use, easy to access, publically owned Skatepark.
- Large numbers of children & young people of Chippenham enjoy skateboarding and scootering. Many of them use the sessions provided at the Skate Shed situated at the Bridge Centre.
- Many also travel to outdoor Skatepark facilities in other Wiltshire towns, and further afield, such as those in Bristol and Midsomer Norton. Some spend a considerable amount on fares to such locations, and some are driven there by their parents.
- By providing a Skatepark in the centre of our town we will enable our young people to skate safely, in a purpose built facility, near to their homes; and parents would be able to leave youngsters to enjoy the activities, while perhaps doing their shopping or having a coffee in their own town, instead of having to drive many miles away, as they have to do at present.

##### **Wider Community**

- Skateparks provide a focus for young people, and place where they can meet and hang out.
- It encourages social and recreational interaction and a more acceptable alternative to meeting on the street, or indeed skateboarding in inappropriate or unsafe locations, as happens now in our town.

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- In order to take part in the use of an outdoor Skatepark, it is essential to learn patience and respect as well as concern for the safety of themselves and others. It is accepted that active sports have a major benefit to those who take part and for society itself.
- An outdoor skate park will extend and enhance the leisure offer in the town.
- It will be free and accessible to all, and proximity to the town centre will also bring economic benefits.
- A well designed and constructed skate park will attract visitors from outside the town; it is very common for skaters to travel long distance to experience different parks. Skaters and their parents will often spend money in shops near to a park.
- Giving young people somewhere to go, somewhere that they have designed, worked for and are stewards of, leads to a sense of ownership. There is evidence suggesting that skate parks can have a positive effect on crime rates, this could only be good for our town.
- Skateboarding, roller-blading and BMX riding are exhilarating to perform and exhilarating to watch. With the right design our skate park could become a place where the wider public come to watch the impressive feats of the users.
- Monkton Park would be an ideal and central location and with the right design a skate park would complement and enhance the public space and the leisure offer in Chippenham

#### **Skaters perspective**

Anthony Milner introduced himself as an ex British Squad Speed Skater, and a skating coach. He wanted to reassure people that the concrete construction of modern Skateparks deadens sound and the materials used to construct wheels has also greatly improved.

“Skatesmart” is a National Organisation for freestyle skaters, Anthony spoke of the opportunities to provide skate lessons/training sessions, they could start off in hall. A good skate facility could enable the formation of a speed skating club, freestyle skating, skate hockey, all of which would be benefit for the local community and provide positive activities for our local young people.

#### **Parent’s perspective**

Brett Conway introduced himself as a parent who regularly travels with his children to a wide variety of Skateparks. He stated that the noise generated was imperceptible. He also spoke of the potential benefit to the town, of skaters and their parents will purchase refreshments from local cafes and be encourage to come into town.

#### **Youth Development Service**

There is clearly a need for both indoor and outdoor Skatepark facilities. In addition to the Skateboarders the facilities will be used by the large number of scooter riders. Based on the experience of the Youth Development service running the skate shed we believe a skate park would be used by Skateboarders the facilities will be used by the large number of scooter riders, and BMX’ers. From observation made on the use of Monkton Park and John Cole park on a Saturday and Sunday morning, younger children would also probably use the facility as scooters are extremely popular with this age group too. The need is not going away. Chippenham needs to allow for the needs of young people as it develops and grows.

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**Skater**

A professional skater stated that neither Stanley Park nor land near Chippenham Rugby Club would be the preferred choice for Skateboarders. Both sites can be very windy which can be dangerous for users. River Island is potentially a good location; however, the proximity to the river may increase construction costs.

**Neighbourhood Police**

Using the Skatepark in Calne as a current example, the Neighbourhood Police Team Sergeant stated that in his experience very little anti-social behaviour was caused by users of Skateparks. Non skaters were responsible for a recent incident in a park and it was Skateboarders who alerted the police to the incident. The Neighbourhood Police Team is very supportive of any initiative to create facilities for young people.

**Questions & Answers**

The discussions included the following points:

Q. There is a lot said about the need for the facility, however, doubt was expressed about the analysis of the sites, was it valid? No criteria, no scoring. Can't believe there won't be any problems with noise. When the wheels impact noise is created.

A. *Senior Public Protection Officer explained that instantaneous noise had been measured and included in the noise impact assessments carried out by the independent consultant. The required levels had been met comfortably.*

Thinks it should be near The Olympiad and existing Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). No disruption to Folk Festival, an event which everyone in the town benefits from and enjoys. Not compatible to convert space 4 days per year.

A representative of the Folk Festival raised the following points: The Folk Festival Committee was disappointed not to have been consulted until now. He had visited 120 shops in Chippenham today, every single one wants the site to be next to The Olympiad and the MUGA. The Folk Festival is very keen to see a Skatepark in Chippenham but do not believe River Island is a suitable location. Folk Festival does not accept that it will be possible to co-exist with a Skatepark. How will a 600 seat marquee fit onto the site? Not possible to run 2 things at the same time.

A. *The purpose of this evenings meeting is to consult and gather views from everyone including the Folk Festival. Other points noted.*

*Senior Youth Development Co-ordinator stated that it was a challenge to us all in the local community to consider how to make things work for everyone's benefit. Every year, The Arts & Media Suite in The Olympiad (run by the Youth Development Service) is given up to The Folk Festival. Compromise and collaboration should not be a problem. We need to consider how we are going to meet the needs of children and young people in the future.*

Q. Councillor Bill Douglas stated: The Task Group had carried out excellent assessments, he thought it was wrong to discount an indoor facility on cost grounds, he didn't believe the consultation was valid because people don't know where River Island is, Chippenham Vision Board has produced some ideas for the area to use it for leisure purposes, he supports a Skatepark anywhere in Monkton Park but not River Island which he felt to be unsuitable for an ugly Skatepark, the Town Council has a responsibility to its youth, he didn't understand why Stanley Park can't be considered.



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*A. Task Group Chairman reminded Councillor Douglas that Stanley Park was owned by Chippenham Town Council and that the Town Council had formally been asked to consider releasing some space for a Skatepark facility. The Town Council has confirmed that it does not feel it would be appropriate to provide space at Stanley Park.*

*The Head of Service Delivery at Chippenham Town Council stated that the Council via its Amenities Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011, resolved to reject the request made by the Chippenham Skatepark Task Group that land at Stanley Park Sports Ground be made available for the provision of a future Skatepark. It was further explained that the Town Council made the decision following consideration of a number of factors including:*

- the location of Stanley Park which is on the eastern edge of the town. Stanley Park is too remote, not central, not easily accessible*
- is a 'closed site' which is locked at night and the facility should be 'open and available' at all times as most public play areas are*
- there are implications with the Football Foundation and the fact that some £2m in grant funding has been received for the development of the site as a football facility. Further development of the site for any further alternative sports might compromise these grant conditions*
- the skate and the current BMX users themselves have stated that Stanley Park is not suitable due to the high degree of wind: a comment made by a young person at the January 2012 Area Board meeting".*

*Q. A suggestion was made that the Skatepark was put back in the same area as the previous one, next to Council offices was suggested. Is a 0db criterion realistic?*

*A. Councillor Hutton welcomed the endorsement of central Monkton Park, if the Task Group is to revisit Monkton Park, he asked the Folk Festival representatives for their views on returning the facility to the site near the Olympiad and MUGA.*

*Festival Director Bob Berry confirmed that the Folk Festival has no objections to the area next to The Olympiad. The Festival organisers are happy that this area would not have an adverse impact upon either the delivery of a festival or the young people's access and enjoyment of a Skatepark.*

*Councillor Jane Scott stated: The young people of the Chippenham community have been asking us all for a Skatepark for years, towns across the county including Corsham, Melksham and Calne all have them in public parks, she is very sorry that Chippenham hasn't been able to deliver a facility for its young people, Monkton Park is a public open space, noise happens in a public open space, she does not think that the proposed site on River Island is the best option, the best site available is next to the Olympiad Leisure Centre, young people have said they want a Skatepark outside, how can we deliver this?.*

*Q. Understood the purpose of the evening was to consider River Island, not to justify the need for a Skatepark.*

*A. The Chairman explained that some people had challenged the need for a Skatepark at all, it was therefore felt that a brief outline of the background confirming the reason the facility was a priority was important.*

*Q. A resident of Sadlers Mead referred to correspondence from 2<sup>nd</sup> April which stated that there would be no increase in noise. His concern is that peace and quiet of residents is not disturbed, the noise made by a Skatepark would be deafening for up to 16 hours a day. He stated that when the noise generated reaches houses in Sadlers Mead it will exceed acceptable levels. Why hasn't auralization been provided by MACH Acoustics? Wiltshire Council has a duty to ensure that noise levels are not exceeded.*

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*A. Senior Public Protection Officer confirmed that all of the necessary noise assessments had been carried out, indeed an additional assessment at the residents property had been carried out, and all of the results confirmed that the resulting levels were below the background levels. The assessments confirmed that there would be no adverse impact upon amenity to the residents of Sadlers Mead if a Skatepark was installed on River Island. The results of the additional assessment were as follows:*

Existing measured background noise level L90	41
Calculated Leq Ref 82 dB	22
BS4142 Criteria: 0dB target	-19
BS4142, with the + 5dB correction	-14
Predicted Lmax - 104 dB	44

*That is to say, -14dB(BS4142) even with the additional +5dB that the resident felt should be used. And the LAMax of 44dB is 11dB below the target level of 55dB.*

*The officer confirmed that "Auralization" had been carried out in the form of short film clips; however, he did not feel that clips on You Tube were particularly helpful. A visit to a Skatepark would be a better demonstration of the noise levels*

A resident of Sadlers Mead stated: everyone wanted the children to have a Skatepark, a lot of people in Chippenham will be angry if the Task Group proceeds with Monkton Park, he will take legal action if the Task Group goes ahead, is the Council prepared waste tax payers money and face a bill for £100,000, there is no guarantee that there won't be complaints from office buildings.

*Councillor Hutton pointed out that it was precisely because the Council has no intention of wasting Council Tax Payers money that the Task Group has taken time to examine as many sites as possible.*

Q. An architect working with Cherish Chippenham stated: he had come to the meeting to to listen and gather information. Cherish Chippenham has asked him to do produce some design ideas for the Riverside; there were concerns that a Skatepark might jeopardise future plans for that area. How might the area be designed, semi permanent integration attenuate noise, he had designs available.

*A. The Chairman stated that the Task Group had not had the benefit of seeing the designs, but looked forward to future discussions.*

Q. A resident of Sadlers Mead stated that she had visited at the Skateshed and was horrified at the premises, she has also visited the Corsham concrete Skatepark and spoke with users, she was quite impressed, as a former environmental health officer she didn't think there was a noise issue, however, the previous facility next to the Olympiad generated problems with anti-social behaviour and drug use.

*A. The Community Safety Manager for Wiltshire Council stated that circumstances had changed significantly since the problems experienced 11 years ago. Chippenham now has a very effective Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT), the NPT patrols include the Monkton Park area, Chippenham now has PCSOs in post which was not the case 11 years ago, the PCSOs regularly engage and interact with young people, police personnel are based in Monkton Park Offices right next to the proposed sites, there is also a DPPO (Designated Public Place Order) which was not in place 11 years ago, the DPPO gives the Police additional powers to deal with the consumption of alcohol in public places. Residents were reminded to report any issues promptly and bring them to the attention of the Police and Wiltshire Council.*

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Q. A member of the public asked why agreement is not being reached with developers; surely there should be a gain of amenity not loss of amenity?

A. *The Vice Chairman stated that funding will come but development hasn't started yet.*

Q. Parent of skaters stated that her family currently travel a long way to other Skateparks including indoor facilities. What is needed and wanted is an outdoor space available every day, the skaters want it in a place where they will be accepted and not criticised, she did not support River Island as she felt it was too dangerous next to the river, this area should be managed for wildlife and enhance Chippenham, a Skatepark would be detrimental to drainage for the area, suggested the site of the old Post Office.

A. *The Chairman advised this site had already been sold for other purposes*

A young person stated that young people have waited a long time for a Skatepark, he felt it would be easy to organise a way that River Island could be used for both activities – a Skatepark and festivals, no need to stop either activity, please could prompt action be taken to progress the Skatepark project.

A mountain bikes coach who works with young people stated that Chippenham should be proud of River Island and should consider applying to award it "Town Green" status. It is not a flood plain; it sits above the level of the weir. Nestlé previously owned River Island and when ownership passed to NWDC, there were probably conditions attached to the future use of the land. He desperately wants a Skatepark for our young people; it should be central and available 100% of time, we need a vision for our young people. He opposed the River Island site and believes that other sites should be reconsidered for a concrete Skatepark e.g.: back in central Monkton Park, perhaps with a roof and one side to mitigate against noise or possibly Lovers Walk, it might be possible to overcome issues with this site.

Q. Town Councillor Andy Phillips stated he was very disappointed at the tone of the debate from some attendees, more had been said about what was not wanted than what we do want, it was particularly negative and unfortunate for threats to be made. He does not support River Island site, the previous location in central Monkton Park near the Olympiad is the best location for a Skatepark, a lot has changed since the noise issues that were experienced years ago, why is Monkton Park is so different to other public parks in Wiltshire? He would like to challenge the noise criterion; does it still apply after all of these years? He asked the Task Group to review the design criterion and the central Monkton Park site.

A. *The Chairman asked for a written answer to be provided for Councillor Phillips regarding his request for the design criterion to be reviewed. The Senior Public Protection Officer stated that the design criterion of Odb above background noise is not policy or law it is a criterion. He also stated that when the previous Skatepark was installed, no criterion was breached, the noise assessment did not take place until after the facility had been installed. The previous metal ramps were closed not because it was a Skatepark but because the facility created a noise nuisance.*

A young person stated that he and his friends use Skateparks very regularly and the sound is not deafening, none of them have gone deaf. They have had complaints about trespassing and are told off for skating in the wrong place, they do not want to be a nuisance, they just need a Skatepark.

Melody Thompson, Chair of Cherish Chippenham stated that there was clearly an overwhelming desire to have the Skatepark back in central Monkton Park near the Olympiad Leisure Centre; there are ways to reduce noise. In the meantime, Cherish Chippenham is investigating the possibility of providing a temporary mobile Skatepark facility, they will have one available on their family fun day in May, would Chippenham Area Board consider funding until a permanent facility is built?

A. *The Chairman confirmed that she looked forward to hearing more about the mobile Skatepark facility*

A Chippenham Youth Outreach Worker stated that the outreach team is street-based and work in the evenings to deal with any anti-social behaviour issues should they arise, the community in Chippenham needs to be open-minded, invest in our young people and bring them into the heart of the community in the town centre.

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A Folk Festival Manager stated that the event brings people from around the world, it is set apart from many other festivals because it is set in the town centre, a Skatepark is essential for young people, but it is difficult to see how the space would enable the festival to co-exist with Skatepark. Other sites should be reviewed. He agreed with the Folk Festival Directors earlier statement that the festival organisers would certainly be able to work with a Skatepark in central Monkton Park near the Olympiad.

A young person stated that he participates in a lot of sporting activities including rugby at a regional level. He also rides BMX and uses Skateparks. Due to the lack of facility in Chippenham he and friends have to travel to other parks, they can't skate after school because there is nowhere to go. He also stated that the Folk Festival gave its participants an opportunity to celebrate and enjoy their skills and abilities, he and his friends were just asking for the opportunity to enjoy their skills and abilities. Please provide a Skatepark.

A young person stated that people arriving in Chippenham for the first time would not find a Skatepark as attractive as the open green space of River Island as it currently is. She felt that Monkton Park near the Olympiad is a good place for concrete Skatepark.

- The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the discussion.
- What we've discussed this evening will inform the next steps. .
- The Skatepark Task Group aims to make recommendations to Chippenham Area Board at their next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013.