



STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Stotfold Town Council, The Greenacre Centre, Valerian Way, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 4HG

Telephone: 01462 730064 | Fax: 01462 834452

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why this design?

The current design is only a concept. Resident and user feedback is very important to shape the nature of the design and to make it a facility accessible to all ages and skill levels whilst also having residents in mind to address concerns regarding noise, vandalism and possible anti-social behaviour.

We would welcome all feedback given either at the consultation event or to the email address above from both users of the park and residents with concerns or questions.

Who will be carrying out the construction?

Betongpark Limited were successful in the tender process. They have built wheeled sports facilities in the UK and abroad and have a wealth of experience in working on projects of all sizes and styles. Further information about them and their work can be found on their website:

www.betongpark.co.uk

How much will this cost to build?

The budget for the construction of the facility is £299,340.

How will this project be funded?

The construction of the wheeled sports facility is being funded from multiple sources. Under the planning agreement for the Greenacre Estate, known as a s106 Agreement, a sum of money was given to Stotfold Town Council to invest in local facilities. £100,000 of this money has been committed to the Wheeled Sports Facility by the Councillors at Stotfold Town Council.

The remainder of the funding will be sourced through various grants, crowd funding and other schemes.

When will this be finished?

The Wheeled Sports Facility will need to obtain planning permission. Following the consultation and the feedback received from both the residents and the users, a final design will be agreed, and planning permission will be sought for the implementation of the facility. The construction time following that is subject to any planning conditions and other factors that we cannot predict at this stage.

Who will maintain this facility?

Unlike the previous facility located at the Riverside, the new facility will be constructed primarily of concrete to ensure that the facility can be easily maintained. Concrete is a much more robust and long-lasting material for skateparks compared to timber or metal. Concrete skateparks will not need to be replaced like metal or timber skateparks, which erode faster. While concrete skateparks do require some maintenance, it is easily sealed and



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cleaned and will be able to be ridden for decades to come. The Town Rangers will be responsible for day-to-day maintenance of the facility as they are with the other open and community spaces around the town.

Other items of maintenance will be assessed and approved by the Public Realm Committee in the usual way.

Why this location?

The location of the old facility is no longer suitable due to the proximity of the old site to residential development and the River Ivel which would leave the facility vulnerable to flooding. The proposed site is close to the A507, to reduce any nuisance to nearby properties.

The location of the site also allows the park to be built into the ground, which is beneficial for many reasons, including noise mitigation, the management of surface water, and the aesthetic of the park itself means that the number of ramps that are visible above ground is minimised. The design also allows clear sightlines to assist in reducing any potential anti-social behaviour.

Lighting

The facility will be lit up in the evening, the current proposed times for this will be up until 9pm. This is to increase safety of the users at the park and those nearby, and to deter anti-social behaviour from occurring at the facility. The implementation of the lighting at the facility will likely be a planning consideration.

Noise

There are many benefits to having a facility built from concrete. One of the main benefits of this is the reduction of noise caused by those using the facility.

The proposed design of the facility will also mean that the facility is built into the ground to assist with the transmission of noise. The proposed site is also close to the A507 the proximity of which will also reduce the noise generated by the facility to reduce impact to nearby residential properties.

Graffiti

We are aware that the last facility was easy to deface and damage due to the design and the materials used in the construction. The new facility will be built almost entirely from concrete making it difficult to damage, easier to repair and harder for people to deface.

Parking

We appreciate that residents will be concerned about the potential pressures that such a facility could cause on the Greenacre Estate. As part of the planning application, we have been advised that a traffic survey would need to be carried out to assess the impacts such a facility could have on parking. Specific details will have to be discussed at this stage. However, we believe that most users who use the facility will either walk, skate, bike or scoot as they will be local users and those that would drive are likely to do outside of working hours and therefore it is unlikely to clash with the school run traffic.



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Anti-social behaviour

One of Betongpark's pivotal design considerations is to mitigate the risk of anti-social behaviour whilst encouraging positive social interactions. The concept for the facility is created using open space with vantage points offering clear lines of vision to reduce the number of secluded areas.

It will also be well lit during use to assist in accomplishing this goal.

A well designed and used skate park will mean the park is in use regularly which will allow the community to stamp out anti-social behaviour themselves and to deter congregation taking place at the facility.