

## **Project D Debenham Skatepark Project Report May 2012**

There has been no real progress on the skatepark project since the annual report of May 2011.

### May 2011

Negotiations to reduce the initial figure of £3800pa to lease the site for the skatepark at Debenham Sports & Leisure were still ongoing from February 2011.

Note DS&L had offered a 70% reduction (in line with the reduction offered to other clubs at DS&L) to £1100pa.

The reason given for this figure was that the skatepark would be a dedicated facility and the space taken up by it could therefore not be used for any other purpose as it would contain permanent equipment. The figure was based on commercial values. A comparative figure for the Bowls Club, another dedicated facility at DS&L which cannot be used for any other purpose was not made available.

### June 2011

DS&L finally came back with a figure of £300pa plus annual increase linked to inflation.

A draft 2 page Memorandum of Understanding produced by DS&L for lease of the site was submitted for comments to Debenham PC and Project D.

Feedback given related to minimum length of lease agreement and implementation of 12 months notice period for permanent closure of the site in order to meet funding providers' criteria.

### September 2011

Draft lease agreement submitted to Debenham PC by DS&L.

March 2012

Debenham PC purchased second hand ramps from Stowupland which were ex Stowmarket. They were viewed by Councillor Palframan prior to purchase by the PC. The overall cost of the project will be significantly reduced by the purchase of these ramps which will be resurfaced with Ramp Armour (or equivalent) and soundproofed before installation.

Project D missed a major funding deadline due to the lease still not being agreed and a problem with a manhole cover on the agreed skatepark site which has since been resolved (the initial indication from DS&L was that the rainwater drain would have to be relocated in order for the project to proceed as the design submitted appeared to cover the access point). It was a design company that asked about access required to the drain cover.

There was also some confusion around the agreed size of the skatepark site. Project D had worked on a 10m extension to the existing pad however the size written into the draft lease was 12x25m and not 17x22m as we had worked with. Although we had discussed informally (and shown the design) with the Chair of DS&L unfortunately we had nothing in writing. It was therefore necessary to revisit the design.

Following the lack of progress over the past 12 months and to be honest the last 2 and a half years of trying to regenerate the skatepark at DS&L, Project D asked Debenham PC to explore the possibility of locating the skatepark at Debenham Recreation Ground as the only other possible site within the village.

It is the preferred choice of the young people who do not feel welcome at DS&L.

Jane Baldwin Chair of Project D