

Project D Debenham Skatepark Project

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2014

People may be thinking that the Project D is no longer active but this is untrue. We have been working quietly in the background trying to find a suitable site for a skatepark in Debenham. A land appeal in the local press brought forth a number of suggestions but sadly not from people who were in a position to act. No land owners came forward with any offers.

We are currently investigating the options on a couple of suggested sites to establish the feasibility of the sites for this recreational facility. Until we have a workable site we will not be actively fundraising (although we did receive the gift of a share of the money from the closure of the old youth club – thanks to Eddy Alcock). Our engagement with the young people will be low key because we do not wish to build their hopes only for them to be once again so cruelly dashed by the people in our community who are able to give the gifts of sharing our limited public/ recreational space, trust and understanding but who choose not to. There is an opportunity here for the community to show our young people that they are as important as all other members of our community and to lead by example, showing our young people how to behave and share in a community with many varied needs and limited public/ recreational space.

A skatepark does not meet the needs of every one of our young people however neither do any of the other activities on offer in Debenham – after school clubs, uniformed groups, football, etc. Those young people who choose to want something different are again in danger of being sidelined. We are a diverse community, with diverse interests and that is what makes us interesting and something we should encourage and celebrate. We need to remember that we used to have a skatepark in the village.

It is lovely that so many of us adults have spaces and places to enjoy and relax in our community and the ability to travel further afield should the need arise. Unfortunately many of the young people in our community have neither and it is important that we cater for them wherever possible.

The youth of our community need a voice to assist them in developing and enhancing the various opportunities they seek in order to express themselves and enjoy the benefits of a healthy and thriving community life.

They are the future so let's support them!