

# Rampton Skatepark Project Proposal

April 2021



# Rampton Skatepark Project

## Our mission and context

The proposed development of the Rampton Recreation ground seeks to provide a local facility where fun, creativity, learning new skills and meeting others whilst keeping safe are encouraged. The project is focusing mostly on giving new opportunities to the younger generation of the village as well as others living nearby. As part of our mission, we are keen to ensure that any potential development is widely supported by the whole community.

Rampton Rec is a much loved facility that has seen some upgrades over the years. About 20 years ago, the multi-use sport area MUGA was built and most recently the gym equipment and young children park revamped. We feel that as the demography of the village is changing, it is important to ensure that provisions to us all are evolving.

Our approach is considering the Rec as a whole. Alongside a skatepark we have included some additional features to work with and complement our existing facility.

This project is led by a Rampton community group "Ramps4Rampton" (R4R). The parish council has agreed to explore the idea and work closely with R4R throughout the project. We would like the development of the recreation ground to leave a lasting legacy for everyone to enjoy.



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# Rampton Skatepark Project

## Skateboarding – did you know?

Skateboarding has been in the UK since the early 1960s, users mostly using wooden ramps and street-based riding to start with. In the 2000s, skatepark open access facilities emerged across the country. Today, it is a widely practiced activity by over 750,000 people nationally. Riders are extremely diverse in age, socio-economic background and ethnicity. They bring with them a rich range of different cultures and lifestyles. For some, skateboarding is at the centre of their day to day life, while others use it a casual activity or even a way to get from A to B. Skateboarding will make its debut appearance as the Tokyo Olympics this summer as one of the new sport addition.

## Benefits

- **Affordable:** starting kit including a board and safety equipment cost around £50-80 and very low maintenance. Most of the outdoor facilities are free to use.
- **Accessible:** participants can ride whenever they have some spare time, without the need for team mates, training schedules or ground bookings. They set their own achievement goals and don't rely on anything else for a sense of satisfaction.
- **Cultural and diverse:** "cool", "alternative", "sub-cultural" are often associated with skateboarding and frequently attract users who are deterred from more organised kinds of sports. Other riders are more mainstream, sporty, techy and brand-conscious. Skateboarding appeals to riders of varied approaches and attitudes. Skateboarders are often highly varied in age, gender, ethnicity, body ability and socio-economic background. The high level of inclusivity allows riders to feel engaged with the activity and give them a sense of belonging and community.
- **Athletic activity:** riders have access to a facility to develop an active lifestyle.

## Skateparks – myths v's reality

### 1. Skateboarding is just for kids

It is one of the few sports where the young and old share experiences and participate as equals.

### 2. Skaters are a small percentage of our athletic community

Skateboarding is one of the fastest growing sports and is an accessible healthy activity where people of all ages and abilities can be part of a community.

### 3. Skateparks are noisy and attract delinquents

A properly constructed concrete Skatepark generates about as much sound as a conversation between two people. Any public park can attract unsavoury elements, but skateparks often deter disruptive behaviour because skaters populate the park. Parks that are remote, secluded or seldom used by the community are the ones that get abused.

### 4. Skateparks are dangerous

Among the most popular sports, skateboarding is relatively safe. Safety studies show that skateboarding related injuries fall below other sports-related injuries.

### 5. There are already skateparks nearby

Many communities continue to ignore the need for a safe, accessible place that teenagers can reach. Though older, mobile skateboarders often travel to their favourite parks, younger users are frequently limited to whatever is nearby.



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## Rampton skatepark and our community

The Rampton community and closely surrounding areas are at the heart of our project proposal. R4R got together following a number of requests made by younger people to assess the potential to develop a local facility for skating and scooting. The nearby facilities including Cottenham skatepark are either inadequate or too far for users to travel to (most users are cycling or using their board to get there). Some do travel, on occasions, as far as Cambridge using the guided bus.

We understand that a skatepark may not be on everyone's priority list. Therefore, we believe that as part of the inclusion of such a facility at our recreation ground, additional features such as an access path, table tennis tables and a seating area would be a long term benefit to everyone.

Some of our neighbours may of course have concerns about bringing a skatepark to the village. Is it going to bring extra traffic? Will noise levels be increased? Would a lit skatepark mean more people at the park late at night or even bringing anti-social behaviour for example? This is something that we have been discussing at length.

Over the last few weeks, we reached out to the local PCSO, the environmental agency and we contacted some nearby Parish Councils where skatepark are located. We are confident that the proposed layout of the Rec and features provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy whilst keeping the neighbourhood at peace.

## How are we going to address your concerns?

- The skatepark will be located as far as possible from the neighbouring properties to minimise noise population.
- Any lighting options would be on a timer switch and powered off from a reasonable time.
- Most skaters are traveling by foot/bicycle so we don't foresee an unmanageable increase of traffic on King Street.
- The skateboarding community is very inclusive and laid back; as part of our research we have spoken to other local councils and understand that anti-social behaviour is very unlikely to be linked to skatepark users. We believe that the increased use of the Rec and it's facilities by a broad range of users of all ages will actually deter anti-social behaviour.

### Have your say...

**Complete our residents survey by 9 April 2021**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FGG2BPK>**



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## Local support

“The opportunity that the plans for the skatepark provides for the young people of Rampton to be able to exercise in the fresh air and to develop their athleticism – as well as affording them chances to meet socially – would appear to be an excellent use of community resources. In my opinion, it also needs to be viewed through the prism of the past year: where such opportunities have been severely limited and the restrictions that have been implemented have hit young people really hard. The proposed skatepark could go a long way to encouraging them to be less focused on their devices and to get outside and have fun with their friends.”

**James Kilsby**  
Headmaster, Cottenham Primary School

“Our new skate park has just opened after construction was completed during Covid – and we’re seeing not just local boarders and skaters using it but also those from around other villages in the County. Welcomed as a flowing and different park for all levels of confidence and ability, they also see it as a place to work of energy and to meet their friends. All good news for us as a Council in supporting the endeavours of our young people.

**John Chitty,**  
Chairman, Brampton Parish Council

“This is a very exciting project that will provide a safe place for young people to meet outdoors with friends, or to make new friends, as they build up new skills and confidence. It will provide a stimulating and affordable activity, close to home, as well as healthy exercise for mind and body. I look forward to seeing it in use.

**Cllr Eileen Wilson**  
District Councillor for Cottenham and Rampton

“There is not much to do or ways to exercise in Rampton for kids and teenagers and currently I have to travel out of the village to skate. I would love to be able to skate close to home with my friends as well as be outside and not on a screen.

**Louis Tordjmann**  
Rampton resident



# Rampton Skatepark Project

**Our  
community  
vision**



# Rampton Skatepark Project

## Potential skatepark designs

We have received a number of potential designs and costs for the skatepark project. These are very much ideas at this stage but they do give us some understanding of what may be possible and at what cost. As the project develops, we are keen to ensure that any final design fits with the needs of our skateboarding community and we are aiming to build a skatepark that our local users will be proud of. We would like the park to attract a diverse range of users including scooters, roller-skaters and accommodate all ages and abilities. The design will complement the existing facilities, be sympathetic to its surroundings and provide a low visual impact for passive users and a high functional impact for active participants.

## Design and build

The skatepark will be designed and built by a specialist skatepark construction company. It will be a permanent structure and made of concrete. Concrete is preferred as it is long lasting, easy to maintain, much safer to ride on and less noisy than wood/metal ramps. This material also allows us to create a much more unique, smooth and fluid design that the community can be proud of.

## Existing skatepark examples



290m<sup>2</sup> - £100,000

© Bendcrete



345m<sup>2</sup> - £120,000

© Bendcrete



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## How are we going to fund the project?

The project fund will mostly be coming from local grants. A number of national foundations, private trust and companies paying landfill tax are keen to support local community development such as the inclusion of a skatepark to a recreation ground. We are also keen to involve the local community and organise some fundraising activities. We feel that our idea should be at the heart of our community. A small part of the project funding may also be covered by Rampton Parish Council.

## Next steps for the project





**Have your say...**

**Complete our residents survey by 9 April 2021**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FGG2BPK>**

**Do you want to find out more or  
get involved with the project?**

**Email: [rampton skatepark@gmail.com](mailto:rampton skatepark@gmail.com)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rampton skatepark](http://www.facebook.com/rampton skatepark)**

