

Communities Capital Grant Officer Evaluation

Thame Town Council			Ref: 1316	
A £250,000 renovation project that will replace the town's current skate park that is no longer fit for purpose with a concrete wheeled-sports facility and social destination catering to all ages, genders and abilities.				
Project name	Thame stake park project		Amount	Percent
Town/parish	Thame	Project cost total	£249,997	
Organisation's cash balance at last year end	£568,985	Organisation's contribution	£65,000	26.00
Organisation's cash in bank at application	£470,439	Requested from SODC	£100,000	40.00
Organisation's legal status	Other	Other approved funding	£500	0.20
Previous capital grants	2008 - £85,000 Southern Road play area 2007 - £23,960 Churchill Crescent play area 2004 - £165,000 Thame Museum 1999 - £7,500 Skate Park (paid to the skate park association)	Other unapproved funding	£164,500	65.80
Finance Up to 15 points available Percentage requested: 0-20 = 15 points 21-40 = 10 points 41-60 = 5 points			Score	10/15
Finance consultation comments: (completed by the finance department unless otherwise stated)				
Does the organisation need a grant in order for the project to go ahead? Yes but may not require as much as £100,000				
Does the organisation appear financially stable? Yes				
Are there any other financial concerns/comments: No				
(Grants officer) The money the organisation has applied for in grants is more than they need to allow for unsuccessful or partially successful bids. If all their other bids are successful we would adjust our grant accordingly.				
Community benefit Up to 20 points available				
C1	Give details of the local groups/clubs/individuals that will benefit from your project			
	A skate park will enhance wheeled-sports provision in Thame for the male/female under 35-year-olds who predominantly use the park. The new design will appeal to a wider demographic as it is both DDA compliant and has features of varying skill levels, appealing to new, novice and skilled riders, young and old. There is greater provision for spectators, making the space a key social destination for local people including families and visitors, boosting the local economy.			
C2	Does your project include any particularly sustainable benefits or energy saving measures?			
	The new skate park will be a free-form concrete construction requiring less engineering than pre-cast moulds and three times less concrete. As opposed to the current structure, the new concrete facility will not rust, rot, decay, burn, break or bend and has a manufacturer guarantee of 30 years. Subsoil and the existing concrete base that will be excavated from the site to accommodate the new park will be mounded for re-use thus minimising the import and export of build up materials on site.			
Community benefit: none / minimal / good / extensive / extensive and wide reaching			Score	15/20
Officer comments: None				
Broadening the range Up to 20 points available				
D1	What extra facility will be provided for the community that does not already exist?			
	The new skate park provides a broader range of features for wheeled-sports users at varying skill levels, including provision for those with disabilities, therefore appealing to a wider demographic. There is ample			

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	community space for parents, friends and spectators promoting the park as a space for socialising and exercise. Areas have been incorporated for wall art allowing users to personalise the space and express themselves creatively which should help reduce vandalism elsewhere in the town.		
D2	What new activities will take place as a result of this project?		
	The broad range of facilities provided by the new park will attract users and spectators of all ages, genders and abilities. As demonstrated in the consultation feedback, the experienced users will support the younger or less able users promoting social inclusion. The new features will make provision for disabled users and those wishing to watch or practice wall art. The skate park will be able to accommodate competitions that will bring visitors to the town promoting economic regeneration.		
Additional range: none / minimal / good / extensive / extensive and wide reaching		Score	20/20
Officer comments: None			
Meeting a local need <i>Up to 20 points available</i>			
E1	How do you know that the community need this project?		
	Thame skate park project was initiated by the users in response to the poor condition of the current park due to its age. The users and working group have conducted surveys, design competitions and presentations and raised funds through events including demo days and endurance challenges. The results of this consultation demonstrate the project is needed and fully supported by residents, parents, schools and community groups and the new park will be more widely used.		
E2	Does anything similar already exist in your area?		
	The current skate park is the only one of its size within in an 8 mile radius and is extremely popular amongst 8-35 year olds in Thame and the surrounding villages who skateboard, BMX and use scooters. This age group is forecast to expand by 6% over the next ten years and the current facility will be unable to cope with the increased demand. As SODC has highlighted the current skate park's location as a hub site, it is essential for this park to be renovated to meet the growing need in the area.		
Meeting local need: none / minimal / good / extensive / extensive and in a local plan		Score	15/20
Officer comments: None			
Community participation (consultation) <i>Up to 20 points available</i>			
F1	How did you consult with the local community?		
	Users produced a specification for the new skate park and voted on the proposed designs. Public consultation has included surveys and questionnaires, information stands and demonstrations at schools and community events to encourage new members and there is an active Facebook and Twitter account. The planning application received 45 supporting comments plus the project has received letters of support from John Howell MP, district councillors, police and the local residents association.		
F2	If you have not involved the community please give the reasons why you have not involved them.		
	Local residents, schools, parents, users and community groups have been extensively consulted about the project and have demonstrated resounding support for this valuable community asset.		
Consultation: none / minimal / good / extensive / extensive and in a local plan		Score	15/20
Officer comments: A video of their consultation can be seen using the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9USdAdBU4w&list=UUlbMfKpEkCBw6l16VovkoMg			
Project viability <i>Up to 60 points available</i>			
H1	How is your project reasonable and appropriate for the area?		
	The community has demonstrated demand for the regeneration of Thame's skate park, the location of which has been identified by SODC as an investment priority. The current structure has served far beyond its recommended lifespan and users have to sustain the restrictions of substandard facilities. ROSPA has also indicated that the facility has limited future use. New facilities will increase usage, raising the number of people engaging in physical exercise.		
H2	How does your project deliver best value for money?		
	The project underwent a full tender process and three tenders were submitted. An evaluation process followed which took into account user preference alongside maintenance, design, construction and adaptation. Calculated against the overall cost, the chosen design far exceeded the others with regard to value for money. It was deemed to have the lowest on-going maintenance costs whilst achieving all the specifications set out by the users and the working group.		
H3	Is your project likely to secure full funding and progress within 12 months?		
	The project has the support of the town council who are helping to lead on the project and have allocated £65,000 toward the cost and the working group are actively applying for grant funding. The users have demonstrated their commitment to the project by pledging to raise £10,000 of which 5%		

	is currently secured. Further monies are being sought from funders including Sport England and appeals for sponsorship and donations from the local and wider community are ongoing.	
H4	How will your organisation be able to manage the project now and in the future?	
	The project will be managed by Thame Town Council and supported by Wheelscape. Maintaining the facility will be the responsibility of the town council and maintenance costs will be absorbed into the council's budget. The materials will be guaranteed for 30 years, however, the structural integrity of the sprayed concrete has been proven elsewhere to last indefinitely and remain virtually maintenance free. Communication with the users will be maintained via regular meetings of the working group.	
Viability: Not viable/ partially viable with funding concerns / fully viable with funding concerns / fully viable and likely to secure funding		Score
Officer comments: None		60/60
		Total
		135/155
Comments Section		
Grant officer general: I have no concerns with this project.		
Recommended additional conditions:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the organisation has a ROSPA (or similar) play inspection carried out when the work is completed and any issues are resolved before the final payment (a minimum of 10 per cent of the grant value) is paid. 2. That the organisation consults with SODC's community safety team about managing the street art wall to deal with their concerns mentioned below. 3. That a legal restriction is placed on the registered title of the property for a period of ten years before any grant payments are made. 		
Consultation feedback:		
Legal: The land is subject to a number of easements and highway works that we need to be satisfied the project will not interfere with.		
Community safety: The street art wall is a concern for us, how will the town council manage the wall? What will they class as acceptable creativity and offensive? If there is offensive material what will their policies and timescales be for cleaning it off? There is a graffiti wall in Eynsham that the town council may benefit from contacting for advice and guidance on best practice.		
The following comment was received from the police about how they will manage young people in possession of spray paint (illegal for under 16s) claiming to go to the graffiti wall:		
<i>There is no official stance on spray cans etc, common sense and officer discretion would prevail.</i>		
Equalities: I am satisfied with this project if they have evidence /confirmation that the design is DDA compliant and they can give examples of the accessible features provided.		
Sustainability: Good to reuse materials and minimise material use. Limited energy saving options for this project.		
Sports development: The leisure team fully support the Thame stake park project.		
Young people's co-ordinator: I have looked through the proposal for the skate park in Thame to be replaced and would support the grant application based on the research, consultation carried out.		

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