


**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

|                                 |  |                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <b>COMMITTEE:</b>               | <b>Community and Environment Committee</b>   |                 |                            |
| <b>MEETING DATE/TIME</b>        | <b>28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 -7 pm</b>   | <b>LOCATION</b> | <b>Congleton Town Hall</b> |
| <b>REPORT FROM</b>              | <b>Xander Greenwood and Cllr Suzie Akers Smith</b>   |                 |                            |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b> | <b>16<br/>Congleton Skate Park</b>   |                 |                            |
| <b>CURRENT STATUS</b>           | <p>Congleton Skate Park was not included to be fully renovated with the planning permission for Congleton Leisure Centre rebuild, but rather a refurbishment of the existing facilities was promised. Following a number of conversations with local user groups and success at the Olympics since the skate park was built, a refurbishment of the existing facilities would neither serve existing users to the skate park, nor would it encourage new users and it would not provide up to date facilities that could deliver a new Olympic champion. Requirements and needs have changed considerably since the skate park was built and a refurbishment as has been planned, will just be throwing good money after bad.</p>  <p>Joints on ride where the concrete has fallen out can ruin the ride experience and will discourage users from returning to the park. The gaps are dangerous because wheels can get caught in them. Skating has changed to a more continuous experience of which Congleton skate park does not provide.</p> |                 |                            |
| <b>NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE</b>    | <p>Examples of the type of skate parks have been built over the last few years provide children the opportunity to 'get in' to skating and to begin developing their skills and the rides offer an opportunity to ride continuously around the skate park.</p> <p>A shortlist of four large British skatepark builders who all use a method of spray concreting, ensuring a very smooth surface that lasts for years with fewer joints which would require less maintenance.</p>   |                 |                            |

Since 1999 [Wheelscape](#) is one company involved in the refurbishment of skateparks on behalf of councils and has been contracting for councils across the entire country. Some of their larger projects include The [Flowerpot Skatepark, Exeter](#), and [Market Drayton Skatepark](#). In Cheshire East they have constructed three skateparks, Macclesfield, Bollington and Poynton Bowl.

<https://wheelscape.squarespace.com/wheelscape-skatepark-portfolio/flowerpot-skatepark-exeter>

[Canvas](#) is a company whose work includes [Projekts](#), a huge concrete skatepark underneath the Mancunian Way flyover near Piccadilly in Manchester. A skate park in [Marple](#), which is comparable in scale to something that could be achieved in Congleton.

[Bendcrete](#), who have been professionally building skateparks since 1995, have experience with [larger](#) and [more compact](#) parks. They also have a section on their website specifically catered toward [scooter parks](#) - which cater for much younger riders who do not have as much experience with skateparks and feature smaller ramps in a 'back and forth' style.

[Maverick](#), an award-winning company based in Bournemouth has worked on huge projects like Newquay's [Concrete Waves](#), medium-sized parks like [Warmley](#), and small parks like [Leek](#).

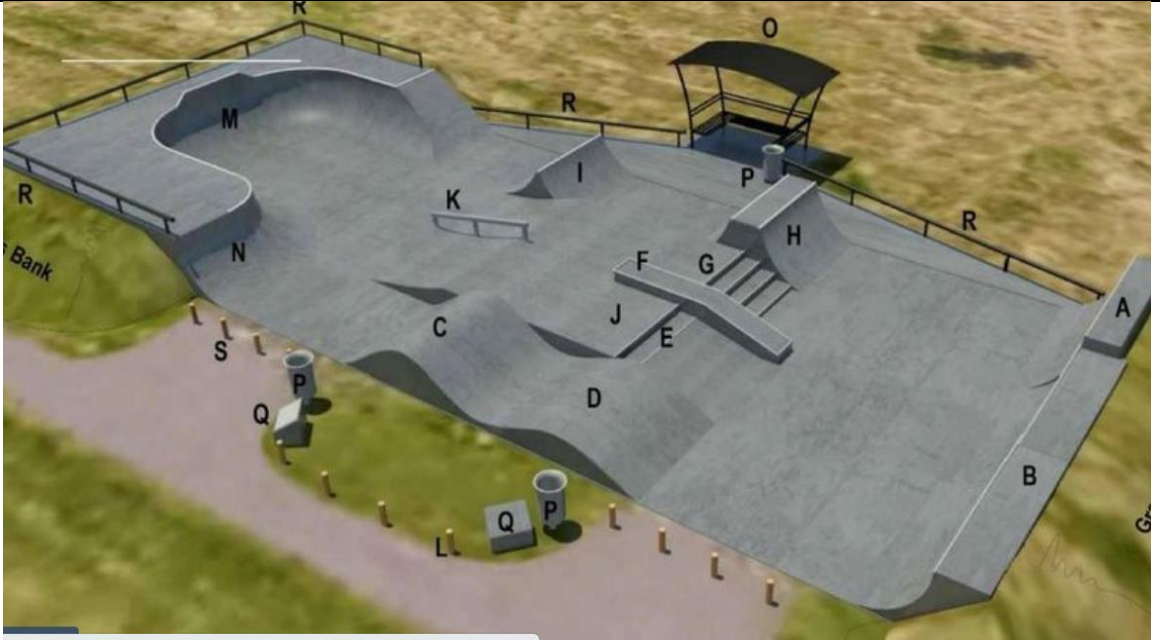
To have a park of this calibre locally would mean young people will be far more motivated to skate with it being on my doorstep. All of these companies regularly work with councils, and all give advice for specific funding and grants.

The Market Drayton skate park costed £150,000.

The recent grant awarded Nantwich skate park is priced at £100,000

In Staffordshire, Chell Heath skatepark was built last year with £110,000

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/110k-skate-park-finally-set-5059950>

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
|                                 |  <p>The price of this park in Chell Heath was £110,000 and was built with lottery funding.</p>  |
| <b>Financial Considerations</b> | The Town Council currently has no budget or reserves that can contribute towards a project of this scale, there is the potential that by working with the key stakeholders grants or planning related income via S106 or CILs could contribute towards this scheme   |
| <b>Equality and Diversity</b>   | This facility should be designed to be used and available to all members of the community who wish to use it.  |
| <b>Environmental</b>            | If built in the location of the current skate park, it will enhance that general area and also be more secure with CCTV cover and other activity taking place related to the refurbished leisure centre.   |
| <b>Proposals</b>                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the Town Council to support and help progress a fully revamped and redesigned skate park, rather than a refurbishment of the existing facilities.</li> <li>2. To include Everybody, ANSA, Cheshire East Council (CEC) and work together to deliver this project.</li> <li>3. For officers to spend some time to look for and help put funding bids together.</li> <li>4. To engage with and include the community in the development of a new skate park.</li> </ol> |