



IMPORTANT

PARISH POLL WEDNESDAY 27th November, 2013.

4.00pm – 9.00pm

at THE STEYNING CENTRE

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO PUT A SKATEBOARD FACILITY IN THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD (MPF).

WHY A POLL?

6 residents called a parish meeting which was held on the 24th October at the Steyning Centre and to which 170 people attended. At the meeting a parish poll was called for by 10 electors. The question agreed at the meeting was:

“Do you want Steyning Parish Council to provide a skateboard park in the Memorial Playing Field incorporating the existing asphalt strip, located near the Rublees Allotment boundary”.

Note: There are no postal votes and no poll cards will be sent

WHERE IS THE PROPOSED LOCATION?

After 2 years of looking at different potential sites, which included having discussions with the Steyning Grammar School about releasing land for the facility, the council believe that the only viable site is in the MPF. Provisional planning permission was given by Horsham District Council (HDC) in June 2012 subject to the council providing a further noise report and management plan and subsequently, on advice from the Equalities Officer at HDC, 2 disabled parking spaces.

These amended plans are now with HDC (DC/12/0940)

An indicative aerial visualisation is attached.

WHY THE MPF?

The council chose the MPF for good reasons:

- It owns the MPF so there are no rents to pay.
- It will be located on the site of the existing tarmac skateboard strip (although larger) and on a part of the MPF that is sloping and little used.
- There is good access from all parts of the town.
- There are existing parking facilities.
- It is a well-used field for sports and pastimes so there will be good casual surveillance of the facility creating a safe environment for younger skaters.
- There are existing toilet facilities on site in the changing room building which can be adapted for public use.





Steyning Town Council, Memorial Ground Skatepark

Indicative Aerial visualisation





Steyning Parish Council's Planning Application for a Skateboard Facility in the Memorial Playing Field - *the Facts*:

Autumn 2010 to Spring 2011: Increasing requests for a skateboard park in Steyning; Parish Councillors viewed all possible sites in the town; all but two ruled out as not matching sufficient criteria:

- (1) the site opposite the Leisure Centre (on Wiston Estate) and
- (2) the Memorial Playing Field (MPF), top of the field, around the site of the tarmac strip. Postal survey on the question of MPF or the site opposite Leisure Centre. 25% return, of which 75% in favour of site opposite Leisure Centre. But site opposite Leisure Centre ruled out because of road safety concerns, isolation and on-going costs for the lease. MPF is owned by the Parish Council.

Late Spring 2011: Steyning Town Football Club offered possible site at the Club; PC submitted planning application for this site; withdrawn soon after.

July 2011: As MPF was the only possible site, Parish Council agreed to commission plans and acoustic report, followed by a public consultation.

January 2012: Public meeting was held at Steyning Centre; 400+ people attended; an overwhelming majority supported a skateboard facility in MPF (72%)

May 2012: Planning application with acoustic report was submitted to HDC.

June 2012: Planning permission granted by HDC, conditional on a second acoustic report and the submission of an operation management plan, plus HDC to contact Steyning Grammar School (SGS) again to ask about siting facility there. SGS confirmed to HDC that there was no available land and the school did not want skateboard facility on the school site. Second acoustic report commissioned from Acoustic Dimensions, in September 2012.

January 2013: Friends of Memorial Playing Field (FoMPF) draw up alternative plan for skateboard facility in the Leisure Centre Car Park. Later withdrawn.

February 2013: FoMPF commission sound report for MPF site from Alan Saunders Associates.

May 2013: Discussion with Equalities Officer and Landscape Officer at HDC results in SPC agreeing to amend the plan for skateboard facility in MPF to include two disabled parking spaces close by and to remove/remodel bunding as sound mitigation not necessary.

May 2013: New plan submitted by FoMPF for Leisure Centre Car Park site, moving additional car park spaces onto SGS long jump field.

June 2013: Parish Council agree to delay in submission of MPF amendment to give FoMPF time to develop their Leisure Centre plan.

September 2013: A town poll called by FoMPF. "Do you want the Parish Council to build a skateboard park on the Memorial Playing Field (The Cricket Field)?" HDC refused to arrange a poll.

October 2013: Parish and District Councillors meet SGS Head, Governors and DC Leisure to discuss FoMPF Leisure Centre Car Park site. School absolutely adamant that there will be no skateboard facility on its land.

October 2013: Council submit amended plan for skateboard facility on MPF to include disabled parking spaces and remove/remodel bunding.

October 2013: Second Town poll called "Do you want Steyning Parish Council to provide a skateboard park in the Memorial Playing Field, incorporating the existing asphalt strip, located near the Rublees Allotments boundary?"

POLL DATE TO BE: Wednesday 27th November, 2013.

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