

ALICE PARK TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE – 30 OCTOBER 2017

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM JANET MARTON

Skate Park

- (1) I note that once again the agenda for the next meeting of Alice Park Trust is devoted to the skatepark, with no agenda items on the other pressing improvements required in the park. When will there be a discussion of how to improve the park for all users and not just the skate park group?

Response

The skatepark is a complex installation with an ambitious completion date of March 2018, we must ensure that we do all that we can to ensure the brief is reflective of the census of opinion in order to facilitate progress. With regard to other issues, at the meeting we discussed and agreed the need to improve the grass sward to make it more resilient for the regular sports use, in addition the parks manager and trust chairman are meeting on the site this week to agree planned winter works as defined in the parks management plan and which was signed off in March.

- (2) I am still concerned as a resident and regular park user that the concrete structure can be 4m above ground, and that sprayed concrete of up to 200 cu m will be used. Alice Park is a registered green space, and I assume is protected from over development and excess use of concrete. Can you as trustees and the council officers confirm that due attention has been paid to the requirements set out in the legislation on protected green spaces? There is a lack of peaceful green space in this area, and I am concerned about the destruction of some of that highly valued space for a concrete skate park.

Response

The specific dimensions quoted are planning constraints and are there to frame the maximum dimensions we must stick within. Please be assured that we do not envisage the skatepark being 4m in height above ground level and that it is intended to be of a scale in-keeping with the park to balance it against the needs of other users of the park as you refer.

- (3) Mention is made in the agenda report pack of consultation with user groups, but consultation with residents whose properties adjoin the park is also imperative. In particular details of noise impact and environmental impact should be shared with the greatest transparency. Security in the evenings and especially in winter is important, so how will BANES and you as trustees, monitor the security of the park after dark to prevent the use of the skate park then?

Response

We currently don't have revised skatepark plans but when we do we will present those plans in order to consult with neighbours and users, this will most likely be upon the site and on a pre-agreed date to achieve maximum feedback. Within the brief we are setting out to achieve maximum noise attenuation and screening, we do not foresee that the skatepark will be used in the dark (as they are not in the skateparks we currently have).

Trees

- (4) A number of trees have recently been felled, I assume for safety or because of disease, and I wonder what programme of replanting is in place in Alice Park to replace those trees which have been removed. Alice Park is a registered green space and it is important to preserve a variety of trees for the benefit of all park users as well as for birdlife.

Response

The trees were at the end of their safe useable lives and we have adopted the council's principle of replacing felled trees like for like numerically – these trees will be replaced this winter