

KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

PLANNING SERVICE

UPDATE OF LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DECIDED BY PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE HEAVY WOOLLEN AREA

21 JULY 2016

APPLICATION NO: 2016/91013

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FORMATION OF WHEEL PARK

RECREATION GROUND ADJ, BURTON ACRES LANE, HIGHBURTON, HUDDERSFIELD

On 13 July 2016, amended comments were received from West Yorkshire Police, now raising objection to the proposal. On 20 July, these comments were revised further, and are set out below.

In addition, Councillor Jim Dodds has commented on the proposals and four additional representations of objection have been received from members of the public.

6. CONSULTATIONS (page 20)

West Yorkshire Police –

A summary of the concerns set out in the 13 July comments are as follows:-

- There are existing crime and anti-social behaviour issues within Highburton and Kirkburton
- Some incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour have taken place within close proximity of the site
- Youth travel to the area from other parts of Huddersfield
- No youth club, as this was closed due to rising anti-social behaviour by attendees
- Successful skate parks are located within high pedestrian/high traffic thoroughfares
- Some skate parks such as Skelmanthorpe's had to be relocated as a result of crime and anti-social behaviour
- The skate park would not benefit from natural surveillance
- Mature trees close to Woodland Meadows would obscure potential surveillance
- Concerns about the scale, design and layout and that a 'blind spot' could be created between the development and the houses
- The area is unlit and a CCTV van could not get to the site
- The public footpath provides a secluded area for people to loiter
- Many of the neighbouring residents are elderly
- No line of sight from PROW adjacent Woodland Meadows and the recreation ground

- PROW very narrow and cannot allow two people to pass without personal space being invaded
- Public pathway can be used to escape police detection
- Proposed location means that policing incidents here will be difficult
- Emergency access to the site is difficult as it is set away from the highway
- Additional traffic movements and potential blocking of driveways of residents, including elderly
- The skate park in Newsome is in a secluded location and suffers from graffiti, litter and anti-social behaviour
- A more suitable location would be closer to Burton Acres Lane near to the football club, tennis courts and car park which would benefit from more passing public attention.

Final comments received from Inspector Mark Trueman on behalf of West Yorkshire Police were received on 20 July, and state the following:-

“Please see the below as additional information in relation to the proposed skate park development.

I submit this report based upon my professional judgement and past experience of MUGA’s, Skate Parks and similar developments designed for children and teenagers.

With any development of this type, you historically see a rise in calls for service, especially around the issues of youths gathering on an evening time causing perceived low level ASB within the area.

There is also historically an increase in graffiti, as the majority of Skate Park projects are created with areas designed to allow expressions of art work to be produced.

In other projects of a similar nature, off road motor cycles have gathered as a meeting point.

The location of this particular venture, also brings an emotional attachment due to its genesis resulting out of the tragic death of Isaac Nash and as a result of this I feel obliged to advice of the potential issues that are likely to become apparent. I am not able to say whether or not any of the above concerns will manifest themselves in this particular venture at this time”.

7. REPRESENTATIONS (pages 20-23)

An additional 4 objections have been received to the application. 3 of the objections raise concern regarding the impact of the development on users of the Public Right of Way and the other is to the principle of the development.

All the issues raised in the additional representations have been raised previously and have been addressed within the main report.

For clarification, this takes the number of objections to 142 (from 112 individuals), with 189 representations being submitted overall.

An email has also been forwarded to the Case Officer by The Friends of Highburton Recreation Ground from Councillor Jim Dodds (Mayor) asking members of the Planning Committee to make sure they are satisfied with the proposed location and that it will not result in additional noise or anti-social behaviour issues for residents. In the email, Councillor Dodds sets out issues associated with the Skelmanthorpe skate park.

8. ASSESSMENT (pages 23-32)

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (page 26):

As set out on page 26 of the main agenda, the initial comments were provided by the Police Architectural Liaison officer following discussion with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector. However, following the publication of the agenda, comments were provided by the Sergeant for the area, raising objections, as summarised above. However, on 20 July, final comments were received from the Inspector of West Yorkshire Police setting out that the Police are not able to say whether or not any of the above concerns will manifest themselves in this particular venture at this time.

In light of the above, members need to consider whether this proposal would materially add to any crime and/or anti-social behaviour issues and therefore be considered as contrary to the aims of chapter 8 of the NPPF.

As previously set out on page 26 of the agenda, Sport England acknowledge that the proposed development could bring activities to engage young people which may, therefore, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

It is therefore, very much a matter of balancing the above and considering whether or not the proposal would materially add to crime and anti-social behaviour or the perception of it.

It is the view of officers that the proposal would not materially add to the existing situation and, as is the view from Sport England, may help to reduce it. Furthermore, as set out in the suggested conditions, the Local Planning Authority would have control over the size and style of wheel park and thus, it could be designed to be more appealing to younger children. As such, the recommendation of officer's remains as set out on pages 32 and 33 of the main agenda, which is to Grant under Regulation 4.
