



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Skate & Ride Area with Additional Seating **School Lane Recreation Ground**

Two and a half years ago some of the young people from Eaton Bray and local resident Mrs Rachel North approached the Parish Council [PC] with a request for a skate park. Somewhere for them to ride in safety! The PC agreed to look into the possibility of providing an area for the boys/girls to ride. None of the councillors knew anything about skate parks at the time, we certainly do now!

Funding was the first hurdle but with much appreciated help from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity - Sue Norman and with help from resident - Mr Ross Bagni, the majority funding was found and subsequently secured for the build. The PC also pledged some funds if the build went ahead.

We then had to find out what types of skate park were available and what we could afford with our budget. Here the young people were very useful. They knew what was out there and they knew what they wanted. Together with Rachel North, they worked closely with the PC on research, public consultation and design of the build.



Whilst the Parish Clerk gathered as much data as she could relating to skate parks for the PC to assess, the councillors walked the streets surveying the public for their opinions. We put up posters, advertised on the Eaton Bray website and put flyers in Focus. The public consultation saw the Coffee Tavern bursting at the seams and a comment was made that we needed more seating in future! The audience was made up of a good mixture of all age groups with the young people well represented and good arguments were made on both sides of the divide. By the end of the evening the majority were in favour of the project going ahead. This correlated with the data we had gathered in our survey.



Now all that remained to do was to get the user group together to work out a design, find three companies to quote and apply for funding.

We then had a lull. That was the most nerve-racking part!

When we finally got the go ahead everything happened very fast. The young people got together with our chosen company [Wheelscape] and they worked with them to help design the bowl and layout.

Once the build started it took just 1 month to complete with the young people keeping a watch on things. They proved very useful and reported suspicious activity in the park in the evening to the police. As soon as the fence came down and permission was granted, the bowl was well used, attracting riders and skaters from other areas.



We have been amazed at the different activities the bowl has attracted. Skateboards, BMX bikes, scooters, unicycles, radio controlled cars/toys and just children running up and down! Great fun was had by all in the snow! Ages ranging from very young children to teenagers and beyond!