

Hi, I am here today to update the council on my efforts to get burwell a new skatepark.

So far I have raised £3,600.37 to be put towards a new skatepark. I have done this through various fundraising activities such as; donations from the community, crowdfunding donations, a collection pot in burwell post office, a percentage of profits from a london based clothing brand, and a monthly quiz night at the fox. Some future fundraising activities I have planned include; One hours worth of litter picking with the litter picking group at the recreation ground in exchange for £100, two raffles for £400s worth of hairdressing vouchers to use at the salon adamson & berkoff in cambridge, an event with the co-op on north street and also some potential contributions from other local businesses.

Before I go any further, I would like to make a few things clear, as I know there is some confusion surrounding my employment and intentions for this project. I am no longer employed by a company that builds skateparks. I was never employed full time, and only worked on a self employed basis. The company I worked for, 414 skateparks, only specialised in wooden skateparks and not concrete. Because I have worked within the industry, I have a bit of knowledge of how skateparks can come to fruition, and have been advised which companies are the most skilled at working with concrete in this way. However, I must make it very clear, I do not stand to make any personal gain from a new skatepark being built in Burwell, other than years of enjoyment on my skateboard. I would not commit a substantial amount of time towards something that I know may never happen, for a very small financial gain.

My current full time employment is now with the business I have established, 'burwell skate school'. I am the sole director of this company, and the purpose of this company is to teach children how to ride skateboards. I am fully insured, DBS checked and also trained in how to safeguard children. I am also taking a first aid training course in the coming months, and looking to to take the sk8 safe skateboard coaching course, which is recognised by the governing body for skateboarding in the UK. I currently have 31 members signed up. I run lessons over the weekend, after school and also during the week, as I have been very popular within the homeschooling community around Cambridge. The ^{school time} amount of members continue to grow week by week. I also run indoor skateboarding sessions in the sports centre on wednesday evenings. I use portable ramps for this which I successfully fundraised for. I acquired £2,500s worth of professional, high quality skateboarding ramps for £500. I got these ramps from 414 skateparks, the company I used to work for, as they were nice enough to only charge me for the labour involved. These sessions are also very popular, as the sports centre floor is smooth and painless to fall on, unlike the current skatepark. Plus the ramps I have are well built and great to ride, I would even say that the small number of ramps in the sports centre are even better than current skatepark in burwell. They are so much fun, that my friends and I rent out the sports centre privately on friday nights just to use them.

I have had so many bookings for skateboard lessons that I have had to employ my friend and fellow skateboarder to help out. He is also a local lad, which I think is great, as it fits in with our company ethos of giving back, by creating new jobs within the community. The next step I am taking forward is providing stunt scooter lessons, these begin in two weeks time and will be run by professional scooter rider Sam Chalklin. I currently have 7 members pre booked for these lessons, and I am fairly certain that these sessions will be just as popular, if not more, than the skateboarding ones. I have set this company up with community interest at heart, as I like to give back. So I am currently donating 10% of all earnings towards a new skatepark in Burwell. Since February, burwell skate school has donated £127.50 towards the fundraising.

I have received great feedback from parents regarding the skate school, gaining multiple 5 star reviews on the facebook page and receiving positive, encouraging compliments in person, stating that what I am doing is a great thing. One of my students has additional needs, including perception

issues and mild learning difficulties. Since starting skateboarding lessons, his mother has told me that his self esteem has improved massively and that his co-ordination and balance have even got better, allowing him to now ride his bike without looking wobbly. This is just one of very many examples of why skateboarding can have such a positive impact on people, it is more than just a sport, and this is an area I feel it trumps almost all the other conventional sports.

I would have liked to be able to show the council some 3D rendered designs and quotes for a new skatepark in Burwell. Unfortunately, skatepark companies seem to be reluctant to provide me with these until the Parish Council goes out to tender. I understand that the council is not currently in the position to do this, and I respect that, so I guess this is something that has to be put on hold for now.

I think it would be beneficial to discuss how we can take this project forward and work out a time frame for the project. I understand that the parish council would like to group the recreation ground project together, and I believe you are in the process of applying for some funding for this. I know that the pavilion is the number one priority at the moment, and I have no objection to that. However, if funding is acquired for the whole of the recreation ground at the same time, I would like to think that the skatepark could be constructed at the same time as the pavilion. Thinking realistically, there is no way a new skatepark will be achieved this year, as there is not enough time to get everything in place. However, I do feel that in an ideal world, the project could begin around this time next year. An important note to keep in mind for when construction of the new skatepark is to take place, is that it is best to start construction in either spring or summer, as building skateparks in cold and wet conditions is not ideal. Parts of the park would have to be covered with tarp to protect from rain, concrete takes longer to set and if there is heavy rain not much work can be done. The estimated time to complete a project this size would probably be around 6-8 weeks. So starting the project in the spring or summer is something that should be kept in mind.

I now know the council has considered £20,000 to be put forward towards a new skatepark. I believe that I will have soon raised £5,000. This then gives us £25,000. I feel this amount of money along with the support, and work I have done, puts us in a very strong position to acquire the remaining £75,000 from funders. The funders I have initially approached, have all been full of praise for the project and think that I stand a very strong chance of being a successful applicant.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and if you have any questions.