



15 September 2020

Planning Statement

The proposal seeks to upgrade an existing public facility.

Pallemon Best's existing skate park is formed from steel framed ramps covered in composite materials, providing a rough riding surface, and creating drum like acoustics. The siting of these old structures also generates poor public surveillance, with users of the skate park being mostly out of view. Planning permission for the skate park was granted in 2005; the ramps are well worn and in need of upgrading.



The existing skate park

The design for the new facility has come about through a long period of public consultation.

Its aim is to provide a more inclusive community space, with ramps more suitably challenging for mixed skills, and encouraging development in a safe and fun environment.

In particular, a low-level, safer entrance for younger less confident riders will be provided, using the existing pathways and opening-out to provide greater natural surveillance across the entire facility.

A new dense and smooth material will also be used to create a quieter, much less abrasive surface which is generally easier and safer to use.

While utilising an existing recreational space which is well screened, the new design is low impact and would ensure conservation and enhancement of the area's landscape values.



Design Statement

The design is intended to meet the needs of a broad community of riders including scooters, BMX'rs and skateboarders. The layout has been imagined to ensure that the facility is an inclusive community space with a safe entrance for younger less confident riders.

Intentional 'flow' has been built into the heart of the design, segregating the space into different zones to enable people of mixed abilities to use the park at the same time, safely. The new skatepark is also designed to minimise noise levels due to the smoothness and density of the material being used.



The design ensures that there is a healthy mix of street and transition features within the space. Elements within the design draw on the history of the area, along with a selection of different materials that enhance the design and improve the functionality of the space.

The new pool bowl has been positioned within the space to take account of the geotechnical makeup of the ground and the existing topography. The entire feel of the space will also be softened by removing the unsightly tarmac, allowing the facility to work more harmoniously with the landscape, taking account of the falls on site to introduce a bespoke drainage system.

The facility will avoid the use of handrails which can be unsightly and require ongoing maintenance. In place of handrails we have designed the grass space to rise up to meet the platform areas, providing a neat finish and removing the need for concrete faces. The grass slopes leading up to the concrete soften the aesthetic of the space and tie the park into the existing environment.

All the edges and ledges will be finished in galvanised steel to protect the surface and give the park a high-quality look and feel. The surface of the skatepark will be finished so that it is smooth and fast, yet retain adequate grip for skate, BMX and scooters. The facility projects into the four corners of the proposed space to maximise the riding lines and skateable surface. The unique elements within the design and contrasting colours within and around the space ensure that the park has a striking and distinctive look.

The skatepark has been designed within the latest European safety standards (BSEN 14974).



Landscape and Visual Impact Statement

Located within an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) Policy OS1 of the Neighbourhood Development Plan requires an assessment of the proposal to ensure that the landscape values will be conserved and enhanced.

The site is already developed for the intended use, and is very well screened from wider vantages within an area contained by built development and dense vegetation on the peripheries. The site is not visible in the wider landscape.

Green banks would obscure the majority of the built features which are also intentionally tiered to follow existing levels and avoid significant extension out of the ground.

The finished design will include tones of Cornish identity, including bespoke tiles, stone-wall landscaping, and planting of local variety hawthorn and blackthorn.



A 'sculpted' 360 loop is also designed to represent St Ives' artistic heritage, whilst providing aesthetic glimpses through different areas of the park.

Following the natural ground conditions and topography, and utilising the existing recreational spaces, the new design is low impact and would ensure conservation and enhancement of the area's landscape values.

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