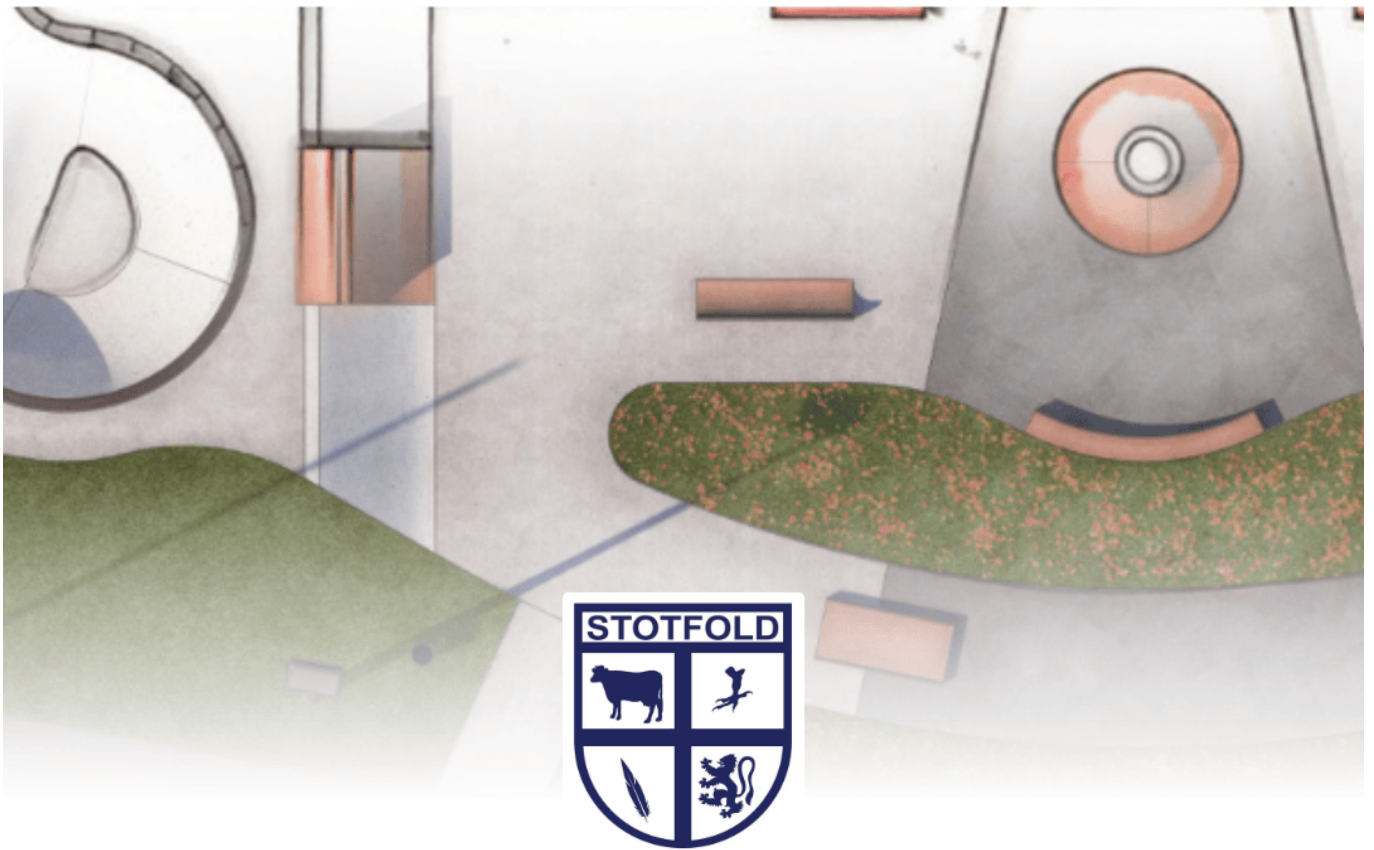


STOTFOLD SKATEPARK

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SHARE YOUR VISION FOR THE NEW WHEELED SPORTS FACILITY IN STOTFOLD.



STC Wheeled Sports Facility

Survey Report

Report produced by Breakthrough Communications on behalf of Stotfold Town Council.
Report date 14th November 2024.

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Executive Summary

This report consolidates written feedback from 338 survey respondents, gathered between September 24th 2024, and November 10th 2024, regarding the proposed wheeled sports facility at Greenacres Park.

While the council's vision for the proposed facility received significant support, particularly for its potential benefits to youth and families, there was opposition that centres on concerns about community impact and facility management in particular.

Design adjustments, location considerations, and further community engagement are suggested by respondents to balance diverse community interests and enhance the facility's accessibility, safety, and appeal for long-term positive impact.

Community Feedback Highlights

Demographic and geographic overview:

- Responses represented a wide age range, with notable interest from adults aged 30-49.
- 297 respondents provided their post codes, with many respondents residing in close proximity to the proposed site.
- While respondents span all age groups, interest in using the facility is polarised, with 51% stating they would never make use of the proposed facility and - separately - 47% expressing strong support for the vision.

Support for the council's vision:

- Support: Those who support the facility see it as an opportunity for youth engagement, physical activity, and community building. Proponents believe the skatepark will provide a safe, positive space for skill development, socialising and family-friendly recreation, particularly for younger residents.
- Concerns: Opposing respondents highlight concerns about anti-social behaviour, noise, parking congestion, and perceived limited value to the broader community. Alternative suggestions include re-allocating funds to amenities like a splash park or pump track.

Usage potential:

- A significant portion of respondents (17.75%) indicated they would use the park frequently, while others (15%) would use it sporadically, showing demand among specific demographics, especially families and younger users.
- Desired usage times are primarily after school, weekends, and evenings, with safety being a central concern for evening use.

Design preferences:

- **Positive Design Aspects:** Respondents appreciate the inclusive, versatile design featuring bowls, ramps, rails, and spacious layout, catering to various ages and skill levels. There is enthusiasm for features that support scooters, bikes, and skateboards.
- **Suggested Improvements:** Key suggestions include adding a pump track, varied ramps, family seating, shaded areas, safety measures (lighting, CCTV), and flat ground for beginners. Requests for aesthetic enhancements such as local graffiti art, greenery and community-centred décor were frequent.

Barriers and safety concerns:

- Potential safety issues are a concern, with some respondents suggesting measures to deter anti-social behaviour, including CCTV, appropriate lighting and clear sight-lines. Inclusivity for all skill levels and preventing intimidation by more experienced users were also highlighted.
- Accessibility for all ages and a need for community inclusivity are essential, with respondents advocating for a welcoming, well-maintained, and socially positive environment.

Environmental and aesthetic suggestions:

- Respondents proposed incorporating trees, shrubs, and hardy plants for visual appeal, shade, and natural noise buffering. Suggested colours range from vibrant graffiti-inspired elements to natural tones that blend with the surroundings.

Responses to the survey questions

1. What's your post code?

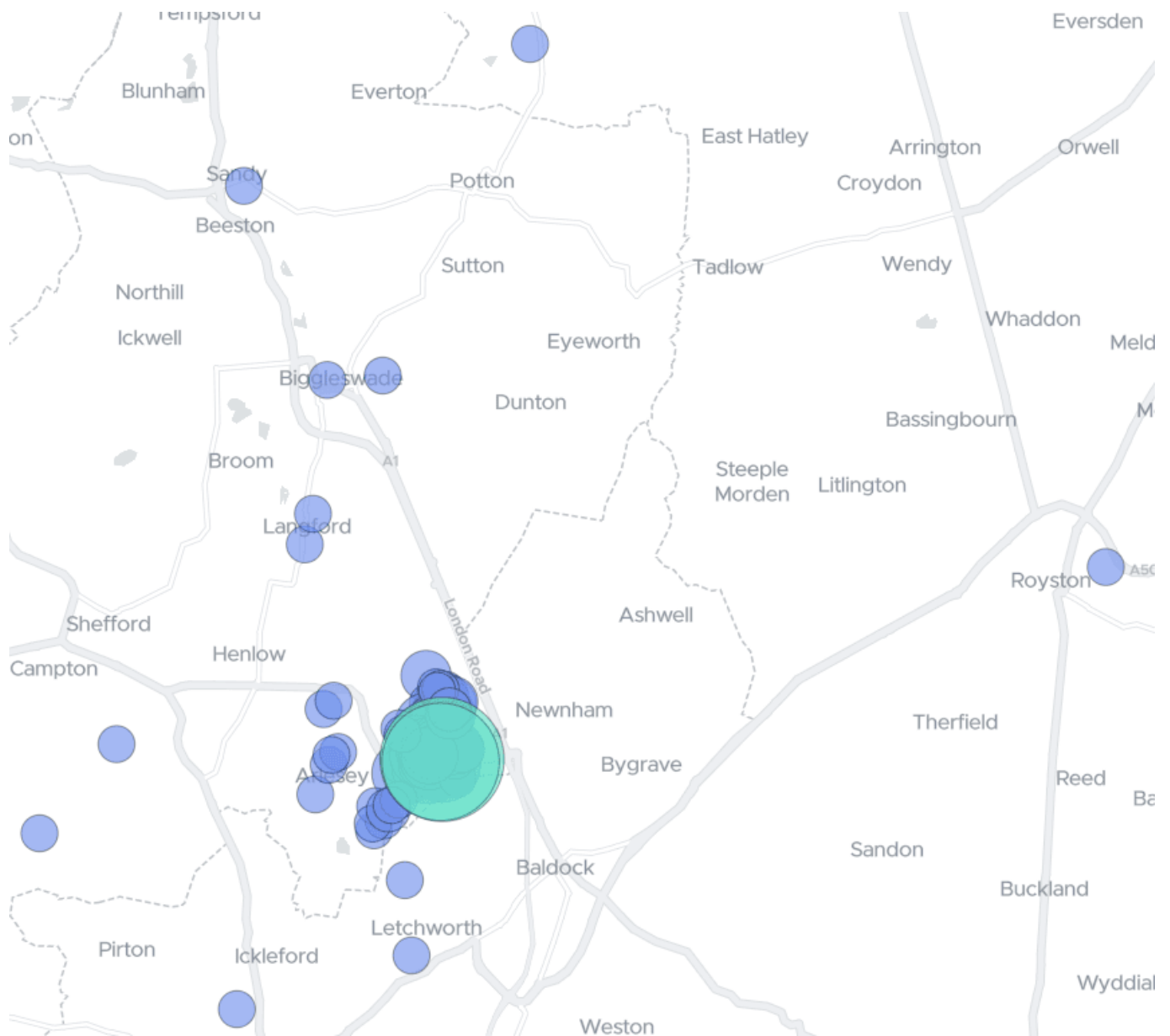
297 respondents provided this information. The 41 that did not provide this were responses from surveys completed at local schools, supported by council staff.

- SG5 4HQ - 10 responses
- SG5 4HH - 6 responses
- SG5 4EG - 5 responses
- SG5 4ER - 4 responses
- SG5 4GR - 4 responses
- SG5 4GJ - 4 responses
- SG5 4JS - 4 responses
- SG5 4QZ - 3 responses
- SG5 4BQ - 3 responses
- SG5 4HG - 3 responses
- SG5 4LL - 3 responses
- SG5 4LS - 2 responses
- SG5 4ET - 2 responses
- SG5 4DY - 2 responses
- SG5 4PN - 2 responses
- SG5 4NL - 2 responses
- SG5 4LY - 2 responses
- SG5 4LJ - 2 responses
- SG5 4NJ - 2 responses
- SG5 4HL - 2 responses
- SG5 4HJ - 2 responses
- SG54 4HT - 2 responses
- SG54 4JD - 2 responses
- SG54 4PT - 2 responses

Postcodes with only 1 response:

SG5 4TD, SG5 4PF, SG5 4QF, SG5 4PG, SG5 4ST, SG5 4EA, SG5 4LA, SG5 4NE, SG5 4NA, SG5 4RT, SG5 4SS, SG5 4TF, SG5 4TJ, SG5 4NS, SG5 4FB, SG5 4FX, SG5 4SU, SG5 4BX, SG5 4JR, SG5 4PE, SG5 4NX, SG5 4JD, SG5 4HR, SG5 4BW, SG5 4ED, SG6 3RT, SG5 4AJ, SG5 4HW, SG5 4PU, SG5 4BB, SG5 4BS, SG5 4RY, SG5 4PZ, SG5 4PP, SG5 3ND, SG5 4LX, SG5 4TB, SG5 4LH, SG5 4AU, SG5 4HX, SG5 4DJ, SG18 9NG, SG5 4LD, SG19 3EZ, SG5 4RX, SG5 4EH, SG5 4DL, SG5 4GS, SG5 4HU, SG54 4TL, SG54 4JE, SG54 4LF, SG54 4HE, SG54 4JX, SG54 4PG, SG54 4LY, SG61 1SA, SG54 4AR, SG54 4ER, SG54 4EG, SG54 4EW, SG54 4GR, SG54 4RY, SG54 4ET, SG54 4GE, SG54 4HH, SG54 4RU, SG54 4DJ, SG15 6RY, SG54 4HQ, SG54 4LP, SG54 4JR, SG17 5PZ, SG54 4AS, SG54 4TD, SG54 4AJ, SG18 0JZ, SG54 4ED, SG54 4EE, SG54 4HJ.

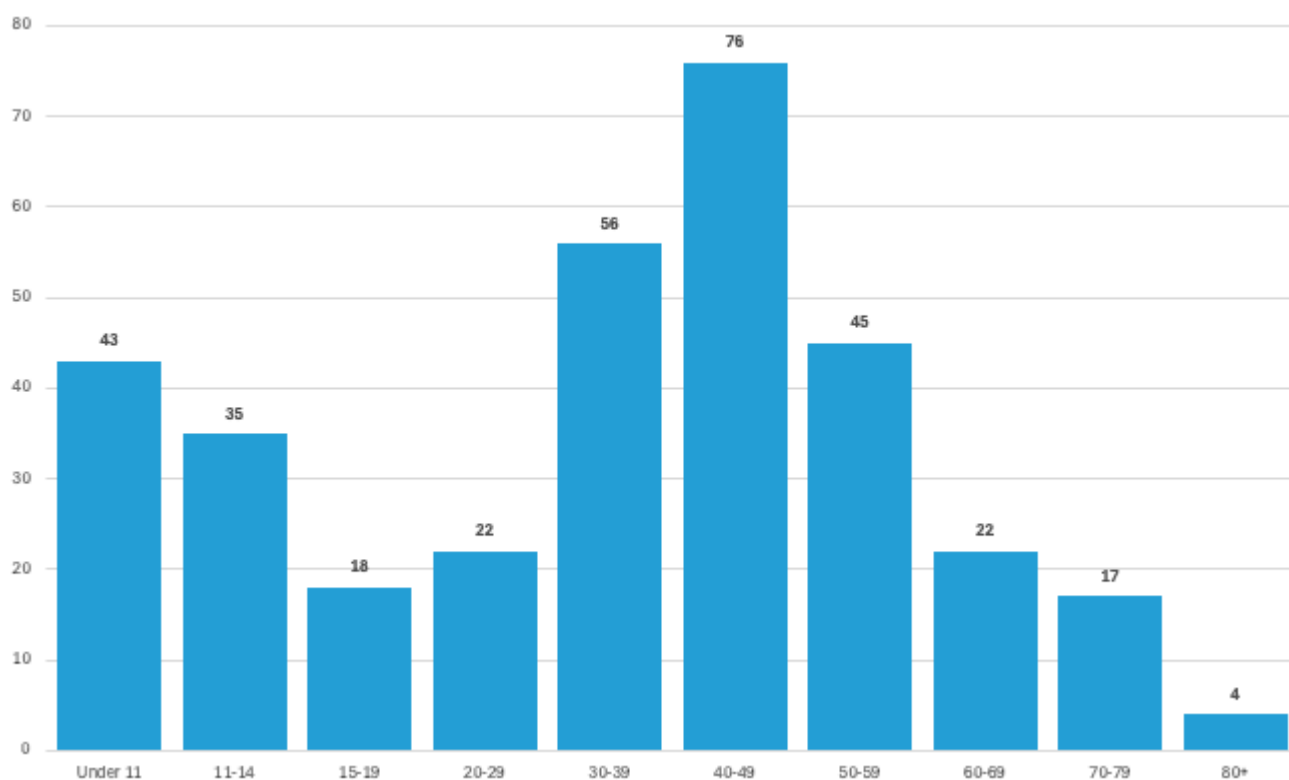
A map visualising the responses is shown below, indicating which geographic areas responses originated from, based on supplied post code.



2. What is your age group?

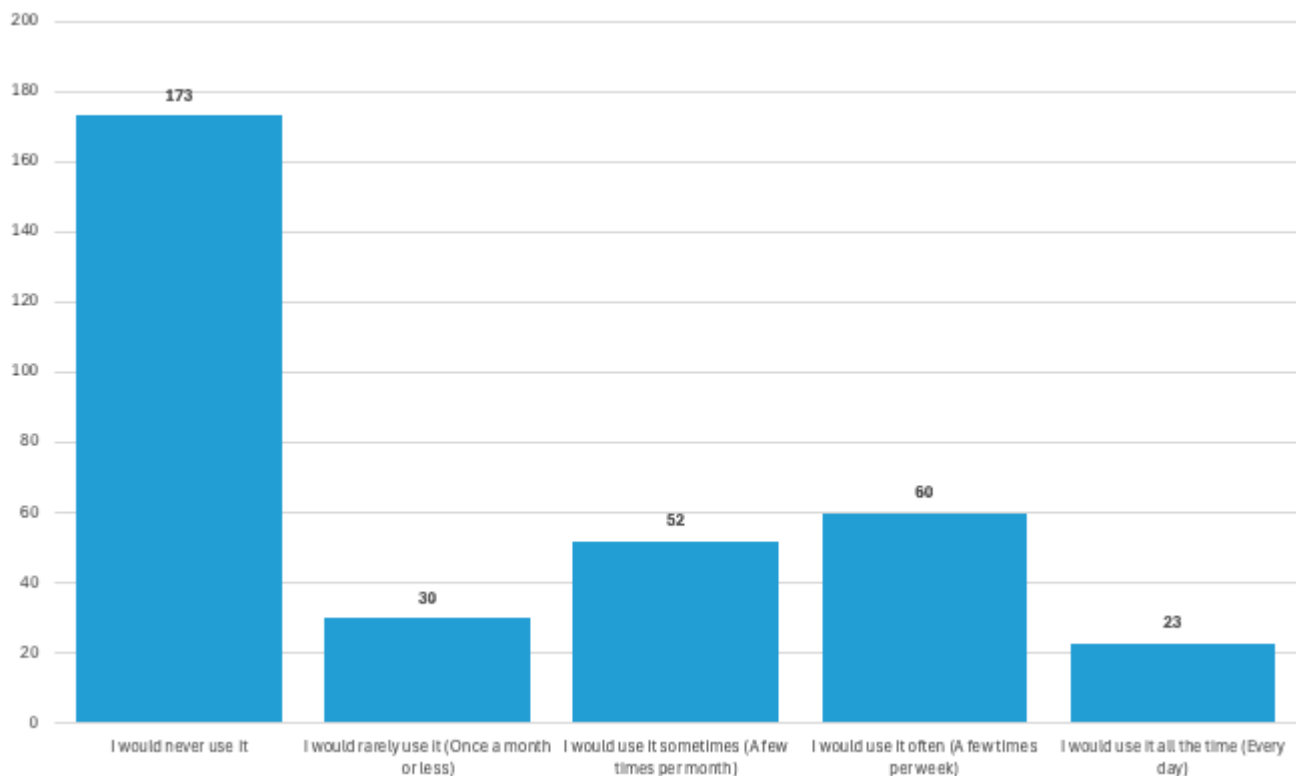
Of the 338 responses, the age breakdown is as follows:

- Under 11: 43 responses (12.72%)
- 11-14: 35 responses (10.36%)
- 15-19: 18 responses (5.33%)
- 20-29: 22 responses (6.51%)
- 30-39: 56 responses (16.57%)
- 40-49: 76 responses (22.49%)
- 50-59: 45 responses (13.31%)
- 60-69: 22 responses (6.51%)
- 70-79: 17 responses (5.03%)
- 80+: 4 responses (1.18%)



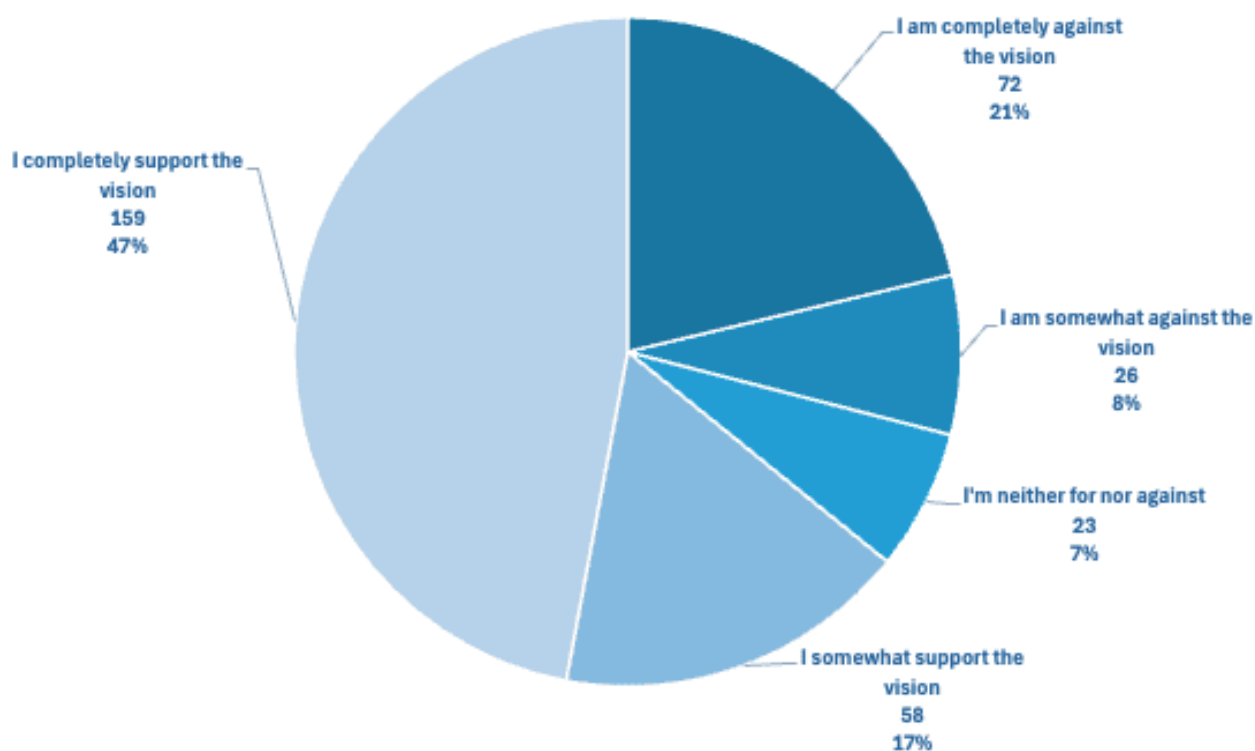
3. How likely are you to personally use the planned skate park?

- I would never use it: 173 responses (51.18%)
- I would rarely use it (Once a month or less): 30 responses (8.88%)
- I would use it sometimes (A few times per month): 52 responses (15.38%)
- I would use it often (A few times per week): 60 responses (17.75%)
- I would use it all the time (Every day): 23 responses (6.80%)



4. How do you feel about the council's overall vision for a new facility and skatepark?

- I am completely against the vision: 72 responses (21.30%)
- I am somewhat against the vision: 26 responses (7.69%)
- I'm neither for nor against: 23 responses (6.80%)
- I somewhat support the vision: 58 responses (17.16%)
- I completely support the vision: 159 responses (47.04%)



5. You said (how you feel about the vision). Tell us, in your own words, why you think that?

"I am completely against the vision"

A variety of concerns were cited by those who said "I am completely against the vision". Key themes of opposition include anticipated anti-social behaviour, inadequate parking, noise pollution, and the perceived lack of necessity for the skate park.

Respondents suggest alternative locations and uses of funds that they feel would better serve the broader community, stating that the skate park caters to a minority and represents an inefficient allocation of public resources.

Below is a breakdown of these views, with quantified alignment and representative excerpts.

Anti-Social behaviour

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 45
- Examples:
 - "Skate parks typically end up covered in graffiti, rubbish, and illegal activities by teenagers."
 - "I worry about teenagers using it as a meeting place for drinking, smoking, and anti-social behaviour, which will disturb residents."
 - "There is already an issue with littering and drug dealing; a skate park will only draw more of this to the area."

Parking and Access Issues

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 28
- Examples:
 - "The influx of visitors will place further strain on parking and intensify these disruptions to daily life."
 - "Parking at school times is already difficult, and this facility would exacerbate the issue."
 - "Residents frequently experience blocked driveways due to park visitors, and a skate park would worsen this."

Noise Pollution

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 21
- Examples:
 - "The current park amplifies playground noise; adding a skate park will worsen this."
 - "Illuminating it until 9 PM will lead to excessive noise that disturbs residents."
 - "Concerned that the noise from a skate park will affect nearby homes, especially at night."

Alternative Locations Suggested

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 25
- Examples:
 - "The skate park would be better placed near the football club on Arlesey Road where it won't impact residential areas."
 - "This facility should be built in a more central location to benefit the wider town, not just Greenacres residents."
 - "Why not place it at the old skate park location by the riverside, away from houses?"

Financial Concerns and Resources

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 19
- Examples:
 - "A splash park would benefit more families and foster community connections."
 - "Money could be spent on repairing roads or improving other facilities."
 - "This is a waste of funds for something only a small percentage will use."

Concerns for Property Value and Quality of Life

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 14
- Examples:
 - "This skate park will turn a pleasant green area into an eyesore, reducing house values."
 - "I don't want a concrete skate park view from my window that attracts graffiti and

rubbish."

- "Worried about the impact on my property value and the quality of life due to noise and litter."

"I am somewhat against the vision"

Respondents who said they are "somewhat against the vision" for the proposed wheeled sports facility at Greenacres Park expressed moderate opposition, with concerns focusing on anti-social behaviour, the location's impact on parking, noise pollution, and the potential for under-utilisation.

Some respondents also suggest that other types of facilities, like a pump track or soft play area, would serve the community better. Below is a breakdown of these themes, with quantified alignment and representative excerpts.

Antisocial Behaviour

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 6
- Examples:
 - "I live very close to where this skate park will be and am very concerned about noise and anti-social behaviour."
 - "Noise pollution from the skate park would add to the nuisance we already have from the football club and school."
 - "I do see that you're doing your best to mitigate noise, but I, for one, would not like to be living in Angelica Avenue."

Alternative Facility Suggestions

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 8
- Examples:
 - "A pump track would be more inclusive and suitable for a wider range of residents."
 - "A soft play facility would be better and wouldn't encourage anti-social behaviour."
 - "A skate park doesn't offer much variety, and a pump track like the one at Stewartby would be fantastic here."

Financial Concerns and Priorities

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 5
- Examples:

- "Money needs to be spent on doctors, not on a skate park."
- "Stotfold council should focus on new developments while leaving old areas without updates or suitable facilities."
- "Funds would be better allocated to improving the paths and basic facilities that long-standing residents have requested."

Safety and utilisation concerns

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 7
- Examples:
 - "I worry that it won't be adequately lit and maintained, creating safety issues."
 - "As a parent, I would not let my teenager go there alone due to the potential for bullying and litter."
 - "I had to change my route home due to feeling unsafe when a skate park was built nearby, and I don't want to feel the same here."

"I am neither for nor against"

Respondents who are "neither for nor against" the proposed wheeled sports facility express a mixture of ambivalence and conditional acceptance, with various considerations for its design, placement, and potential impact on the community.

Their comments reflect a neutral stance with suggestions for improvements and broader inclusivity. Concerns include design efficacy, possible anti-social behaviour, accessibility, and the need for facilities that cater to diverse age groups.

Below is a breakdown of these themes, with quantified alignment and representative excerpts.

Conditional Use Based on Suitability and Safety

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 7
- Examples:
 - "I would potentially take my children there, depending on if it seems suitable with older children there/teens causing trouble."
 - "I'm not sure if that's what the community needs the most and if that green space could be used better."
 - "It could impact the amount of wildlife in the area, yet it could be beneficial for the residents of Stotfold."

Concerns Around Design and Anti-Social behaviour

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 5
- Examples:
 - "I would be concerned about anti-social behaviour and its impact on residents, especially since the bowl will be below ground."
 - "I'm never going to use it, but I hope it won't get vandalised and will be used without bullying."
 - "Would like to see what contingency plans are proposed for any problems in use of the park."

Broader Inclusivity and Diversity of Facilities

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 6
- Examples:
 - "Feel like the plans are aimed more at older children; there is an opportunity to involve younger children starting on scooters and bikes."
 - "Facilities are needed for young people, but money should also go toward facilities for older people who lack transport."
 - "Provision for teenagers is lacking in the town, but I also think other age groups could benefit from additional resources."

Neutral or Ambivalent Stance

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 5
- Examples:
 - "I don't really care about what happens to the skate park."
 - "Because I don't really mind."
 - "I would not use the facility or have any family members who would use it."

Suggestions for Improved Design and Use of Space

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 3
- Examples:
 - "Engage with a garden or parks designer to avoid 'desire paths'—people will want

more direct paths."

- "There is a lot of communication about this; it seems repetitive and may not be relevant to many in the town."
- "It's placed towards one end of the town, and I would not let my children go there on their own."

"I somewhat support the vision:"

Respondents who "somewhat support the vision" for the proposed wheeled sports facility largely favour the concept, recognising its potential benefits for youth engagement, physical activity, and community development.

However, their support is tempered by suggestions for improvement, including modifications to accommodate more types of wheeled sports, better anti-social behaviour management, and alternative locations.

Below is a breakdown of these themes, with quantified alignment and representative excerpts.

Expanded Facility Design for Multi-Use and Inclusivity

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 16
- Examples:
 - "I think it's a great idea and design, but it would be good to have more for bikes and scooters as well as skateboarding."
 - "It would be amazing as a dual skate park/pump track for BMX and skate use."
 - "A separate space for roller skating would be great for people who want to learn and practice without overlapping with skateboarding."

Anti-Social behaviour Concerns and Suggested Management

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 10
- Examples:
 - "To completely support the vision, I need assurance on noise levels and that anti-social behaviour will be addressed, with policing of the park required."
 - "Idea is good, but would like to see CCTV installed and parking managed to reduce street congestion."
 - "Hopefully, it's a safe place for children without causing unsociable behaviour."

Suggestions for Improved Design Elements

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 8
- Examples:
 - "The skate park would benefit from shelter for rainy days and a half-pipe."
 - "Needs smaller ramps for younger children to ride their scooters or bikes."
 - "The bowls look great, but it would be nice to add a big jump for stunts."

Support with Alternative Location Suggestions

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 7
- Examples:
 - "It's a good facility but would be better located at Riverside Rec, where there's already space for this."
 - "I support the skate park but wish it were in the old Riverside location to keep Greenacres more open for general use."
 - "My children are excited about the skate park but we're disappointed with the location."

Positive Impact on Youth Engagement and Physical Activity

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 12
- Examples:
 - "It's great for young people to be active and gives them something to do in their free time."
 - "It's a wonderful addition that allows kids of all ages to have fun and socialise."
 - "The more we provide for the youth of Stotfold, the better—it keeps them away from boredom and engaged in positive activities."

Interest in Inclusivity for All Ages and Genders

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 5
- Examples:
 - "Most local parks target younger children or teenage boys, leaving few options for teenage girls. It would be great to consider design elements that encourage use by all genders."
 - "Facilities like this should offer something for each person—whether you skate, bike,

or roller-skate."

- "I would like to see facilities that grow with my young children and are accessible to a wide range of ages."

"I completely support the vision"

Respondents who "completely support the vision" for the proposed wheeled sports facility overwhelmingly endorse it, highlighting its value for youth engagement, physical activity, and community-building. They emphasise the skate park's potential to provide a safe, productive space for young people to gather, socialise, and develop skills.

Supporters also see the facility as addressing a current lack of recreational amenities in Stotfold, potentially benefiting families and individuals of all ages.

Below is a breakdown of these themes, with quantified alignment and representative excerpts.

Youth Engagement and Physical Activity

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 42
- Examples:
 - "It's perfect for children and adults of all ages to have something to do, getting kids active and off their screens."
 - "Skating is a great sport and should be encouraged; this facility will give children a productive way to socialise and stay fit."
 - "My 8-year-old daughter is keen to have a skatepark facility nearby to practice in—she's so excited about it."

Community and Social Benefits

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 30
- Examples:
 - "This would be a fantastic place for children and teens to meet, build friendships, and foster a sense of community."
 - "The skatepark will provide a safe environment for kids and teens to hang out together and take up new hobbies."
 - "Skateparks are wonderful for socialising, helping young people and even adults to bond over shared interests."

Addressing a Lack of Local Facilities

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 27
- Examples:
 - "Stotfold has very limited amenities for young people, so this skatepark would be a huge asset to the community."
 - "Facilities like this are desperately needed for the town's growing population—it's a fantastic addition."
 - "I grew up here and wish we had something like this. The youth in Stotfold need more outdoor spaces like this to keep them engaged."

Environmental and Economic Impact

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 5
- Examples:
 - "Having a skatepark here would mean fewer car trips to nearby towns, benefiting the environment."
 - "It will draw people to the area, who may also support local businesses like cafes and shops."
 - "A local skatepark saves families the time and fuel needed to reach other towns for similar facilities."

Requests for Additional Features and Safety Measures

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 8
- Examples:
 - "It would be great to have more shaded areas or seating so families can enjoy the space too."
 - "A well-lit facility with plenty of bins and perhaps some CCTV will help keep the area safe and clean."
 - "The bowl and ramps look amazing, but I'd love to see a separate flat area for beginners to practice."

Positive Impact on Community Well-being and Crime Reduction

- No. respondents that aligned to this theme: 6
- Examples:
 - "This will give kids a place to go rather than wandering the streets, potentially

reducing anti-social behaviour."

- "It's great that it's not too close to houses, so it minimises disruption while still giving kids a dedicated space."
- "With more recreational spaces, we can prevent kids from turning to negative behaviours out of boredom."

6. We're really keen to get your ideas on how to make the planned skatepark the very best it can be. Would you like to share your ideas about the proposed design?

182 respondents opted to share specific feedback, which is detailed in the subsequent questions, however please note that the subsequent design feedback questions were not mandatory and so not all questions received responses. 156 chose not to leave any specific feedback.

7. Would you be interested in taking up wheeled sports following the construction of the skatepark?

- Yes: 103 responses (58.2%)
- No: 73 responses

8. What do you like most about the proposed design for the park?

160 responses to this question.

The proposed park design was well-received by respondents, especially for its inclusivity, variety of features, and the thoughtful layout. Respondents are particularly excited about the design elements that cater to different skill levels and age groups, with strong enthusiasm for features like bowls, ramps, rails, and general spaciousness.

While most responses are positive, a few respondents expressed neutral or uncertain feedback. Overall, the park design is appreciated for its potential to create an inviting, versatile space for active, safe outdoor activities.

- **Key Design Features (Bowls, Ramps, Rails)**

- Many respondents highlighted specific design elements like the bowl, ramps, and rails. The "bowl" was mentioned frequently, showing a strong preference for this feature, both for its function and the excitement it adds.
- Ramps and obstacles were valued, particularly by those looking for a variety of activity levels and challenges.

- **Spaciousness and Layout**

- Comments about "large space," "spaced out," and "different heights" suggest that the layout and roominess are valued. This theme reflects an appreciation for a well-organised, open space that allows easy movement and safe engagement.

- **Inclusivity and Accessibility**

- Multiple respondents noted that the design appears inclusive, catering to different ages and skill levels, which enhances its appeal. The focus on making the space welcoming to all participants, from beginners to experienced users, was a recurring theme.

- **Modern and Safe Environment**

- Responses describe the park as "modern," "well-thought-out," and "adequately lit," with a focus on making it a "safe environment" for kids. Safety and modern design elements contribute positively to perceptions of the park as a community space.

- **Encouragement of Outdoor Activity**

- Respondents appreciated that the park would encourage outdoor activity, particularly for kids, as a healthy alternative to screen time. This theme reflects a desire for spaces that promote physical activity and social interaction.

- **Overall Positive Reception and Excitement**

- Several responses indicated general enthusiasm with comments like "everything," "really good design," and "exciting design." This reflects a broad approval of the park's proposed vision and its appeal as a fun, engaging space for the community.

- **Neutral/Uncertain Responses**

- A few respondents were neutral or unsure about the design, with comments like "N/A," "Not applicable," and "Nothing." Additionally, some expressed conditional support, noting that they hadn't yet seen the design or were uncertain if it was suitable for kids.

9. What do you not like, or would like to see improved?

Feedback on potential improvements to the proposed park design reveals a mix of constructive suggestions and concerns, primarily centred around enhancing inclusivity, safety, and community compatibility. Respondents show interest in additional features like a pump track, varied ramps, a half-pipe, and amenities like seating and sheltered areas.

Key concerns include location, potential noise, anti-social behaviour, and safety measures like lighting, fencing, and surveillance. These insights suggest that while there is enthusiasm for an inclusive outdoor space, design adjustments and added facilities may better address the diverse needs of community members.

- **Additional Features and Facilities**

- **Pump Track:** Many respondents suggested adding a pump track, with some expressing that this would increase appeal to all genders and age groups and align with the community's interest in cycling.
- **Varied Ramps and Half-Pipe:** Requests for additional features such as a half-pipe, mini ramps, and diverse jump heights indicate a desire for more varied and skill-inclusive elements.
- **Flat Ground and Open Space:** There is a call for more open, flat ground for beginners and roller skaters, as well as areas suitable for scooters and freestyle skating.
- **Seating and Shelter:** Respondents expressed the need for seating, picnic benches, shaded areas, and even a potential coffee stand, to enhance comfort for visitors and families.

- **Safety Concerns and Anti-Social Behaviour**

- **Surveillance and Lighting:** Concerns around anti-social behaviour, including potential drug use and bullying, were prominent. Many respondents recommended improved lighting, CCTV, and the presence of staff or frequent monitoring to deter misuse of the space.
- **Noise and Community Impact:** Noise and the potential impact on nearby residential areas were mentioned, with some suggesting relocating the park further from homes.
- **Fencing and Controlled Access:** The idea of enclosing the area with fencing was raised to enhance safety, particularly to separate users from dogs and reduce litter or vandalism risks.

- **Inclusivity for All Ages and Skill Levels**

- **Beginner and Child-Friendly Areas:** Several comments emphasised the need for designated areas for younger children or beginners, including smaller ramps and

protected zones.

- **Accessibility for Multiple Sports:** Respondents expressed a desire for a multi-use design that accommodates BMX riders, skateboarders, roller skaters, and scooter users, which would help maximise the park's utility.

- **Location and Environmental Concerns**

- **Alternative Locations:** There was notable feedback suggesting that the proposed location may not be ideal. Alternative sites, such as near the Stotfold Football Club or farther from residential areas, were recommended to minimise disruptions.
- **Environmental and Flood Concerns:** Some respondents were concerned about increased rainwater runoff and potential flooding. Suggestions included integrating permeable surfaces or soakaways to mitigate water impact.
- **Preservation of Green Space:** A few responses emphasised the importance of maintaining grassy areas for dog walkers and open space lovers, advocating for a balanced approach that doesn't overrun the existing park area.

- **Community and Aesthetic Considerations**

- **Community Ownership and Art:** Suggestions to involve local artists in decorating the park and to create a welcoming aesthetic highlight a desire for community pride and ownership of the space.
- **Sustainability and Noise Management:** Preferences for concrete as a quieter, more durable material reflect an interest in sustainable, low-maintenance design that minimises noise.

10. What is your favourite element to ride?

The survey reveals a diverse range of preferred elements for riding, with scooters, bikes, and skateboards being the most popular choices among respondents. Key elements like bowls, half-pipes, and ramps were frequently mentioned, indicating a strong preference for features that allow jumps, drops, and smooth transitions.

Some respondents, who do not actively use skateparks, highlighted the importance of seating and spectator areas, reflecting broader interest in family-friendly amenities. Overall, there is a clear demand for versatile park elements that cater to multiple types of wheeled sports and varied skill levels.

- **Preferred Riding Equipment**

- Scooters: Scooters emerged as the most popular equipment, with many responses indicating scooter riding as the primary or favoured activity.
- Bikes and BMX: Bikes were also popular, with users expressing interest in areas that accommodate cycling, pump tracks, and features suited to BMX-style riding.
- Skateboards and Roller Skates: Skateboards and, to a lesser extent, roller skates were also mentioned. This highlights the need for elements that facilitate skateboarding, such as rails, ledges, and smooth transition areas.

- **Favoured Park Elements**

- Bowls and Pools: The bowl or pool was a favourite for many respondents, who appreciate the flow and challenge it provides, especially for skateboarding and scootering.
- Half-Pipes and Quarter-Pipes: The half-pipe was frequently mentioned, particularly by users interested in jumps and high-intensity tricks.
- Ramps and Drops: Many respondents enjoy ramps for their versatility, including jump boxes, flyouts, and drop-in features for both beginners and more experienced riders.

- **Multi-Use and Inclusive Design**

- Pump Track: Some respondents advocated for a pump track to make the park more accessible and versatile for a variety of users, including younger children and families.
- Flat Ground and Beginner-Friendly Zones: For those interested in practising or learning, the inclusion of flat ground areas and smaller ramps was recommended to allow gradual skill progression.

- **Amenities for Spectators and Families**

- Seating Areas: Those who accompany children or prefer spectating expressed interest in seating areas near the park, emphasising that a family-friendly environment would

increase the park's appeal.

- Observing High-Risk Tricks: Some respondents enjoy watching high-risk tricks on the half-pipe or bowl, indicating that these areas could be engaging for spectators.

11. How would you want to use the space, with who, what time of the day / week?

The proposed park space would be widely used by families, children, and friends, primarily during after-school hours, weekends, and school holidays. Respondents envision the park as a place for social gatherings, family activities, and skill development for children and teens.

Evening use is anticipated, but concerns about safety and anti-social behaviour could influence usage patterns. The feedback suggests that safe, inclusive, and well-monitored amenities would make the space more attractive for families and individual users alike.

- **Primary Users and Activities**

- **Families and Children:** The majority of respondents plan to use the space with children, either for skateboarding, scootering, biking, or simply as a community gathering spot. Families anticipate using the park regularly, especially after school, on weekends, and during holidays.
- **Friends and Peer Groups:** Many teens and young adults would use the space with friends, focusing on recreational activities and socialising. This highlights the park's role as a social hub, particularly for school-aged children and teens.

- **Time of Use**

- **After-School and Weekend Use:** Most respondents indicated they would use the space after school and on weekends, reflecting a demand for a recreational area that fits into school schedules and family routines.
- **Flexible Hours:** Some users, especially adults and those with flexible schedules, mentioned using the park during quieter hours, like early mornings or weekdays when kids are in school.
- **Evening Usage:** A subset of respondents expressed interest in using the park in the evening, especially in warmer months. Evening use suggests the need for adequate lighting and safety measures to ensure a welcoming environment after dark.

- **Desired Amenities and Safety Concerns**

- **Family-Friendly and Inclusive Environment:** Families expressed a desire for a safe, accessible, and well-maintained environment, with some also mentioning amenities like seating, picnic spots, and shaded areas to make the space more comfortable.
- **Concerns Over Anti-Social behaviour:** A recurring theme was concern about potential anti-social behaviour, especially in the evenings. Respondents would prefer measures like CCTV, security lighting, and potential closing times to mitigate safety risks, making the space more family-friendly.

- **Usage Frequency and Routine**

- Regular and Routine Use: Some families and teens indicated daily or frequent use, particularly if the park offers a range of features catering to various skill levels and age groups.
- Seasonal Variations: Some responses suggested that park use would be more frequent during spring and summer, due to better weather and longer daylight hours, but with the potential for reduced use in colder months.

12. What attracts you to wheeled sports?

The appeal of wheeled sports among survey respondents centres on themes of fun, adrenaline, skill development, and social connection. Many are drawn to the excitement and physical challenge, appreciating wheeled sports as both a personal pursuit and a family activity that fosters a sense of community.

While some respondents feel no attraction to wheeled sports, the majority see it as a valuable, accessible way to exercise, enjoy outdoor activities, and cultivate new skills.

- **Excitement and Adrenaline**

- A common attraction to wheeled sports is the thrill and adrenaline they provide. Respondents enjoy the high-energy experience, especially when performing tricks or moving at high speeds. This element of excitement makes the sports appealing to both participants and spectators.

- **Skill Development and Challenge**

- Many participants appreciate the opportunity to learn and improve new skills over time, whether it's mastering tricks or building confidence in a new sport. Wheeled sports offer a rewarding sense of progression and accomplishment, making it engaging for all ages.

- **Social Connection and Community**

- Social aspects, including meeting friends and joining a welcoming community, are key draws. Wheeled sports provide a friendly environment where individuals of all ages and skill levels can connect, socialise, and support one another's progress.

- **Fun and Enjoyment**

- A significant portion of respondents find wheeled sports simply enjoyable. Fun is cited as a primary motivator, with participants valuing the ability to play and be active in an unstructured, playful way. This enjoyment often extends to family activities, where parents and children alike find wheeled sports engaging.

- **Physical Activity and Health**

- For some, wheeled sports serve as a form of exercise that promotes physical fitness and mental well-being. Participants value the outdoor aspect of the activity, seeing it as a healthy alternative to indoor or sedentary pastimes. It allows them to be active while doing something they genuinely enjoy.

- **Freedom and Expression**

- Some respondents appreciate wheeled sports as a way to express themselves and experience a sense of freedom. This freedom, paired with creativity in learning tricks and moves, adds depth to the experience, fostering a personal and meditative quality

for some participants.

- Negative or Neutral Responses
 - A portion of respondents expressed no interest in wheeled sports, either due to personal preference or lack of engagement in the past. These responses underscore that while wheeled sports have wide appeal, they may not resonate with everyone in the community.

13. What do you see as a barrier to using skateparks?

Key barriers to using skateparks centre on concerns about safety, intimidation by older or anti-social groups, accessibility challenges, and perceptions of skateparks as hubs for undesirable behaviour.

While many are enthusiastic about using a community skatepark, they stress the importance of inclusivity, safety measures, and thoughtful design that promotes an accessible and welcoming environment for all ages and skill levels.

1. Safety and Anti-Social behaviour

- **Anti-Social Concerns:** Many respondents worry about skateparks attracting anti-social behaviour, including drug use, vandalism, and littering, which can make the environment uncomfortable or unsafe, particularly for younger children.
- **Intimidation by Older Youths:** A common theme is the fear that older teens or groups may intimidate younger or beginner users, deterring them from using the park freely.
- **Safety Features:** Suggestions include anti-vandalism seating, more bins, regular maintenance, and lighting, especially for winter months and evening use. CCTV and open design were also recommended to improve safety and visibility.

2. Inclusivity and Community Accessibility

- **Access for All Ages and Abilities:** Respondents expressed concern that skateparks can sometimes be dominated by more experienced riders, creating a barrier for beginners, younger children, and people with disabilities. There's a call for inclusive design, with elements suitable for various skill levels.
- **Diverse Wheeled Sports:** There's an interest in ensuring the park accommodates multiple wheeled sports, including bikes, scooters, and roller skates, rather than being skateboarding-exclusive.
- **Local Access and Fairness:** Some raised concerns that the park may primarily serve certain neighbourhoods. Accessible pathways for users to reach the park from other parts of town are recommended.

3. Physical and Environmental Constraints

- **Weather and Maintenance:** Environmental factors like wet or icy surfaces, darkness in winter, and seasonal flooding can limit usability. Ongoing maintenance to ensure clean, dry, and safe surfaces is seen as crucial.
- **Physical Ability and Age:** Older users, adults, and those with mobility challenges noted that age or fitness can be a barrier. Some suggest dedicated seating areas for

spectators or parents.

4. Negative Perceptions and Social Stigma

- **Stereotypes of Anti-Social behaviour:** Several respondents referenced the lingering stigma that skateparks are tied to delinquency. This perception, rooted in past stereotypes, can deter families and young children from engaging. Ensuring a positive, family-friendly environment could help reshape these attitudes.
- **Judgment and "Skatepark Etiquette":** Some users feel judged or intimidated, especially if they're beginners, with experienced riders dominating the space. The notion of "skatepark etiquette" can be unfamiliar, leading to unintentional conflicts between new and seasoned users.

5. Design Preferences and Aesthetics

- **Overcrowding and Space Management:** Crowded parks can feel chaotic and unwelcoming. Respondents suggest design considerations that allow space for each group (e.g., beginners, families, experienced riders) to engage safely.
- **Soft Landscaping:** Many respondents mentioned the harsh appearance of typical skateparks. Soft landscaping and greenery could help create a more inviting, community-oriented feel.

14. What makes you feel safe in a space?

Feeling safe in a skatepark setting is strongly tied to visibility, lighting, community presence, and openness. Respondents express a preference for well-lit, open areas with clear visibility, proximity to public spaces, and surveillance to deter anti-social behaviour.

Cleanliness, maintenance, and community involvement also contribute to a welcoming atmosphere. Specific measures to ensure inclusivity, particularly for younger users and women, are also recommended to foster a comfortable environment for all ages and backgrounds.

- **Visibility and Lighting**

- **Good Lighting:** Well-lit spaces are seen as critical, particularly for evening use and during winter months. Lighting is not only practical but also acts as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour.
- **Openness and Clear Sightlines:** Respondents feel safer in open areas without hidden or secluded spots. Clear sightlines and a visible layout increase the sense of security by reducing spaces for people to hide or engage in negative behaviour.

- **Community Presence and Inclusivity**

- **Community and Family Atmosphere:** A family-friendly, inclusive environment contributes significantly to perceived safety. Spaces that attract a broad age range, including parents and children, are seen as safer and more inviting.
- **Inclusivity for All Ages and Genders:** Many respondents, particularly women, emphasise the need for inclusivity. Visible efforts to make young women and beginners feel safe and welcome, combined with a balanced demographic, are considered essential to creating a comfortable space.

- **Surveillance and Security Measures**

- **CCTV and Monitoring:** Surveillance, such as CCTV cameras, is frequently mentioned as a way to increase safety and discourage negative behaviour. Some respondents also suggest periodic security patrols to maintain order and reassure users.
- **Natural Surveillance:** Being close to housing or public areas, where natural surveillance is possible, also contributes to a feeling of safety. When the park is visible to others in the community, it discourages isolated behaviour and promotes accountability.

- **Cleanliness and Maintenance**

- **Regular Maintenance and Litter Management:** Clean and well-maintained spaces make users feel safe and respected. Respondents suggest having plenty of bins to manage litter and regular upkeep to maintain the park's appearance.
- **Design for Community Ownership:** Involving local artists or the community in

decoration helps foster a sense of ownership, potentially reducing vandalism and encouraging respect for the space.

- **Positive Social Environment**

- **Friendly Atmosphere and Skatepark Etiquette:** The presence of respectful and supportive users makes people feel welcome. Politeness, respect, and awareness of skatepark etiquette (especially for scooters) are all valued qualities that contribute to a positive environment.
- **Space for Everyone:** Providing dedicated areas or ensuring there is enough space for everyone, regardless of skill level, reduces intimidation and fosters a welcoming social environment.

- **Additional Safety Features**

- **Safety Equipment and Barriers:** Respondents suggested safety barriers and nearby seating for parents or spectators. Clear guidelines on protective gear, such as helmets, help users feel safer while practising tricks and moving around the park.

15. What skateparks do you currently use, if any?

The current skatepark usage patterns reveal that many local residents travel to nearby towns such as Letchworth, Shefford, Biggleswade, Pottton, and St. Neots to access skateparks, reflecting the high demand for a local facility.

Popular destinations like Norton Common (Letchworth), Shefford, and Biggleswade are frequently mentioned, along with several pump tracks and specialty parks further afield, such as Adrenaline Alley in Corby.

Many respondents noted the inconvenience of traveling due to distance or overcrowding, underscoring the community need for an accessible, well-equipped skatepark in their area.

- **Popular Local Skateparks and Pump Tracks**

- Letchworth (Norton Common): This is one of the most frequently visited skateparks due to its proximity and amenities, though users note it can become overcrowded.
- Shefford and Biggleswade: These parks are also frequently used, with many people choosing them due to their close location. Users enjoy them but mention a lack of variety and sometimes insufficient facilities.
- Pottton and Arlesey: These are commonly visited but noted as limited in terms of size and quality, with several comments suggesting they lack proper facilities for a wide range of users.

- **Specialty Parks and Pump Tracks**

- Adrenaline Alley (Corby): For advanced users or those seeking more challenging courses, Adrenaline Alley is a destination, though it requires a considerable travel commitment.
- Pump Tracks: Respondents appreciate pump tracks in areas like Buntingford, St Albans, and Lower Stondon for their flexibility and accessibility to various wheeled sports, with some users suggesting a pump track would be an ideal addition to the proposed local park.

- **Inconvenience Due to Distance and Limited Local Options**

- Travel Barriers: Many users express frustration at having to travel to access decent skatepark facilities, with most nearby options requiring significant travel time. This reflects the unmet demand for a quality skatepark closer to home.
- Overcrowding at Existing Parks: Even when nearby skateparks are available, they are often busy, which detracts from the experience, especially for younger or beginner riders.

- **Desire for a High-Quality, Local Facility**

- **Variety of Sports Supported:** Many respondents hope for a skatepark that accommodates multiple types of wheeled sports, including scooters, BMX, and skateboarding, rather than exclusively catering to one sport.
- **Local Availability:** There is strong support for a local skatepark to reduce travel time and provide a reliable, community-oriented space that users can access regularly.

16. Do you have an ideas for planting / colour / texture?

Ideas for planting, colour, and texture focus on blending functionality with aesthetics that reflect the local community and natural surroundings. Suggestions emphasise incorporating greenery, graffiti art by local artists, and durable materials that are low-maintenance and suited to the demands of a skatepark environment.

A mix of natural elements, such as hardy plants and seating in shaded areas, along with bright colours and inviting textures, would make the space both visually appealing and user-friendly.

- **Colour and Artistic Elements**

- **Graffiti and Local Art:** Many respondents suggested inviting local graffiti artists to decorate the park, creating a space that reflects the community's character. This could include murals or geometric designs to add vibrant colour and personality.
- **Bright, Engaging colours:** Bright, welcoming colours like blue, red, pink, and neon shades were popular choices, aiming to make the space lively and visually appealing. Some respondents suggested using contrasting colours to help specific areas stand out.
- **Natural Tones and Blending with Environment:** Others recommended more subdued, natural colours, such as greens, browns, and greys, to allow the skatepark to harmonise with its surroundings, particularly if there is significant planting around the park.

- **Planting and Greenery**

- **Wildlife-Friendly and Low-Maintenance Plants:** Respondents showed strong interest in native plants that attract pollinators, such as grasses, wildflowers, and perennials like lavender or sunflowers. These would add natural colour and texture, providing a softer contrast to the skatepark's hardscape.
- **Trees and Shrubs as Borders:** Many suggested trees and shrubs around the park's perimeter to enhance the green space and create a natural buffer, without encroaching on the skate area. Hardy, low-maintenance plants were preferred to prevent debris like leaves from impacting the skate surfaces.

- **Texture and Material Considerations**

- **Smooth and Durable Concrete:** Concrete is the preferred material for its durability and smooth texture, which is suitable for various wheeled sports. Respondents emphasised avoiding metal ramps and gravel to ensure a safe, low-maintenance surface.
- **Non-Slip, Skate-Friendly Surfaces:** Safety was a concern, with suggestions for non-slip,

high-grip materials that could withstand the wear of wheels and minimise the risk of injuries.

- Varied Textures: Some respondents proposed experimenting with textured surfaces for areas outside the main skate zone, providing a sensory experience and varied practice for different wheeled sports.

- **Functional and Social Spaces**

- Seating and Shade: Seating areas were frequently requested, particularly for parents and spectators. Shaded areas with benches or picnic tables would allow for relaxation and socialising, making the park more family-friendly.
- Water Fountain and Bins: Practical features, such as water fountains and ample bins, were suggested to support cleanliness and hydration, enhancing comfort for extended visits.
- Designated Viewing Areas: Some respondents suggested incorporating spectator-friendly spaces, like dedicated seating with clear sightlines, so people can watch safely without encroaching on active areas.

- **Environmental Considerations**

- Natural Shading and Temperature Control: To make the park comfortable in warm weather, respondents recommended natural shading through trees or the addition of a shaded structure. Additionally, eco-friendly features, like drought-resistant plants, were suggested to reduce maintenance costs and environmental impact.
- Noise Reduction and Pollution Control: Respondents expressed concern about noise from nearby roads and recommended planting trees or shrubs as a natural sound buffer to maintain a peaceful environment.