

Long Stratton Skatepark Consultation – Phase 1

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to give a non-biased explanation of the consultation outcome, including both quantitative and qualitative data, as well as any other needs or issues identified from this.

General Overview

This consultation was started on Wednesday 5th November 2025 and ended Wednesday 31st December 2025. This gave 8 weeks to allow for responses for the first phase of the skatepark consultation.

Data Storing

All responses were collected anonymously via Google Forms. These were automatically put into a Google Sheets spreadsheet that only Council Officers can access.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Data

We received 79 responses in total, with 73.8% of respondents being skatepark users, or having someone in their family who uses the skatepark. 25.3% were not skatepark users and 1.3% did not know if they had anyone in their family who uses the skatepark.

78.5% of respondents would like to see a new skatepark, 17.7% would not like to see a new skatepark, and 3.8% of respondents selected “Don’t Know”.

73.4% of respondents would use the skatepark more if it was replaced, 20.3% would not, and 6.3% selected “Don’t Know”.

57% of respondents thought installing a pump track where the BMX track is would be a good idea, 22.8% did not, and 20.3% selected “Don’t Know”.

41.8% of respondents considered replacing the half pipe and building a pump track a priority, 39.2% considered a new skatepark a priority, and 19% considered “Something Else” a priority.

Long Stratton Skatepark Consultation – Phase 1

Qualitative Data

Respondents were asked firstly what they liked about the skatepark, and then what they disliked about the skatepark.

For likes, there were a total of 8 comments of “nothing” or similar and for dislikes, there were 7 comments of “nothing” or similar.

The main thing respondents like about the skatepark is the fact it is there, as they enjoy having the facility in their town. They like that it is a free, safe, social exercise space for children and young people of all ages in a central, well-lit area of the town with cameras. Some like that it is in a fenced off area away from the main park, the smaller ramps available to use, and the sense of community that it builds – children and young people learning new skills and meeting new people.

The main things respondents dislike about the skatepark are the antisocial behaviour from some users, including smoking and drinking from older young people and intimidating younger children, graffiti and abuse from some users and the litter left around the area. Respondents also dislike the advanced ramps and lack of beginner-friendly equipment, the material the skatepark is made from, the look of the skatepark and the layout. There were also comments that the current skatepark is unsafe for use, and the entrance to the skatepark is often wet or muddy.

Respondents were then asked: “The Council are considering installing a pump track where the BMX track is, do you think this is a good idea?” and to explain their answer.

Those who selected yes commented on the following:

- The skatepark is the main thing that needs addressing, but ideally a new skatepark and pump track
- BMX users already have a suitable area
- It gives children and young people more reason to go outside
- Reduces screen time
- Gets both adults and young people outside
- There are no decent pump tracks in the local area, users have to travel around the county
- If the pump track is built with tarmac, it will have a longer life than the skatepark and be more cost effective
- Pump tracks are more accessible, and all wheels can be used on them
- A pump track would bring people in from the wider area, therefore bringing money into the town
- The current BMX track is underused and not fit for purpose, a pump track would be used frequently
- Pump tracks are popular and can be used by young people and adults
- It would benefit all ages and help the youth
- People would be more likely to use the space for its intended purpose
- A pump track is beginner and advanced friendly
- New things in the town are great to see

Long Stratton Skatepark Consultation – Phase 1

Those who selected no commented on the following:

- A skatepark would be better
- There are existing pump tracks or places to cycle
- It will not be used after a few weeks
- There are more safe spaces to use bikes in comparison to places where people can skate without trespassing
- A mini ramp in the skatepark is more important
- It will get vandalised
- It will get used by dog owners
- It encourages teenagers to cause trouble
- Risk of broken bones
- The current MBX track is used for drinking and smoking rather than for its intended purpose
- There is a lot of litter frequently left around the current BMX track
- The cost of replacing and maintaining would be a waste of money
- A pump track would only benefit BMX users
- The BMX track should be turned into a dog area and the current skatepark should be made into a pump track
- The space should be used for young families, too

Those who selected yes commented on the following:

- Not BMX users and therefore no relevance
- A pump track takes up a lot of space and the skatepark is more important
- If it is replacing the dirt tracks then yes, but not the skatepark
- We already have a bike track, a wheel park while have a broad use
- The more amenities available for young people the better
- 5 respondents did not know what a pump track is

Respondents who selected “Something Else” under the question “What would you consider a priority?” were asked to explain their answer:

- Remove the skatepark and use the whole area (skatepark and BMX track) to build a concrete pump track
- There were many comments about wanting an enclosed dog area instead of the BMX track
- Plaza style skatepark and pump track – material needs to be very smooth concrete
- Concept designs need updating, there needs to be more space (skatepark)
- Both a pump track and a skatepark would be good if the budget allows
- Swimming pool
- The facilities have been abused for many years and the cost of replacing them would be better spent elsewhere
- Would rather have a cycle path around the ground

Long Stratton Skatepark Consultation – Phase 1

Other comments:

- Many mentions of wanting a dog area/park
- The park has only one disabled access item and needs to be made more accessible for disabled children as they are currently excluded
- The skatepark and BMX track are not fit for purpose, some users travel elsewhere to use better facilities
- Better pathway lighting is needed
- The path would work better if it circled around the entire park in one loop
- Enforcing keeping dogs off the playing field and enclosed areas
- Will it be expanded? What's going to happen? When will it open?
- It will be good for children and young people, especially teenagers, to have a space like this
- The new park isn't great for smaller children
- Swimming pool
- Concrete must be used as the material for a new skatepark
- Use reputable skatepark companies and pump track builders