FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
PRESS RELEASE

January 15, 2019

Work underway on new Wisbech Skate Park

Scooter users, skateboarders and BMXers in Wisbech can soon enjoy a new home as work on the town’s much-anticipated new skate park gets underway.

It is hoped the £75,000 facility in Bath Road, Waterlees, will be completed next month.

This week, town and district councillors met on site with the contractor and Fenland District Council’s open spaces team to see the good progress being made, and officially receive a £30,000 grant towards the project from Clarion Futures, the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group.

District Councillors Virginia and Michael Bucknor, who represent the Waterlees Village ward, have been championing support for an improved skate park for several years. The old skate park in Bath Road had reached the end of its useful life and was removed last year due to safety concerns.

Since then Fenland District Council, Wisbech Town Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Clarion Futures have been working with residents and the ward’s Oasis Community Centre to help develop and fund the new skate park.

A community group was set up and consultation launched to ask residents what features they’d like to see in the new facility and feedback received helped to shape its design.

In addition to the grant from Clarion Futures, other key funding for the project has come from Section 106 contributions and Fenland District Council support.

Councillor Peter Murphy, Fenland District Council’s portfolio holder for environment, said: “Over the next few months we will see the creation of a fantastic new facility that will give the scooter users, skateboarders and the BMXers of Wisbech a new place to enjoy their sport.

“There has been a considerable amount of community support for this project and it’s been great to see a number of organisations and individuals working together to push it along. I also think it’s wonderful that the young people who will use the park have been involved in the final design.”

Matt Parsonage, Head of Communities at Clarion Futures, said: “We are delighted to be supporting a project that has been led by the community and will give so much back to local people. Clarion Futures exists to provide new opportunities for our residents and we’re certain the new skate park will benefit residents for many years to come.”

Councillor Laura Cobb, one of the councillors who represents the Waterlees ward on Wisbech Town Council, said: “Since becoming a town councillor in September 2017 I have worked with Wisbech Town Council, Fenland District Council and other partners to achieve the replacement of the skate park at Bath Road.”
“One of the reasons I stood to become a member of the town council was to try to achieve improvements to youth facilities on the Waterlees ward and to get the children what they want, need and deserve. I am over the moon a start has been made on this project and look forward to seeing it completed, along with further work on the ward in particular and the town in general.

“The delivery of this project shows what can be achieved where there is a will and desire among partner agencies to work together to address a community need. I know that my pleasure in seeing this much-needed facility being provided for the young people of Wisbech is shared by Wisbech Town Council as a whole.”

Fenland District Council's open spaces team will provide expertise to help build the new facility, alongside the engineering team, and will maintain the skate park once it is finished.

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226