

Ref: FOI / 6071

20<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Urban Skate Park**

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

### **1. When and how consultation took place?**

- For the Beechwood Skate Park, Public consultation letters were delivered to local residents on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Please see link provided below.
- For Ballycolman Play Park and Skate Park; A public consultation event took place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in the Melvin Sports Centre, from 11-am until 2pm and 6pm until 9pm. letters were delivered to local residents, and the event was publicised in local papers and on social media. Please see link provided below.
- For Strabane Skate Park and Greenway: A public consultation event took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October from 10:30-9:00 in the Melvin Sports Centre, the event was publicised in Local Papers and on social media. Please see link provide below.

### **2. Who was invited?**

Public engagement events are open to anyone who wishes to the attend, including and not limited to, the general public, local stakeholders and Elected Representatives. The events were publicised in Local Papers, and on social media and localised letter drops. Each event was presented at ER Committee seeking approval prior to each event taking place. A Copy of these reports are contained within this FOI.

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### 3. What feedback was received?

- For Feedback from Beechwood consultation exercise (15<sup>th</sup> March 2023): see link ER Committee item **ER107/23**:

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=187&MID=2107#A134824>

- For feedback from Ballycolman Event (04/11/24): See link to ER Committee item **ER221/24**, for consultation report.

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=187&MId=2232&Ver=4>

- For feedback from recent Ballycoman Event (28/10/25) the consultation report pending.

### 4. Whether it influenced decisions?

Consultation feedback reports are presented to ER Committee to advise Members, feedback is taken on board when decisions are made and can also result in design amendments.

### 5. Timeline on this project, when concept, design, consultation, and procurement steps occurred.

- At ER Committee November 2021 it was agreed to undertake a feasibility study into the provision of a Skate Park facility in the Sperrin/Derg area (ER320/21).
- At ER Committee December 2021 (**ER320/21 & ER355/21**) request for a feasibility study for a skate park facility:  
<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/mgAi.aspx?ID=29745>
- At ER Committee in January 2023 Members recommended that Council Officers progress with (a) resident engagement process for the Beechmount

Avenue option: (b) continue with exploring the potential of the SAFC site **(ER26/23 Confidential Business)**.

- At ER Committee Members endorsed Beechmount Avenue as the preferred site for the development of a Skate Park facility based on the majority support received from the resident engagement process **(ER107/23)**.

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=187&MID=2107#AI34824>

- At ER Committee 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Officers identified a potential new site for the urban park at Melvin, and moved from the proposed site at Beechmount Avenue

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/mgAi.aspx?ID=39461>

- A Public consultation took place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in Melvin Sports Complex from 11am until 2pm and 6pm until 9pm.
- ER Committee September 2024 **(ER221/24)** updating Members on the feedback from the public consultation. Members also approved design development for the Skate Park and allocated £20,000 to develop a facility to Design Stage – RIBA 4 so that (a) costings can be commissioned (b) a planning application lodged and (c) business cases be prepared to secure external funding to construct the facility.

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=189&MID=2299#AI39162>

- Tender for a skate park designer was issued March 2025, following tender assessments Curve Studios were successful and appointed in April 2025.
- A Draft Skate Park design was endorsed at ER Committee October 2025 (ER222/25).

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=187&MID=2369#AI42410>

- Public Consultation took Place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October in the Melvin Sports Centre from 10:30 am to 9:00 pm. A consultation report will be brought back to E&R committee in due course.

## **6. Copy of consultation policy**

Council do not have a consultation policy for this activity

## **7. Clarification on whether any contracts, funding commitments, or planning applications have already been made.**

- £20,000 has been allocated from Council budgets (**ER221/24**) for design development. No other funding has been secured for the Skate Park.
- One contract has been issued for a Skate Park designers (Curve Studios) and two surveys have been commissioned to date (i) Topographic Survey for the skate park site and (ii) Preliminary Ecological Appraisal/Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening/Bat Survey/Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan for the skate park and proposed greenway at Melvin
- No planning applications have been submitted for the Skate Park to date.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie  
Chief Executive  
Derry City and Strabane District Council  
98 Strand Road  
Derry BT48 7NN

Tel: 028 71253253 or email: [john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com](mailto:john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com)

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

**Colin Kennedy**

**Natural Environment Regeneration Manager**