



PRESS RELEASE

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VICTORIA PARK RECEIVES GRANT FROM GREENHAM COMMON TRUST AND THE PLAYBUILDER SCHEME

Victoria Park could have a new play area and skate park thanks to £200,000 grants from Greenham Common Trust and government sponsored schemes Playbuilder Scheme and Aiming High.

Newbury Town Council's plans for new state of the art play area and skateboard equipment for Victoria Park are a step nearer reality thanks to a £200,000 boost from Greenham Common Trust, Playbuilder Scheme and Aiming High.

The existing playground, skate park and tennis courts are outdated and in poor condition. Following consultation with parents, children, the Friends of Victoria Park and the skate park user group, the Town Council's Victoria Park Working Group is now proposing exciting modern replacements which will benefit the whole community.

Most of the play surfaces will soon need replacing and the perimeter fencing is regularly being repaired due to vandalism. The Town Council recommended that a new outdoor play facility be built which catered for three age groups: 0-7 years, 7-13 years and 13 years and above, as well as disabled users. To meet the needs of skateboarders and BMX stunt riders and to avoid the constant need to repair the current steel structure, a below-ground, state of the art concrete skate park has been recommended.

The new £174,000 play area may include a mega tower with climbing pole and wall, tube slide and deck, a dedicated toddler play area with sand pit and a 30m aerial runway, trampoline and basket swing. There will also be an outdoor gym area with a full range of equipment including air skier, rowing machine, cross trainers, leg presses and physiotherapy Tai Chi spinners.

- The Town Council has already secured £50,000 from the Playbuilder scheme (a government grant distributed through West Berkshire Council) and £50,000 from

Aiming High (a DCSF and Department of Health sponsored project) to provide more play provision for disabled children and their families) towards the estimated £384,000 cost of the new skate park and playground. Now Greenham Common Trust has also announced it will give up to £100,000 towards the projects, leaving a shortfall of £184,000.

Newbury Town Council's spokesman for Victoria Park David Allen said: "It is wonderful news we have managed to secure funding from Playbuilder and now Greenham Common Trust. We intend to apply to the Public Works Loan Board for the remainder of the money and we can start these exciting new community projects for Victoria Park. Newbury Town Council is committed to making considerable improvements to Victoria Park."

The Town Council hopes that having the majority of the skate park development below ground level will minimise any visual obstruction. The concrete structure is much easier to maintain and considerably quieter than the existing steel structure.

The new skate park would be located on the original site although it is approximately 10metres longer and 5m wider. If the skate park project goes ahead it will also open up opportunities for local skate park users to compete in regional and national competitions.

Greenham Common Trust chief executive Stuart Tagg said: "These two exciting projects will benefit local residents and attract families from around the district to visit Newbury's premiere green space."

The new play area and skate park are being considered independently of any other project on the park.

It is hoped that if the further funding can be secured work can begin on the new play area and skate park later this year.

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