

# Anstruther Skatepark Group, May 2022

## Background Information

The Anstruther Skatepark group is a community group consisting of young people aged 12 – 18 and adults from the Anstruther area. The voluntary group formed in January 2021, with local young people and adults who aim to develop a new dedicated facility for skateboards, BMX, scooters, in-line/quad skates and more in Anstruther but serving the whole East Neuk. There have been previous attempts to create facilities in the area over the years that have not been successful or the facilities poorly constructed and temporary. Young people identified the need for safe local facilities during the lockdown periods as they were unable to access skateparks they usually travel to out with the East Neuk. The group would like to develop a safer space to meet as they often skate in local car parks or on roads.

Anstruther Skategroup has met regularly as a group over the last year, initially online throughout the pandemic, then in person to deliver the following activities:

- We carried out an online survey in December 2021 that was completed by 141 people indicating local support for the idea.
- We set up social media pages on Facebook and Instagram which we invited community members of all ages to join via local East Neuk online community forums (e.g. Anstruther Primary School Parents Group, East Neuk Community Information and Chat, Protecting Anstruther, Cellardyke and Kilrenny).
- We put together a presentation of our plans and the results from the online survey which our young people presented to the Anstruther, Cellardyke and Kilrenny Community Council, and The Murray Library Trust.
- We spoke to Fife Council Community Education Workers, Youth workers and the AIA Community Development Worker and gained their support to help the younger members of the community take forward their ideas.
- We spoke to the Bankie Park Development Group about their experience to fundraise and develop the popular park facilities there.
- We researched the previous community consultation delivered by Bankie Park Development Group and found evidence that there was much community support for a Skatepark in Anstruther.
- We keep in regular contact with Dreelside Park Upgrade Group who have successfully raised over £100,000 and we are aware of their imminent plans to update the dated facilities at Dreelside Park.
- We formally constituted our group in May 2021 creating a committee that enables our young people to take an active lead in the committee and group decision making with the support of Adults.
- We have been in touch with Scottish skatepark design companies to find out more about the costs involved and ways to build a more environmentally friendly low carbon skate facility.
- We have been in touch with Spider Park in St Andrews who are going through the process of developing a skatepark and we are learning from their experience of working with the community and Fife Council.

- We have held joint meetings with Dunfermline and Spider Park groups to investigate Low-Carbon construction methods for skateparks and raised this with Fife Council.
- We have spoken to our teachers and staff at Waid Academy about our group and getting involved in a proposed development in our local community.
- We made a short film which was put together by local filmmaker Bill Bruce, Different Video. This was screened at Anster Cinema and shared online in February 2022.
- We are building links and meeting with representatives of Fife Council who have project management experience building skateparks in other areas of Fife. We are grateful that Fife Council have agreed to advise us on what is required for a project of this scale and support us take forward the project to get permission in place, project manage the build and maintain the finished skatepark as a community facility. (Working closely with Fife Council and their agreement to maintain a facility is required as a condition to secure funding from most large funding bodies.)

## Community Events

To date we have held two public community events to raise awareness of our group and encourage members of the community to get involved. We made our own promotional posters, and these were displayed locally around Anstruther and on shared on social media pages:

- Anstruther Skate Jam at Bankie Park in November 2021 (70 people attended)
- Skate Film Takeover event at Anster Cinema, Dreel Halls in February 2022 (25 people attended)

## Fundraising

With the encouragement of our local Community Council and a group of supportive adults we started to apply for funding to reach our target of £150,000. We applied to Silverdykes Liaison Committee Section 75 funds and successfully received £29,000, and an additional £1,000 from Fife Council.

Our young people have phoned and written to local smaller funders too and secured funding from The Murray Library Trust of £750. We have started setting up a CrowdFunder campaign in the spring to allow local people to contribute as well.

With the support of local councillors we were awarded £20,000 at North East Fife Area Committee in March 22 for a Skatepark in the East Neuk. There a number of other local funders who have pledged support once a site has been agreed.

With £50750 secured so far we are now looking to the larger funders such as Fife Environment Trust Sports Lottery to reach our goal but this will only be reached with local support. A Crowd funding drive will take place in the summer to boost awareness, support funding bids and increase funds.

## Community Consultation

At the beginning of our project in December 2021 (during the first lockdown of the Coronavirus pandemic) we carried out an online only survey which was completed by 141 people indicating initial local support for the idea to build a skatepark in Anstruther. We created a [presentation](#) to share information about our ideas and the results of the survey on social media through a [SWAY](#) and presented the results to the Anstruther, Cellardyke and Kilrenny Community Council (8<sup>th</sup> Feb 21) and the Murray Library Trust (March 21).

Our young people were supported to deliver a community consultation and discuss the ideas with their peers at The Waid Academy, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022. We surveyed 67 young people during their lunch break with support of the FC Community Education Worker and AIA Community Development Worker.

We are interested in gathering the views of the wider Anstruther and East Neuk community to include as many stakeholders as possible to identify the most suitable location for a new Skatepark facility. Local responses and concerns will be taken into consideration to inform future development plans and shape the new facility according to potential user and residents' needs. Our consultation will evidence if there is a community need for safe and accessible local skate facilities for the younger members of our community and visitors to the area.

## **Anstruther Skatepark Group Community Survey**

The survey will take place from Monday, 23 May, until Monday, 13 June 2022. We aim to conduct the community survey to inform our project plans and take the results into account, reporting the results back to the community in due course. Please bear in mind that we are a group of young people and volunteers, we are not experts in this area and have limited resources as a voluntary community group.

The survey can be completed in person at our Community Consultation and Information Meetings:

- Wednesday 25 May, 6:30-8:30pm, Cellardyke Town Hall
- Friday, 27 May, 2-4pm, Dreel Halls
- Saturday, 11 June, 2-4pm, Co-op
- Sunday, 12 June, 2-4pm, Co-op

Support will be provided on these dates to assist all abilities complete the survey on paper copy, phones, tablet or laptops.

### **The survey can be completed online via:**

Click link on Social media: Anstruther Skatepark Facebook page, Anstruther Skatepark Instagram page, Anstruther Skatepark [linktr.ee](https://linktr.ee).

We will ask for links to be circulated and shared by local organisations, to key stakeholder community groups including (but not limited to) – Anstruther Info, Anstruther Primary School Parents App, Waid Academy Parents App, Bankie Park and Keep Bankie Park Green Groups, Dreelside Park Upgrade Group, Anstruther Tennis Club, Anstruther Primary School Parents Group, Anstruther Bowling Club, Anstruther Allotments group, Dreelside Woods group. We will also contact local church groups, East Neuk Frail and Elderly group, local care homes and East Neuk Foodbank.

### **Information about the survey:**

Information about the community survey can be accessed via:

- A poster with a scannable QR code link will be displayed at the Anstruther Co-op and other local businesses willing to display, on public notice boards at outdoor sites around Anstruther, Cellardyke and Kilrenny. If possible, also further afield at other East Neuk Villages – Crail, St Monans, Pittenweem.

- A flyer with QR code and information on where to collect paper version/email contact details will also be hand delivered to properties in the immediate surrounding vicinity of potential development sites (e.g. houses surrounding or overlooking local parks and greenspaces)
- Paper copies for people who are not online can be collected from and returned to: The East Neuk Centre and the The Library