**Skatepark Liaison Committee meeting 23rd February 2023, at 7.30pm in Anstruther Town Hall.**

**Minutes.**

**Present** : Andrew Peddie ( Chair ), Martin Dibley ( minutes ), Cllr Sean Dillon, Cllr Altcia Hayes, Murray Scott, Bjorn Lie, EllisJaffrey, Lindsey McKinstray, Ben Black, Alan Ballany, Janice Fyall, Sarah Hughes.

**Apologies**: Alan Nairn, Sarah Rogerson, Alice Hall.

Andy opened the meeting saying that the Anstruther Skatepark Group and Keep Bankie park green group would be given five minutes each to make a statement and then there would be a secret vote adjudicated by the two councillors present. Prior to the meeting Andy had received a number of votes via e-mail and Martin had received a vote on behalf of the bowling club. These were passed to the Councillors:

**Anstruther Skatepark Group:**

*This has been a really useful process that has covered all the key issues to enable us as a group to make an informed decision on the best location of a skatepark in our community. We are very grateful for everyone's time and effort.*

*The evidence we have gathered points to Waid being an overall uncertain, very costly, and very time-consuming prospect, and one that is significantly less appealing to the skatepark’s target audience - young beginner skaters. Bankie Park on the other hand is none of these things. Bankie Park came in 1st place in the community consultation survey, Bankie Park was also considered the most suitable site by Fife Council’s SWOT analysis and at the Waid School consultation event.*

*The main success criteria for a facility such as a skatepark is usage. Nobody wants to be responsible for building a facility that demonstrates poor return on investment, and funders will look carefully at what numbers a facility may attract. The consultation survey demonstrated clearly that a facility in Bankie would be used four times more than one located at Waid.*

*Considering this evidence, and all other evidence presented by all groups at these meetings, the skatepark group is convinced that Bankie Park is the most suitable location.*

*I’d now like to read you some statements from the young members of Anstruther Skatepark Group.*

*"Bankie park is the most central and allows those who are younger in our community easy access to try skateboarding. The park also has a lot of space to offer and has already got younger play equipment in place. The skatepark just enhances its ability to bring everyone in the community together."*

*"Bankie is the best location as it's the biggest, most popular park with plenty of space. Its central location makes it safe for young people to use."*

*"As Bankie is in the centre of Anstruther it is a great meeting place for a skate session, and would add to the liveliness of the park, with many more young people playing in it. Due to more people being in the park it makes it a safer place to skate, rather than out the back of Anstruther where there is less chance of someone seeing if you get hurt whilst skating."*

*Regardless of the result this evening, we are committed to engaging with the community on placement of the skatepark within the chosen location, and the design of the skatepark. By listening to and discussing the community’s views on these topics, we are confident we can appropriately place the skatepark, and create a design that delivers a truly unique facility that is of lasting benefit to the young people of Anstruther and surrounding areas.*

Thanks for your time and effort, we really appreciate it.

**Keep Bankie Park Green:**

*KBPG group has always maintained their aim is to keep Bankie Park Green.*

*We absolutely welcome and support a skatepark for the community and commend the young people involved.*

*We believe that Bankie Park should remain the community’s largest area of green grass space for all the reasons so many fought for before and continued use of the whole community, regardless of age.*

*We have never been opposed to a skatepark, following this process we maintain the other viable sites would be less dividing for our community.*

*We have expressed our concerns regarding this whole process.*

*We have expressed our concerns about this stakeholder process.*

*We will continue to advocate for Bankie Park to stay Green, so the whole of our community can enjoy the benefits of green grass space.*

**The residents:**

*As a resident it’s been very hard to go through this. We have felt underrepresented and not listened to or consulted during this entire process.*

*We all want a skatepark in the East Neuk and would fully support one but not in Bankie Park.*

*We as a group and I personally as a kbpg member for many years believe the park should stay green.*

*It’s been extremely frustrating and we as a group are unhappy and angry with the whole process, it was flawed and there were no facts, no information, visuals and no evidence and clarity required.*

*The entire thing has been utterly disgusting; it’s dividing the community and it is toxic living here right now.*

*I want it noted in the minutes that I am only here to vote as I was forced to do so. I have duty as part of the stakeholders group as I have the responsibility to vote on behalf of the residents. But both myself and the residents are not happy and we want that officially noted. We are disgusted at the whole process and we all believe it to be flawed, rushed, withholding information and it’s not been done properly”*

*We will continue to fight to keep Bankie park green*

**Following these statements**  the votes were adjudicated by the Councillors. One was deemed void as it did not state a clear preference.

The Representative of Anstruther Primary School Parent Council abstained as their view was there was a lack of time for full consultation.

**Therefore the votes cast were announced at Seven for Bankie Park and four for Waid Academy.**

Andy thanked everyone for attending and stated that the community Council would debate this issue at its next meeting on 13th March.

The meeting was closed at 8pm