



To: South Area Committee
Report by: Asset Manager - Streets and Open Spaces
Wards affected: Trumpington

A Review of Consultation completed on the 'Accordia' Junior Scooter Track

1. Executive summary

1.1 South Area Committee, on the 13th January 2014 approved a project for the creation of a Trim Trail and Scooter Park at the Accordia development off Brooklands Avenue.

1.2 At a previous South Area Committee Open Forum, members of the public had queried progress on the scooter park element of the approved project.

1.3 It was also been stated at the Open Forum, that children on the Accordia Estate wanted somewhere safe to play and there have been concerns raised regarding traffic and road safety as many children played in the road, riding scooters.

1.4 It was agreed on the 23rd June at South Area Committee that a further consultation would be undertaken so that residents could have their input on specific design proposals for the scooter facility and therefore establish whether or not there was support for the scooter track.

1.5 This report summarises and responds to the consultation comments received.

1.6 The report recommends that the project continues to be progressed and developed.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The South Area Committee Chair is asked to approved the continuation of project PR032e – Accordia Trim Trail and Scooter Park, which is included on the Council's Capital & Revenue Project Plan.

2.2 And that the total cost of the scooter park project remains at £30,000 which is funded from developer contributions.

3. Background

3.1 South Area Committee, on the 13th January 2014 approved a project, after considering the Urban Growth Manager's report on Devolved Decision-making and Developer Contributions: 2nd Round Priority-Setting which included for a Trim Trail and Scooter Park at the Accordia development.

3.2 This project has been raised and supported by local residents' who requested the project and supported it , with expressions of concerns over the lack of a safe area for local young children to use their scooters in.

3.3 At the South Area Committee on the 23rd June, 2014, it was reported to Councillors by Officers' that further consultation would be undertaken so that residents could have their input on specific design proposals for the scooter facility and to establish whether or not there was continued support for the scooter park.

3.4 As a consequence of this commitment, an online consultation was hosted on the City Council's website and it ran from 26th August until the 17th November 2014.

3.5 This online consultation was supplemented by a paper based questionnaire, and this was circulated to addresses within the Accordia development.

3.6 A public drop in session was held on the 1st November from 10am to 12 noon, at the County Bowls Club on Brooklands Avenue, where Officers' outlined the proposed designs. The session was intended to allow the opportunity for questions, prior to completing the questionnaire. This session was attended by approximately 35 people.

3.7 Officers' using the consultation sought views on two sites with four options. Appendix A details the two locations considered.

3.8 The consultation was intended to give respondents the opportunity to say whether or not they support the plans associated with the proposed scooter park and to comment on the four design options. These are detailed in Appendix B

3.9 A copy of the consultation paper is available at Appendix C.

3.10 There are 87 responses received to the consultation. The total number of properties at Accordia is approximately 390 and this roughly calculates out at a 22 % response rate.

3.10.1 of the 87 responses received:-
47 supported the need for a junior scooter facility;
33 did not support the need for a junior scooter facility; &
7 were unsure.

3.11 As a consequence of the consultation and having given the responses consideration, Officers' now have a better understanding as to whether or not the junior scooter facility is supported.

3.12 Those respondents who did not support the junior scooter facility cited the following reasons. Officers' response is in italics directly below:-

3.12.1 It is not needed and would be better elsewhere:
There is an established use of scooters on the Accordia development, as expressed and stated by those that raised the project. There is also ongoing evidence of use of scooters from the Children and Young People Participation Service who conduct regular activities and workshops on site. Officers' have considered a range of locations and believe linking the scooter park to an existing play area is the most effective use of available land.

3.12.2 Limited demand once publicity has died down; children only use scooters for limited time and most children are now older:
There is evidence that there is continued use of scooters in the immediate area. The use of scooters is not new and considered to be over 20 years old (Micro scooter since 1996), growing in use and considered an established pass time for pre-teens.

3.12.3 There should be no more building on Accordia, there is a preservation order on Accordia, and an Article 4:

Planning advice received during project feasibility is as follows:-

Under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended), Part 12, Development by Local Planning Authorities, Class A.

Development is permitted for the erection or construction and the maintenance, improvement or other alteration by a local authority or by an urban development corporation of:

(a) any small building, works or equipment on land belonging to or maintained by them required for the purposes of any function exercised by them on that land otherwise than as statutory undertakers;

(b) lamp standards, information kiosks, passenger shelters, public shelters and seats, telephone boxes, fire alarms, public drinking fountains, horse troughs, refuse bins or baskets, barriers for the control of people waiting to enter public service vehicles, electric vehicle charging points and any associated infrastructure, and similar structures or works required in connection with the operation of any public service administered by them.

If the local authority maintain the land otherwise than as statutory undertakers, then planning permission is not required.

The Accordia development is governed by an article 4 which means a planning application may be required for development that would otherwise have been permitted development. Advice received indicates this only relates to housing and dwelling adaptations.

- 3.12.4 The facility will attract young adults and vandalism; it will add to noise disturbance and bring Anti-Social Behaviour:
These are legitimate concerns, however previous experience and knowledge has shown that the installation of multi-use games area, skate parks & youth shelters does not increase the incidences of Anti-Social Behaviour. For example, recent similar installations at Cherry Hinton Ground and Nuns Way Recreation skate parks have not prompted an increase in Anti-Social behaviour.
- 3.12.5 Maintenance and policing will be an issue:
The aftercare and repair will be incorporated into existing play area maintenance. It is not anticipated this will increase costs or be burdensome.
- 3.12.6 Effect on the natural environment/destroy the peace and quiet/noise can disrupt wildlife:
The introduction of a scooter park is unlikely to contribute greatly to increasing any cumulative impact. The scooter park is considered by Officers' to be another play offer and therefore deemed to have minimal additional impact on an area of land with an already established use.

- 3.12.7 This moves the existing problem of skaters to a different area of Accordia, where those residents will suffer:
Officers believe the proposals overcome the concerns raised about somewhere safe to play and the concerns regarding traffic and road safety as many children play in the road riding scooters. The scooter park is considered by Officers to be another play offer and therefore deemed to have minimal additional impact on an area of land with an already established use.
- 3.12.8 Already have adequate play facilities on site for younger users which is not currently maintained or age appropriate:
Agreed, however this does not overcome the concerns raised about somewhere safe to play and the concerns regarding traffic and road safety as many children played in the road riding scooters. Officers' do not agree that it is not maintained.
- 3.12.9 Devalue the surrounding property:
Officers' are not aware of any link that would establish that an additional piece of play equipment installed into an existing play area will devalue a property value.
- 3.12.10 Concrete is not sustainable/carbon footprint lessens the green space:
Concrete is the preferred material to ensure that the project is low maintenance and therefore low cost. Concrete can be coloured. It is agreed there is a loss of open space, however this in an area designated for play.
- 3.12.11 People from outside Accordia drawn in:
Play areas are intended to support communities and extending the use to residents outside the Accordia development is justified on the basis that these are publicly accessible spaces.
- 3.12.12 Concerned at the cost and that it is too expensive;
A request for quotation exercise has been completed and all proposals are within the defined budget.
- 3.12.13 ACRA does not support this;
ACRA collectively, has not expressed a view on this proposal. Individual committee members, however, have.
- 3.12.14 There are already safe paths for scooters; Accordia site does not have enough paths for such a trail:
There are no safe paths for scooters in the Accordia development. The use of a scooter on both the footpath and the

highway is not deemed safe. The provision of a dedicated facility overcomes the use of footpaths.

- 3.12.15 Need to consider other types of play; Different type of facility needed; Need natural play instead; Appearance is not natural:
The current proposals could be coloured as in the skate park at Jesus Green. There may well be an argument for more natural play but this is outside the scope of this project and it is project is intended to address the needs of scooter users

3.13 Those respondents who supported the junior scooter facility cited the following reasons; Officers' response is in italics directly below

- 3.13.1 It's a safer place for the children to play than on the streets:
Officers' believe the proposals overcomes the concerns raised about somewhere safe to play and the concerns regarding traffic and road safety as many children played in the road riding scooters. According for ROSPA, scooters should not be used on the road. The rough surface and potholes and kerbs are not safe or the small wheels and can throw users into the ground. This is particularly dangerous in the vicinity of moving vehicles.
- 3.13.2 Good addition to existing play space:
The scooter park is considered by Officers' to be another play offer and therefore deemed to added play value to an area of land with an already established play use.
- 3.13.3 Makes it a more exciting/interesting place to play:
The scooter park is considered by Officers' to be another play offer and therefore deemed to added play value to an area of land with an already established play use.
- 3.13.4 Easier to supervise:
Officers' believe the proposals will allow close supervision and overcomes the concerns raised about somewhere safe to play and the concerns regarding traffic and road safety as many children play in the road riding scooters.
- 3.13.5 Don't believe that it will attract older children:
There will always be a change in demographics and the addition of a scooter park allows for other young people to be able to access a scooter facility.

- 3.13.6 Children would love it:
The scooter park is considered by Officers to be another play offer and therefore deemed to added play value to an area of land with an already established play use.
- 3.13.7 Can be used in winter:
The construction proposed would allow all year round use.
- 3.13.8 A progressive idea within safe limits:
Agreed, 10,000 scooters per week are sold up to Christmas.
- 3.13.9 Scooting would be less noisy in this area then on the street:
The sounds of children playing on scooters would be maintained in an already designated area of the Accordia development
- 3.13.10 Excellent for younger children:
A scooter track fits into an already established play area expanding the range of choice of pre-teens provision.
- 3.13.11 Looks great/a great idea
Modern play design makes no distinction between different types of fixed structures and placing a concrete track adjacent to metal play equipment follows this design philosophy.

3.14 Officers have read all responses to the consultation and considered the points that arose. Officers' believe all concerns have been addressed in this report.

3.14.1 There is overwhelming practical reason for this project to proceed to a full project appraisal:-

- I. Scooters are very popular and are considered a rite of passage for pre-teens – up to now there has been very little provision for this established trend within the City;
- II. According for Royal Society for the Protection of Accidents (ROSPA), scooter should not be used on the road. A scooter track would provide a safe place to play;
- III. A scooter track would give residents the opportunity to propose a legitimate location to play when scooters should not be used on narrow or crowded pavements to avoid inconveniencing others;
- IV. The practice of placing scooter parks into new developments will increase in frequency and likely to form part of the city play strategy; &

- V. Great lengths have been made to reduce the appeal of the scooter track to older children. As one resident commented: “if we dumb down the design any more we will have a blanket!” Signage will be located to signify the intended age range of the users.

4. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

A full project appraisal will be completed which will cover the financial elements of this project. The project appraisal will be considered by Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes at a later date.

(b) **Staffing Implications**

There is no staff implication associated with this project

(c) **Equality and Poverty Implications**

An equalities impact assessment has not completed at this stage.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

A climate change rating of –L is applied to indicate that the proposal has a low negative impact. The loss of open space and the use of concrete in the build have contributed to this rating.

(e) **Procurement**

A Request for Quotation exercise has been completed and the costs of this project are known. No further procurement is anticipated.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

No further consultation is anticipated. A communication plan will be developed if the project is approved at the Project Appraisal stage.

(g) **Community Safety**

Respondents to the consultation have raised concerns about the increased likelihood of anti-social behaviour associated with the Junior Scooter Park. These are legitimate concerns. Previous experience and knowledge has shown that the installation of multi-use games area, skate parks & youth shelters does not increase the incidences of Anti-Social Behaviour. Recent installations at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground of a Panna goal and skate park have not prompted an increase in Anti-Social behaviour.

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Urban Growth Manager’s report on Devolved Decision-making and Developer Contributions: 2nd Round Priority-Setting

6. Appendices

Appendix A – Location plans identifying the two sites considered

Appendix B – A summary of all responses received

Appendix C – A copy of the consultation.

7. Inspection of papers

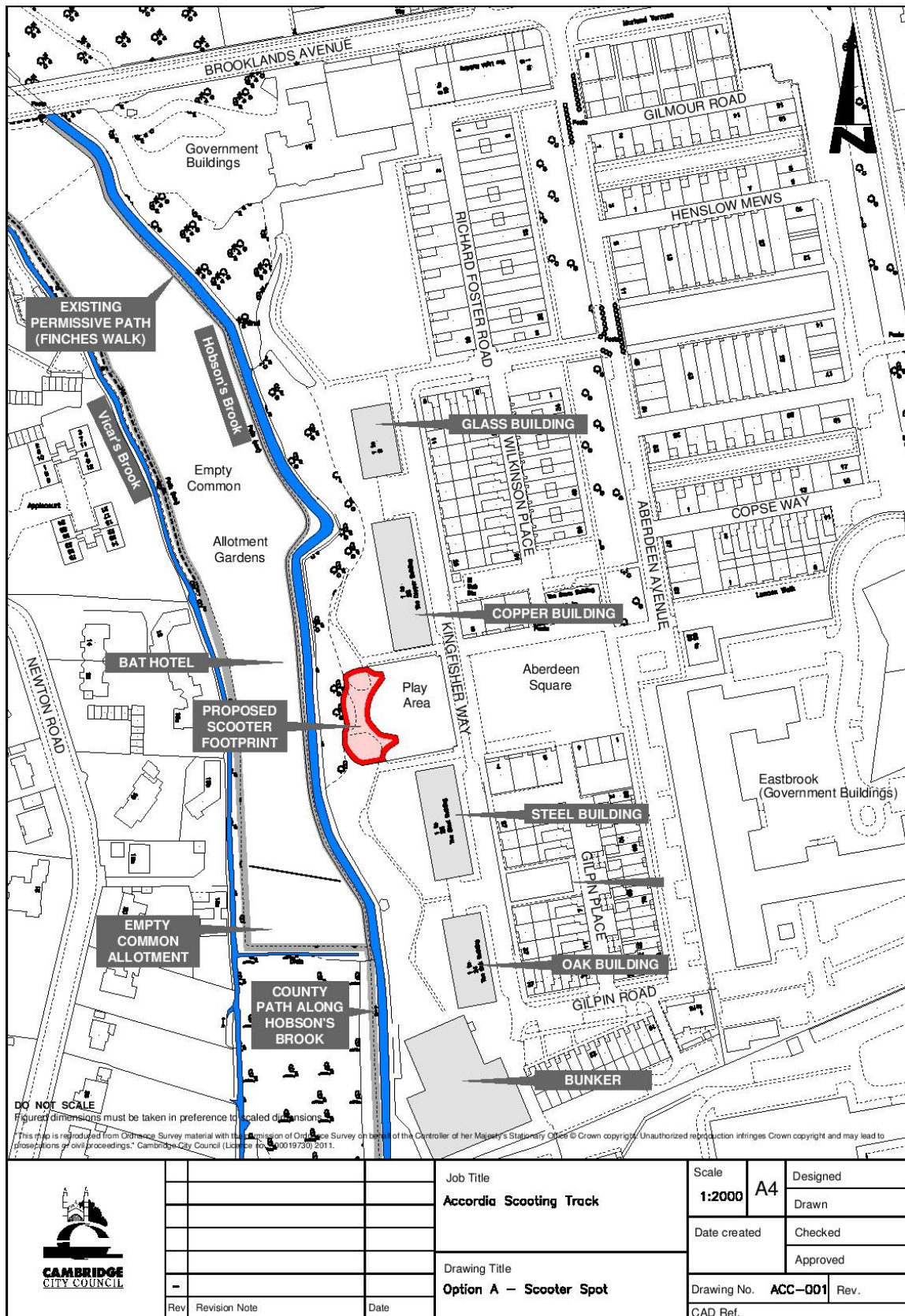
To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Alistair Wilson >

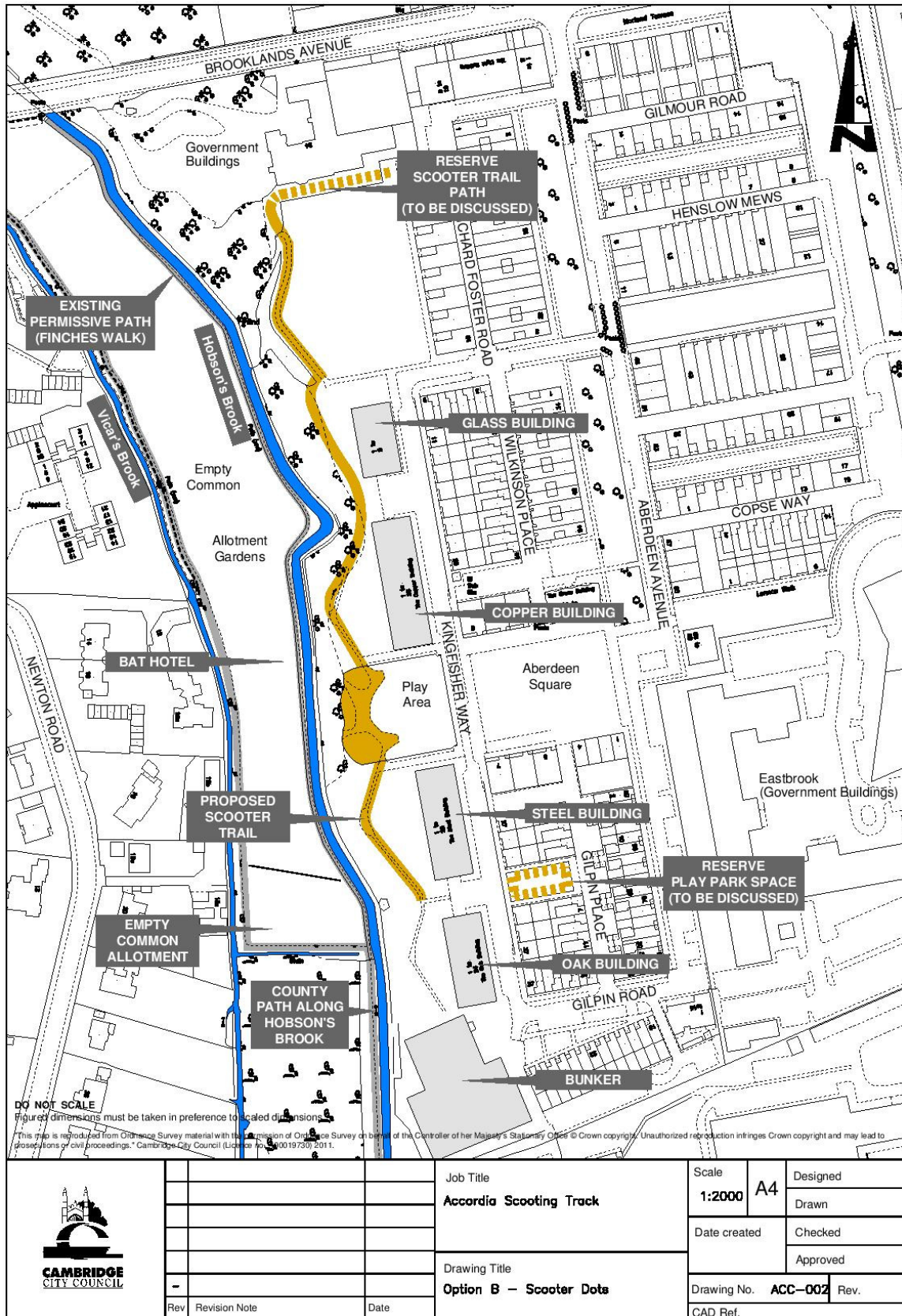
Author's Phone Number: 01223 458514

Author's Email: alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

Appendix A – Location plans identifying the two sites considered Plan 1



Appendix A – Location plans identifying the two sites considered Plan 2



Appendix B – A summary of all responses received

Comments not supporting the scooter park (these comments have been grouped for the purposes of reply in the main report)

1. Not Needed/ Would be better elsewhere/limited demand once publicity has died down
2. There should be no more building on accordia
3. Add to noise disturbance
4. Attract antisocial behaviour/Graffiti/older children/make existing problem worse
5. Maintenance and policing will be an issue
6. Effect the natural environment/distroy the piece and quiet/noise can disrupt wildlife
7. This moves the existing problem of skaters to a different area of Accordia, where those residents will suffer
8. There is a preservation order on Accordia
9. Already have adequate play facilities on site for younger users which is not currently maintained or age appropariate
10. Accra 'does not' support this
11. Devalue the surrounding property
12. Concrete is not sustainable/carbon footprint lesses the green space.
13. Alterior motive to move skateboarders away from Aberdeen Av -
-
14. In 12 months eyesore with graffiti
15. Preservation order on Accordia
16. People from outside Accordia drawn in
17. Concerned at the cost
18. No more building at Accordia with promise of extent of play equipment
19. Add to noise disturbance
20. Limited demand
21. ACRA does not support this
22. Waste of money
23. Too costly
24. Plenty of space elsewhere
25. Using existing paths creates difficulty for elderly
26. Children only use scooters for limited time and most children are now older
27. There are already safe paths for scooters
28. Need to consider other types of play
29. Low traffic flow in the area
30. Concern over maintenance
31. Appearance is not natural
32. Attraction of young adults and vandalism

33. Residential area already suffers noise and ASB
34. Should be notice displayed in the play area re: under 14s
35. Totally opposed - will destroy current peace and quiet
36. It will be noisy
37. Put elsewhere
38. Not needed/ Would be better elsewhere
39. Accordia site does not have enough paths for such a trail
40. Noisy
41. Should be for all ages
42. No longer pre-school children now
43. Facility needs policing
44. Different type of facility needed
45. Need natural play instead
46. Extra noise instead
47. A small number will use it
48. Make it harder for people with disabilities to move about
49. Not a pressing need

Comments supporting the scooter park

1. It's a safer place for the children to play then on the streets
2. Good addition to existing play space
3. Makes it a more exciting/interesting place to play
4. Easier to supervise
5. Don't believe that it will attract older children
6. Children would love it
7. Can be used in winter
8. A progressive idea
9. Scooting would be less noisy in this area then on the street.
10. excellent for younger children
11. Looks great/a great idea

Do you support the need for a junior scooter facility in the Kingfisher Way open space?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure ☐

Please use the space below to explain your answer:

You answered yes to question 1, which one of the design options is your preferred one?

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ None ☐

What is it about your preferred option that you like?

Please use the space below for any other comments or suggestions you have on the proposed facility.

Please return your completed form to us at:

Freepost RTGU-HXRA-REBZ
Asset Management

Cambridge City Council

Mill Road Depot

Mill Road

CB1 2AZ

Drop it off in the survey response box at the following address:

Accordia Supermarket
65 Aberdeen Ave
Cambridge
CB2 8DL



Kingfisher Way Open Space Junior Scooter Facility Consultation

We are interested in obtaining your views on plans to develop a junior scooter facility for children on the open space off Kingfisher Way (see location plan opposite). These plans have arisen as a result of residents' concerns over the lack of a safe area for local young children to use their scooters in. Funding for these facilities has come from developer contributions, which we have secured through the major development schemes taking place in the city.

We hope you will use this consultation opportunity to say whether or not you support the plans and to comment on the four design options outlined overleaf. Of the four options, A and C are located within the existing open space play area, and B and D make use of the existing open space wider path network but with additional trail extensions.

To respond to this consultation, please complete and return the questionnaire on the back of the form or online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FTX2MZBS>
..... using the QR code below.

The deadline for returns is **17th November 2014**



You are also invited to attend a **public consultation event on the 1st November at 10am-12am** at the Cambridge and County Bowling Club on Brooklands Avenue, where you will have the opportunity to see the four design options in full and to talk to us in person. Please confirm your attendance with the below contact details.

If you have any questions please call Declan on 01223 457000 or email parks@cambridge.gov.uk



Option

A

Small concrete scooter track within the existing play area.

This proposal is based within the existing play area and offers a smooth concrete circuit with low roll over bumps that will be fun for younger children (toddlers to preteens) but defers older users as it will lack challenge. The natural features of the site will be used where possible and excavated material reused to create the mounds.

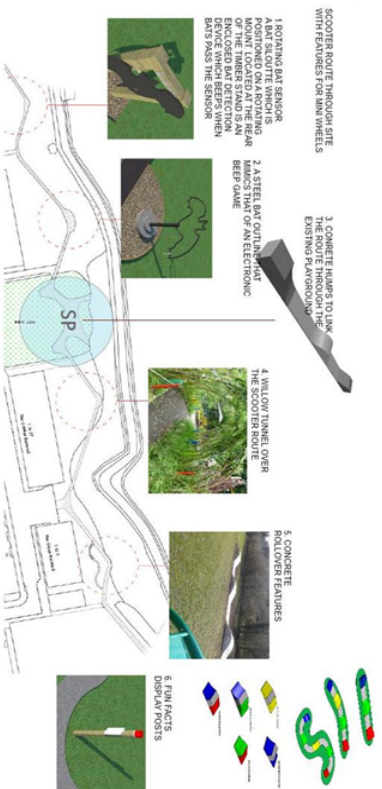


Option

B

Option B. Scooting surface provided along the existing path.

This proposal creates distinct features for scooter use over a longer route. The trail will include a willow tunnel, low roll over bumps and interactive and educational features themed around the bats in the area. The smooth concrete surface will form scooter friendly sections along the existing path.



Option

C

Small concrete scooter bowl within the existing play area.

This proposal forms a central feature with a range of transitions and surfaces for the use of scooters. It is specifically designed to suit younger users rather than to attract older children who would seek more challenging spaces.



Option

D

Scooting surface provided along sections which loop off the existing path.

This proposal forms a tarmac path linking scooting zones with features that include a sundial and butterfly shaped area all made from a range of materials including reclaimed timber, steel and concrete to compliment those materials already present on the site.

