

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT
WITH ADVICE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & RESOURCES
OF THE COUNCIL



DECISION NO: FR64**SUBJECT: PORTISHEAD SKATE PARK – LAKE GROUNDS PORTISHEAD****BACKGROUND:**

The Portishead Skatepark Project (PSP) submitted a planning application for the installation of a skatepark on part of the Lake Grounds, Portishead which, whilst refused by North Area Committee, was approved on appeal in November 2010. Having obtained planning permission on appeal the PSP have approached the Council for permission to lease part of the Lake Grounds for 25 years at a peppercorn rental in order to enable it to commence a programme of fundraising to raise the estimated £225,000 capital costs required to install the skatepark.

Full details regarding the proposal are contained within PSP's application for a lease.

Consultation has taken place with Streets & Open Spaces and with the 6 Portishead Ward Members. The majority view from the Ward Members is that the Lake Grounds was created by the former Urban District Council as a facility for the quiet enjoyment of all residents of the town and visitors and that there is concern about the threat to this principle by the demands of individual interest groups for space to be allocated to them for their own purpose. The view was that the Lake Grounds already accommodates a wide range of users and fulfils, in its current form, the above purpose and that further development would be detrimental to that purpose. It was also felt that if this lease request is approved for another use it could lead to further demands by other local organisations for dedicated use of other parts of the Lake Grounds.

In conclusion, whilst it is recognized that the Group have a genuine desire to provide a facility for this minority activity, it is considered that the Lake Grounds is not the appropriate location for it given the detrimental impact it would have on the existing use of the area.

DECISION:

That officers be instructed to respond to the application received from PSP confirming that a lease will not be granted in this instance for the reasons set out above

Reasons:

As set out above

Other Alternatives Considered:

None

Financial Implications:

None

Implications for Future Years:

None

Signed:

Director of Finance & Resources

Dated:

Signed:

(Executive Member for Human Resources, Asset Management & Finance)

Dated: