**Press Release**

**Ware Town Council - 1st July 2021**

**A NEW SKATEPARK FOR WARE**

Extra funding secured for brand-new, upgraded concrete skatepark

The site of the Ware skatepark in Priory Park was cleared earlier this year to make way for a new, purpose-built facility. The original plan had been to refurbish the skatepark that was built in 2011. However, on investigation a structural breakdown was found, and it was agreed to take down the wooden ramps and look at all options including obtaining extra funding.

Ware Town Council had allocated an amount for the project but were successful in securing an additional sum from section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This funding is for projects that deliver social and community benefits and are well managed and sustainable. A total of £150,000 is now available meaning we can deliver a concrete skatepark that includes features suitable for all ages and abilities.

To design a new park that meets the needs of the various type of users including skateboarders, BMX, and scooter riders, we have consulted with a range of partners that have been meeting weekly to discuss and plan the park including Youth Herts, Active Herts, Ware Street Crew, East Herts Youth Strategy Group and the skatepark user group. Thanks also to the advice and guidance of experts in the field like ABC Skating, XLR8 Bike School and Highway Cycles, the tender requests design elements that provide multiple uses and rideable features suited for beginners right up to advanced users. The specification is for a destination park for families, riders and spectators to appreciate with consideration to the different users within the space, such as including viewing platforms. Measures have also been proposed to lessen noise emission and minimise the opportunity for instances of anti-social behaviour. Everyone one involved in the consultation has recognized the importance of this process in giving ownership to the community.

Ware Town Council’s Finance Manager, Sean Higgins said “It has been fantastic to have such enthusiastic support from local people with this project. We look forward to finalising the design & bringing a unique and innovative skatepark to Priory Park.”

The tender document was issued to interested parties in June with a decision to be taken at the end of July. On the appointment of the successful provider, we will enter a post tender design phase and further consultation with the youth & user groups and interested community members.

Whilst it was sad to say goodbye to our old faithful skatepark that served the community well for so long, we are all excited for what is to come!

# Keep an eye on [www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk/skatepark](http://www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk/skatepark) for updates and schedules.

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For further information please contact:

Sarah Fenton, Communications & Projects Manager, Ware Town Council, Ware Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL. Tel: 01920 460316 sarah@waretowncouncil.gov.uk.