



Jersey Skatepark closure - opportunity or crisis?

Options appraisal and social case for a new skatepark for Jersey



December 2018



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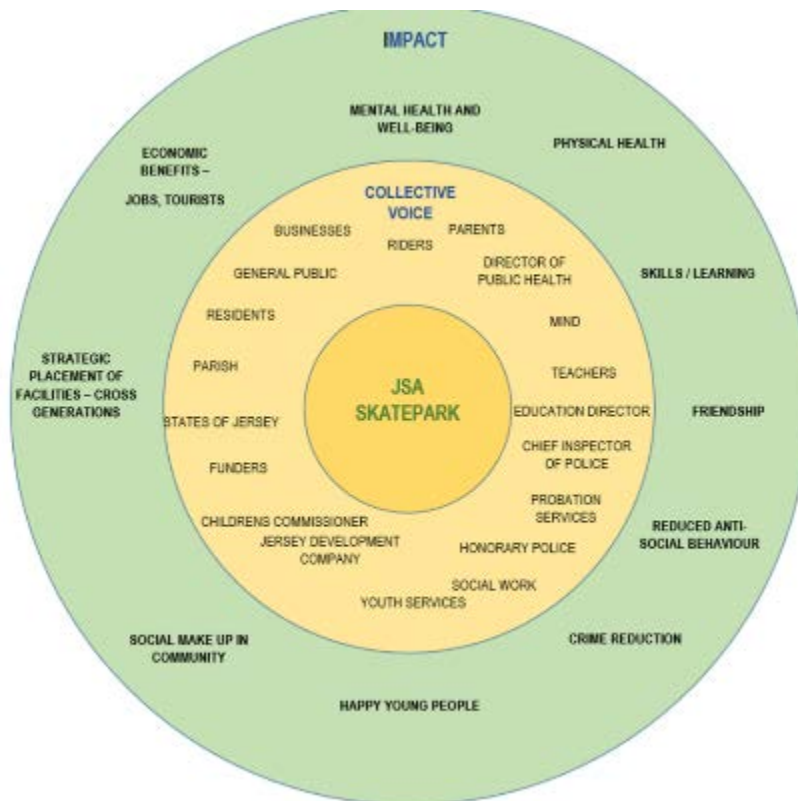
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Executive summary

- The need for a relocation of the Jersey skatepark has arisen as a result of the Ports of Jersey closing the skatepark at New North Quay in January 2018 following some antisocial behaviour outside the park. It was closed for a short period of time on safety grounds whilst considerable refurbishment works were being undertaken to nearby buildings. The anti-social behaviour was alleged to have been that of skaters.
- A public meeting was held in early February led by the then Connetable Steve Pallett¹, Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture and by political colleagues, who committed themselves in supporting the skaters and finding both an interim solution and, more importantly, a new, long-term, site.
- The skatepark was reopened under reduced hours and with increased security throughout the day until September 2018.
- Jersey Sport, utilising funds provided by the Ports of Jersey, appointed PMR to support the skate, BMX and scooter community in looking for a new site and to make the social case for a new facility.
- PMR worked with local skaters and riders and facilitated meetings which resulted in the formation of the Jersey Skateparks Association (JSA). By March 2018 this new Collective Voice of ten individuals aged between 15 and 50 came together representing skateboarding, BMX and scooters. The committee comprises *Karl Payne - Chairman, Phil Minty -Secretary, Sophie Kilpatrick, Mark Harris, Daniel Le Marquand, John Cornwall, Daco Fernandes, Phil Coleborn, Alistair Mitchel, Luka Pinto and Dillon Catney*.
- This group used social media to set out their mission to work with a range of agencies to help them obtain a new high-quality skatepark and to develop their sport in the longer term on a sporting pathway.
- The group attracted 300 members within 4 weeks of launching JSA. Jersey Sport supported the governance process for JSA to become a recognised association.
- JSA committed themselves to undertake a coaching qualification process in August 2018 through Skateboard England and to work with Jersey Youth Services and Jersey Sport to deliver coaching across the smaller parks.
- A series of consultations and community conversations took place with young people and parents across the Island - this is a sport enjoyed by young and older skaters together, and Jersey has a highly skilled skate and BMX community. They would like a modern, safe, accessible and open skatepark that everyone can enjoy - all ages together.
- Early skater statements that the campaign should be **'based on a mental health campaign not skateboarding as it would help to open people's minds to the impact that our sport can make on young people's lives'** became a common theme voiced by many young people, and yet they felt that this is not recognised by the mainstream society of Jersey.
- The social case was taken to key individuals for a response, asking them to join the Collective Voice campaign.

¹ Connetable Steve Pallett was re-elected as a Senator with effect from June 2018

- A new dimension appeared - those with influence *did understand* the impact and were prepared to work with JSA to help to achieve a new skatepark and to put their voices behind it. This was demonstrated on 4 April 2018 during a public meeting when 6 key agencies spoke on behalf of the campaign.



- The project sits within the findings of the Children's Commissioner's research, with young people speaking out about needing 'somewhere to play' and 'wanting things to do'. In addition, the SOJ Planning team is developing a new Open Space Strategy for St Helier which, through their survey work, identifies the need for more play provision in St Helier. The survey results were published in May 2018, and the strategy is to be published later this year.
- The task of identifying a suitable site was undertaken by PMR, with outline guidance from officers from SOJ departments and through discussions with JSA who had their own views on where a new skatepark should be located. Eleven sites were appraised across Jersey by PMR. These were assessed for accessibility, deliverability, likelihood of neighbour opposition, safety, legal status etc.
- From this original list, four were shortlisted by JSA with limited guidance from the Planning Policy Officers - Les Jardins de la Mer, Coronation Park, Springfield Stadium and Les Quennevais Sports Centre.
- PMR, with JSA and key supporters, made a public presentation on 4 April 2018 revealing the four shortlisted sites. From that meeting, it was clear that a central site was desirable and that Les Jardins de la Mer was the JSA's preferred site. The second most favoured site at that time was Coronation Park.

- It was agreed that some initial designs were required to help in deciding the best location as that would help planners and funders to understand the impact and potential of such a new facility.
- Glifberg Lykke, Danish specialist skatepark and urban design architects, have been commissioned, following a competitive tender process, to undertake this work. Upon their initial consultation visit, they agreed that the three selected sites were both exceptional locations for a skatepark. However, the three sites offer different design approaches and benefits to the wider sporting community. The sites are currently under design appraisal with local consultation having been undertaken with skaters, BMX riders and scooter riders in early September.
- From the design appraisal process, a preferred site location will need to be determined and agreed with stakeholders/land owners to take forward to the next stage.
- The next steps will be for the land to be secured (with the agreement of the States Assembly) and funding identified. Moving forward SOJ, Jersey Sport and JSA will work together to help ensure that this is delivered prior to the 2020 Olympics, at which Jersey hope to be supporting their own Alex Coleborn competing in freestyle BMX.

1 Introduction and background

This report has been compiled by PMR Leisure, appointed by Jersey Sport to support the development of a potential new skatepark for Jersey.

In January 2018, following some recurrent anti-social behaviour and some vandalism close to the skatepark at New North Quay, the Ports of Jersey, believing it to have been caused by local skaters, took the decision to close the park on safety grounds.

As a result of this closure, the skating community raised concerns to States Members, reaching out through social media and the written press to try and understand what had happened. They expressed their concerns that this was not vandalism caused by skaters and that they were looking for support and an explanation as to what would happen to these facilities.

A group of skaters came together and met with Jersey Sport officers to discuss the issue and identify how a challenging situation could be resolved. This meeting discussed the formation of an association (which in fact had previously existed) which could provide representation for the skate community.

The States politicians, led by Connetable Steve Pallett, and his colleagues, Deputy Andrew Lewis and Connetable Simon Crowcroft, called a public meeting to listen to the skate community to understand what the overall needs were and how this closure could be resolved with a positive outcome. This meeting was attended by over 100 skaters and parents who expressed their concerns about the impact of the closure and how important the facilities were to the community.

SOJ did, however, recognise that this facility had been open for only 10 years and had itself been part of a 6-year campaign to achieve it. This was clearly a very emotional subject for many who had been involved in such a long campaign to gain this facility over the last 15-20 years.

In discussions with Ports of Jersey, SOJ recognised that POJ were minded to eventually close the skatepark and redevelop the site. This led to a decision regarding how to temporarily keep the skatepark open while simultaneously looking for a more appropriate long-term home for the skatepark and its many riders.

It was agreed that SOJ and Jersey Sport would announce to the public meeting that direct support would be given to the skate community. This would assess the wider issue of skate facilities and bring forward a proposal which would ultimately enable the Ports to realise the site for development but more importantly provide a better site for the skaters.

The skate community at the public meeting were invited to become involved on a joint working party working with officers of SOJ and Jersey Sport to take a new site forward.

SOJ were very aware that previous campaigns were fuelled very much by the frustration of the skate community. There was a lack of understanding at the time of how the sports operated or what their needs were, let alone the social impact on young people engaged in these sports and within the culture of skateboarding.

Following the commitments made to support the skaters and take this forward jointly, it was stated that they would appoint specialists to help manage the process and develop a case for the new facility.

PMR Leisure, specialists in the field of community sport and engagement, were appointed as Project Managers with a clear twofold remit to support the skate community in the development of a new facility through the following routes:

1. Identifying a suitable site for a new skatepark in conjunction with the skaters and the wider Jersey community to ensure that any new location would provide a long-term permanent home for the recognised growing sport.
2. Development of the social case and engagement with a variety of stakeholders who could come forward and support the skate community in their mission to develop a new site and understand the value and role of these sports in the community.

The early meeting had clearly raised many expectations as to how the next stage would move forward as the skate community expected to engage directly with designers, but they needed to appreciate that the process required earlier support to identify the right site and to build their case before designers could be appointed.

The Jersey skate community is made up of the sports of skateboarding, BMX and scooter riding. The sports all use the same parks but were not part of one collective community or association which could be a voice to SOJ giving the reasons why their sports were so important to so many throughout Jersey. Important is also how these sports attracted and engaged with riders from 3-4 years old through to riders in their 40's and 50's.

The make-up of the sports made it challenging for SOJ and Jersey Sport to communicate with them as a body, so it was key that in the early stages, through the working party route, some came together to form a representative group. This would enable the development of a sounding group who would represent the wider skating community.

PMR were appointed in March 2018 with the funding provided by the Ports of Jersey to help facilitate a new skatepark for Jersey. From the outset political support from Connetable Steve Pallett and his colleagues was clear, and they wished to ensure that the skatepark was relocated to a venue that was right for the skaters and would help the sport grow – they wanted to see a world class facility in Jersey. The fact that skateboarding is in the Olympics in 2020, without doubt, gave the sport some leverage and an opportunity to present itself to a wider audience.

2 Skateboarding - why it means so much to so many in Jersey

Jersey has a 40-year history of skateboarding, it has been on a journey which, like many sports, has had peaks and troughs, but what is extraordinary about Jersey is the fact that so many of those who skated 30 years ago are still either skating, are parents of skaters, or simply follow the sport still and have become part of the campaign to ensure that skating has the right and proper facilities.

The culture in Jersey has been to 'move skaters on'. It is illegal to skate in the streets, and many facilities which had been provided were closed down after a time. It's been a transient sport but one which now sees those who grew up in the 70's and 80's skating at Belle Vue at the forefront of the campaign for new facilities and wanting to safeguard their passion and support for the next generation of skaters and riders to obtain new facilities. Having the cross-generational support for this campaign has been its signature and is one that not many sports could provide – it's unique in that all levels and all ages take part at one time on one facility, looking out for each other, helping each other with skills and tricks.

It is important as part of this work to understand the history and for others to recognise that this is not a campaign 'out of nowhere' - it's a culmination of 40 years of determination to get this sport recognised and properly provided for in Jersey.

Below lists the first insight into skateboarding in Jersey over the years and how facilities have been gained and lost across the Island

1. **1977** - Belle Vue Pleasure Park opens Belle Vue Skatepark with a concrete snake run and small bowl. ***Closed early 1980s***
2. **1988** - Skate West opens, at Les Quennevais with basic wooden ramps and eventually had a full-size vert ramp and mini ramp. Run by supportive parents. ***Closed early/mid 1990s.***
3. **1989** - Impact Sports opens in St Helier at Fort Regent, Chuck Dinkins pro skateboarder for Walker visits Jersey - national magazine coverage
4. **1989** - Grouville youth club mini ramp appears fulfilling the needs of the Gorey scene
5. **1990** - St Ouen wooden mini ramp is built at the youth club
6. **1991** - Jersey scene VIDEO Can of Beanz comes out showcasing the local talent
7. **1992** - Fort Regent installs a midi spine ramp and mini ramp constructed by RareUnit ramps UK. ***Closed after few years*** due to asbestos concerns.
8. **1993** - Aquila youth club allows Wednesday and Friday night sessions
9. **1994** - St Peters youth club acquires RareUnit ramps, a mini ramp and weekly sessions start
10. **1997** - Video At Last comes out - 'Glass Lift' was a central skate spot at the time (a public area managed by Waterfront Enterprise Board (WEB))
11. **1998** - St Ouen gain a new metal mini ramp
12. **1999** - The Works skatepark opens.

13. **2000** - Jersey's first ever rider-owned brand of skateboarding goods starts up: Subterranean Skateboards
14. **2002** - PRIMO skate shop opens
15. **2002** - CISA formed and ran by Jake Hipwell aiming for a new skatepark. Channel Islands Skateboard Association (CISA) to lead the campaign with skaters to gain a new permanent park.
16. **2004** - Blueprint team comes to Jersey for waterfront indoor (marquee) event
17. **2005** - Rendezvous skatepark opens on WEB land - next to Les Jardins de la Mer. **Closed approx. 2007**
18. **2005/06** - Group tours to Barcelona, the central Euro focus for skateboarding, with world famous spots and numerous pro riders
19. **2006** - Video 11:55 comes out, documenting Jersey riders skateboarding in Jersey and skate trips to Barcelona
20. **2007** - PRIMO closes
21. **2008** - "Pillo Wheel Gang" branded skateboarding wheels starts up supporting young talented riders
22. **2008 - New North Quay skatepark opens** as culmination of the CISA campaign. Outcome much less than promised throughout the campaign.
23. **2008** - Alex Coleborn, aged 17, BMX Rider leaves Jersey to ride due to lack of facilities to train that would enable him to progress
24. **2010** - First skate road trip to Murcia in conjunction with Los Perros skateshop, local scene kingpins introduce younger local talent to the Euro scene
25. **2011** - Second skate road trip to Murcia in conjunction with Los Perros skateshop
26. **2012** - St John skatepark opens at the Recreational Centre; small, basic, but fit for purpose – led by community group and the parish of St John. still open
27. **2013** - Glen Fox left Jersey to ride amenities that would enable him to progress.
28. **2014** - Video Conexiones comes out, featuring Jersey skateboarders who have been picked up by European skate brand 'Magenta'
29. **2015** - Millennium Town Park installs some skate equipment (no Association available to consult, poor facility combined with football goals located in the ball court in the park. Not open at all times.)
30. **2017** - Deputy Lewis put forward proposal for a new facility in St Andrews park, this was supported by the park committee, but overruled by the Parish community final vote. Further designs were also put forward for First Tower Park
31. **2018** - January **New North Quay closed** following warnings from Ports of Jersey regarding antisocial behaviour.
32. **2018** - February public meeting called by Connetable Steve Pallett promising action and look to identify a site for a new skatepark.
33. **2018** - February **New North Quay reopened with reduced hours**
34. **2018** Glen Fox becomes Jersey's first professional skateboarder
35. **2018** - Alex Coleborn selected for the 2020 British Olympic Team training programme.
36. **March 2018** – JSA formed.
37. **July 2018** - Consume skate shop opens in St Helier responding to demand for a growing sport.

2.1 Current skate facilities

Over a 40-year period there have been so many small facilities developed and then shut down that skaters have quite understandably become disenfranchised and disillusioned. In 2008 when the CISA, after 6 plus years of tireless campaigning, finally gained the New North Quay facility they had, despite it not being what they had hoped for in a concrete park, felt they had obtained a major new facility to help develop further riders of the future.

Only 10 years on, with its future now uncertain and with only 3 other small skateparks available at Millennium Park, St John and St Ouen, it is understandable that in February 2018 the Jersey skate community came out in force to the public meeting. At this meeting, the skate community asked what was happening and stated clearly that if they were to gain yet another facility, it needed to be a high-quality one that they would keep long- term.

As can be seen below each of these smaller skate spots are showing signs of good use, but also the lack of ongoing maintenance investment. Only two of the facilities - St John and St Ouen - were planned appropriately as the Millennium Park facility was placed inside and alongside an existing ball sports area and came about as a response to complainants, not in any strategically planned approach to support young people around this wider park.

2.1.1 St John skatepark

Based at St John's Recreation Centre and Youth Club and built inside unused tennis courts in 2010. It is operated by the recreation committee. This is well used by local youngsters for skateboarding, BMX and scooters who travel from all over the Island. However, its size causes some challenges when younger children wish to scoot, and older youngsters wish to ride their bikes. They all help each other, but lack of ramps means it gets very busy. It is in need of some refurbishment.





2.1.2 St Ouen mini ramp

First built in 1990 as a wooden ramp and replaced in 1998 with a metal ramp. Tiny skate spot mainly for the youth club and beginners use. It is very well used by local youngsters.



2.1.3 Millennium Park

Ramps provided in 2014 in the existing ball park caged area of the park. This facility is not ideal and causes a clash for skaters and ball players. It was put in place as a response to claims of antisocial behaviour. It is not an appropriate solution and gives both ball and skater sports less than ideal facilities.



However, what the skaters would rather be doing is skating in the actual park on the clean, smooth concrete landscape which is where they now normally skate. The park wardens are very supportive of the skaters provided that they are not upsetting or getting in the way of park users.



There is a plan for Millennium Park to be extended by 50% as part of new housing development but that is a few years away. It is hoped that when planned there will be areas of street skate furniture within the overall park design.

2.1.4 The existing main St Helier skatepark - New North Quay

This facility was built in 2008 and was intended to be semi-covered. The park itself was planned to have been concrete. Neither of these plans materialised. This was due in part to lack of funding but also due to the lack of connectivity between the CISA and WEB who were the final developers of the site. Skateparks are specialist facilities and the skate community, like any other sport, would need to be involved with any development of facilities for their sport.

The park has been very well used and was previously open 9am - 9pm every day and has floodlights. However, as can be seen, the facility is in the middle of the main haulage road to the main Port and close to car parks to access the Marina so is busy with traffic. It also has razor wire around sections of the fence. For those who have never been to the facility but may wish their children to learn to skate the facility, in such an environment with the razor wire, does not look that inviting to a beginner. However, without doubt, this has become a major attraction and home to a huge number of children and older skaters who have loved this facility. Jersey Youth Services previously ran a café and undertook street work there and understand how important the culture - and belonging to the skate scene - has been to so many young people on the Island.

From January to July the park has operated on reduced opening hours which has caused a lot of pressure on St John skatepark and potentially increased the amount of illegal skateboarding and BMX riding in the streets and car park.





3 Making the case for a new skatepark

3.1 What does the Jersey skate culture look like?

To enable SOJ and Jersey Sport to support the skate community they needed to understand more about the sport, how it operates and who supports it.

Skateboarding operates in Jersey similarly to elsewhere - within its 'own culture', is not formalised in its regularity and is in its nature a 'free sport' (in all senses of the word), so skaters choose when to and when not to take part and who with. To those who take part, it is full of free expression and identity, it allows a person to be themselves and only they are in control of the tricks they achieve. To many it's not a sport it's a way of life.

It is this lack of formality and conformity to the norms of sport which attracts so many to it. Those within the sport will say it's very inclusive and open to everyone, they support each other and help young skaters just starting out. Respect for older skaters is given, and young skaters learn from watching them try tricks repeatedly. It's a sport which has highly talented and highly skilled athletes within it. They are resilient and use a 'practice makes perfect' attitude toward getting complicated tricks right. They applaud each other's successes and reinforce positive attitudes towards each other, where this is often not being given elsewhere.

Skaters are seen by many as 'on the edge', radical, non-conformists, even troublemakers but in fact, like any other sport they work hard to perfect skills and tricks, skate regularly and keep fit (you never see an overweight skateboarder) to enable them to perform at the level they do. They wear their own kits like other sports - it identifies them through the brands they wear – the shoes are specialist, the boards are designed for different levels of skill, as with bikes, hockey sticks or football boots. Wider society needs to recognise that what they perceive is in fact not the reality. Jersey has a wide talent pool of BMX riders and skaters and has had so for many years. This work, for the first time, has an opportunity to educate and change perceptions and showcase the talented and committed young people and adults involved in this sport to a wider Island audience.

Skateboarding, BMX and scooters are part of a multi-million worldwide industry, with competition series for each sport throughout the world, with riders sponsored by some of the biggest household names in extreme and mainstream sports – Red Bull, Monster, Nike and Adidas. The industry is huge from skateboards and bikes to clothing and footwear. In the USA it's a sport which is now influencing how streetscapes are being designed in urban planning. The Tony Hawk Foundation is the biggest influence in the sport supporting the growth of the sport, helping parks develop and riders progress worldwide. Their influence is huge and has changed perceptions and changed lives through supporting young riders to reach levels of success they never thought possible.

Jersey skateboarders have watched their sport grow worldwide, watched their own talented friends leave the island to pursue sponsor deals and careers – e.g. Alex Coleborn and Glen Fox, both world level talent now living elsewhere to train and compete. They are not the first and won't be the last. Jersey skateboarders and riders have tried to keep up, but lack of facilities has stifled this. In the UK most small towns, and even small villages will have a half pipe but also streetscape elements and now concrete parks. Yet in Jersey, for its population, the number of riders far outreaches many similar sized settlements in the UK.

However, two important developments have recently occurred:

- *Most crucially, the existing main Jersey Skatepark was closed in January 2018, and a new site needs to be found to develop a new facility.*
- *Skateboarding and Freestyle BMX were announced to be placed in the 2020 Olympics with the addition of Skateboard England being created to support the British skaters who may compete.*

Skateboarding and freestyle BMX being in the Olympics has provided an opportunity to place skateboarding and BMX alongside other mainstream Olympic sports - not necessarily in how it operates, but most importantly how it is provided for in facility terms in Jersey. This will enable young talent to participate, perform and compete on an equal playing field to those skaters and riders in the UK.

The biggest opportunity that skateboarding in Jersey has had in 40 years is now. With the threat of closure of the park, plus the Olympics recognising the status of the sport worldwide, out of this crisis can come an opportunity to gain support and recognition for a sport so often ignored or misunderstood.

Jersey can be part of this new wave of change for the skateboarding and BMX community - it has the riders and skaters, but it needs the facilities. It has the ambition and the committed people in the sport - young skaters and parents - they just want to be recognised and provided for like any mainstream sport on the Island.

Skaters and riders come in all forms in Jersey - including the thousands of under 10's with their scooters - the estimation is that every household with a child under 10 has a scooter in the garage or shed, which is ridden to school or down the street, and for many at the youth clubs around the Island.

Skateboarders and BMX riders are generally over 10 years old - they have either started on bikes or boards or moved from scooters. These youngsters are attracted by the challenge of the activity, the freedom it allows to express their skill and takes them away from the mainstream norm of traditional team sports. Again, most household garages in the Island will have a skateboard in it belonging to a teenager or perhaps even a dad. But many will no longer be ridden due to the need for transport to the few facilities that exist, so perhaps a football is being kicked about instead.

Those in their late teens and early twenties represent the majority of skateboarders - they are mobile so can get to the parks, and they have become a family of riders supporting each other and the younger riders coming through. They recognise the older skaters who have led the way in Jersey and some are sponsored by the local suppliers and local skate companies. This hierarchy of the sport provides an informal structure and respect and looking out for each other certainly appears to take place in the Jersey skate community.

On a dark February evening, these voices were heard - over 100 people turned out to a public meeting – young primary pupils, teenagers, parents and adult riders all part of this sport, all wanting to keep their facility open. The skate community is estimated to have over 500 regular riders and thousands of young casual scooter riders, these along with hundreds of parents who wish to support this sport and recognise the impact it makes on young people's lives.

3.1.1 The non-conformists sport becomes a 'Collective Voice' and champions its cause

To respond to this situation the Jersey skate community agreed to come together and work with PMR to make their case to others, to show what they stood for and to become a sport worth supporting.

After the initial working party meeting led by Connetable Steve Pallett where his commitment to find a solution was given, PMR undertook a series of skater open meetings to ask skaters to come and support the process, to become a 'voice' for their sport and look at how this could be structured.

A group of skaters and riders very quickly realised that like the previous CISA, which some of them had been part of, they needed to look at a new fresh organisation which would work with PMR to make the social case for their sport and help review sites and options for the new facility.

These skaters and riders were aged from 15 – late 40's and represented BMX, skateboarding and scooter riding. They understood that crucial steps of making their case and that work to find an appropriate site needed to be undertaken prior to any design company coming on board. In an early meeting with these skaters Dillon Catney said:

'This should not be campaign about a skatepark it needs to be a campaign about 'mental health'. We need to help people understand what skateboarding does for people, how it helps them be themselves. We need to focus on the sport's outcomes, not the sport, that will help people understand why it's so important'.

This group very quickly agreed that they should become the new 'Jersey Skateparks Association' (JSA). The name represents the three sports and the need for a 'skatepark' to ride or skate on. They set some clear objectives and agreed to work as the 'Collective Voice' to drive the mission for a new park and grow their sport.

Their mission was clear:

The Jersey Skateparks Association (JSA) is the official body representing all the views and needs of its members. We provide a voice for any and all users of any present and future facilities within the island of Jersey; this includes - but is not limited to - skateboarding, BMX, scooter, rollerblades and quad skate users.

Our intention is to develop the sports through the creation of facilities and provide pathways of progression from beginner to elite riders and provide input from a rider's point of view, to help and provide advice on the installation and/or improvement of facilities around the Island.

We aim to provide a fair and open forum for any park users (or their families), so as to share any ideas that can help us all achieve the correct and appropriate facilities Island-wide. Please share your thoughts and ideas so that we can provide the right parks for current and future generations

The extreme sports mentioned are well known to be of major benefit in tackling anti-social behaviour as well as supporting physical and mental health and providing its participants with a level of tenacity above and beyond that of many other activities. Having such a pool of inspired and creative individuals working together for a greater good is exactly the sort of social cohesion we need as a modern society.

- *The Jersey Skateparks Association (JSA) is the official body representing those who believe a skatepark is an important and necessary part of modern society.*
- *Members include riders, their parents and all supporters of those who ride*
- *We are a free, voluntary, 'rider run' association, working alongside local government towards an Island-wide vision.*



On agreeing the mission, they wanted to develop a new platform to promote the work they were doing and have somewhere to communicate with their wider skaters and riders through social media. They launched the JSA logo, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts in early March 2018.

Within days they had a following of hundreds - to date, they have 582 followers on JSA Facebook page, 127 followers on @jerseyskatepark on Twitter and 442 followers on Instagram @jerseyskateparkassociation.

They agreed to work closely with Jersey Sport as a shadow association, to work through governance and become a formally constituted association by September 2018. They have in fact become a formal not for profit community sport organisation as of 30 June 2018 with a committee of 10. They are working towards becoming charity as per the law in Jersey which now enables them to do so as a sporting organisation. The committee is made up of the following individuals

- **Karl Payne - Chairman**
- **Phil Minty - Secretary**
- **Sophie Kilpatrick**
- **Mark Harris**
- **Daniel Le Marquand**
- **John Cornwall**
- **Daco Fernandes**
- **Luka Pinto**
- **Dillon Catney**
- **Alistair Mitchel**

To support what they believe in, JSA recognised that they needed members to sign up as part of the mission. They sent out a survey promoting membership through email and Facebook to those who had been at the public meeting. Within two weeks JSA had 300 members, and this number continues to grow. It is made up of riders, skaters and parents. This Collective Voice is growing daily. It has names, ages, genders and details of the parishes in which they live. Not surprisingly the majority live in St Helier with the second largest membership from St Brelade.

The membership does not at this stage reflect the large number of children involved in the sport, as advice from Youth Services suggested that anyone under 13 should not be engaged with a survey to comply with their own social media and membership guidelines. However, JSA know through the Youth Services representatives involved in JSA that there are likely to be several hundred young people who would be part of the Association. These young people will be signed up in due course as members through the various Youth Services youth clubs.

While JSA were meeting weekly with PMR or Jersey Sport developing their thoughts and guiding the process, PMR undertook a series of consultations across the island with riders in the skateparks, young people in youth clubs and with organisations and individuals whose views were needed to help make the social impact case for a new park.

One significant outcome which has occurred already is the development of JSA wanting to become trained coaches. Linking to Skateboard England and their new qualification delivered in partnership with Street Games, 10 experienced skaters undertook the 2-day coaching qualification in August this year. This, along with child protection training and first aid, will enable JSA to work in partnership with Jersey Sport and Youth Services to deliver coaching courses to young people in preparation for the new park, ensuring that the pathway for skateboarding is in place. This is a significant step forward, and Jersey is one of the first few places to have this qualification in the UK.

To help raise their profile on the weekend of the Boat Show, on 6 May, JSA held a 'come and try' skate day and showcased the Island's talent. This day was supported by Jersey Sport staff and by Waitrose providing free water and fruit to participants who came along. Many parents came along with young children who took part in the coaching sessions and loved it. It was a very positive day which highlighted to many the excitement of the sport and talent that exists in Jersey. There were also graffiti painting opportunities and breakdancing. This event would not have happened alongside the Boat Show in the past as there would have been a view they were each attracting different markets. This event demonstrated the way that JSA have conducted themselves in representing the sport and changing minds with their positive Collective Voice campaign. A reflective press article can be seen in appendix 1

Photos below from the day





3.2 Young People Consultations

3.2.1 Youth club sessions

Engagement sessions were held at St John's Youth Centre and the Move On project in St Helier with young people aged 12-17. There was a collective view that the skateparks are very much needed as good places to hang out with friends. They are social places as well as active places. Scooters are the main choice of the younger young people, and they are able to use the skatepark regularly after school and in the evenings as they are floodlit. They were clear there is a need for new facilities, feeling that the existing ramps are old and worn, needing better maintenance. Many of the young people from St John went to St Helier when they could get there but also said they really want a concrete park with a bowl and street furniture. They felt that the location of the New North Quay is not a good place – it is hidden and at times can be scary for the younger ones.

What came across from those spoken to is the importance of the skatepark being somewhere they could be themselves, learn new tricks and not be judged by others. They commented on how the police often stop them skateboarding in the streets even when they aren't causing trouble and how they felt that some members of the public do not want them around.

Youth Services undertook some workshop sessions with other youth clubs, and these abstracts can be seen below.

3.2.2 St Lawrence young people feedback

38. Do they want this to be a casual use facility for which they can turn up and use anytime or something they can pay for and is managed?

Free

Open to anybody, but somebody should manage the space so that all can use it fairly.

Free - Paid for by the SOJ - so it is not wrecked

Free - Tax-funded

£1.00 an hour

39. Are there any sites they think would be best for the skatepark?

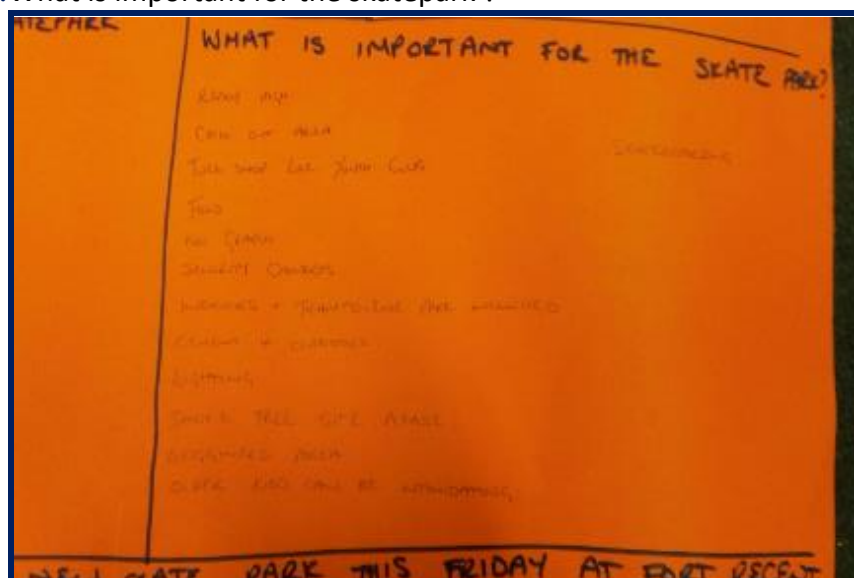
Near Liberation Square

Near the fort

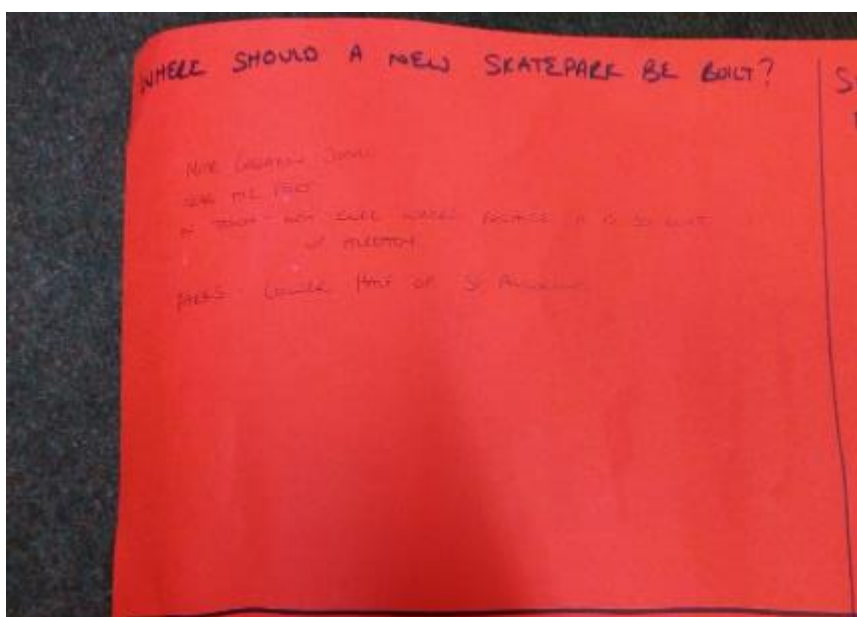
In town - not sure where because it is so built on already

Parks - lower half of St Andrews Park

40. What is important for the skatepark?



41. Are there any sites they think would be best for the skatepark?



3.2.3 St John Youth Club feedback session

42. What is important for the skatepark – scooters, BMX, skateboard, multiuse – what level – what is right?

Exeter skatepark is amazing; it has a sculpted concrete park, a large bowl section and lots of space for all users to enjoy

The 2 separate ramps at the town skatepark are good as it can give a natural split between the scooters and skaters

43. Do they want this to be a casual use facility that they can turn up and use anytime or something they can pay for and is managed?

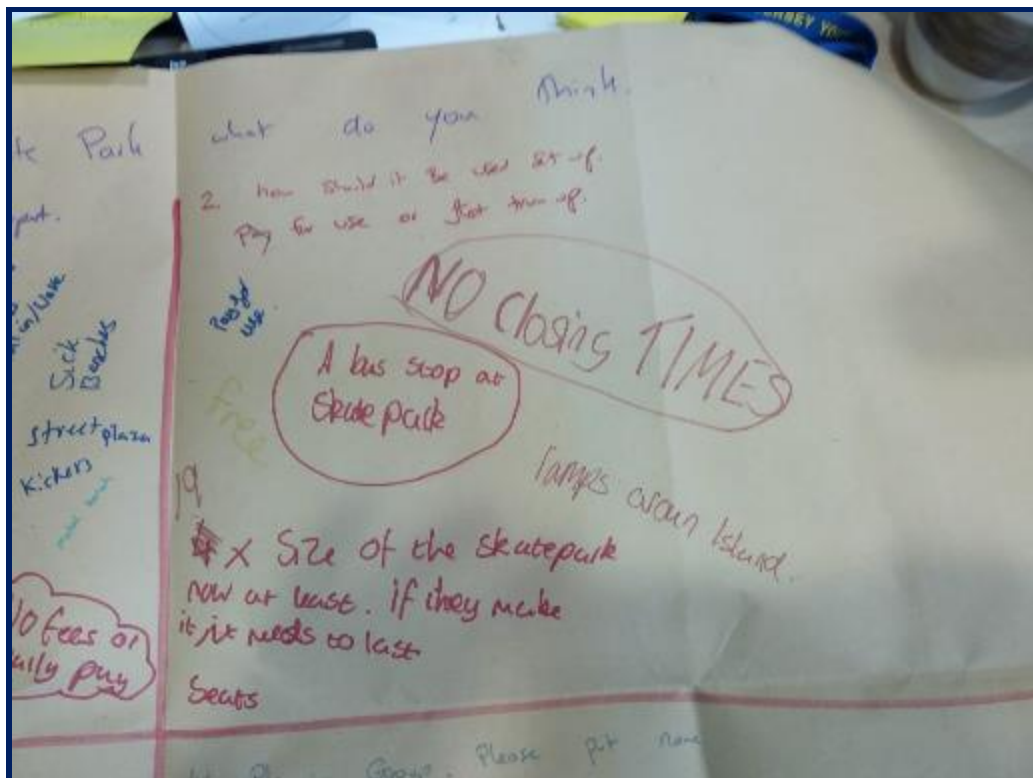
All agreed that even though they could have a better site if they paid, it was important to keep the site a free-to-use facility, for everyone

44. Are there any sites they think would be best for the skatepark?

Football pitches at Les Quennevais was the preferred site

3.2.4 St Brelade Youth Club scooter group feedback

45. Do they want this to be a casual use facility that they can turn up and use anytime or something they can pay for and is managed?



free.

Drainage Systems

Bowls NO Fence

No fees or penalty pay

now or later it needs seats

3/ what is the Best Site.

The winter front where the main place change looking at.

Build in Town so lies in the centre of island

Build Asup

No

Also close to public transport

Girls

Improve Island extreme sport levels.

St. Breilade Halfpipe or Bowl

Big Park in Breilade

Polished Concrete

Rhelin pay Free £2.00

No helmets

St. Breilade

Halfpipe or Bowl

Big Park in Breilade

Alfie Oliver Brown Me

New State Park

what is important. (Swings, Box, Slide, teeter) Beginner Intermediate, expert.

Box & slides
↓
quavers, flumes & also water section for choppers
steep ups

polished concrete

to get a BMX & scooter ramp

BMX ramps
scooter shop

Canopy over skatepark

Drainage systems

cor.

Rails
Banks
Ledges
Many pads
Half pipe

Street plaza
Bowl
Kickers

No fence

No fees or especially pass

what is the best site.

3.2.5 Move On Youth Project feedback sessions

- Do they want this to be a casual use facility that they can turn up and use anytime or something they can pay for and is managed?

Free open all the time

50p each time

CCTV so it's free but no trouble

- What is important for the skatepark –scooters, BMX, skateboard, multiuse– what level – what is right?

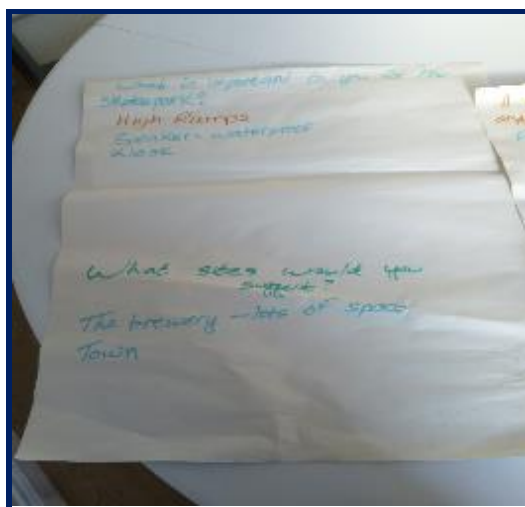
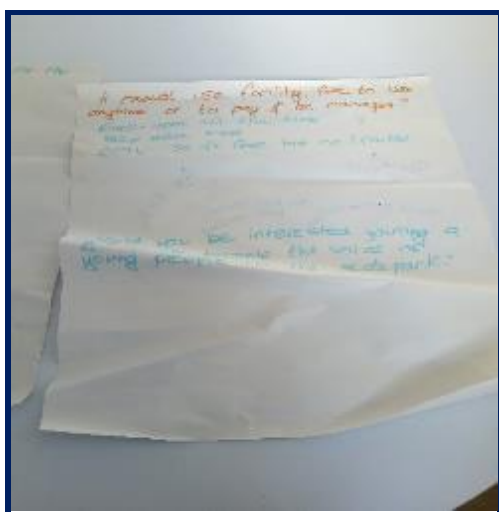
High ramps

Speaker – waterproof

- Are there any sites they think would be best for the skatepark?

The brewery

Town



It is important to have the voices of young riders and skaters involved in the ongoing JSA discussions to gain continued feedback. This has been achieved through two young people coming onto the JSA committee, both 15 years old and keen BMX riders. Also, we have a senior youth worker involved in JSA who has led most of the skate initiatives at the New North Quay site and St Brelade's Youth club over the last 10 years.

3.3 Engagement with skaters in the parks

One of the JSA members is renowned for his film making and had the idea to record much of the 'collective voice' process gathering views of those who supported and those who didn't support the new skatepark. This is ongoing and will to be used for funding approaches.

As part of this, we visited the skateparks on several occasions to talk to young people as they skated and also to meet members of the general public or parents.

From the on-film and off-film conversations, the skaters gave some clear messages.

- For many skating is their life. It has given them focus and friendships.
- Several young men spoke about how at school they had felt different and how finding skateboarding had given them an outlet and purpose. They had felt pressurised to take part in team sports, but they really wanted to skate, they felt that it gave them fitness and good life skills.
- Several spoke of suffering anxiety and mental health issues, some brought on through drug use, and how skating and those around them had helped get them back to a normal life.
- They felt that the community did not understand how committed they were to their sport and talked about talented riders who have left the island due to lack of facilities to train and pursue their passions.
- They feel they need a space they can be proud of and not 'hidden away' in the Ports.
- One young man who worked in an office was scared to say to his workmates that he skateboarded as he felt they would laugh and make fun of him. This gave him a conflict in that he that couldn't be himself and talk about his hobby.
- Another young man was undertaking a counselling course to try and help others as he had suffered himself when he was younger but had nowhere to go to talk to someone and he wanted to help young lads on the skateparks and help them.
- They talked about how they couldn't progress in their sports due to lack of facilities, and yet other sports had good facilities across the Island.
- The BMX community was growing, and yet they had to dig ramps in local fields even though they had Alex Coleborn, a local hero, soon to be in the 2020 Olympics - a young Olympian for Jersey to be proud of but no pathway for those who wished to follow him.
- BMX and skateboarders share facilities well together but scooter riders, who were younger, seem to 'have an attitude' and they felt that some of the problems had been caused by younger elements of scooter riders in the parks. They reflected on why this is the case, and they feel this is due to a gap in skaters in recent years, so they had no role models. They felt that if there were coaches around to help these younger riders, it would help.
- A couple of the skaters stated they would like to become skate coaches in the new park.

3.4 Parents consultations evening

After the initial public meeting, it was clear that there is a parental voice coming forward to support the young people and it is important to understand their point of view and how they could help JSA going forward.

Around 10 parents joined an evening with a couple of JSA members and PMR. The key feedback which came forward revolved around the following issues:

- Their children, some now young adults, were regularly hounded by the police for illegal* skateboarding in the streets and car parks. They wish this to change, with more tolerance and most importantly more and new decent facilities across the Island needed to cater for the sports. *"I've spent hours with my kids at parish halls etc. because of tickets given to them by the police."*

*Policing of Roads (Jersey) Regulations 1959 The law under which skateboarding is illegal in the streets of Jersey

- They felt that the current St Helier facility has always been the wrong venue and a barrier to some parents who had not been there due to its location. However, those who had taken their young children there witnessed some amazing social interaction and help between the more experienced skaters and the younger ones.
- A more central and open location is needed to showcase the sport and talent which is in Jersey. *"The Park must be integrated into the public space not hidden away. Public need to accept it as part of the community, when they stop to watch they will go 'wow'. This could be a tourist stop like South Bank."*
- Parents talked about incidents of bullying on the park within the younger age groups and those there were surprised and want to investigate, through JSA, who is responsible. They felt that having JSA and a greater awareness of people's identities, with a new set of membership rules, would help with elements of young people who could more easily be identified.
- The parent group want to support JSA as the project moves forward and felt they could provide a good voice within the wider community, particularly when the sites were identified, in persuading others of the wider benefits that skateboarding brings to the community. *"Many parents don't see skateboarding as worthy, don't see it as a sport, they don't stay and watch their kids."*
- Several parents spoke about the positive impact the bike and skate sports have had on their children's mental health, preferring these individual skill-based sports to the more school-based team environment. They expressed how the skateboard allows them to express their talents and identity more than other sports. They also find others like themselves which they had not experienced at school.

- They wanted to help directly in the Collective Voice campaign, and it was agreed that they would assist JSA through the election hustings by asking questions of potential candidates about the support they would give, if elected, to get a new world-class facility in place for Jersey. *“Skateboarding in the world is changing. It has a bigger challenge with the general public because of its bad image particularly with the way media portrays it. Hoping with Olympics that this will change”*
- They agreed that this is not just about a skatepark, it is about young people - they had seen rising incidence of male suicide, and in recent years the skate community had come together to support many young people suffering from mental health difficulties. The skatepark had become a place where young people go to come together and grieve, and Youth Services have used the skatepark as a base to support young people after such tragedies. A graffiti art wall had been painted in memory of the young people, and a skate jam is held annually to remember them.
- They felt that a new skatepark needs to make young people feel they are trusted and their sport showcased, be in the public environment so people could watch and admire the talent and learn how all ages interact in the park environment. *“There’s an unspoken etiquette in parks, taking care of each other, it’s an inclusive sport, not like what you see in other clubs.”*
- They saw the potential benefits to tourism if the skatepark were to be located on the waterfront providing a visitor attraction to other skaters and for events to take place.

After the session all those who attended offered to be involved as the development progresses. Two of the parents at the meeting have subsequently joined the new JSA committee. Most of the parents have attended some of the hustings, and in fact, at all Senator hustings, a skatepark question was raised.

3.5 Social benefits and impact of skateboarding

Much is written about the benefits of extreme sports such as skateboarding, but surprisingly little of this is known by the wider community outside of the sport itself. In fact, many people, not just those in Jersey, think that it's an anti-social activity, don't consider it as a sport, believe it to be surrounded by a drug culture, attracts troublemakers and people generally react against skateboard parks being built close to their home. These views are held without any real insight as to what the sport is all about and how and where it sits within youth culture in our communities today.

Those who are involved closely with the sport understand just what positive social and community impacts their sport has on young people, and it's these impacts which need to be questioned and considered by others:

- ***Skateparks provide a positive impact for many on their mental health and wellbeing*** and provide a comfortable 'sense of place' and belonging for many young people. Concentrating on skills and tricks can divert negative thoughts into positive energy and fulfilment when a young person feels anxious, and they can become relaxed on a board while around others who don't judge them. This is a huge issue in modern society affecting many young people not only in Jersey. Sports such as skateboarding and BMX can provide such a positive impact to those suffering with mental health issues.
- ***Positive physical health and sporting participation.*** Skaters are rarely seen as overweight - it's a very physical sport using core strength, balance and technical, physical skill to achieve the moves required. Lots of skateboarders skate several times a week and often for hours at a time. There is clearly a commitment from young skaters to develop their skills, yet they do this without coaches. Working with others to achieve new moves instils a feeling of being part of a group wanting you to succeed.
- ***Reduction in antisocial behaviour*** and improved community safety – skateparks in open public community spaces are often the most successful; they are platforms for showcasing the sport and openness reduces the opportunity for antisocial behaviour to occur. Across the globe, it is proven that open skateparks in centres of communities record a reduction in antisocial behaviour in those communities. The young people recognise that they are worthy of investment and they respect their place in the community infrastructure.
- ***Sense of community*** - if you look after your own on the skatepark you look after others in your community. The inclusive nature creates friendships across a wide range of the community and all ages. This leads to greater community cohesion and a sense of community ownership.

- ***Designed and placed in the right places*** skateparks will offer the sport a showcase and a place for the wider community to want to be, bringing a greater cohesion within the community. For those who take part, admiration for their skills generates positive reinforcement for them. In the UK, skateparks are now being built within major central town parks or in coastal tourist towns on the seafront to enable the sport to be showcased. Examples of these are: as Newquay, Rhyl Seafront Park, Scarborough seafront, Marple Memorial Park, Crystal Palace skatepark, Central Park Plymouth and Royal Victoria Park, Bath.
- ***It brings a sense of unity*** which provides self-respect and confidence.
- ***It's free and accessible to*** take part at all times - not many sports can make that claim.
- ***Cross-generational and inclusive participation*** in sport - no other sport has children and adults playing on the 'pitch or court' at the same time, leading to not only learning respect but also receiving guidance in the sport from more experienced skaters. Opportunities for participation through to excellence often occurs all in one place.
- ***Education and lifelong learning*** - skillsets taught by older riders to younger ones without any formal coaching structure - it's done naturally. Resilience, determination, respect for others, sense of achievement through success of gaining new skills – they are all aspects that schools are trying to teach today.
- ***Economic impact -Tourism*** - riders travel to good parks across the UK, USA and Europe. Events showcasing talent and bringing extreme sport enthusiasts to the Island would be possible with a world-class skatepark. Many good skateparks are holiday destinations to riders across the world.
- ***Employability through coaching qualifications*** - young people can gain employment and help to grow and develop the sporting structures around the sports.
- ***Performance pathway*** - opportunities for young athletes to represent Jersey in the Olympics in the future and become part of the elite-supported pathway programmes.

3.6 Wider consultations – ‘testing perceptions.’

It is essential to test these theories with the wider ‘establishment’ - those that the skaters perceived were maybe ‘not on their side’, i.e. statutory leaders and officers ‘in control’ of making decisions about who they were and could prevent them from gaining a new park.

A series of consultations and conversations were undertaken to test whether the perceptions of the skaters were valid. The results were, in fact, quite the opposite and are noted below. The most significant element of this process of ‘broadening the conversation’ and changing perceptions occurred publicly on 4 April 2018 when all of these organisations either publicly spoke out as to why they support the new skatepark and JSA or gave written statements of their full support. The slides from 4 April can be seen in appendix 2

This level of support and open conversation has provided a significant turning point for this project and for the first time in 40 years skateboarders realised they were not alone in trying to obtain facilities which would provide not only good sporting places but so much more for those who were involved and that they deserve to be part of the sporting landscape of Jersey.

The comments and support given by those below represent new connectivity and partnerships for JSA and its members and the many skaters and riders in Jersey. It has made the sport feel validated and accepted on ‘a level playing field’, it is not the underdog or outcast sport. It has a role and place in the Jersey sporting culture equal to any other sport.

However, it is not unreasonable to suggest that a very significant factor in achieving this support is those organisations also recognising the skate community coming together as a collective themselves under JSA.

It was crucial that those below gave their views on not just the impact of skateboarding but also where they felt a skatepark should be located and how they can work with JSA in the future to enable this process to come to fruition in the long term.

3.6.1 Deborah McMillan – Children’s Commissioner for Jersey

As Jersey’s new Children’s Commissioner, it was crucial to obtain her view on the skatepark. During the engagement for this work, she was undertaking a major survey and engagement on wider children’s issues across Jersey. Many of the skater parents went to these drop-in sessions and spoke up about the importance of a new safe open park area. From the outset, the Children’s Commissioner has given her full backing to the park and sees the benefits and impact it can have on young people’s lives.

She had discovered from her own early engagement and children’s survey that there is a need for more ‘places to go/places to play’ and in turn has discovered that Jersey falls short of UK park play standards. This was a surprise finding to her in her survey across all age groups. In referencing Article 31 of the UN convention which sets out the ‘rights of a child to play’ her starting point is to listen and act on their behalf to ensure that this area can be improved and that she can support young people with their needs.

At the meeting on 4 April the Children's Commissioner was vocal in her support for the skatepark, recognising that teenage play was very much part of the places to play/things to do agenda and the role that skateboarding, BMX and scooters play in the youth culture picture in Jersey is paramount for many young people.

Her key messages were clearly focussed on ensuring that in Jersey young people have places to play in and she stated that positive leisure time experiences provided positive benefits in:

- developing social and emotional skills
- developing community cohesion
- reducing involvement in anti-social behaviour and crime
- supporting learning
- improving health and well-being

She also stated that wider studies show clear relationships between outdoor play and physical activity levels, which in turn have been linked to well-being and higher levels of self-esteem in young people. She believes these factors are particularly relevant in Jersey as statistics show that in 2016/17

- 1 in 5 (20%) of 4-5 year-olds were overweight or obese
- 1 in 3 (33%) of 10-11 year-olds were overweight or obese

Her view is clear - *'what those play and leisure time offerings look like in Jersey will be varied, as they should be, in order to accommodate children of different ages and with different interests and with different needs. I would like to see a more holistic and strategic approach taken to the provision of play and leisure for children and young people on the Island. One which develops and enhances understanding about the importance of the right to play and crucially, one that meaningfully involves children and young people in the decision-making process. Because making choices and participating in deciding what kinds of play opportunities are available is a key part of the right to play.'*

The Children's Commissioner has offered her full support ongoing and has joined the 'Collective Voice'.

3.6.2 Mark Capern – Director, Youth Services States of Jersey

Mark has worked in Jersey for over 20 years with young people. His staff at the various youth clubs have supported the skatepark project from the outset.

Mark and his staff are totally aware of the benefits of the various skateparks, and they have managed the disappointments over the years when they have closed.

Mark and his staff also worked closely with the young people during the tragedy of the recent youth suicides and supported the young people who used the skatepark as a focus in expressing their grief and coming together for a vigil.

Mark spoke passionately at the meeting on 4 April, explaining why it is so important for the young people of Jersey to have their voices heard about where the skatepark should be – not only the importance of a central location but also future other skate spots throughout the Island.

He recognises the energy that the new JSA are putting into driving this new park, and one of his senior staff members has become a committee member not only to give support personally but to professionally show how important it is that this new park and the wider public understand the skate culture and the role that the sport plays on the Island.

Mark would like to see the new park in St Helier in an open site and prefers the Les Jardins de la Mer site as this has great potential to showcase talent but also offers ease of management.

3.6.3 Chief Inspector Chris Beechey - States of Jersey Police, and Police Sergeant Paul Kemp - Community Policing Team

Both Chris Beechey and Paul Kemp have been engaged with the project and have given their fullest support to JSA on this approach to achieve a new skatepark.

Unfortunately, whilst neither could attend the 4 April public meeting they fully support the project and in fact when consulted on sites have given their clear direction to Les Jardins de la Mer as this is the most public of the 4 shortlisted sites and is covered by States of Jersey Police CCTV. In a statement to be used for JSA, Chief Inspector Beechey said

'The SOJP are very happy to endorse any project that seeks to provide structured activities/entertainment for Jersey, especially and predominantly young people and you may be aware of the support that we previously gave to a similar skate-park development in Millennium Park.'

'The La Fregate site is covered by our existing Town Centre CCTV system – a situation that may, therefore, add to its attractiveness in terms of a preferred site.'

Paul Kemp who is part of the Community Policing Team feels that this new development could be a major help in promoting the benefits of skateboarding and using the seafront location to help showcase the skills would assist in public perception around antisocial behaviour. They are aware of the lack of skating facilities which leads youngsters to ride on pavements which causes problems. He feels that this new waterfront location, which is close to bus routes and easy to access, would be a huge boost for the sport in the eyes of the public.

The police have given full support to the project, and JSA wish to work closely with them in respect of design and guidance for users to curb as much as possible any likelihood of antisocial behaviour. As the site is on a regular police route, Paul hopes that this will help to bring about positive outcomes for skaters and the local community police teams.

3.6.4 James Le Feuvre – Director, MIND Jersey

James was very keen to get involved with the project and very much supports JSA in its ambitions. He knows first-hand the mental health issues surrounding young people in Jersey and is actively looking for ways to help engage with young people in comfortable environments which will enable them to open up and talk about how they feel and, most importantly, realise they are not alone.

He has recently been working with other sports such as, football and boxing, looking at how sport can be a positive outlet for young people with mental health issues and how MIND can support those in these sports who are struggling. At the public meeting, he spoke passionately as to why the new facility is a must for the Island and for those young people who find the outlet of skating to be so important to their own wellbeing.

MIND offer mental first aid training in the workplace and this is an area in which the JSA committee themselves could get trained to help support those involved in the sport. MIND are keen to work with young men in sport and feel they could offer a good support role for the skate community recognising the role that the sport plays for some young people.

3.6.5 Barclay Harvey - Head of Sports Operations, States of Jersey

Barclay currently oversees the North Quay skatepark on behalf of GHE (Growth Housing and Environment Department).

He is fully supportive of a new facility and wishes to see it in an environment which is safer and more manageable. He supports the formation of the JSA as for the first time the SOJ has a group of people who represent the sport and whom they can work alongside and most importantly communicate with when issues arise on which they need feedback.

3.6.6 James Tilley - Partnership Manager, Jersey Sport

Jersey Sport has been involved from the outset of this project, and James Tilley and Catriona McAllister have given their full backing to a new skatepark.

James has worked with JSA to bring together the governance and structure which has enabled them to now be a fully-fledged not-for-profit constituted organisation. He has been very impressed by those who have come forward, using their experience and skating knowledge to represent those on the Island in their sports.

The coming together of a wide age representation and different experience has been quite extraordinary, and something which James expressed has not been seen in any new organisation that he has worked with before. The refreshing approach to this committee from a group who have traditionally not wanted to be organised has been hugely admired by James.

James was also keen to let JSA show what they have achieved. Jersey Sport supported JSA to host open days at the Park during the Boat Show in May which was a resounding success and showcased to many people who would not normally see the talent that is in Jersey.

3.6.7 Tony Andrews – Director, Parks and Open Spaces St Helier Parish

Tony Andrews, more than most, knows the impact of the lack of facilities in St Helier and across the Island. Having been in the post for many years, he has seen effects of this. He has tried on many occasions to support the young people gain new facilities but is very aware of the complications and challenges that exist around land ownership and community perceptions and attitudes - the 'not in my backyard' effect. This, with the legal position of skating in public places and "no skating" signs, adds to his frustration. He explained the different structures and ownerships of many of the open spaces, along with parish community voting requirements, around St Helier which have become a barrier to skate facilities being developed in the past.

He was delighted to hear that the skate community had come together and knows first-hand the benefits of the sport as he has seen many young people find skateboarding to be a positive in their lives.

Tony wishes to see skate spots in all parks and street furniture for youngsters to enjoy, similar to that which he sees in other parts of the UK and further afield. He knows that it will take a mindset change for many people in Jersey to accept this 'step change' but feels the only way is for people to get behind JSA and give them a chance to show who they are and what the sport offers. He feels that the chance is now, with the Olympic Games recognising the sport which may surprise a few people but help change their minds and attitudes. The talent that is in Jersey is clear - 2 professionals in BMX and skateboarding from a population of 100,000 is a high proportion which can only come from there being a wide base of participation to enable talent to come through - and all this with a severe lack of quality facilities. He believes that the development of a new park would be the catalyst for huge talent and participation to emerge and hopes that this initial development leads to new parks throughout the Island's parishes.

Tony knows that many local Deputies for St Helier along with Constable Crowcroft also fully support the development and feels a new wave of support in Jersey which has not been seen before.

Tony supports the Les Jardins de la Mer site. However, it is not one of the parks that he currently manages. He also feels Coronation Park has a lot of merit for further community development. He was passionate at the meeting about his support and has since then been working closely with JSA to look at small street furniture opportunities across St Helier.

3.6.8 Martin Knight - Director of Public Health Policy, States of Jersey

Martin's role in policy recognises the impact of sport such as skateboarding and the positive health and wellbeing impacts it brings to those who take part. Martin is keen to support JSA and what they are trying to achieve and to work with colleagues across SOJ to ensure that a

joined-up approach to this campaign can be achieved as it moves forward. Martin gave a statement which was read out at the 4 April meeting - 'I recognise the potential contribution that a skatepark facility could have on improving health through supporting physical activity and social opportunities that can, in turn, be beneficial to mental health.'

3.6.9 Natasha Day, Policy Planning Officer States of Jersey

It is important to understand where the skatepark project sits in respect of policy planning for parks and open space.

Natasha has been critical to this process to ensure that the various sites being assessed could be put into the wider context of open space planning.

It was opportune that this year a new Open Space Strategy for St Helier is being developed and we could, therefore, understand in more depth the policy perspectives currently being considered for Open Space in St Helier.

Natasha confirmed at an early stage that play facilities across Jersey were lacking and this was highlighted in the Island Plan and earlier 2008 Outdoor Open Space Sport and Recreation Study. Jersey falls short on play standards, using its own measurement levels which fall lower than UK standards to measure play provision.

Through the new Open Space work, play has been highlighted yet again as there has not been any major investment in recent years in St Helier to address this position.

In respect of this new skatepark proposal, she was very mindful to ensure that we are fully aware of the challenges of certain sites and this is covered in the next chapter. Natasha attended the public meeting on 4 April and was very clear that of all the sites which had been suggested, Les Jardins de la Mer was a good positive site in Open Space Policy terms and could, in principle, support that as an option. She did, however, also explain to the audience how each site would have different impacts and challenges, which would need to be considered and addressed.

Clear guidance from Natasha was given regarding Les Jardins de la Mer, and she felt it was a fair site to explore in the first instance. She made clear that there were other sites, such as Springfield Sports Centre, (which is an established sports centre, in a good central location) that would be worth exploring further, despite accepting that this location may not carry the same appeal to the skate community as the Les Jardins de la Mer site.

When asked her opinion of what barriers there may be around Les Jardins de la Mer, Natasha responded:

1. "The site has the benefit of protected open space designation under the current Island Plan (Policy SC04 Protection of open space).
2. The site does fall with the area of the emerging South West St. Helier Planning Framework, however, this site has not been identified as one of the development sites at this time, and

its designation as protected open space remains the primary factor in considering any new future use.

I will again caveat that the guidance I have provided to you to date has been focussed upon achieving the best use of existing public open space and the provision of new play space, consistent with the objectives of the emerging St. Helier Open Space and Public Realm Strategy. There will naturally be other planning issues and sometimes conflicts that will need to be dealt with in the appropriate way. Nevertheless, in this case, I can confirm that there are no strategic planning barriers that can be foreseen by the Planning Policy Team at this time.”

3.6.10 Political Support

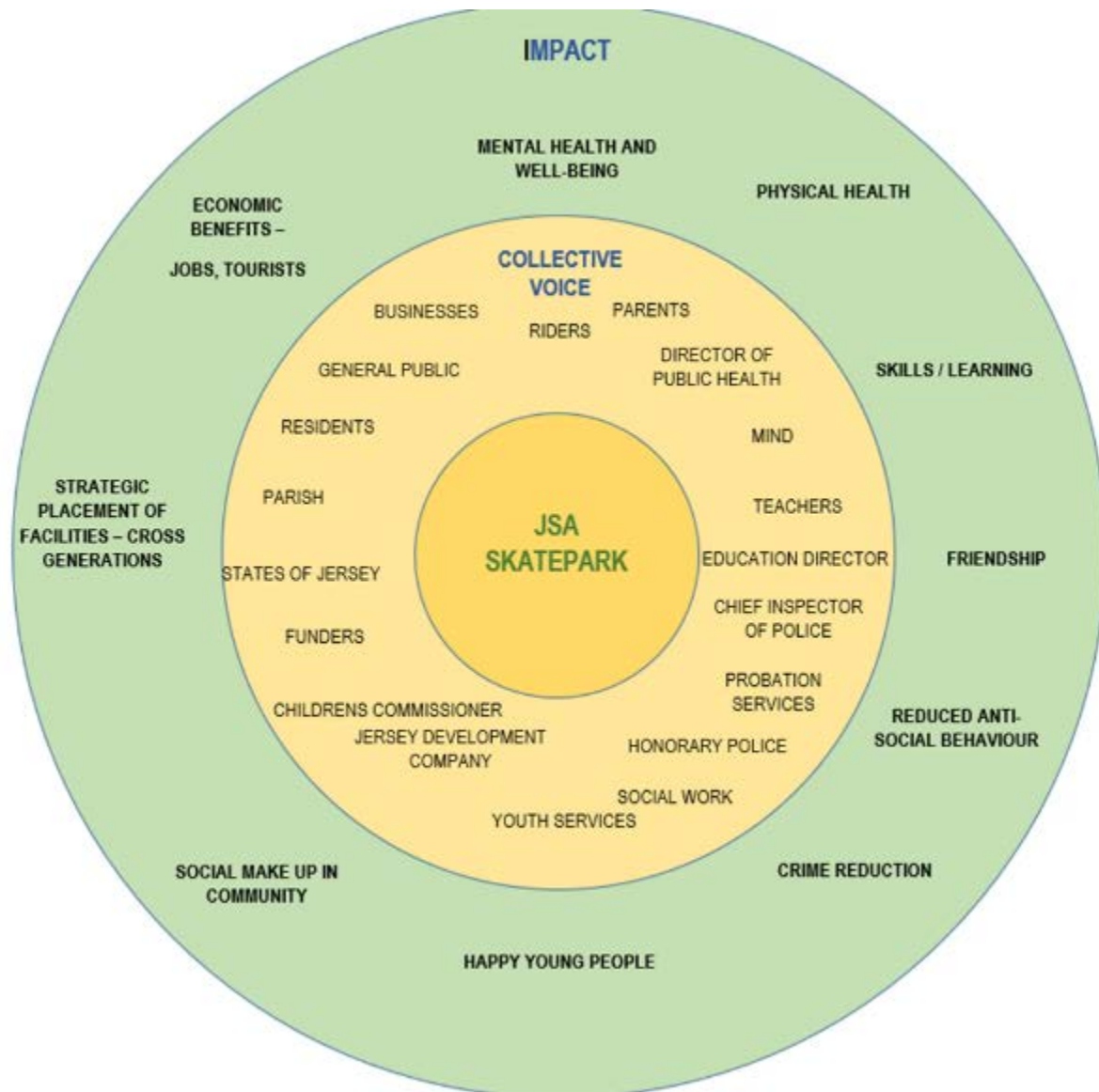
From the outset, as previously noted, Connetable Steve Pallett, Constable Simon Crowcroft and Deputy Andrew Lewis have been instrumental in this campaign. Steve Pallett has continued to support the project through setting up the working group, directly chairing public meetings and recording public video statements throughout the elections. In his continued role as Senator and with his continued responsibility for sport he continues, with his colleagues, to drive this project forward.

Other supporters within the States Assembly have come forward throughout the public meetings and during the election campaign for which JSA are very grateful. What is now required is vocal support to become direct support as we seek to obtain the site and finance to deliver this project for Jersey.

The comments and support speak for themselves - for the first time Jersey sees a joined-up community working and supporting the skate community. JSA have shown, and gained, respect across a wide range of organisations and their commitment to continue to move forward and speak out on their behalf is crucial as the project moves to implementation.

No one suggests that this will be smooth ride. There will be hurdles to overcome, but with these key individuals and organisations behind them, the skate community have for the first time in 40 years the best possible chance of achieving their long-awaited dream of high-quality facilities.

This diagram summarises the impact of what can be achieved by those who have come forward as a Collective Voice



4 Site assessments and options appraisal

From the outset, the options appraisal had a clear direction - to identify a site which could be delivered quickly as Ports of Jersey wished to close the current park by September 2018. This added some clear criteria to the appraisal approach.

Early visits were made to a selection of possible sites identified by both PMR and the JSA committee. These needed to be tested at an early stage for a variety of elements which would warrant possible further investigation and discussion.

- **Accessibility – by bus, car, walking, bicycle**
- **Deliverability in respect of technical ability and timelines**
- **Abnormal site conditions**
- **Access**
- **Legal ownership**
- **Covenants**
- **Possible events/showcase opportunities**
- **Proximity to housing**
- **Visual impact**
- **Noise impact**
- **Space availability**
- **Attractiveness to the skate community**
- **Closeness to food outlets**
- **Car parking/bus stops**
- **Environmental factor/attractiveness, in keeping with the site's appeal**
- **Policy Planning view**
- **Management on site**
- **History of the site and previous projects etc**
- **Possible site for a world-class venue?**
- **Use for other events that may be affected**

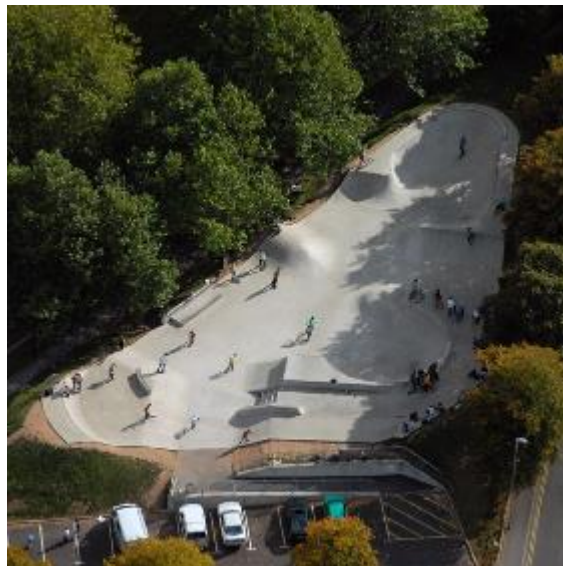
The sites looked at were assessed in their ability to deliver at least a 1,000 sqm skatepark. Another criterion was to consider a modern concrete park that would look attractive in its new situation and feel like a piece of architecture and not in an enclosed environment. Also, whilst the whole Island was looked at for suitable locations there was a clear expression from the skate community that St Helier was the preferred settlement due to its population base and public transport accessibility from across the Island.

The types of modern skatepark that are being considered look similar to the images on the following pages. These parks are modern architecturally designed facilities, sensitively placed in their surroundings.

Scarborough seafront



Henley



Amsterdam



The eleven initial sites which were examined were measured against the above criteria, and the matrix on the following page was developed by PMR to help identify the sites which were considered most viable and which had the greatest potential to be taken forward to the next stages of discussion and possible development.

It must be noted that the views of the Administering Agent/Land Owners of any of the sites identified have not been established at this stage. It is important to further note that the analysis in the table below is light-touch and further detailed analysis by the States of Jersey is necessary before any informed decisions can be made over preferred sites.

The top four scores are those which, from the results, present the fewest challenges to development and scored the highest in the appraisals with those who were consulted on a good location for the skatepark. This includes the early stage views of Policy Planners, Director of Parks, St Helier, SOJ, States of Jersey Police, Youth Services staff and young people, Jersey Sport, JSA and a wide range of public consultees.

CRITERIA/GUIDE	Coronation Park	Les Jardins de la Mer	Les Quennevais Sports Centre	Springfield Sports Centre	Millbrook Field	St Andrews Park	Peoples Park	Millennium Town Park	Lower Park	Glacis Field	Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Park
Accessibility to whole island – by bus, car, walking, bike (poor, acceptable or excellent)....from St. Helier	Acceptable	Excellent	Poor	Acceptable	Excellent	Acceptable	Excellent	Excellent	Acceptable	Poor	Acceptable
	0.5	1	-1	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	-1	0.5
Abnormal site conditions (known at this stage)	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Legal ownership/covenants	Good	Good	Good	Good	Prohibitive, private ownership	Good	Prohibitive	Prohibitive	Prohibitive in timeline	Prohibitive	Prohibitive
	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Known planning constraints (minus point for every constraint)	Listed Place Grade 1 & Protected Open Space	Potential contaminated land & Protected Open Space	Protected Open Space	Protected Open Space	Protected Open Space	Listed Place: Grade 2 & Protected open space	Listed Place: Grade 3 & Protected open space	None	Listed Place: Grade 3 & Protected open space	Listed Building Grade 1 & protected open space	Listed Place: Grade 2 & Protected open space
	-1	-1	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	-1
Close proximity to housing	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
	1	1	0.5	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Noise impact concerns and risk: Likely – high risk Likely – manageable risk Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely - manageable risk	Unlikely	Likely - manageable risk	Likely - manageable risk	Likely - manageable risk	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely
	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1
Design Sensitive location	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	0.5	0.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1000 sqm clear space available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Attractiveness to the skate, BMX and scooters community	Excellent	Excellent	Acceptable	Acceptable	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closeness to food outlets & toilets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	0	0.5
Environmental factor/attractiveness and in keeping with the sites appeal	Yes	Yes	Yes, sport site already	Yes, sport site already	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Policy Planning view	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Poor/fair	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor
	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.25	0	1	0	0	0
Management on site	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
	1	0.5	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Potential Site for a world class venue?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0	0	0	0.5	0	0
Used for other activities that would affect them	No	Yes - Triathlon, Air Display	No	Yes, football 5 a side	Yes car boot sale	No	Yes, annual events /festivities	Yes, hard landscape or ball cage	Yes, Jersey celebrations and air display	No	No
	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	1
Totals	12	10.5	9.5	9.5	8	6.25	3.5	5.5	3.5	2.5	4.5
History of the site and previous projects etc	Historic Park. Green flag award. No issues	Is identified in the draft "South-west St Helier Planning Framework" – adjacent to a key opportunity site. (SOJDC administered land)	Established sports facility	Established sports facility	None	Historic park. Site rejected as a skatepark previously	Historic seaside park. Previously looked at by SoJDC for a skatepark	Newest park in town. Extension to park planned	Historic park. Previously looked at for skatepark	Historic Military landform	Historic Seaside Park. Ornate gardens

5 Preferred Options to move forward

The four highest scored sites to take forward, recommended by PMR Leisure and based on findings from all those involved, are:

- **Coronation Park**
- **Les Jardins de la Mer**
- **Les Quennevais**
- **Springfield Sports Stadium**

It is clear, from those involved in the sport and those supporting this project, that a waterfront location which could act as an opportunity to showcase the skaters and riders of Jersey is preferred.

However, JSA and the wider skate community understand that this campaign requires a lot of joint effort from a range of agencies and organisations to bring the new skatepark to fruition and therefore at this stage support all four options going forward into any design appraisal.

In August 2018 PMR Leisure managed a tender process on behalf of Jersey Sport to bring a specialist skatepark design company on board to undertake a short piece of work to enable images of a possible skatepark to be produced. This would help in the wider fundraising campaign and assist with the wider community support campaign to reach agreement for the site to be used for this purpose.

All sites, as noted, sit within areas of designated Open Space in planning terms. However, the local community around each site will need to be supportive. In order to gain their support and an understanding of what is proposed a concept design is required.

The two favoured sites are both on the waterfront and offer spectacular opportunities for showcasing the sport but are different in character enabling a different feel and size of the skatepark to exist at each venue.

In September 2018 Jersey Sport, with the full support of JSA, appointed Glifberg Lykke, renowned skatepark and urban design architects, to undertake this initial work. Rune Glifberg visited the Island, undertaking visits to each of the four sites and carry out various consultations with JSA and the skate, BMX and scooter community.

The visit generated some clear comments and advice about the sites. Rune felt that Coronation Park would present a better opportunity for the ambitions of all skaters and the opportunity to create a world-class facility, ensuring that all level of activity for all ages can be accommodated for. Les Jardins de la Mer, whilst offering a fantastic location to showcase and create a unique piece of urban skate architecture, would in his opinion reduce the ability to accommodate all disciplines.

Rune felt that Les Quennevais offers similar opportunities in size compared to Coronation Park. However, the site is out of town, away from the seafront and lacks the other benefits of a central location. The Springfield Stadium site could work, but Rune understands the challenges that this site may have for local residents.

At this point, Glifberg Lykke are developing early concept designs for the two waterfront locations, which if required at this time could be transposed onto the sports facility sites.

Les Jardins de la Mer proposed location area for potential use



Coronation Park proposed location area for potential use



These two sites offer very different opportunities –

- **Les Jardins de la Mer** brings a St Helier location to life with an opportunity to create a larger play space for young children along with an architectural, sympathetically designed, skatepark, making it a family environment. However, it does have its challenges with the potential waterfront development in the future.
- **Coronation Park** is central to the Island, offering good access from all areas. It has a suitable grassed area of open space (indicated on the above plan) which could offer space for a skatepark without affecting existing active areas of the park. The skatepark would help complete what is currently a large park catering for mainly younger children's play and turn it into a whole 'through play' experience for all ages to become an ultimate family venue. Many young children use scooters and could enjoy both the play space and skate space if these activities were to share the park. The suggested location enables the central area of the park and existing trees to be left untouched. This site on the seafront allows the skatepark to be developed facing the sea, away from much of the play space which is concentrated at the back of the park where the children's paddling pool and café sit. It will offer a new family dynamic and major visitor attraction to families coming to Jersey.

There is an opportunity for skateboarding in Jersey to join the famous list of skate locations around the world and to act as a platform to promote the Island worldwide. It is not about the size of the park - it is the design and location that create the destination. Jersey is known for its cool surf life; a new skatepark will enhance this but more importantly will attract a wider group of young people in the community into a dynamic and exciting sport. Both Les Jardins de La Mer and Coronation Park have the opportunity to deliver this.

6 Next steps to delivery

Upon completion of the concept design stages, which will also estimate the funding levels required, the following steps need to be taken:

1. Obtain feedback from all stakeholders on the early design concepts.
2. Discuss with SOJ the cost plans of each site and potential funding available for the project so that any additional funds can be sought from external sources where required.
3. Use information and stakeholders' feedback from this early process to select the final site.
4. Undertake thorough community consultation with all relevant parties including the local community around the site, Parish Officials and planners to explain the project and opportunity this project offers the location for Jersey.
5. Identify any relevant technical information, which may already be available, about the site to assist with the next stage.
6. Undertake full design procurement for the agreed site and design the final scheme to be delivered.
7. Apply for, and secure, planning permission.
8. Procure and appoint the construction team of the skatepark.
9. Site construction.
10. Opening of the new skatepark for Jersey.

This work needs to be co-ordinated among SOJ, Jersey Sport and JSA through a working party to ensure that all those who have an interest in the project are part of this crucial implementation stage.

Those who have been consulted to date and involved in the process need to be updated and informed of the next steps. Their ongoing vocal support will be crucial through the funding and wider planning stages of the project.

SOJ Officers will need to continue the site selection process in conjunction with land owners/administrators, the Planning Department and the JSA. Once a favoured site has been determined the process will move on to design, securing planning permission and funding for the build will be required.

Appendix 1

Reflective article in Bailiwick Express on the skatepark open day during the boat show

With thousands of Islanders heading to the Boat Show over the sunny bank holiday weekend, members of the Jersey Skateparks Association (JSA) used the occasion to showcase their skills and keep their hunt for a new facility on the agenda.

"The recently formed Jersey Skateparks Association (JSA) has just held an event at the old skatepark on the New North Quay. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the need for a new skatepark to be built as the current, outdated and poorly situated facility is set to be permanently closed in September. It is now only open on weekends and holidays, whereas the park used to be open all year round.

The event was held on Sunday 6th of May during the Jersey Boat Show, and its aim was '... to build an awareness of the skills of local park users,' said event organiser Dillon Catney- a founding member of the JSA. 'We wanted to make the public aware of how much creative talent we have around the Island and the fact that a skatepark is a crucial place for people to meet and express themselves.'

The event was well attended by all walks of society, and there was a lot for people to feast their eyes upon. With demos of skateboarding, BMX and scooter skills, the atmosphere in the skatepark was getting pretty heated; this might of had something to do with the temperature reaching 26°C, but this wasn't an issue for any of the attendees as there was plenty of fruit and water on hand which had been kindly donated by Waitrose.

To add to the physical displays, there was live breakdancing, backed by a talented DJ and a makeshift graffiti wall on which lots of young people were encouraged to 'leave their mark.' There was a feeling of excitement resonating through the crowds which were a joy to witness. Earlier on in the day, brave families and other members of the public were encouraged to participate and try out some of the sports on offer, with JSA members assisting people to hop on boards and bikes and to use the park ramps.

It was also interesting to see a number of existing states members turn up and some of the prospective candidates too. Whether this was just for photo opportunities or out of some sense of public duty will I'm sure, become more apparent in coming weeks. Either way, the organisers were delighted with the turnout. With the Jersey Youth Service on hand and a health and safety representative from Jersey Sport also attending throughout the day, it's clear to see that the JSA are heading in the right direction.

The thing is this, though; for nearly everyone attending the park on Sunday- for those participating, days like this are a regular occurrence. To take this park away and not replace it, is an affront to its many users. With Skateboarding and BMX now an official Olympic sport, the park users cannot be marginalised any longer. Society needs to accept who they are and what they do. They need to be brought out of the shadows and into the public arena so they can showcase their incredible skills. They need a facility to suit their requirements, and this needs to happen much sooner than anyone may have anticipated.

Support your future voters."

Appendix 2

PowerPoint 4 April 2018 public meeting



JSA

Jersey Skatepark Project
Welcome and Introduction
Connétable Steve Pallett

JSA - who we are, what we stand for and what we aim to achieve short medium and long term

Shadow Board of JSA

- Karl Payne - Chairman
- Phil Minty – Secretary
- Sophie Kilpatrick
- Mark Harris
- Daniel Le Marquand
- John Cornwall
- Daco Fernandes
- Phil Coleborn
- Luka Pinto
- Dillon Calney

Supported by James Tilley Jersey Sport, Partnership Manager and Penny Lochwest, PMR Leisure



States of Jersey

JERSEY SPORT

PMR



JSA

Agenda for the evening

1. Aim of evening - update, inform and gain views and support
2. JSA - who we are, what we stand for and what we aim to achieve short medium and long term
3. What JSA have been doing of your behalf
4. Social case and 'Collective Voice' - why it's so important and who we have backing us so far
5. Sites identification and selection - your voice counts,
6. What you can do
7. Next steps
8. Q&A

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JSA

What we stand for

- Our intention is to develop the sports through the creation of facilities and provide pathways of progression from beginner to elite riders
- The Jersey Skateparks Association (JSA) is the official body representing those who believe a skatepark is an important and necessary part of modern society.
- Members include riders, their parents and all supporters of those who ride
- We are a free, voluntary, 'rider run' association, working alongside local government towards an island wide vision.

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JSA

Short, medium & long term actions

Short Term – next 3-6 months: develop membership JSA and launch formal JSA Board. Achieve strong Collective Voice to help put our case to funders, tender park design, publish a growth strategy for our sports

Medium Term - See our first park in place, launch event

Long Term – develop further sites, grow our sports develop our athletes potential

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JSA

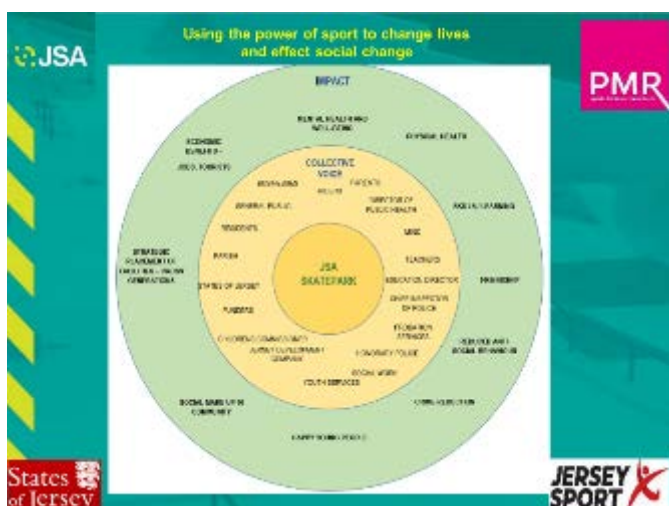
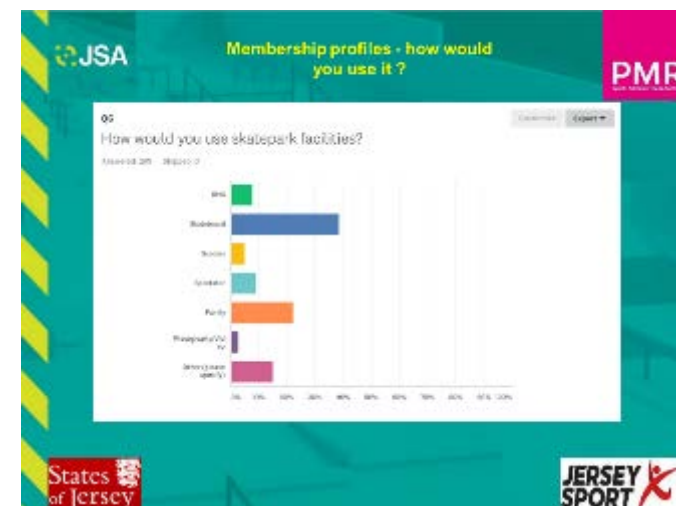
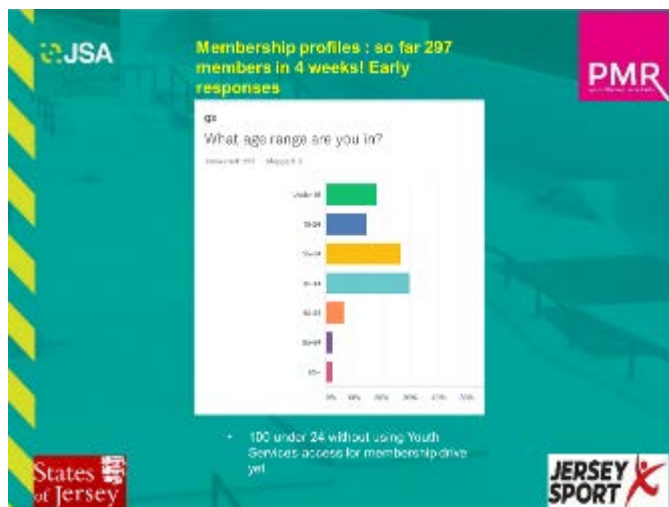
What we have all been doing with PMR and Jersey Sport

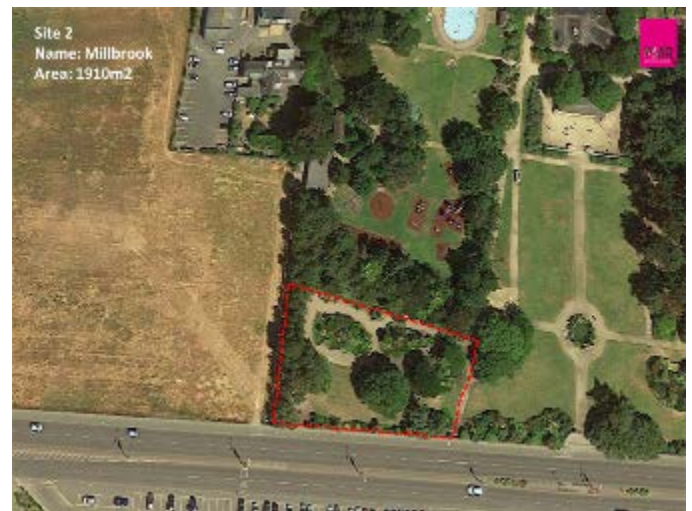
- Meeting weekly to develop JSA
- Launched JSA through a social media campaign- twitter, FB, Instagram
- New membership survey - 297 members
- Part of the formal working group between SOJ and JSA
- Site selection reviewing
- Hosted a parents meeting
- Consulting young people with Youth Services
- Developing an event around the Boat Show
- Gathering major support from external agencies
- Identifying funding opportunities
- Gathering support from well-known riders
- PR in Gallery, Bailiwick, JEP, 103, BBC, ITV
- Developing our own film to showcase our sports
- Creating a 'Collective Voice' around us

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PMR







JSA **Taking sites forward** **PMR**

- These four sites have merit and least technical challenges so far and are preferred by JSA
- This does not mean others may not come back if required into the debate.
- We may formalise your view through survey monkey to members in coming weeks. It's important to become members to gain a voice which the JSA Committee can use as the recorded membership view.

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JSA **What you can do ?** **PMR**

- Raise awareness in your communities – direct people to join JSA
- Parents attend hustings events pre-election. Cast your vote behind those openly supporting the Skatepark
- Send supporting letters to JSA as this helps the formal planning process say WHY its important to you and Jersey to get this facility.
- People have mentioned helping by hosting events. Please come via JSA so we can coordinate activity and you can go and do it – things need to be identified as JSA supporting events, use of the logo etc.
- Support event on 6th May at the Boat show
- When we are ready – help fundraise!
- If you want to do more – join the parents or youth sub groups of JSA.

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JSA **What next for JSA** **PMR**

- Raise more awareness and secure the right site and a backup site
- Discuss Planning process timelines with SOJ Planning dept
- Further discussions with funders and apply for funding
- Look to tender design process - JSA and WG will advise on this directly
- Agree with Ports timelines for current skatepark

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JSA **Thank you** **PMR**

Q & A session

States of Jersey **JERSEY SPORT**

Appendix 3 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people who have been involved in this study helping PMR bring forward the case for the skate community of Jersey.

- **Senator Steve Pallett**
- **Constable Simon Crowcroft**
- **Deputy Andrew Lewis**
- **Catriona McAllister - CEO Jersey Sport**
- **James Tilley - Jersey Sport**
- **Dawn Dauny - Jersey Sport**
- **Deborah McMillan - Children's Commissioner**
- **Alex Coleborn – BMX pro rider**
- **Barclay Harvey – Head of Sports Facilities and Operations SOJ**
- **Mark Capern – Director, Youth Services, States of Jersey**
- **Martin Knight - Director of Public Health Policy, States of Jersey**
- **Natasha Day - Policy Planning Officer, States of Jersey**
- **Tony Andrews – Director, Parks and Open Spaces, St Helier Parish**
- **Chief Inspector Chris Beechey - States of Jersey Police, and Police Sergeant Paul Kemp - Community Policing Team**
- **James Le Feuvre – Director, MIND Jersey**
- **Anna Peters - Jersey Youth Services**
- **Lee Henry - Managing Director, States of Jersey Development Company**
- **Bill Moore - Jersey Youth Services**

JSA committee members

- **Karl Payne - Chairman**
- **Phil Minty – Secretary**
- **Sophie Kilpatrick**
- **Mark Harris**
- **Daniel Le Marquand**
- **John Cornwall**
- **Daco Fernandes**
- **Phil Coleborn**
- **Luka Pinto**
- **Dillon Catney**
- **Alistair Mitchell**

- All the committed parents and young people who I met at the public meetings, in the parks or youth clubs who gave their time to me in person or took time to write to me about their views on the new park.