



Summary of Public Consultation

Sovereign Skatepark

Date ended 19th October

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Background

Sovereign Skatepark was located on the seafront by the Sovereign Centre. The original skatepark was installed in 2000, constructed of a timber frame and Skatelite riding surface.

The park was completely rebuilt in 2010 using the same materials. In September 2016 the park was condemned by a ROSPA inspector and subsequently removed by the Council.

In 2016 a budget was agreed for the provision of a replacement park, however there has been a delay in delivering the project due to some potential conflicts with the planned refurbishment of the Sovereign centre. Due to this delay it was important to carry out a thorough consultation with the potential users of the skatepark to ensure the design brief meets the needs of the users.

The survey ran over September and October and had a great response with **1970** people responding to the survey. The survey was available online at www.sovereignskatepark.org and was distributed to all the local schools and colleges, skate related businesses like My Skateworld and also made available in paper form at several locations. This was designed to provide a wide range of means of communication to make the process as accessible as possible, but may have led to some duplication of responses where members of the public responded via more than one of these methods. However, this cannot be quantified due to some responders choosing to remain anonymous.

The survey was embraced by the schools with the students discussing and filling in the forms in tutor groups at several schools.

The survey was promoted via onsite signage at the existing skateparks and popular playgrounds, social media, existing contact databases, word of mouth and a press release. Thanks goes to the Neighbourhood Team, in particular Neil Peters, for doing a lot of the leg work and promoting the survey across the town.

Headline Data

- 1970 responses to the survey
- 54% of respondents indicated they were from Eastbourne. Additionally a significant amount of the remainder indicated they were from Polegate or nearby BN,TN and RH postcodes.
- The majority of respondents indicated that they ride every day, and the majority of the responses came from scooter riders and there was a good mix across the other disciplines
- Hampden Park was the most popular local skatepark followed by Gildredge and Shinewater. Further afield the popular outdoor parks were Polegate, Lewes, Hastings, Uckfield and the Level. Indoor parks namely Source Skatepark in Hastings, Adrenaline Alley Skate Park in Corby and Rampworx in Liverpool were also popular.
- The number one priority elements that people want to see in the new park are boxes and bowls
- Looking at the preferences across six priority items the following are the most important elements for the new park

Box(es)	Bowl(s)
Spine	Half Pipe
Street section	Volcano
Ramps	Rails
Obstacles	Hubba

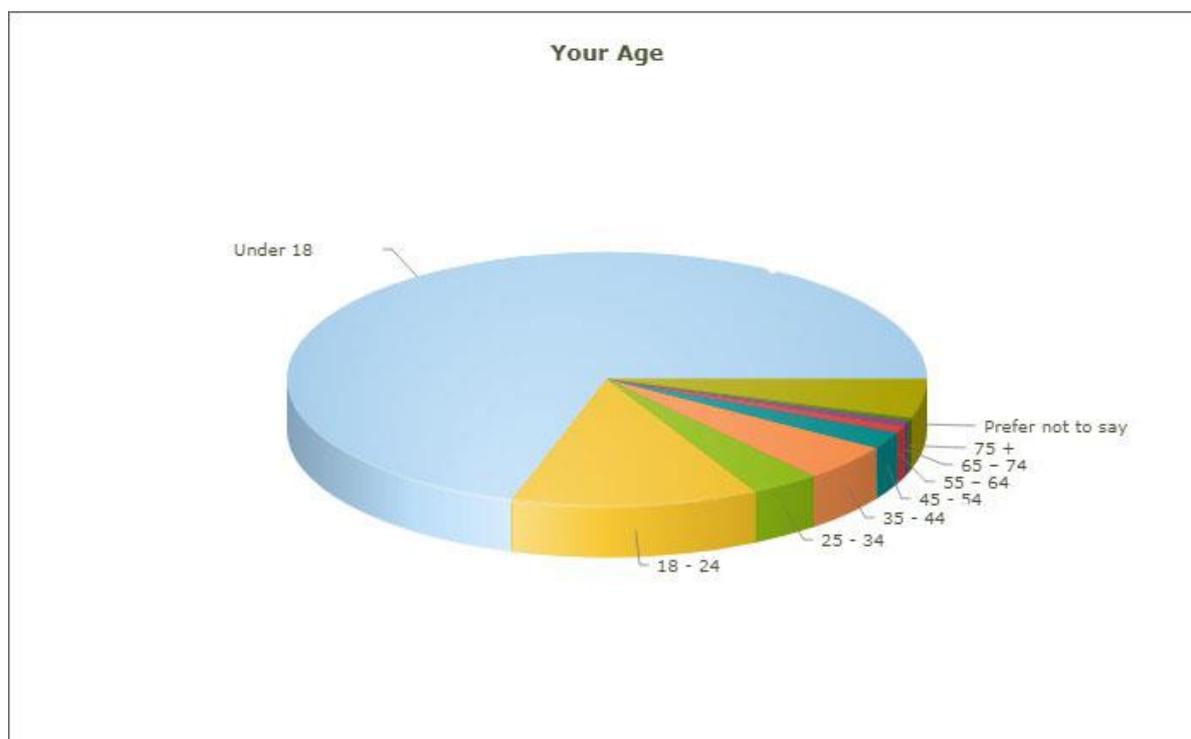
- When asked to consider a Signature Element for the park there was no one item that was statistically significant. People generally considered the elements like the bowls and boxes would be the parks 'signature' though there was comments regarding the sea/beach that could be considered in the design
- Unsurprisingly the respondents considered the 'flow' of the park to be the key element is the design of the new skatepark. Also for consideration by the designers will be the transitions and the clever use of obstacles. Somewhat surprisingly seating was also considered to be a key element in the design.

Survey Results

Note: Some correction of the text was undertaken to allow the software to analysis the text. This was not exhaustive but did seek to find patterns of incorrect spelling and removal of plurals. For example, boxes was replaced with box. Street section replaced with streetsection, half pipe replaced with halfpipe etc. to allow the software to recognise it as one item. Also where possible misspelling was corrected on common words like Gildredge and Hampden.

Ages

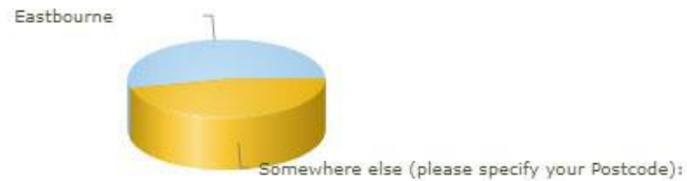
The survey primarily captured the under 18's with a reasonable mix across the older age groups up to 54 years where it tapered off significantly



Location

The majority of the respondents indicated they were from Eastbourne and the surrounding BN, TN and RH postcodes also showed to be a significant part of the catchment for the survey. Interestingly the survey was also answered by people not living in the UK with Australia, France and America been the most popular. It does not appear that the international respondents would have had any influence over the results. We can only assume it is the use of social media that has spread the word an allowed the survey to be picked up across the world.

Where do you live

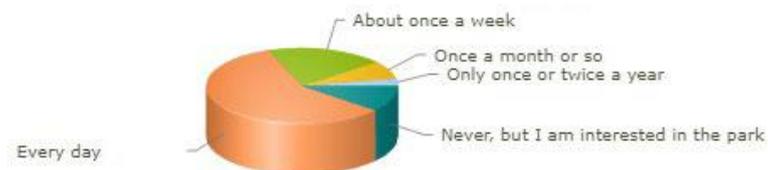


How often do you ride?

58% of people stated that they rode every day indicating that there was a lot of experience behind the responses.

11% of respondents were not riders but showed an interest in the park. Their comments were overwhelmingly in support of a new park been built.

How often do you ride

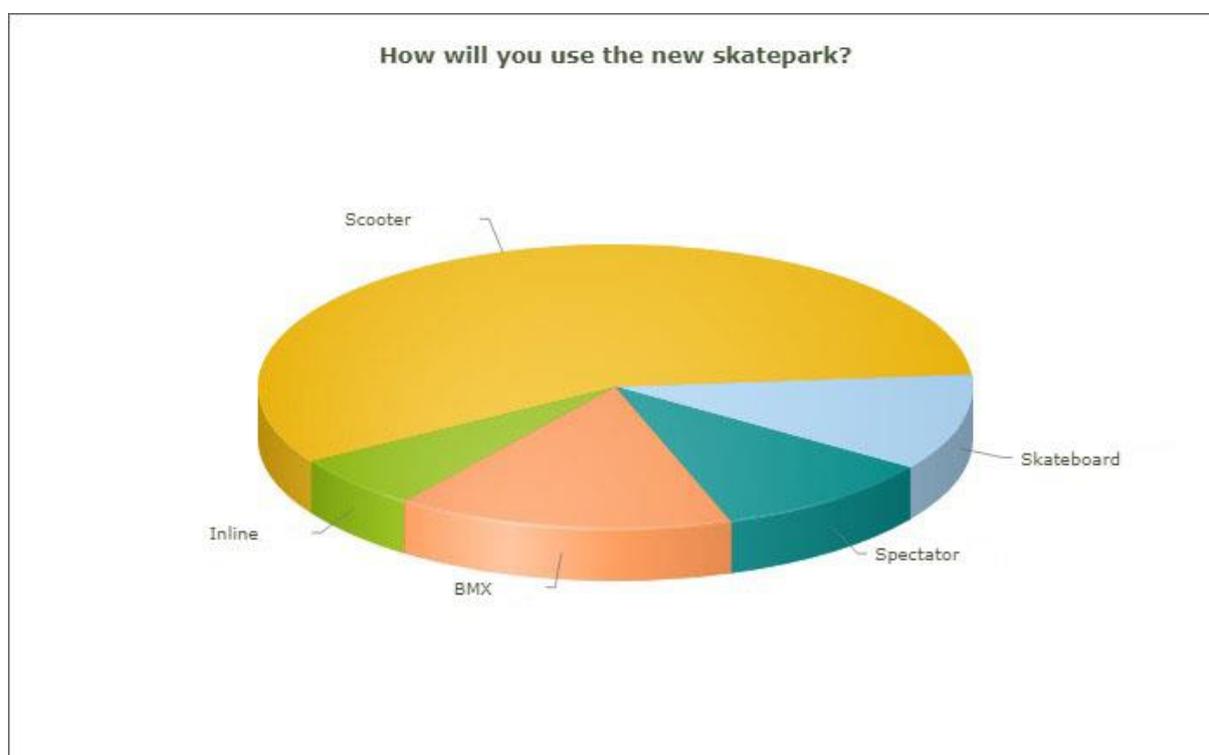


Where do you ride

Hampden Park was the most popular local skatepark, people really like the bowl and also popular from the comments is the adjoining pump track. Gildredge (Manor Gardens) was the next most popular, though it does get busy and there were comments requesting an extension in the space next to the park. Shinewater was next and although a small park people really like the choice of obstacles . Further afield the popular outdoor parks were Polegate, Lewes, Hastings, Uckfield and the Level.

Interestingly many of the respondents travel to the indoor parks namely Source Skatepark in Hastings, Adrenaline Alley Skate Park in Corby and Rampworx in Liverpool was also popular.

How will you use the park?



The majority of people indicated they were scooter riders, and there was a good mix across the other disciplines. The results could have been influenced by social media and where the survey was promoted online.

Most important elements

The survey asked what are the most important elements that you want to see in the new park. The purpose of this question is to inform the design brief. This is the key information that the skatepark designers will use to base their design on whilst working to the budget and any site constraints.

The number one priority elements that people want to see in the new park are boxes and bowls.

Looking at the preferences the following are the most important elements for the new park in order:

1. Box(es)
2. Bowl(s)
3. Spine
4. Half Pipe
5. Street section
6. Volcano
7. Ramps
8. Rails
9. Obstacles
10. Hubba

The key to a well designed park is not to use the above list of items as a checklist of things a park should have, but to use them and create a park that has good flow and connectivity between the elements.

Signature Element

Often this question brings out a strong theme for the park but in this case there was no one item that was statistically significant. People generally considered the elements like the bowls and boxes would be the parks 'signature' though there were comments regarding the sea/beach that could be considered in the design. Also people liked the idea of the elements being 'big' which is reflective of the old park that was removed.

Unsurprisingly the respondents considered the 'flow' of the park to be the key element in the design of the new skatepark. Also for consideration by the designers will be the transitions and the clever use of obstacles. Somewhat surprisingly seating was also considered to be a key element in the design.

There was a mix of interest in the materials with both comments for and against wooden and concrete parks.

Small Design Group

The survey asked people to show interest in being in a small design group that could review the key design preferences and develop a design brief for the designers. 661 people answered yes to this question which means the group will be unworkable. We will have to consider how to take this forward and it may be that the designers work with the raw data initially.