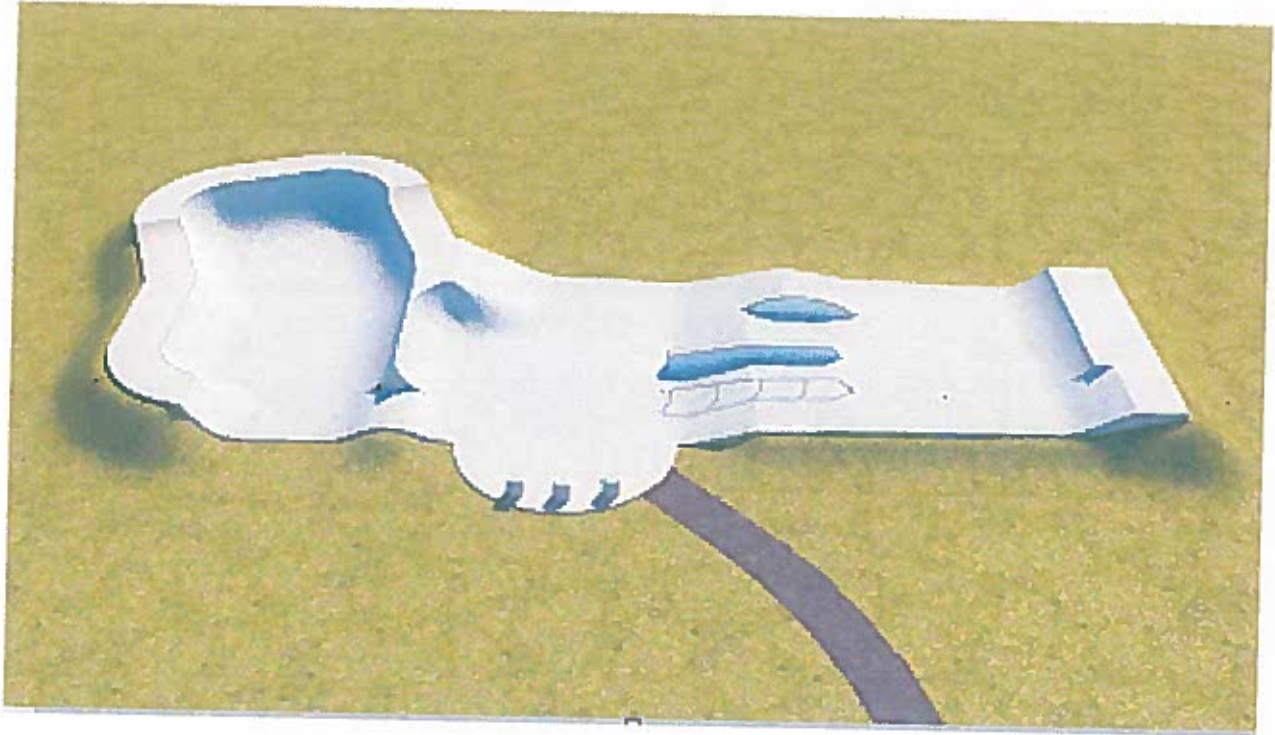




North  
Northamptonshire  
Council



**SD4 - North Northamptonshire Council  
Bassetts Close Skate Park  
ASB/Crime Prevention Report  
January 2024**

## **Contents Page**

### **1. ASB Issues**

- 1.1 Discussion with Police**
- 1.2 Fencing**
- 1.3 Statistics from Police on ASB/Crime incidents within NNC**
- 1.4 CCTV/Skatepark Group**
- 1.5 Positions of skatepark**
- 1.6 Lighting**

### **2. Conclusion**

## **1. ASB issues**

### **1.1 Discussion with Police**

The Council has been working with Police Crime Prevention Officer and NNC Safer Communities' team regarding concerns of residents/park users and Police on crime/ASB issues at the park, Various discussions have been held regarding:

- Fencing
- ASB/crime/safety
- Lighting
- Position of the skatepark
- CCTV

The Police concerns were not all directly linked to the skatepark and Bassetts Close Park but were general ASB issues encountered in parks.

### **1.2 Fencing**

After consulting with the Built Heritage Consultant and Northamptonshire Police, it is proposed that there will be no fencing around the skatepark. In order to address the Police's concerns the fence would need to be 2m away from the equipment for safety which would mean more grass would be lost and a 1.2 m fence would not be beneficial as people can jump over it so could not be locked. It was felt by the Heritage Consultant that a fence would be detrimental to the visual lines from the Victorian gates and railings on Westfield Road to the bandstand.

Whilst the Northamptonshire Police would have preferred fencing to contain all the litter within the skatepark area, it was agreed that additional bins would be installed near the skatepark.

Skaters do not like the parks to be surrounded by fencing as they form a barrier with the rest of the park, feel unsafe and can damage equipment when a board hits it. There is no requirement under BSEN14974:2019 to fence off the skatepark and most skateparks are open within public parks.

Skating is a free flow sport, to encourage various ages to use it would be beneficial to have the area open and not fenced off as the skatepark currently is. The design of the proposed skatepark is to be blended into the park with grass bunding no hidden spaces underneath equipment to aesthetically blend into the park, therefore it was agreed with Police a fence would not be beneficial by all.

### **1.3 Statistics from Police on ASB/Crime incidents within NNC**

The Council asked the Police to provide information on the crime/ASB incidents reported to them relating to skateparks in the past 5 years within North Northamptonshire. This would allow the council to see if there are issues with the skatepark and the possibility of further ASB problems within Bassetts Close Park that the Council need to address. The Police ran a report with the key word being skatepark as there is no specific search for only skatepark associated incidents. The total number of ASB incidents that were reported with 5 years were 131 on average 26 ASB incidents a year reported in connection with skateparks, out of these none on the list were from Bassetts Close Park considering there is currently a skatepark located within the park no incidents/crime reported.

Diagram 1 below show a breakdown of the types of incidents and crimes reported from skateparks within North Northamptonshire area in 2017-2022 the vast majority were rowdy

inconsiderate behaviour which is a general problem in all parks. Many of the areas with a skatepark have had no more than 1 or 2 incidents reported within the 5 year period which shows that if you have a well-equipped useable skatepark skaters will come to skate and not cause problems.

Radlands is one of the largest skateparks in Northamptonshire and the reports received by the police from there are 3-4 in 5 years which is small in comparison to how many users it has. Bassetts Close skatepark will be a third of the size compared to Radlands and therefore will have around 5-10 users max in a busy day. This shows that although relocating the skatepark and providing a better facility could increase the number of users the mitigation that the Council are putting in place with location, visibility, CCTV, lighting alongside the Community Group should mean that the ASB incidents should not increase but help in deterring and preventing.

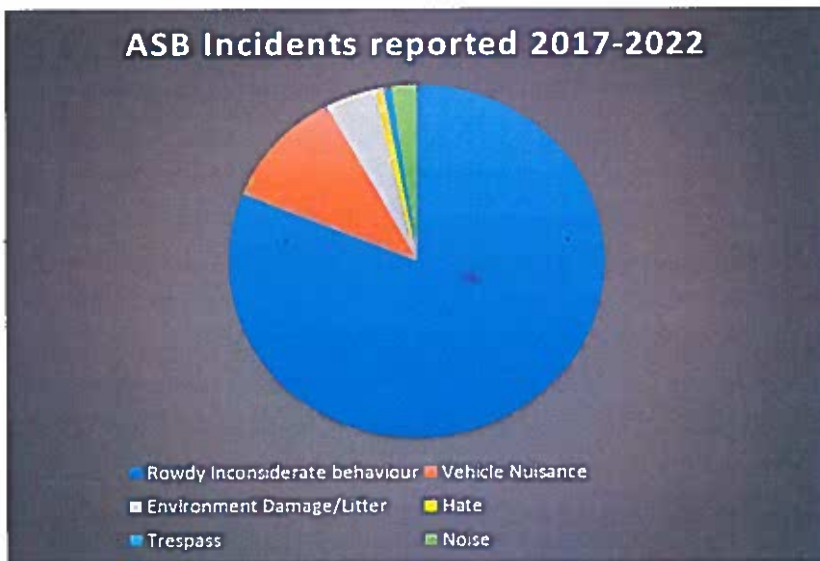


Diagram 1 ASB incidents reported 2017-2022

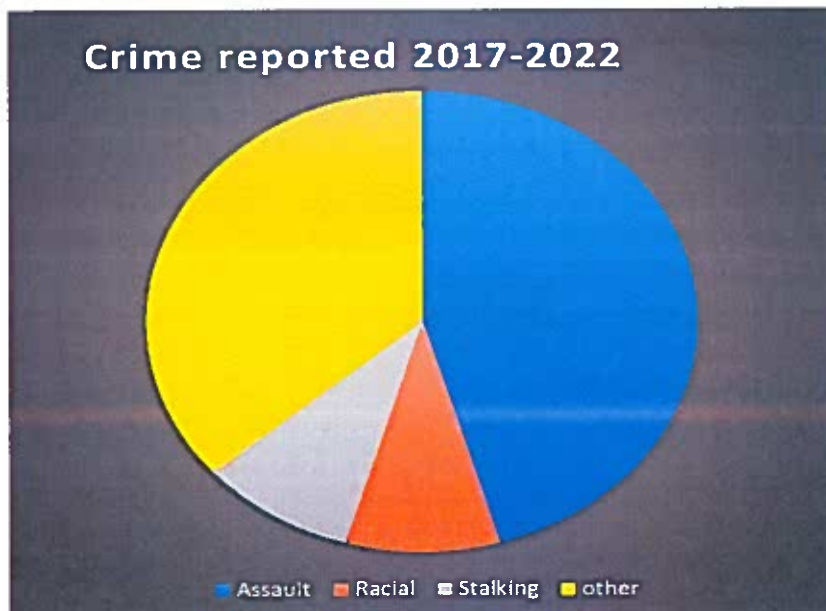


Diagram 2 Crime reported in 2017-2022

#### 1.4 CCTV/Skatepark Group

Bassetts Close Park is used as a route into the town centre and though to St Barnabas Primary School so there are always people walking through, with the new location there will also be additional views from the road providing natural surveillance.

Council officers has sought advice from the NNC Safer Communities team who have agreed the statistics do not raise concerns for Bassetts Close Park at this current time and with already having a skatepark within the park this would give an good indication of the incidents that may occur. However they did advise that in other skateparks around the area CCTV has been a good deterrent to ASB than of those without CCTV and the recommendation was made to have CCTV cameras installed within Bassetts Close Park, this would help with public/police concerns and make the park safer for all users, therefore the Council has included the installation of 2 cameras to go into Bassetts Close Park to help prevent ASB/crime. *Full details in the CCTV documents*

Bassetts Close Park Skatepark group set up by the skaters to help look after the skatepark, painted the existing skatepark to try and make the best of the aging facility. Having a community group in place will help to generate a feeling of community spirit and pride in the facility which will hopefully help reduce ASB as well a positive step towards combating ASB.

### **1.5 Positions of skatepark**

Various positions of the skatepark were discussed & looked into with police within the area proposed for the skatepark, bringing the skatepark nearer Westfield Road or flipping the skatepark sideways for better surveillance but due to the topography of the ground levels this would create drainage problems. Also because of Freemans Schools concerns on noise and visibility of the skatepark, bringing it forward and flipping it would raise further concerns therefore these options were ruled out.

### **1.6 Lighting**

Police have asked for the lighting to be on constant for the duration of the agreed time instead of PIR lighting so the skatepark can be visible from the road for safety and security reasons. The lighting design has been changed to meet the requirements of the police but keeping in line with meeting lighting standards to not interfere with houses and bats. The Council has worked with the Commission of Darker skies to make sure the lighting will comply.

Another reason the police felt that PIR lights would not work in this location is that there are many passer by's using the path in the park near the skatepark and this would have the lights going off and on all the time sudden light could stun people increasing their heart rates, the houses could be affected by the light going on and off if someone is injured in the skatepark and not moving the lighting would go off and therefore would not be visible for help to be sent.

The lighting has been designed to ensure there is enough light for safe skating and also for the skatepark to be visible from the road and CCTV as requested by the police for public safety.

