

Second Public Consultation 12th January 2023, 33 Acre Proposed Recreation Area Thurston. 2nd Draft Plan (see appendix)

Background to the Consultation and Summary of the Feedback

The Ben Wragge Skate Park Charity invited Thurston Residents to attend a Public Consultation Event at the New Green Centre in Thurston on the 12th January 2023. Drop in, 2.00pm - 8.00pm

The event had been widely advertised as follows.

Village newsletter distributed to every household.
Thurston Nextdoor website
New Green Community Trust website,
Thurston Football Club Facebook page,
Ben Wragge Skate Park Charity Facebook page.
Thurston Village notice boards.
Posters in local Library, Butchers, Post Office, Garage

In addition, a 3D virtual tour featuring the second draft plan was published on the Charity website <https://benwraggecharity.co.uk> with a link to You Tube. This had over 1200 views prior to the consultation.

The purpose of the event was to present changes made to the plans seen at the first consultation and to invite further feedback from the community.

The Charity presentation featured a detailed plan of the second draft layout, the 3D presentation referenced above and images illustrating the small recreation areas on the new developments.

Young Village skateboarders displayed details of skateparks they had visited as part of their input into a village skatepark design. They invited discussions on the skate park features that were of interest to other skateboarders in the village.

At the first consultation the Scouts had expressed an interest in facilities on the site and these have been incorporated in the draft plan. The Scouts had a display illustrating their activities. They are currently turning away youngsters who want to join them due to lack of facilities.

Thurston Football Club had a stand illustrating Club activities. They are also turning away aspiring players through lack of playing facilities.

Thurston Parish Council had a display featuring the Neighbourhood plan. Many of the requirements of the Neighbourhood plan are incorporated in these proposals.

Volunteers from the various interest groups were on hand to talk to residents and those attending were invited to complete a Feedback Form to gauge support for the ideas and gather information.

An estimated 200 people attended and 134 Feedback Forms were received.

Tick boxes facilitated grouping the results into relevant categories and there was the opportunity for significant free text responses in order to gather as much information as possible.

Feedback Assessment -For ease of comparison this Assessment is made in the same 6 Feedback Groups used for the first consultation with an overall summary. Further details of each Group follow the Summary.

A simple For and Against Summary shows:

| | For | Against | Total |
|---------|-----|---------|-------|
| Group 1 | 97 | Nil | 97 |
| Group 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Group 3 | 3 | Nil | 3 |
| Group 4 | Nil | 9 | 9 |
| Group 5 | Nil | 9 | 9 |
| Group 6 | 14 | Nil | 14 |
| Totals | 112 | 18 | 132 |

| | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|
| Group 7 | ? | ? | 2 |
|---------|---|---|---|

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Group 1 | This Group are residents and supporters of the proposal. |
| Group 2 | This Group in the first survey as Heath Road residents - did not identify separately in this survey. |
| Group 3 | This Group are residents bordering the site who were supportive. |
| Group 4 | This Group are general residents against the proposal for reasons shown. |
| Group 5 | This Group have gardens bordering the site and raised a wide range of objections. |
| Group 6 | This Group are non- residents in favour. |
| Group 7 | This Group were undecided. |

The first draft plan featured access to the site from Heath Road and this raised most objections. The second draft plan has moved the access to Barton Road and the residents in Heath Road no longer feature as a separate Group of objectors.

The feedback shows the value of community engagement which we will continue to progress and inform our proposal.

Our second draft plan has relocated many of the facilities seen by objectors as problematic and introduced a significant 25m wide buffer zone between resident gardens and the football pitches. Many responses have seen this as a positive change but the remaining objectors are against any change of use of the site.

We have undertaken a topographical survey of the site and now have the benefit of detailed dimensions, levels and features. We have further work to do to identify potential services for the site and will be working on refining details and costs for the project to inform a funding strategy for the project.

We have commenced preliminary discussions with West Suffolk District Council planning department to establish planning requirements and obtain their input on our draft proposals.

To enable the Charity to progress a project with objectives beyond a skatepark we have the approval of the Charity Commission to change our name to "Ben Wragge Charity" and broaden our "Objects" to include a broad range of Recreational, leisure and sport activities. Details are on the Charity Commission website. Our registered Charity number is 1187299

Signed

Roger Smith-Chairman-Ben Wragge Charity

22/01/2023

Group 1 -Ticked the "I am a Thurston Resident box" "I support the proposal box".

97 Responses

Equipment and Facilities suggested.

Slide 1, Zip wire 1, Under 11 age play equipment 4, Wooden play sculptures 1, Tennis 1, Lawn Bowls 1, Pickle Ball court (MUGA?) 2, Park Run 2, Golf Range 1, Gym trail 1, Overflow parking 1, Dog agility equipment 2, larger dog area 2, vegetable garden 1, Shop 1, Bingo Hall 1, Waste bins 1, Water fountain 1, Allotments 1, Maintenance equipment sheds 1, Coffee shop 2, Baby Changing 1, Wildlife pond 1, Graffiti wall 1, Clubhouse/Community building 3, Birdwatching/Quiet area 1.

General Comments.

Good for youth 11, Rewilding/wildlife good 5, Good for community 23, Much needed 8, Good cause 1, Resident buffer good 3, New Layout good 11, More hedgerows 2, Move road access North 3, Open space/rewilding positive 3, Skate park positive 17, Scout facility good 4, Hurry up 2, Health benefit 3, Skate Park below ground level 1, Football much needed 3, BMX/Cycle track-youngsters off road 3, Village expanding 3.

Help offered-Skatepark design input.

Group 2-used in first survey, not replicated in this survey.

This was a large group of Heath Road residents that objected to the first draft plan in the first survey. They do not feature as a separate Group in the second survey as the site entrance has been relocated and their combined concerns do not repeat as a Group in this second survey.

**Group 3 -Ticked the "I am a Thurston Resident box" "I support the proposal box"
"My Garden borders the site box".**

3 Responses

Comments.

Revised access/layout positive 2, Good range of facilities 1, Resident buffer/rewilding good 2, Good for youth 1, Important to improve wildlife/biodiversity 1.

Concerns.

Will adjacent residents get fencing to their gardens ?, Want to retain open views 1, Want wider resident buffer 1, Noise 1, Lights 1.

Group 4 Ticked the "I am a Thurston Resident box" "I do not support the proposal box"

9 Responses.

Comments.

New access is positive 2, Want more walking areas 1, Support small skatepark 1,
Plant forest instead of facilities 1.

Concerns.

Too big 4, Wrong place 5, Barton road access unsafe 1, Pollution/noise 8, Anti-social 2,
Potential parking Heath Rd/Genesta Drive 4, Loss of agriculture 1, Buffer takes long time to establish 1,
Security 3, additional traffic Barton Road 1, Light pollution 1, Too many football pitches 2,
How funded maintained ? 2.

**Group 5 -Ticked the "I am a Thurston Resident box" "I do not support the proposal box"
"My Garden borders the site box".**

9 Responses

Comments

Wrong place 3, Too big 3, Not enough detail to decide 1, No one from BMX to speak to 1,

Concerns.

Peace and quiet lost 1, Too many football pitches 2, Agriculture not football 1, Noise 3, security 1,
Few children live nearby 1, Too many facilities/small space 1, Dog walking cycling together is dangerous 1,

Group 6 -Ticked the "I support the proposal box" did not tick "I am a Thurston Resident box"

14 Responses

Comments

Good for community 7, Good for youth 2, Good for young children 1, Want running/walking tracks 1,
Skate Park positive 2, Football positive 1, Dog walk good 1, New layout good 1,
Changes considerate to neighbours 1, Want floodlights 1, Want toilets/café 1, Move BMX to skate area 1,

Concerns.

Site security 1.

Appendix to Consultation Event 12th January 2023 Feedback Summary.

Image showing the second draft layout plan on which the Consultation was based.



A 3D virtual plan of the proposal is available at the Charity web site <https://benwraggecharity.co.uk>

Note these are draft proposals for discussion with the Thurston Community and no planning application has been made.

Image showing the original 33 Acre field plus additional field to provide access to Barton Road.

