

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2004**

### **SURPLUS GROUND ADJACENT TO THE GAVIN HAMILTON SPORTS CENTRE, JAMIESON ROAD, DARVEL**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to declare ground adjacent to the Gavin Hamilton Sports Centre, Jamieson Road, Darvel surplus to requirements.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Darvel Skateboard Group has been raising funds to create a small skateboard park in Darvel and site in Council ownership, adjacent to the Gavin Hamilton Sports Centre has been identified as appropriate for this development.
- 2.2 A site plan is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Group are confident of raising sufficient funds to install a skateboard ramp and require a lease for the land from the Council. In order for a lease to be agreed the Committee must declare this area of land surplus to requirements.
- 3.2 Members will be aware from previous discussions and considerations of a report on skateboarding facilities on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2003, that there are difficulties associated with obtaining insurance for skateboarding facilities. The Darvel Skateboard Group have been offered insurance by Zurich Municipal and have undertaken to meet the various risk control measures recommended by Zurich. Members will recall that it was these risk control measures that caused difficulties for the Council in developing its own skateboard facilities. As the Darvel facility will be a single ramp and will be considerably smaller than the facility considered by the Council, Zurich may have determined that the risk of injury to participants would be reduced and therefore agreed to ensure the Group.
- 3.3 As the facility will be built on Council land and in order to protect the Council's interests if the Group should cease to exist, a bond of £500 has been agreed with the Group. In the event of the Group disbanding or being unable to manage the facility this funding would be used to remove the skateboard ramp to prevent injury and remove the possibility of a claim against the Council.

#### **4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 As the Darvel Skateboard Group is confident of raising sufficient funds and has insurance ready to be put in place for the facility, it would be appropriate to declare this ground surplus to requirements. Any lease subsequently put in place should require that this insurance is kept up to date and that the Council accepts no responsibility for the management, maintenance or supervision of the skateboard facility.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) declare the site adjacent to Gavin Hamilton Sports Centre, Jamieson Road, Darvel surplus to requirements;
- ii) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to advise the Executive Director of Development and Property Services in accordance with agreed procedures; and
- iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford

**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

WS/JAG/KH 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letter from Darvel Skaters Group Committee Secretary dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2002.
2. Letter from John Griffiths to Darvel Skaters Group dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2002.
3. Letter from Darvel Skaters Group Treasurer dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2003.
4. Letter from Darvel Skaters Group Treasurer dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2003.
5. Letter from John Griffiths to Darvel Skaters Group dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers, please contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services on 01563 576264.

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