



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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REPORT TO RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
TEL NO	07923257879
EMAIL	townclerk@todmorden-tc.gov.
Date	8th September 2021
SUBJECT	Wheelspark Graffiti and Coaching

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek from Members, agreement to a budget provision of £500 to be made towards commissioning a professional “graffiti” artist to influence future graffiti placement and content on the Wheelspark.
2. To seek from Members, agreement to a budget provision of £1,000 to be made towards commissioning qualified coaches to deliver sessions to beginners in the safe use of equipment and the Wheelspark itself.
3. To authorise the Town Clerk to explore provision that may be available and to deliver these discrete projects within the next three months.

BACKGROUND

4. The official opening of the Wheelspark on August Bank Holiday Sunday was a tremendous success seeing lots of users of all ages enjoy the opportunity to show off their skills.
5. Ahead of the event arrangement had been made to paint over any offensive graffiti on the Friday prior to the event but in the early morning of the event day itself it was necessary for three panels containing future offensive graffiti to be painted over , especially given the younger nature of the audience expected on that day.
6. Regardless of views on this, graffiti is part of the Wheelspark Culture and therefore to try to influence a better quality of graffiti, rather than just paint out and incur cost each time, many discussions on the day focussed on the possibility of commissioning a professional graffiti artist to hold session with the kids, following which hopefully some peer pressure will start to play a part to maintain then a better and more distinctive quality, rather than just either simple tags or worse case, more offensive comments/shapes
7. Coaching sessions in the morning saw upwards of 20 youngsters benefit from some basic lessons and several parents expressed an interest in more coaching sessions being carried out. Local providers are known to charge for Sunday morning sessions, and it could be that

a mixture of charge plus subsidy for Todmorden children could be introduced to Todmorden Wheelspark.

FINANCIAL

8. One off budget provision overall of £1,500 is thought to be sufficient to get these two initiatives up and running and can be allocated out of General Reserves.

RECOMMENDATION

9. That Members agree for a provision of £1,500 to be made in the budget to take these initiatives forward in the short term.
10. That the Town Clerk explore options for delivery and take forward as appropriate.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

11. Resources Committee approval is required to take forward these initiatives given the Wheelspark project remains under their remit.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

11. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

12. None from this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

13. None arising from this report.

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

14. None arising from this report.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

15. Appendix 1 Social Media Feedback

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill