



## Brackley Skate Plaza Group

**The Consultation Draft of the Master Plan for Brackley** recognises that there is currently insufficient open space for leisure, and there is a need to provide facilities and activities for 11-18 year olds. It is heartening to see at long last the initiative “to develop a new skateboard park on land to the north of St James Park”. For the record, in March 2010 The Brackley Skate Plaza Group submitted a proposal to SNC for a skatepark in this area.

**The Brackley Skate Plaza Group** is a properly constituted and completely independent group with members on its steering committee from Brackley Town Council, The Police, South Northamptonshire Leisure Trust, Team Brackley, I-five (local skateboard business), Douglas Peel Yates (international in-line skater), and Brackley Town Football Club.

The Brackley Skate Plaza Group have conducted exhaustive and detailed investigations of all possible sites in Brackley for a skatepark, including Council and Private owned land. There have been many sites investigated, designs received, and proposals made over the last 3 years and we have learned many lessons about what is acceptable regarding noise, crime prevention, planning, safety and many other considerations. Our group has also consulted other skatepark managers, skatepark builders and users to learn from their experiences and needs.

We are also in constant contact with the skateboarders and BMX riders of Brackley as we run subsidised coach trips to Adrenaline Alley at Corby and have a very popular Facebook page (see here : <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000370900738>)

For the delivery of the Brackley Skate Plaza our group has teamed up with **The South Northamptonshire Leisure Trust** that was set-up by SNC in February 2007 and has to date saved nearly £1m in VAT and NNDR in the running of the leisure centres. As a registered charity it has also proved its worth in attracting external funding for various activities at the leisure centres and the development of the 3G Astroturf All Weather pitch at Towcester. External funding is a key component of our proposal as is ongoing funding to ensure sustainability without Council financing.

Our vision is to deliver a high quality young persons’ activity centre, carefully designed to blend in with the surrounding areas. Our aspiration in the initial phase is to build a large high class concrete skatepark suitable for all ages and capabilities on the land owned by SNC. This would be a draw to Brackley from a radius of 25 miles and beyond as there is no other quality skatepark in the area. Phase 2 would be to build a competition standard BMX track on other land adjoining which the Brackley Master Plan designates as recreational if this can be bought from the current owners. BMX is a 2012 Olympic sport. A multi-use building could be added later to cater for many young persons’ activities and this could include a shop and toilets to service the whole of the new expanded St. James Park area. At that stage to enable the site to service the local villages and attract others from the region, car parking and limited access from the A422 will be needed. The concept is to make this area a recognised regional ‘event’ centre for skateboarding and youth activities, which will have knock-on effects for the development of Brackley in line with the vision of the Master Plan.

Once the Master Plan has been formally adopted by SNC as a SPD we would submit a detailed planning application for our proposals which will deliver a “Quick Win” for the Brackley Master Plan and we request that this proposal is included in Phase1 short term initiatives of the Action Plan (section 1619). An early discussion on a lease for the land would be very helpful.

If there are any further details you require on our proposal we would be delighted to meet with you and/or provide more information. **Contact: Peter Dean [durassic@btinternet.com](mailto:durassic@btinternet.com)**