
REPORT 4

**WRITTEN PETITION RESPONSE: MARIEKA SCHRADER
“SKATE AND SCOOTER FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BLOCK
JOHNSONVILLE”**

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide officer recommendations in response to the written petition and oral presentation by Marieka Schrader supporting a “skate and scooter family and community block” in Johnsonville.

2. Executive summary

The Written Petition and Oral Presentation “Skate and Scooter Family and Community Block Johnsonville” was presented to the Community, Sport and Recreation Committee on the 6th of March 2014 by Marieka Schrader.

Currently the demand for new skate/scooter parks is usually driven by specific user groups and skating communities.

The playgrounds policy 2002 does not address the need for provision of skate and scooter facilities.

Current playground asset management planning focuses on the existing maintenance and renewal of existing playground and skate park facilities.

If a new facility was to be considered it would ideally need to be located somewhere where it could be readily accessed by people **across** the city and region and should be located as part of a hub of community or recreational facilities.

Research work would be required to identify if there is a need/demand for an additional skate/scooter facilities in Wellington City and how those facilities should be placed.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Community, Sport and Recreation Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note Council does not currently have any plans to create any additional skate/scooter parks.*

3. *Note citywide or regional research is required to identify the need/demand for additional skate/scooter facilities in Wellington City and how those facilities should be placed.*
4. *Note officers recommend funding towards resources to undertake research and feasibility into the demand, potential locations and estimated costs of potential future skate and scooter facilities could be considered as a new initiative for the Long Term Plan.*

4. Background

The Written Petition and Oral Presentation “Skate and Scooter Family and Community Block Johnsonville” was presented to the Community, Sport and Recreation Committee on the 6th of March 2014 by Marieka Schrader.

The purpose of the petition was to request that the Council create a skate/scooter facility in the Johnsonville Suburban Centre. The submitters preferred location would be in the block that forms the Keith Spry Pool, Community Centre, and Johnsonville Memorial Park.

The petition was formed in response to the submitters concerns around the number of young people skating and scootering in the Johnsonville Shopping Centre car park. The submitter has noted some near misses occur between skaters and vehicles in the mall car park including an incident where a skater smashed into her shop window. The submitter would like to see a safe place developed for skaters and scooter riders to go.

The submitter noted in her oral presentation to the Community, Sport and Recreation Committee on the 6th of March that she felt that the skate facility at Newlands was too far for young people to travel to and that a skate facility needed to be central to Johnsonville.

The petition was located in Marieka Schrader’s Shop “Marieka’s Alterations, Dressmaking and Haberdashery and was open to all members of the public. The petition was initiated in March 2013. It received 323 signatures.

5. Discussion

Johnsonville Suburban centre has a lack of open space for facility development. The current open spaces closest to the suburban centre are Johnsonville Memorial Park, Alex Moore Park and the small basketball court and lawn space behind the Keith Spry Pool.

The space behind Keith Spry Pool is currently earmarked for the expansion of the Johnsonville Library as part of the Current Long Term Plan.

Johnsonville Memorial Park has given away a third of the open space for the development of the pool and the junior play equipment is still to be relocated back into the park.

There is insufficient room left in the existing park to allow a skate facility as it would compromise the existing open kick about and passive green space within the park.

The playgrounds policy 2002 does not address the need for provision of skate and scooter facilities.

Current playground asset management planning focuses on the existing maintenance and renewal of existing playground and skate park facilities.

If a facility was to be considered it would ideally need to be located somewhere where it could be readily accessed by people **across** the city and region and should be located as part of a hub of community or recreational facilities.

Citywide or regional research is required to identify the need/demand for additional skate/scooter facilities in Wellington City and how those facilities should be placed.

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

Council officers have not undertaken any further research or engagement in relation to the petition.

There has also been an approach as part of the Draft Annual Plan from another individual asking Council to look at options for providing a covered skate/scooter park in Wellington City, with their preference being the Western suburbs.

Citywide or regional research is required to identify the need/demand for additional skate/scooter facilities in Wellington City and how those facilities should be placed.

5.2 Financial considerations

Financial consideration into research and the potential investment in the development of skate/scooter facilities in the future needs to be considered but no costs have been identified at this stage.

5.3 Climate change impacts and considerations

There are no climate change impacts and considerations in relation to this report.

5.4 Long-term plan considerations

Financial consideration into research and the cost of any development of skate/scooter facilities and their maintenance and renewal would need to be considered as any new initiative as part of Long Term Plan.

6. Conclusion

Officers recommend that funding towards resources to undertake research and feasibility into this demand, potential locations and estimated costs of potential skate and scooter facilities could be considered as a new initiative for the Long Term Plan.

Contact Officers: Jacqueline Murray (Assets and Projects Manager, Parks, Sport and Recreation) and Paul Andrews (Manager, Parks, Sport and Recreation)