

Report for Full Council Junkyard Skatepark CIC February 2019

Junkyard Skatepark have recently announced that they will be closing due to a lack of funding. Some of their funding has, in recent years come from Saltash Town Council, through our Youth Work budget.

Junkyard did make an application in November of last year to our Youth Work fund, but they were not considered, possibly on a technicality and were not afforded any leeway by STC.

In December it was reported to Full Council that there were only two applicants, and whilst this is correct in terms of validated applications, Full Council were not informed of unconsidered bids.

Subsequently, the management team at Junkyard made the decision, that without this Youth Work financial support from STC the viability of the whole project was considered unsustainable, hence the decision to close.

Junkyard regularly host 2 sessions per week, supporting up to 50 young people at each. They are well regarded in the community and provide wider support than just at their base. This support has included a complete refurbishment of the skatepark facility at Saltmill, which included approximately 60 hours of volunteer time. In the summer months they support Enrichment week/Work experience at Saltash.net, as well as having other involvement at Saltmill out door Skatepark attending the GW steering group every 3 months.

Councillors Bill Phillips and Sheila Lennox-Boyd met with Martin and Stephanie from Junkyard on the 13th February, and established that should STC find a way to provide the funding as in previous years they would be able to stay open and deliver the Youth Work as outlined in their bid. Their bid was for £13,500, and this would have helped them deliver a 3rd weekly session, an award of £10,000 will enable them to stay open and deliver the 2 current sessions.

Junkyard believed they had little alternative communication routes to appeal the situation, but are keen to re-establish a solid relationship with STC. Should funding be agreed, Councillor Bill Phillips has volunteered to become the town council rep.

Junkyard were able to confirm that they have attracted around £20,000 in matched funding over recent years, and that should STC be able to provide funding now, it could unlock £10,000 matched funds from from Big lottery for JY ON THE MOVE, which would support further outreach work.

Summary

Junkyard have been successful recipients of funding from the Town Council through the Youth Work funding process for the last 2 years and did bid this time around. We could easily assume that if it had been assessed alongside other applicants, they would have some funding.

Junkyard is a well-used and respected resource that is highly valued by those who attend. It fills a gap in Youth Work provision in the west of Saltash and appeal to a different section of our community than our other valued youth centres in The Core and Livewire.

We therefore support awarding £10,000 funding to allow them to remain open, and would like to strengthen the link between STC and the management team.

Our proposals to Full Council is that

- 1. STC agreed to fund Junkyard Skatepark with £10,000 of funding from the Youth Work budget. This funding would enable them to remain open, and to be able to deliver the Youth work.**
- 2. STC appoint a representative to Junkyard Skatepark to improve links (in line with other organisations).**

Councillors Bill Phillips, Sheila Lennox-Boyd, Sarah Martin and Richard Bickford.