

## **OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL STATEMENT REGARDING OTTERY ST MARY SKATE PARK**

Ottery St Mary skatepark has been closed following a decision taken by the Directors of the Ottery and District Skate and BMX Trust. The Council were not provided with any notice regarding the closure of the skatepark and were only notified by email following the Directors decision to resign, en masse, earlier in the week. After the announcement on Friday, the Council have been in discussions with their legal team regarding the options available and seeking the best solution which will allow the park to be reopened for the young people in Ottery St Mary. Deputy Mayor Stewart Lucas commented "the decision of the Directors to close the skatepark without warning at the start of the school summer holidays is a real blow to the users of the skatepark" Stewart went onto add "Key Councillors and Council staff were working through the weekend to consider potential options for the Council to safely reopen the skatepark once all the access and legal issues can be resolved with the Directors of the Trust".

Ottery St Mary Town Council would like to highlight the following points:

- Ottery St Mary Town Council do not operate the skate park and were not involved in the decision to close it.
- OSMTC are seeking legal advice and contacting experts in order to clarify the conditions required for reopening the skatepark.
- The Ottery BMX and Skate Park Trust (a Limited Company) leases the land from OSMTC who in turn lease it from Devon County Council.
- The Ottery BMX and Skatepark Trust company were responsible for all aspects of running, insuring and maintaining the park and ensuring that safety requirements were adhered to.
- OSMTC has held three meetings this year with the directors of the trust. OSMTC has offered help in raising funds, finding volunteers, creating a sustainable plan, hosting jams and demos and involving the school. Every offer of help has been rejected.
- OSMTC are actively seeking a way forward to reopen the park as soon as possible. The council recognises that we are in the school holidays and that this is very bad timing, which impacts severely on people wishing to utilise the park. Due to certain legal issues, we cannot just take immediate control but we are seeking to resolve the matter urgently.
- Subsequent to the directors resigning OSMTC is seeking clarification regarding various records, safety checks and other important information.

Please see the Town Council website for a factual account of events leading up to the Skatepark closure

Ottery St Mary Town Council  
3 August 2022