

Skate Park/Sluice Report

At the end of last year MS, in their role as flood warden, initiated an investigation into the working order of the sluice that runs along the end of the skate park as it was overgrown with brambles. JF, the general manager for conservation on Holkham Estate, agreed to arrange to have the sluice cleared. The work has been partially completed and has created a series of issues in the process regarding litter and access to the sluice.

On the 14th of May the Clerk, Councillor JD and RH, acting as a representative of the Friends of Wells Play Field, met with PD from Holkham Estate to discuss the sluice and skate park. During the meeting the following points were raised:

- That the partial clearance of the sluice had revealed several items of rubbish which were unsightly (see fig.1)
- The sluice was being used as a receptacle for people's litter due to the absence of any bins (see fig. 2)
- That it was now possible to access the sluice as the removal of the brambles had revealed a gap in the fencing thereby causing a possible risk to the health and safety of the skate park users
- Attempts made by Holkham to prevent entry to the sluice by closing the gap with a panel of heras fencing had proved unsuccessful as a hole had been cut in the fencing to allow access once more (see figs. 3 and 4)

During the course of the meeting PD made the following proposal on behalf of Holkham Estate to solve the points cited above:

- That a more substantial fence be erected around the boundary of the skate park to prevent access to the sluice and safeguard those using the site
- Holkham had already looked into an appropriate type of fencing (16 metres of 1800mm high palisade metal fencing with rounded top), sourced a local supplier and were prepared to cover half of the costs if the Wells Town Council would agree to provide the other 50% (see attached quote)
- That the Council furnish the site with a bin, strategically placed away from the pedestrian walkway and in the north east corner, for the exclusive use of those on the skate park

The Council currently has £1500 allocated for the skatepark, as agreed in the amended budget dated 07/04/2025, and so can afford the £1268.38 to contribute to the cost of the fencing, leaving £231.62 to pay for a bin; one option would be a 'Hooded Trimline 25 Litter Bin from Glasdon (see fig. 5) which could be attached to the sign post in said corner to prevent both removal and rodent access and emptying the bin could be incorporated into EC's litter picking regime.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

