



Impact Report for Felixstowe Town Council Funding Period July 2023 - March 2024

At the end of July 2023 Ipswich Skating Club restarted Learn to Skate and Social Skate sessions in Felixstowe following the news that we had been awarded funding from Felixstowe Town Council. The funding from Felixstowe Town Council has enabled us to run the sessions without the fear of not covering floor costs as we have steadily engaged skaters to turn up weekly. In addition, we have been able to invest in providing coaching and support for our coaches and volunteer coach support team.



Ipswich Skating Club is a community based skating club that provides a range of skating sessions for all ages and abilities which are affordable and aimed at giving skaters opportunities to learn and progress at their own speed. Sessions are fun, relaxed and our coaches are trained to identify and adapt their sessions to meet the needs of individual skaters which means that everyone receives a tailored experience.

Since sessions returned in the last week of July 2023 we have been promoting our activities on a range of social media platforms, articles in the Felixstowe Town Council Magazine and on Suffolk Sound Radio. Most of all we have relied on word of mouth which is our best engagement tool.



Learn to Skate sessions

cater for people of all ages who want to learn the basics of roller skating as well as those who want to improve their confidence in a safe space with trained coaches. The sessions provide the opportunity to work through grades in a structured lesson, as well as having time to socialise and practice the skills that have been learnt through games and other activities.



Social Skate sessions

are aimed at those aged 14+ who are confident skaters and want the opportunity to roller skate with friends to their favourite tracks.



Our Achievements

During the period through to Christmas we were averaging 13 skaters per week and when sessions resumed in February this has increased to 25 skaters per week.



45 Skating Sessions



82 skaters

Average weekly attendance

25 skaters



36% of skaters are male



17 coaches trained

Despite the positive achievements we still face the challenges around having access to a suitable year-round venue in Felixstowe. The school periodically need the sports hall to hold exams for their GCSE & A-Level students. Sessions are often cancelled at short notice to accommodate one-off examinations, whilst also stopping for longer periods during the examination period in the summer term and mocks across December/January.

To remain in contact with the skaters and to continue engaging them in skating activities we held Roller Discos in Ipswich over Halloween, Christmas and in the New Year. These have seen a good take up from skaters with events now being sold out.

Case Study

Alexandra Branaghan, aged 16 years

When I first started skating, I started with the “learn to skate” sessions following the pandemic at the age of 14 years, and like everyone else, I loved them. I personally really enjoyed having something to dedicate myself to, and I told myself at that point that I’d get to compete one day, and that was my goal.

I loved being able to focus my attention into something fun and exciting, while exercising and enjoying it with friends. Coaching the Felixstowe learn to skate session has helped me with my self-esteem and watching people get better is very rewarding.

Last year I competed for the very first time in Dance and figures and this year I will be participating in a national Figures & Free Roller Cup Championship.

Workforce

Ipswich Skating Club are fortunate enough to have a team consisting of **4** qualified coaches and **13** volunteer coach support assistants.

It is important that our coaches and volunteers are able to communicate and support skaters who have a wide range of individual needs due to ability, disability and personal challenges. Over the last 9 months all coaches have undertaken an updated enhanced DBS check, safeguarding training, code of conduct, refresher training on delivering the graded skills sessions and peer to peer feedback, as small number have also undertaken first aid training. This has been very well received by all coaches and has enabled them all to develop personally. We have also Two volunteer support coaches who are due to commence a Level 1 Coaching Course and two coaches who are going to undertake Level 2 Coaching Course.

Coaches have all received branded coaching kit which has made them feel valued and part of a team.



Finance

Activity	Target KPIs	Actual KPIs	Budget	Actual	Reason for Variance
First Aid Training	5 coaches	5 coaches	£500	£275	Course booked through Ipswich Borough Council which provided discounted rates
Coach Training – Skills, Safeguarding, code of conduct & DBS	15 coaches / volunteer support coaches	17 coaches / volunteer support coaches	£1,000	£433	Cost of invoiced sessions. Obtained in-kind training and venue hire (value £300) hence reduced costs.
Level 1 coaching		2 coaches		£350*	
Level 2 coaching		2 coaches		£520*	*To be invoiced
Purchase of Coach Kit	15 coaches / volunteer support coaches	17 coaches / volunteer support coaches	£1,000	£620	Negotiated discounted rate from supplier
Learn to Skate Sessions	20 skaters	24 Skaters	£800	£960	
Social Skate Sessions	15 Skaters	13 Skaters	£800	£840	
			£4,100	£3,998	Plus value of in-kind (£300 = £4,298)

Thank You