



Happy 1st birthday to St Ives Skatepark – the first major project in the town to be awarded funding from the St Ives Town Deal programme.

30 May 2022

[Click here](#) to watch a short film about the project.

12 months ago this brand new community skatepark was officially handed over to the local community. Today hundreds of local young people, as well as skateboarding enthusiasts from across the world, are enjoying its many unique features, including an eight-foot deep California bowl, ramps topped with slabs of granite, and its world famous loop-the-loop the Hepworth Vortex.

Although the town already had a skatepark dating back to 2004, its old-style wooden frame and metal ramps were easily damaged and expensive to repair, with few areas suitable for younger children and beginners.

Determined to provide a world class concrete skatepark in the town, in 2016 the local community formed the St Ives Skatepark Project and set about raising the funds needed to turn their vision into reality. Activities included major gigs and events with some notable local, national and international names plus The Art Decko project which involved many famous and local artists. There were also numerous smaller events, with lots of local people and businesses giving their time and energy, resulting in the project raising a fantastic £37,000 in five years.

In 2021 the St Ives Town Deal Board successfully bid for a Town Deal worth £19.9 million from the government's Towns Fund Scheme. Each of the towns selected by the government to work towards a Town Deal were also invited to apply for Accelerated Funding to invest in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places 'build back better' in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

After successfully securing £500,000 of Accelerator funding, the Board awarded £450,000 to the Skatepark Project.

"We already knew that this was a fantastic project with huge community support which would make a real difference to the lives of our young people and help to regenerate our town" said Councillor Johnnie Wells, Chairman of the St Ives Town Council Facilities Committee. **"The Skatepark group leading the project had already raised a considerable amount of money and we were delighted when the Town Deal Board confirmed that the project would be receiving this additional funding."**

Once the funding had been secured, the Town Council worked with members of the Skatepark Project and renowned skatepark engineers Maverick on the design and construction of the park on a site owned by the local authority. Construction began in January 2021 and, despite a very wet Cornish winter, just five months later the project was finished and the ramps were being tested by the first young skaters.

One year on and the skatepark has gone from strength to strength – much to the delight of the original members of the St Ives Skatepark Project Senara Wilson Hodges and Gill Scott Anderson.

“Our community desperately needed an inspiring skatepark - not just for our young people but for everyone” said Senara. **“Investing in our community spaces is especially important here in St Ives where there is real poverty hidden behind our beautiful views.**

“Being awarded the Accelerator Funding was huge and it enabled us to turn our vision into reality. We are massively grateful to the Town Deal Board who believed in this project.”

The design has also won praise from key figures in the skateboarding community and skateboarding, as well as from major organisations such as ROSPA: *“This is a ground-breaking new park, offering innovation, a wealth of features for a range of users and an abundance of quality lines. It leads the way for British skateparks and is installed to an excellent standard.”*

During last year’s successful £19.9m Town Deal bid to the government, a mix of large-scale transformation projects and smaller scale community projects were developed in consultation with the local community. You can read about these in the [Town Investment Plan](#).

Since then, work has been taking place to develop detailed business cases for each project to demonstrate their feasibility. Once formally approved by Cornwall Council as designated accountable body, the business cases will go through a rigorous assurance process led by the Council.

Following the review, the final Town Deal programme and approved projects will be submitted back to the government for final approval later this summer.

The government is expected to give the final confirmation and release the first part of the funding by the end of this year, paving the way for a detailed programme of works and timescales to be developed by early April 2023.

Ends

Notes to editors

Government Towns Fund – Town Deals

On 27 July 2019, the Prime Minister announced that the Towns Fund would support an initial 101 places across England to develop Town Deal proposals to drive economic regeneration and deliver long-term economic and productivity growth. See further details of the [announcement](#).

A Town Deal is an agreement in principle between government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board. It will set out a vision and strategy for the town, and

what each party agrees to do to achieve this vision. [See the 101 places being supported to develop Town Deals.](#)

St Ives Town Deal and Accelerated Towns Fund

Cornwall is the only area in England invited by the government to submit proposals for four of its towns: Camborne, Penzance, St Ives and Truro. After conducting extensive public consultations each town deal board submitted their Town Investment Plan in collaboration with Cornwall Council in Jan 2021. As a result of this work, in Spring 2021 the government announced that Cornwall will receive up to £88.7million as part of the Towns Fund.

Each of the 101 towns selected to work towards a Town Deal also received accelerated funding last year for investment in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places “build back better” in the wake of Covid-19. View a list of [accelerated funding by place](#) (

St Ives was allocated £500,000 through the Government’s Towns Fund Accelerated funding. This is in addition to the £19.9 million Towns Fund Deal announced by Government in July 2021 following the St Ives Town Investment Plan submission. For more information about St Ives Town Deal visit <https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk>

St Ives Town Deal Board

Cornwall Council is the accountable Body for the Towns Fund programme in Cornwall. Cornwall Council supports the governance role of the Board and is responsible for managing and administering funds on behalf of the four Town Deal Boards. For more information visit: www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economic-development/towns-fund

A St Ives Town Team Board, containing a mix of representatives from the private, public and community sectors, was set up to lead the development of the Town Investment Plan. This includes councillors from Cornwall Council and St Ives Town Council, local businesses, community stakeholders and the area’s MP.

On 9 May 2021 the Board successfully bid for a Town Deal worth £19.9million. The bid is designed to deliver three key objectives:

- Generate inclusive green growth and new enterprise, within a year-round economy
- Support the health, wellbeing and aspiration of all residents in life and work
- Create opportunities for young people which allow them to flourish

All project ideas, suggestions and contributions for inclusion in the Town Investment Plan had to be tested against the government’s criteria and guidelines for Regeneration, Skills provision and Connectivity. They were then assessed to ensure that they were viable and sustainable. The Board worked closely with the community to develop an initial long list of 40 projects. These were then assessed using a robust project selection and management process to produce the short-list of projects set out in the Town Investment Plan.

