

Weston Wake Park

Once thought of as a bit of a pipe dream by some villagers, the House brothers have taken a step closer to realising their ambitions for a major tourist attraction. The lengthy process of planning and preparation are at long last reaching the critical stage of seeking Planning approval for the Accommodation Road site.

After protracted discussions with the planning department at North Somerset Council, an application has now been put forward for registration. Alistair and Robert House are delighted to be able to make the proposal for a change of use to tourism uses and the realisation of their long cherished dream to open a water park here in Bleadon that will be a regional leisure and sporting asset throughout the year.

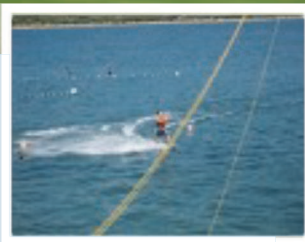


The longer of the three lakes will provide space for canoeing, kayaking, boat-towed skiing and a segregated section for swimming.

There will be walking paths so that visitors can enjoy the natural environmental pleasures of these wetland riverside areas.

What's wakeboarding?

Wakeboards are like skateboards on water. Cable wakeboarding allows numbers of boarders to ski simultaneously. The tow mechanism consists of two cables running parallel to one another supported on steel gantries which hook up tow ropes with riders. Tow ropes are detached and attached without slowing the system down.



The park will utilise a pre-existing lake which was permitted in 2011 (11/P/0305/F). The plan describes an additional lake, a clubhouse and access arrangements.

The proposed use is centred around a cable tow system which tows the wake-board rider around the oval lake on an endless cable. The longer lake provides space for open water swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and boat-towed water-skiing.

Since the Olympics, Triathlon, Rowing and Sailing have all been receiving immense interest from the public. These and other sports will be catered for at the Lake Site along with simple walks amongst the lakes to enjoy the improved natural environment and the opportunity to sit on the shore of the lakes. A small beach area is proposed as it is envisaged that the Lakes will provide a range of opportunities from the high-adrenalin water sports through to quiet enjoyment at the water's edge. The cable tow system is the modern alternative to being towed by a boat and is almost

silent in operation, as well as being electrically powered, which means that a small solar panel array can provide the power for it.

The 50 acre site is one of the only purpose designed parks of its type (most other cable-tows use existing sand/gravel pits), so this one is shallower and therefore safer. The next two nearest cable-tow sites are in London and Cornwall, each more than 120 miles away- this could be an exciting addition to the region's sporting offering, providing year-round employment.

Alistair and Rob look forward to showing their plans to the public at the Annual Parish meeting on April 14 as well as a few other dates which will be publicised locally.

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The proposal includes a low profile clubhouse and cafe building designed to meld sympathetically into the landscape.

The low-noise solar electric powered cable tow system will provide an energy efficient continuous loop for wake-boarders.

Ramps and sliders on the wakeboarding lake can provide the added excitement adrenalin junkies require.