

Questions from a number of young people including Tom Bennett, Steve Brice, Tom Powis, Tom Schofield and James Stephens

Skate Park Facilities - Hereford

As a large group of young people, we have been seeking a purpose-built Skate Park within the city limits. We are asking the local authority to support our request for a purpose built skate park within Hereford City.

- ***Is the HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL aware of the potential tourism benefits connected with skateboarding?***
- ***Why are football, rugby and other team sports well funded in Herefordshire compared to skateboarding?***
- ***Will the Herefordshire Council engage with us as they do with other members of the community i.e. day centres for older residents?***

To support our campaign we would like to make the following points –

- As young adults, we too appreciate facilities such as good security, staff with first aid skills, toilet and restaurant facilities, drop off facilities for younger participants.
- We feel we are being judged unfairly and have concerns about the ASBO orders affecting our lives. We have nowhere to go and feel harassed when we are moved on from place to place.
- Simply removing skaters from the streets does not go along with the social inclusion expected nowadays from all statutory bodies.
- The facilities provided at present, Westfaling Street (Whitecross), Newton Farm, are constantly trashed, deteriorating and unsafe, and we are having to travel to Worcester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Newport or beyond, costing us and our parents a lot of money. We would rather spend our money locally. Currently there are a number of facilities in Herefordshire, these have been placed in rural areas where people without transport have no access. Such as places like Morton-on-Lugg, Fownhope and Hay-on-Wye. These have used up funds, which could have been used to achieve a more constructive solution to the problem at hand.
- SKATEBOARDING IS NOT A FAD OR A SPORT, IT IS A LIFESTYLE!!! Skateboarding is growing in popularity, it is healthy, active and develops physical and mental skills – an alternative to a drug or drink habit. We need a safe place to skate where we are not threatened, victimised or targeted when we are not offending anybody.

We want to be part of the solution, not the problem. We are happy to fundraise and work in partnership with other organisations, and have many ideas for this already. We are part of the community, we pay council tax as do our parents, and we feel that we have as much right to be heard as anybody.