

Questions from Philip Taylor, Hereford

Following the last full council meeting on 4th November 2005 I was so pleased to hear the leader of the council, Cllr Roger Phillips' reply to the question put to him by Cllr Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes. She asked him whether there were any discussion being held regarding putting a supermarket on the Edgar Street Grid. He replied, "No, not to my knowledge, not at all."

My question is, whether we, the public, can be reassured that Cllr Phillips' assertion at the last full council meeting on 4th November 2005, that he did not know of any discussions being held regarding putting a supermarket on the Edgar Street grid, will indeed mean that no supermarket will be build on the grid. I am also opposed to the Tesco supermarket being transferred from the Bewell Street site. As a 21 year old post graduate currently training Worcester University for my PGCE, I feel it would be better for Hereford not to have any additional supermarket there. We need many more things for the youth of Hereford, not a supermarket.

Question from Rob Hattersley, Hereford

"Have the Council done an assessment of the economic impact on the city centre of any increase in retail capacity on the Edgar Street grid and if not, do they intend to? Will the Council publicise the results of such an economic impact assessment, and provide time for public debate and scrutiny to allow city centre retailers and their customers a chance to add their voice to the debate? How important do the Council believe it is to prove that the diversity of Hereford city centre will be enhanced and not compromised by competition from big off-centre retailers, before giving those retail developments the go-ahead?"

Question from Edward Owen, Hereford

I just wanted to raise a few questions for discussion at the next council meeting about a use for the old Denco car park. I understand there has been some interest in using the site for some sort of skatepark and I wanted to address this issue.

I have been involved in skateboarding for over 5 years now and over that time I have seen that sport, along with BMX and rollerblading, become very popular, to the point where I feel it warrants as much attention as sports like football. However, activities such as football are catered for very well, with facilities for its pursuit widely available, in contrast to skateboarding which is ignored. If skateboarding were even nearly as popular, then why is it so poorly catered for ?

Hereford is a large city, but, after the decommission of the ramps at Whitecross, it has only one real dedicated location for skateboarding, the park in Newton Farm. The construction of the small skatepark in Hunderton is a step towards improving the situation, but it is not nearly enough. There is no easily accessible, well designed skatepark to cater for the large numbers of young people who need somewhere in Hereford. Why does the council treat skateboarding differently ? Obviously skating in schools or other public places is restricted, yet the council does not provide an alternative.

Wouldn't it make perfect sense to use the site in question to construct a skatepark which would fill the void that currently exists? Is the council even aware that it needs to do something to correct the problem of young people not having a dedicated site ?

I have heard news over the past few years of various plans to build a good skatepark in Hereford, but they have all gone nowhere. Does the council realise that this is the best chance to finally give the 'wheeled sport enthusiasts' of Hereford what they need ?

The situation of a skatepark in Hereford needs to be resolved, and this is the perfect opportunity to do so. The site near Denco would be a great location, so why not make use of it?

Question from Spencer Davies

My names spencer davies. Im 17 yrs old, i go to HCS college. Im emailing you about the new idea of a skatepark being built near the leisure centre. Im a skateboarder and i skate pretty much all the time out of college hours. I'm so glad to hear that theres actually thoughts about a new park being built north of the river.

However, as good as it is to hear this idea, it could also go horribly wrong.. What do i mean by this?

Ive been and seen a number of places around the UK and USA. Ive recently watched a video where a pro skateboarder was asked to plan a "skate plaza" in the town of kettering, Ohio, USA. What he did was go to the street spots where he skated, take measurements, ideas and whathaveyou and try and REPLICATE these spots. Its not necessarily a skate park but a "park to skate in" if you see what i mean? It doesnt even need to be so high tech with so many ramps and huge out of proportion obstacles, it could be so much more simple. i.e. these street spots that we want to skate so much yet we get kicked off by the staff, managers, security and then the police. The latter occurs because we go back to the place as we love it so much.

I dont really have any major questions to ask... but all i want to say is dont make a park with no planning and thoughts which will end up not being used to its full capacity (which is what we want right?). If anyone needs a guidance just take a look at recent projects in the UK (stoke-on-trent plaza and prissick plaza in middlesbrough).

Question from Christian Montez

Don't you think that it is about time for people of Hereford to get a decent skate park. We skate the streets and get treated like terrorists, frowns and abuse from passers by, stopped and searched by the police. It isn't even illegal to skateboard through high town, even though we get threatened with legal action and the confiscation of our boards. Even if you ask the police to quote which laws you are breaking they can never tell you. We cant skate the parks because they are either too dangerous due to them falling apart such as white cross, or they are been used as crack dens and or places where prostitutes practice their arts such as under the ramps at newton farm. The council at the moment are surly liable for being sued for the state of the ramps at white cross, if someone comes off and slices themselves open on the splintered de-laminating wood it think you guys would be in trouble.

It is about time the north of Hereford got a skate park, and a decent one at that. Hereford has now got a large growing population of skateboarders, bmx riders and bladers etc that need to be accommodated. Its about time the backwards people in Hereford got down of their high chairs and did something that they didn't directly got

a benefit from. If they are that worried about young people in town, build the park at Denco. It is perfect! easy access from town, down the back of Sainsbury and there are already plenty of zebra crossings in place for people to safely cross.

Common guys don't you think its time you did something for us? after all we are going to be the people in charge of your nursing homes ;)

Question from Eliot Sargeantson, Fownhope

just a letter to say , lately there has been a lot of hassle from police and members of the public about skaeboarders and bmxers riding in and around town, although i have been told by a member of Hereford council that it is legal to skateboard in town, the police are saying otherwise. there is currently nothing available on the north side of the river and i was wondering whether anything is going to be done about it. i have asked several times over the period of the last six years and nothing has ever come of it. please help us out.

Question from Nick Galloway

Why? unlike every other major city and country in Europe has Hereford taken so long to acknowledge these activities as serious and permanent sports and leisure activities, that are soon to be acknowledged by other nations as Olympic sports come Beijing 2008, and why it has become such a long winded process since most elder members of the public lived through the boom during the 1970s and why the opinion of Hereford's public has changed so dramatically in the last 30 years?

Question from Lionel Meredith, Hereford

Can the tax payers be made aware of the financial cost of the failure of Herefordshire Council to locate relevant case notes in a recent case (September 2005) concerning street trading and what action has been taken to ensure that such mismanagement will not reoccur?