

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

JOINT COMMITTEE (WOKING)

DATE: 20 June 2018
 SUBJECT: Woking Skate Park
 DIVISION: Woking South



PETITION DETAILS:

Woking Skate park is outdated and falling apart; the metal is peeling off ramps and there are holes in the wood that support the ramps, not to mention the outdated design and structure of the Skate park itself. In essence, the condition of the Skate park is symbolic of the way that the youth of Woking feel: neglected and overlooked.

This petition campaigns for the council to regenerate Woking Skate park in the way that Guilford Skate park or Swanmore Skate park have been regenerated. This isn't an unreasonable request as our local council have a responsibility for the youth of their constituency, and the youth of Woking feel that this responsibility is not being upheld.

RESPONSE:

Having visited the skate park and spoken to young people who were present at the time of the visit (Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 6 pm) the outcome of the conversations held were the following:

The skate park needs urgent maintenance, there are a lot of missing screws that hold the ramps to the framework. There are also areas that could cause injury such as sharp edges on some of the ramps.

There is graffiti on several of the ramps, some of which is inappropriate.

All of the skate park needs to be painted to give it a more welcoming feel for users.

All of the ramps need repainting or repairing

Young people would like some new ramps in the centre area of the park

Suggestion to also have a concrete table tennis table in the park.

I did not meet the owner of the petition on Tuesday evening but my details were taken by another young man who has since passed them on. I have now spoken to the young man who initiated the petition and he would very much like to meet at the skate park to share his ideas with myself and representatives of Woking Borough Council.

When I spoke to the young people about the park they stated they would like to have a complete new skate park built. I pointed out that there could be issues with this such as funding, and the fact that the park is located within the flood plain, which will impact on what can be built. I also informed them that Woking Borough Council are already in the process of arranging refurbishment work to the park.

They appeared happy with this and understood that a complete rebuild would not probably take place.

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Woking Borough Council have also advised that they replaced some of the ramps in most urgent need of refurbishment last year and are in the process of agreeing further works this year, which would include replacing more of the ramps surfaces and repainting existing ramps with anti-slip paint. Thereafter ramp surfaces will be repainted with anti-slip paint annually.

I attached some photographs of the park which were taken on the evening we visited.

Young people feel that the skate park is grim, out of date and not a very inviting place for them to skate.



RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Committee is asked to note the officer's comment.

Contact Officer:

Sandie Bolger, Senior Practitioner Surrey Families Service