

# Gardens skatepark design is fantastic

**From: Josh Hallett, West End Avenue, Harrogate**

ON Wednesday, July 21, I attended the open meeting about the Valley Gardens skatepark. I would not only like to thank the people that were there in support of the park, but I would also like to thank the others who are not yet 100 per cent behind the idea.

All comments and opinions at the meeting were very helpful and they are exactly what we need in order to find solutions that suit everybody. For the last five years I have been campaigning for a skatepark in Harrogate and, to be honest, I can't believe we have got this far. It is a great thing and a huge step forward for Harrogate.

The design of the park is fantastic and beyond our wildest dreams and we as skaters/bikers/bladers etc should be thanking Marc Churchill from Gravity (supplier) for what he has put together. The demand for a skatepark in Harrogate is massive and personally I think it would be a great benefit to the town and Valley Gardens itself. The message we have received over the years is that everyone is all for a skatepark but as long as it's not in "my back yard". I have sympathy for these people, but only to an extent. Valley Gardens is a great place to build this specific skatepark. The design is made to help fit in with the current scenery, it is situated near the tennis courts, play area, mini-golf course and any noise, which, can I say, is minimal on a concrete skatepark, is deflected away by the trees surrounding the area.

Noise seemed to be the biggest issue raised at the meeting. I would suggest that residents around the Valley Gardens area visit Hyde skatepark in Leeds or Myrtle skatepark in Bingley and they will hear a minimal amount of noise when talking about the actual skateboard or bike hitting the concrete. As for people noise, throughout the day there is no escaping it, due to the children's play area. A resident brought up the fact that once



**Huge step forward – The demand for a skatepark in Harrogate is massive, says Josh Hallett.**

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over the summer someone had jumped the fence and had used the temporary skatepark at 2am.

I think the biggest issue for us skateboards and bikers is self-policing. We all know we need

to pull together and stop any trouble that may be caused. People like myself are very passionate about this project and we will not let the odd few ruin it for the rest of us. The introduction of a new infra-red secu-

rity camera will hopefully ease the minds of local residents, as well. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supports this project, especially the Friends of the Valley Gardens association.