

Skatepark for a new generation



Skateboarder Max Davey, 17, chats to the Mayor of Harrogate, Coun Bill Hoult, as work finally begins on a long-awaited skatepark in the Valley Gardens. It is expected to be opened in May. (1102233AMb). ● For the full story, turn to Page 3.

Skatepark will open in Valley Gardens in May



Skateboarders join the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate, Coun Bill Houlton and his wife Vanessa, along with parks development officer Trish McLaughlin, director of community services Les Williams and head of parks and gardens Pat Kilburn, for the start of the building of the new skatepark in the Valley Gardens. (102233AM)

HARROGATE'S long-awaited skatepark should be opened in May, after work began at the Valley Gardens site this week.

Evoking the spirit of one of this year's Oscar contenders, Coun Anthony Alton praised the "true grit" of those who have worked tirelessly to make the park a reality, including skaters Josh Hallett and

Stuart Aitken, and BMXers Dave Logan and Flea Brewis.

"They have all shown integrity as well as true grit in not letting up on their desire to see a skate park in Harrogate," he said. "This council has had its own ups and downs in trying to find a solution regarding the site."

Contractors Gravity Engineer-

ing, from Romsey, started work on the site on Monday. It should open in early May, weather permitting.

The skatepark will be near the play area behind the tennis courts in the Valley Gardens and will be open to all non-motorised vehicles, including scooters.

The council says CCTV should limit vandalism and misuse.