
UPDATE REGARDING NOISE COMPLAINTS AT SKATEBOARDING FACILITY, KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELD, RAYLEIGH

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members about the investigation into allegations of noise disturbance arising from use of the skateboarding facility in King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A recommendation was made at the January Committee that a report regarding the current position on noise complaints about the skateboarding facility at King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh be brought to this Committee.

3 NOISE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 Members may be aware that a small number of complaints were received in early May 2004 concerning noise from the skateboarding facility. These have now been investigated and resolved.
- 3.2 Officers of the Environmental Protection Unit were involved before the facility was constructed, having been consulted by Rayleigh Town Council about acoustics at the design stage, once planning permission had been granted for the concrete hardstanding on which it stands. Advice was given regarding the construction and management of the facility.
- 3.3 Extensive investigations were carried out in to the complaints, with regular communication between officers and the complainants, Rayleigh Town Council, the Police, Mr M Francois, MP and County Councillor Mrs M Webster.
- 3.4 Record sheets were kept by the complainants and many visits were made by officers to witness the noise being complained about. These visits consisted of both planned and ad-hoc visits to complainants and the surrounding area, within and outside of normal office hours, including weekends. Further advice was also given to Rayleigh Town Council concerning inspection and maintenance of the facility.
- 3.5 The officers concluded in October 2004 that no statutory nuisance existed with respect to the use of the skateboarding facility installed in King George's Playing Field in late 2003.

3.6 On 12 October 2004, letters confirming the officers' conclusions were sent to the complainants and to Rayleigh Town Council. Copies of both sets of these letters were also sent to Mr M Francois, MP and County Councillor Mrs M Webster under covering letters.

3.7 No further complaints regarding noise have been received.

4 INCIDENTS REPORTED TO ESSEX POLICE

4.1 Essex Police report that during 2003 they recorded 17 incidents related to "allegations of nuisance youth" in Bull Lane and 10 in Websters Way. The corresponding figures for 2004 were 8 and 22 respectively. The information received does not identify noise from the skateboard facility as the subject of any of these reported incidents.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No statutory nuisance was found to exist during the investigation, consequently the investigation was closed without the need to consider taking any formal enforcement action.

6 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) To note that no statutory nuisance was found to occur during investigations carried out between May and October 2004 into noise arising from use of the skateboarding facility in King George Playing Field, Rayleigh;
- (2) To note that there is no ongoing investigation into noise arising from the use of the skateboarding facility in King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh.

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Background Papers:-

None

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