
BYELAWS AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SKATEBOARDING WITHIN THE DISTRICT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This matter was referred by Community Services Committee on 2 July 2002 to this Committee for consideration. An extract from the Minutes of that meeting together with a copy of the Officer's report is attached at Appendix 1.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Skateboarding in public places particularly on pavements in the High Street of Rayleigh has been the source of nuisance and has raised concerns as to public safety.
- 2.2 As a result the Council has explored introducing byelaws and draft proposals to both regulate the activity and prohibit it entirely in certain specified areas have been submitted to the Home Office for consideration. The areas concerned are detailed in the attached report in addition to which it has been resolved that the area immediately surrounding Clements Hall Leisure Centre should also be included.
- 2.3 There is a statutory process involving formal advertisement and public consultation that must be followed if the Council wishes to proceed with the proposed byelaws.

3 MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

- 3.1 Skateboarding can be managed either through the provision of facilities or by regulations. A combination of the two may be seen as the most appropriate means of controlling the activity and directing it to appropriate areas where nuisance and disturbance can be minimised.
- 3.2 Regulation through the introduction of byelaws has been examined in some detail and the attached report explains the current position regarding the proposed measures. Subject to the statutory procedure, if the byelaws are introduced it will be a criminal offence to contravene the provisions and on conviction an offender would be liable to a penalty of up to £500.

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- 3.3 Purposely designed facilities are popular with youngsters and can assist in redirecting the activity to suitable places.
- 3.4 Within the District there are presently two existing skateboard facilities, a further one is under construction and two more are at the planning stage. Details of these facilities are set out below.
- (i) Hullbridge Recreation Ground – purpose built ‘street skating’ facility, provided by the Council about 2 years ago.
 - (ii) Hawkwell, ClementsHall Playing field – ‘Half pipe’ skateboarding facility relocated by the Council from Rocheway Centre in partnership with Rochford Sports Council 5 years ago.
 - (iii) Canewdon Recreation Ground – purpose built ‘street skating’ facility, presently under construction by the Council.
 - (iv) Ashingdon Playing Field - as part of the parish partnership Initiative, the Council has agreed to provide funding of £7,117 towards the provision of a new skateboarding facility, subject to any necessary permissions being obtained and to further detailed discussions as to its siting, maintenance and access.
 - (v) Rayleigh King George’s Playing Field - the Town Council is seeking to provided a skateboarding facility the proposal for which is subject of a pending planning appeal.
- 3.5 A reflection of the popularity of the activity, the Council’s Summer Sports Programme includes skateboarding classes, with coaching provided in Hullbridge. The programme will also provide a portable skateboarding facility at other locations initially a one day event has been arranged in association with the Town Council and the Youth Service in the market car park.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Management whether by provision of facilities or regulation will assist to reduce nuisance and problems associated with skateboarding.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are costs involved in managing the activity by the provision of facilities and regulation has resource implications associated with enforcement if byelaws are introduced.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As contained in the attached report

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Regulations if introduced would apply to all areas through out the District.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the issue of management of skateboarding within the District and determine a view on the matter to be forwarded to Community Services Committee.

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