

**Public Consultation**

**Report**

**Youth Leisure Facilities**

June 2008

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION - YOUTH LEISURE FACILITIES

- 1.1 Harrogate Borough Council has been investigating the possibility of developing a new skate park within Harrogate. There is funding and also direct support and input from young people and the Council now has an opportunity to create a new skating facility for the present population of Harrogate and for future generations.
- 1.2 As part of the skate park project consultation plan the Harrogate Borough Council District Panel were asked a series of questions on a topic entitled Youth Leisure Facilities and the questions were also posted on the Council internet site and staff intranet.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A total of 1500 questionnaires were sent and **931** were returned. This represents a **62%** response rate. The questionnaire was also placed on the Council web site and also on the staff intranet. The table below details the stakeholder group consulted and the numbers received.

Who?	Number sent out	Number Received
District Panel	1500	931
Internet/intranet		122
<b>Total</b>		<b>1053</b>

- 2.2 The total number of questionnaires analysed was **1053**. All non replies to individual questions were omitted from the analysis.

A copy of the full District Panel questionnaire can be found at Appendix A

## 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION - DISTRICT PANEL

- 3.1 The Council adopted its first Community Engagement Strategy in November 1998. The first District Panel was convened in 1999 as part of the Community Engagement Strategy and as an element of the Council's 'toolbox' for Community Engagement.
- 3.2 The current panel of 1500 people is structured with the intention of reflecting the make-up of the population in the District in respect of gender, age, physical/mental impairment and location of residence.

#### 4.0 YOUTH LEISURE FACILITIES - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Overall 81% of all respondents thought there should be a skate park in Harrogate.
- The site most commonly rated as a 'suitable' site was Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields (44%) and the site most commonly rated 'unsuitable' was Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station (67%).
- When possible sites were given a survey value (3 = suitable, 2 = possible and 1 = unsuitable) the 3 sites with the highest average value were Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields (2.37), Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Rd (2.07) and Bilton, rough land adjacent to Iron Bridge (2.04); and the 3 sites with the lowest average value were Car park in-between Bus Station and Railway Station Car Park, Station Parade (1.36), Victoria Gardens Car Park, Station Parade (1.35) and Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station (1.31).
- Overall 76% of all respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems and the most common area of 'great' concern for these respondents was antisocial behaviour (53%) followed by drugs/alcohol usage (47%).
- When the possible areas of concern were given a survey value (5 = great concern, 4 = some concern, 3 = possible problem, 2 = may be an issue for some and 1 = not an issue at all) the average survey values were Antisocial behaviour (4.28), Drugs/Alcohol (4.16), Litter (3.99) and Graffiti (3.90).
- When respondents were asked if they had any other areas of concern that were not specified in the previous question the areas of commonest concern were specific antisocial behaviour, supervision and noise.
- Overall 76% of respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits and the most common area of possible benefit was Safe place to skate (51%) followed by Skaters no longer hanging about on streets (49%).
- When the possible areas of benefit were given a survey value (4 = huge benefit, 3 = large benefit, 2 = some benefit and 1 = no benefit at all) the average survey values were Safe place to skate (3.40), Enjoyment for young people (3.37), Skaters no longer hanging about the street (3.32), Good exercise opportunity (3.13), improved social skills (2.72) and Reduced obesity in young people (2.68).

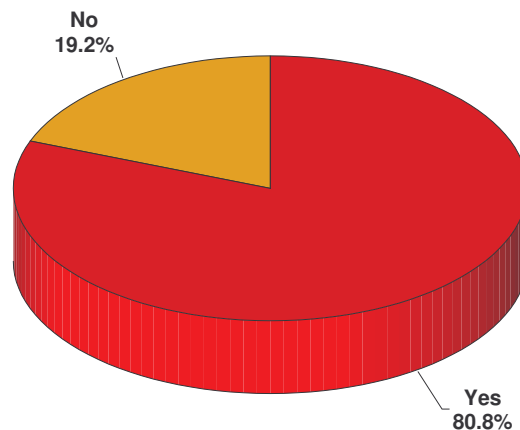
## 5.0 YOUTH LEISURE FACILITIES - CONSULTATION RESULTS

5.1 Respondents were asked if they thought there should be a skate park facility in Harrogate

- Overall 81% of all respondents thought there should be a skate park in Harrogate
- 81% of the District Panel respondents thought there should be a skate park in Harrogate
- 78% of internet respondents thought there should be a skate park in Harrogate

### Combined results chart

Do you think there should be a skate park facility in Harrogate?



Do you think there should be a skate park in Harrogate? – District Panel		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	702	81.2
No	163	18.8

Do you think there should be a skate park in Harrogate? – Internet/intranet		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	90	78.3
No	25	21.7

Do you think there should be a skate park in Harrogate? - Combined		
	No.	%
Yes	792	80.8
No	188	19.2

5.2 Respondents were given a list of Harrogate locations that are being considered as potential sites for a skate park. They were asked to rate each site as either: suitable, possible or unsuitable.

### Combined results

- The site most commonly rated as a 'suitable' site was **Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields** (44%)
- The site most commonly rated as a 'possible' site was **Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Road** (39%)
- The site most commonly rated 'unsuitable' was **Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station** (67%)

### District Panel

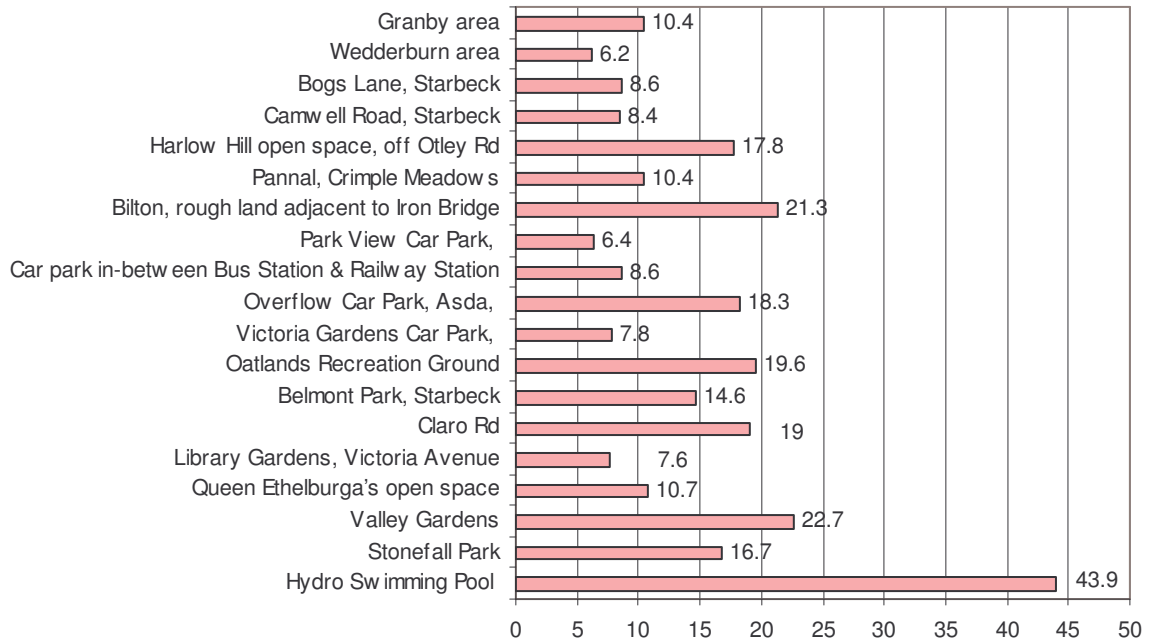
- The site most commonly rated as a 'suitable' site with the District Panel was **Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields** (44%)
- The site most commonly rated as a 'possible' site with the District Panel was **Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Road** (40%)
- The site most commonly rated 'unsuitable' with the District Panel was **Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station** (69%)

### Internet

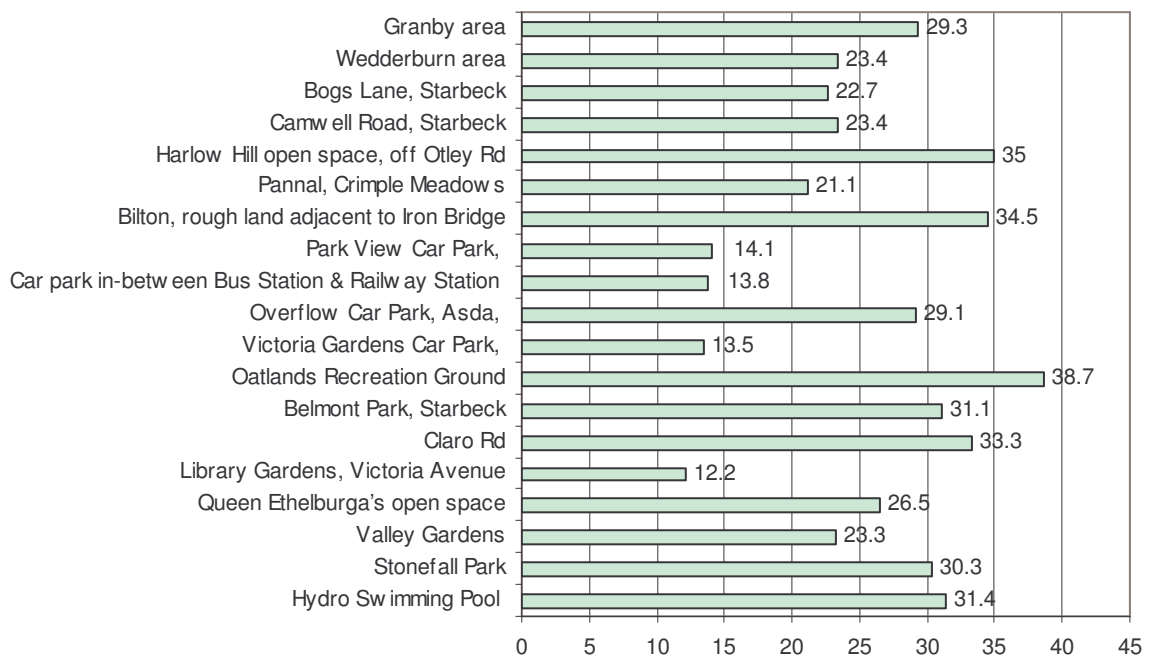
- The site most commonly rated as a 'suitable' site with internet respondents was **Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields** (42%).
- The site most commonly rated as a 'possible' site with internet respondents was **Belmont Park, off High Street, Starbeck** (32%)
- The site most commonly rated as 'unsuitable' with internet respondents was **Car park in between Bus station and railway station car park, Station Parade** (67%)

## Combined results charts

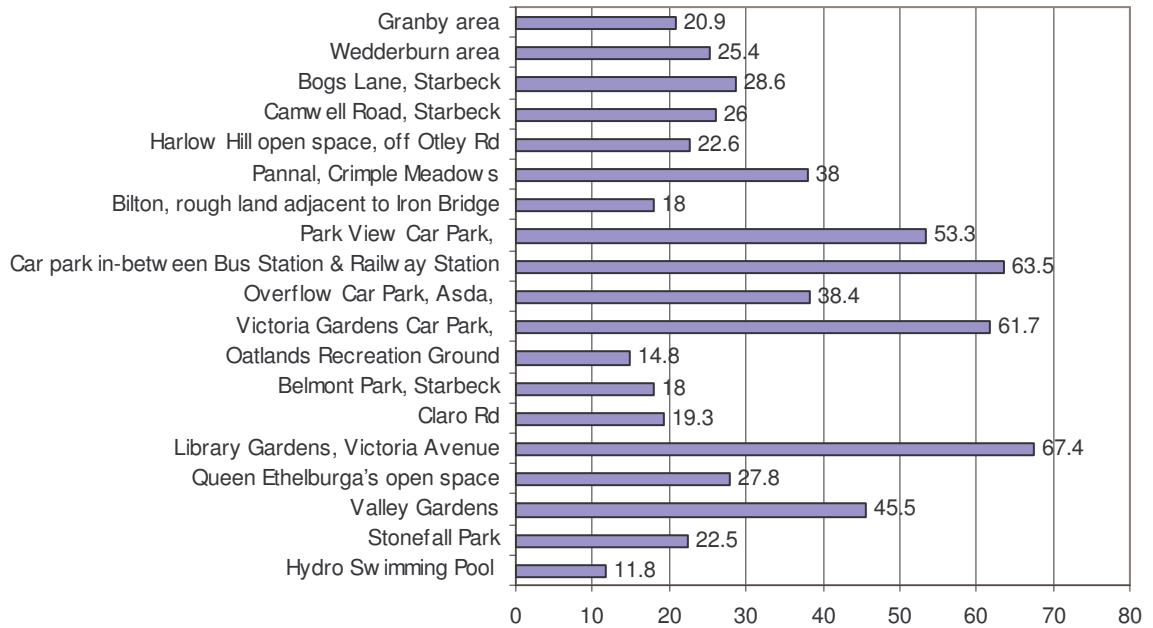
Please rate each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable for the location of a skate park  
**Suitable**



Please rate each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable for the location of a skate park  
**- Possible**



**Please rate each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable for the location of a skate park  
- Unsuitable**



Please rate each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable – District Panel								
	Suitable		Possible		Unsuitable		No opinion	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields	344	44.1	254	32.6	73	9.4	109	14.0
Stonefall Park, Plompton Drive, off Hookstone Chase	103	13.9	236	31.9	156	21.1	244	33.0
Valley Gardens, various locations e.g Between the tennis courts and the dahlia beds	165	21.3	177	22.9	361	46.6	71	9.2
Queen Ethelburga's open space, Young's Drive	78	10.6	194	26.3	195	26.4	272	36.8
Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station	41	5.4	93	12.3	521	69.0	100	13.2
Claro Rd, top end by the allotments	142	19.2	254	34.3	123	16.6	221	29.9
Belmont Park, off High Street, Starbeck	98	13.5	224	30.9	123	17.0	280	38.6
Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Rd	132	17.9	298	40.3	101	13.7	208	28.1
Victoria Gardens Car Park, Station Parade	41	5.5	93	12.4	476	63.6	138	18.4
Overflow Car Park, Asda, Bower Rd	115	15.1	229	30.0	302	39.5	118	15.4
Car Par inbetween Bus station and railway Station car park, Station Parade	48	6.4	106	14.2	482	64.5	111	14.9
Park View Car Park, off Station Parade	34	4.7	101	14.0	392	54.1	197	27.2
Bilton, rough land adjacent to Iron Bridge	153	20.4	272	36.2	120	16.0	206	27.4
Pannal, Crimple Meadows	64	8.8	161	22.2	271	37.3	230	31.7
Harlow Hill open space, off Otley Rd	119	16.3	270	36.9	158	21.6	185	25.3
Camwell Road, Starbeck	54	7.5	170	23.5	180	24.9	319	44.1
Bogs Lane, Starbeck	54	7.4	166	22.7	203	27.8	307	42.1
Wedderburn area	36	4.9	177	24.2	180	24.6	339	46.3
Granby area	65	9.0	214	29.5	151	20.8	296	40.8

Please rate each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable – internet/intranet								
	Suitable		Possible		Unsuitable		No opinion	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields	48	42.5	26	23	32	28.3	7	6.2
Stonefall Park, Plompton Drive, off Hookstone Chase	39	34.5	22	19.5	36	31.9	16	14.2
Valley Gardens, various locations e.g Between the tennis courts and the dahlia beds	37	31.9	30	25.9	44	37.9	5	4.3
Queen Ethelburga's open space, Young's Drive	13	11.7	31	27.9	41	26.3	26	23.4
Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station	25	22.3	13	11.6	63	56.3	11	9.8
Claro Rd, top end by the allotments	20	18	29	26.1	41	36.9	21	18.9
Belmont Park, off High Street, Starbeck	25	21.7	37	32.2	28	24.3	25	21.7
Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Rd	35	31	32	28.3	25	22.1	21	18.6
Victoria Gardens Car Park, Station Parade	26	23.2	23	20.5	55	49.1	8	7.1
Overflow Car Park, Asda, Bower Rd	46	39.3	27	23.1	36	30.8	8	6.8
Car Par inbetween Bus station and railway Station car park, Station Parade	26	23	13	11.5	64	56.6	10	8.8
Park View Car Park, off Station Parade	20	17.4	17	14.8	55	47.8	23	20
Bilton, rough land adjacent to Iron Bridge	31	27.2	26	22.8	36	31.6	21	18.4
Pannal, Crimble Meadows	23	20.4	16	14.2	50	44.2	24	21.2
Harlow Hill open space, off Otley Rd	32	28.1	26	22.8	33	28.9	23	20.2
Camwell Road, Starbeck	16	14	26	22.8	38	33.3	34	29.8
Bogs Lane, Starbeck	19	16.7	26	22.8	38	33.3	31	27.2
Wedderburn area	16	14.2	21	18.6	35	31	41	36.3
Granby area	22	19.5	32	28.3	24	21.2	35	31

Please rate each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable – Combined results								
	Suitable		Possible		Unsuitable		No opinion	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields	392	43.9	280	31.4	105	11.8	116	13
Stonefall Park, Plompton Drive, off Hookstone Chase	142	16.7	258	30.3	192	22.5	260	30.5
Valley Gardens, various locations e.g Between the tennis courts and the dahlia beds	202	22.7	207	23.3	405	45.5	76	8.5
Queen Ethelburga's open space, Young's Drive	91	10.7	225	26.5	236	27.8	298	35.1
Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station	66	7.6	106	12.2	584	67.4	111	12.8
Claro Rd, top end by the allotments	162	19	283	33.3	164	19.3	242	28.4
Belmont Park, off High Street, Starbeck	123	14.6	261	31.1	151	18	305	36.3
Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Rd	167	19.6	330	38.7	126	14.8	229	26.9
Victoria Gardens Car Park, Station Parade	67	7.8	116	13.5	531	61.7	146	17
Overflow Car Park, Asda, Bower Rd	161	18.3	256	29.1	338	38.4	126	14.3
Car park in-between Bus Station and Railway Station Car Park, Station Parade	74	8.6	119	13.8	546	63.5	121	14.1
Park View Car Park, off Station Parade	54	6.4	118	14.1	447	53.3	220	26.2
Bilton, rough land adjacent to Iron Bridge	184	21.3	298	34.5	156	18	227	26.2
Pannal, Crimble Meadows	87	10.4	177	21.1	321	38	254	30.3
Harlow Hill open space, off Otley Rd	151	17.8	296	35	191	22.6	208	24.6
Camwell Road, Starbeck	70	8.4	196	23.4	218	26	353	42.2
Bogs Lane, Starbeck	73	8.6	192	22.7	241	28.6	338	40
Wedderburn area	52	6.2	198	23.4	215	25.4	380	45
Granby area	87	10.4	246	29.3	175	20.9	331	39.5

### Survey values - opinions

In order to establish which sites respondents favoured, a simple arithmetical format was designed to show strength of feeling associated with each possible site covered in the question.

In this question the respondent was asked to assess a number of possible locations as; **suitable, possible, unsuitable or no opinion**. The following values were assigned to the responses:

- suitable -value 3.00
- possible – value 2.00
- unsuitable – value 1.00

The 'no opinion' response was left out of the calculation

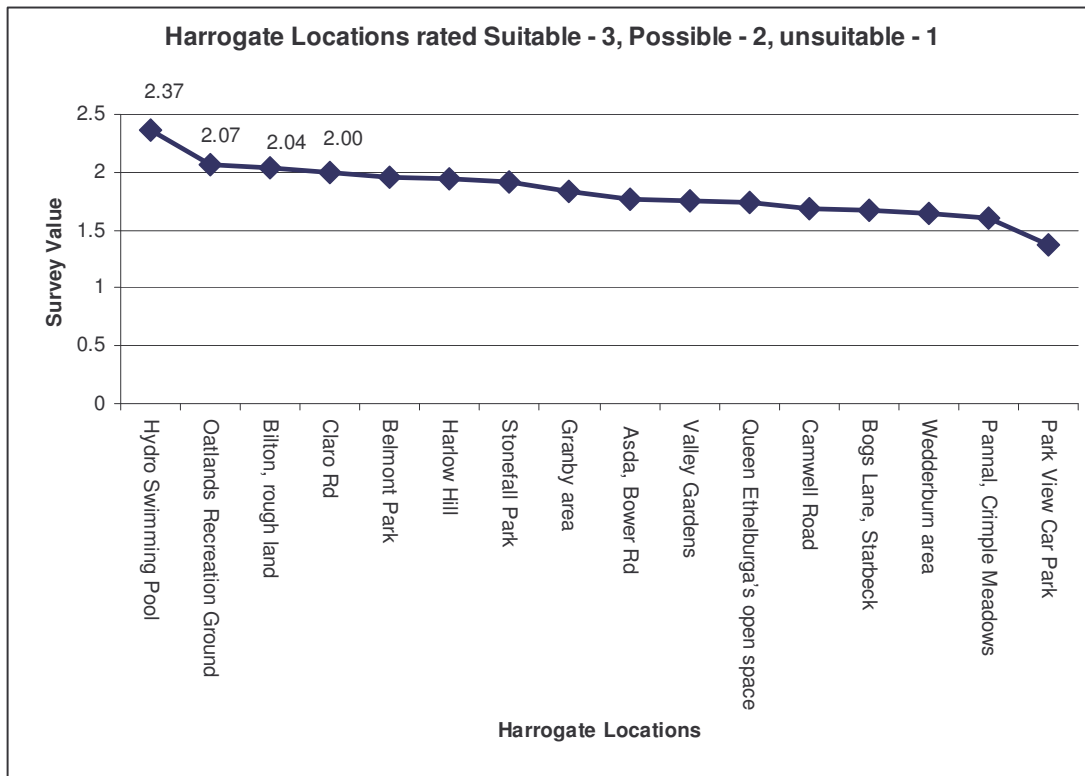
For each possible location a total value based on the responses received has been generated (*survey value*). An average survey value is then calculated based on the number of responses to a particular location.

In simple terms, the lower the average survey value a question generates the less suitable respondents thought that location to be.

The table below details the average survey values from highest (thought as most suitable) to lowest (thought as least suitable):

<b>Please rate each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable – Combined results</b>		
<b>Suitable 3</b>	<b>Possible 2</b>	<b>Unsuitable 1</b>
Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields		2.37
Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Rd		2.07
Bilton, rough land adjacent to Iron Bridge		2.04
Claro Rd, top end by the allotments		2.00
Belmont Park, off High Street, Starbeck		1.95
Harlow Hill open space, off Otley Rd		1.94
Stonefall Park, Plompton Drive, off Hookstone Chase		1.92
Granby area		1.83
Overflow Car Park, Asda, Bower Rd		1.77
Valley Gardens, various locations e.g Between the tennis courts and the dahlia beds		1.75
Queen Ethelburga's open space, Young's Drive		1.74
Camwell Road, Starbeck		1.69
Bogs Lane, Starbeck		1.67
Wedderburn area		1.65
Pannal, Crimple Meadows		1.60
Park View Car Park, off Station Parade		1.37
Car park in-between Bus Station and Railway Station Car Park, Station Parade		1.36
Victoria Gardens Car Park, Station Parade		1.35
Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, opposite the station		1.31

## Survey Values chart

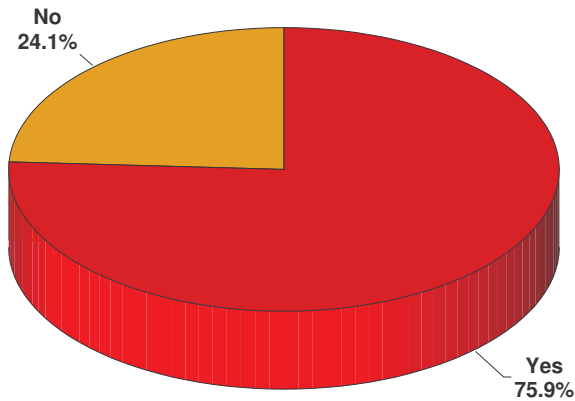


### 5.3 Respondents were asked if they thought a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems

- Overall 76% of all respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems
- 76% of District Panel respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems
- 74% of internet respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems

## Combined results chart

### Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems?



Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems? – District Panel		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	669	76.1
No	210	23.9

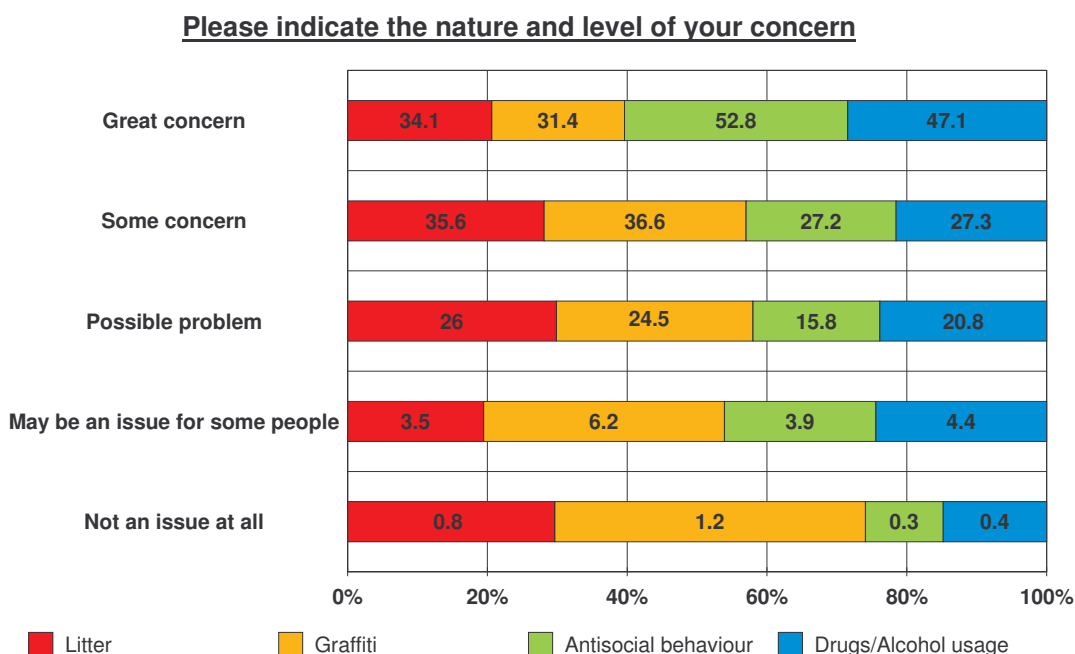
Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems? – Internet/intranet		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	88	73.9
No	31	26.1

Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems? – Combined		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	757	75.9
No	241	24.1

- 5.4 Respondents that answered yes to the previous question were asked to indicate the nature and level of their concern
- Overall the most common area of 'great' concern was antisocial behaviour (53%) followed by drugs/alcohol usage (47%), most common area of 'some' concern was graffiti (37%) and most common area of 'possible' problem was litter (26%)

- The most common area of 'great' concern for District Panel respondents was anti-social behaviour (50%) followed by drugs/alcohol usage (45%), the most common area for 'some concern' was litter (27%)
- The most common area of 'great' concern for internet respondents was anti-social behaviour (75%) followed by drugs/alcohol usage (66%), the most common area for 'some concern' was graffiti (16%)

### Combined results chart



If you answered yes to the previous question, please indicate the nature and level of your concern District Panel										
	Great concern		Some concern		Possible problem		May be an issue for some people		Not an issue at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Litter</b>	215	31.1	259	37.5	189	27.4	24	3.5	4	0.6
<b>Graffiti</b>	193	28.2	268	39.1	173	25.3	45	6.6	6	0.9
<b>Antisocial behaviour</b>	355	50.1	208	29.4	115	16.2	28	4.0	2	0.3
<b>Drugs/Alcohol usage</b>	311	44.8	200	28.8	148	21.3	33	4.8	2	0.3

If you answered yes to the previous question, please indicate the nature and level of your concern  
**Intranet/internet**

	Great concern		Some concern		Possible problem		May be an issue for some people		Not an issue at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Litter</b>	50	58.8	17	20	13	15.3	3	3.5	2	2.4
<b>Graffiti</b>	49	57.6	14	16.5	16	18.8	3	3.5	3	3.5
<b>Antisocial behaviour</b>	64	75.3	8	9.4	10	11.8	3	3.5	0	0
<b>Drugs/Alcohol usage</b>	56	65.9	13	15.3	14	16.5	1	1.2	1	1.2

If you answered yes to the previous question, please indicate the nature and level of your concern  
**Combined**

	Great concern		Some concern		Possible problem		May be an issue for some people		Not an issue at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Litter</b>	265	34.1	276	35.6	202	26	27	3.5	6	0.8
<b>Graffiti</b>	242	31.4	282	36.6	189	24.5	48	6.2	9	1.2
<b>Antisocial behaviour</b>	419	52.8	216	27.2	125	15.8	31	3.9	2	0.3
<b>Drugs/Alcohol usage</b>	367	47.1	213	27.3	162	20.8	34	4.4	3	0.4

In this question the respondent was asked to assess the level of their concerns as; **great concern, some concern, possible problem, may be an issue for some people or not an issue at all**. The following values were assigned to the responses:

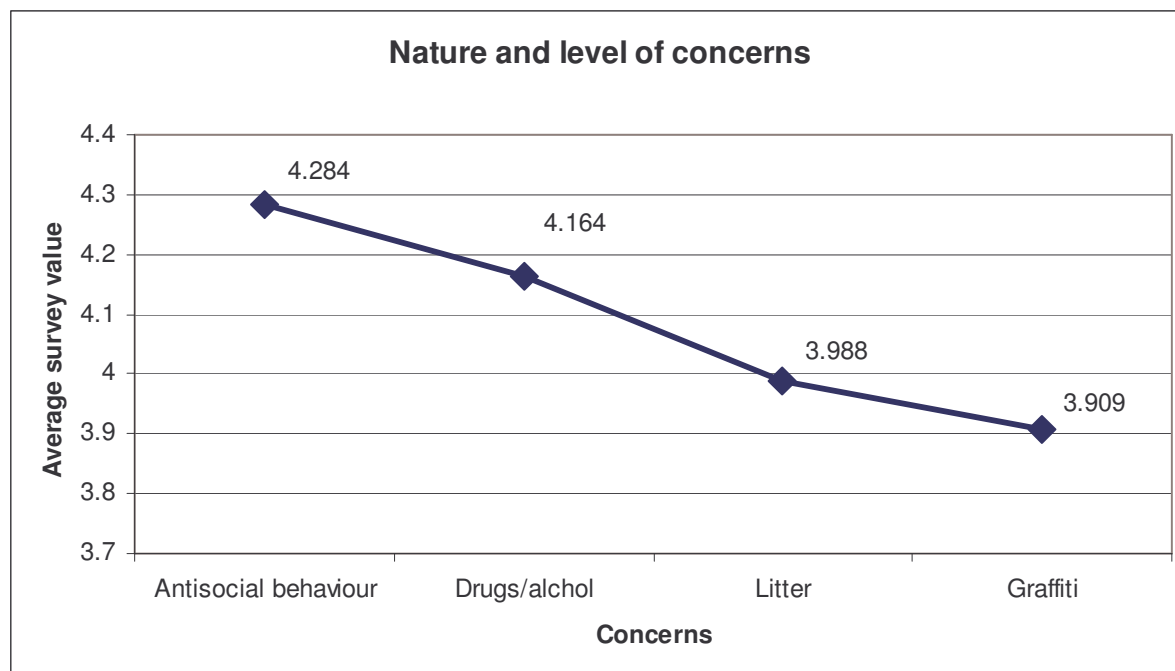
- great concern -value 5.00
- some concern – value 4.00
- possible problem – value 3.00
- may be an issue for some – value 2.00
- not an issue at all – value 1.00

For each possible area of concern a total value based on the responses received has been generated (*survey value*). An average survey value is then calculated based on the number of responses to a particular area of concern.

In simple terms, the lower the average survey value a question generates the less of a concern that particular area of concern was considered to be.

The chart below details the average survey values from highest (area of greatest concern) to lowest (area of lowest concern):

### Survey value chart



5.5 Respondents were asked if they had any other areas of concern that were not specified in the previous question. The table below broadly categorises the responses received. A full list can be found at appendix B

- The areas of commonest concern were specific antisocial behaviour, supervision and noise.

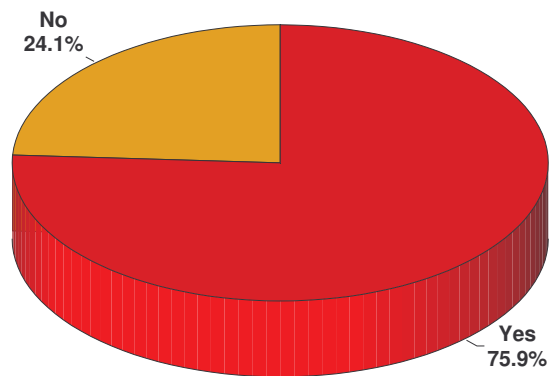
Do you have any other areas of concern that were not detailed			
	District Panel	Internet	Combined
<b>Specific anti social behaviour</b>	52	12	64
<b>Supervision</b>	54	5	59
<b>Noise</b>	29	6	35
<b>Location</b>	23	8	31
<b>Already a dated fashion, the trend could quickly become obsolete / potential lack of use</b>	19	0	19
<b>Need for parking / transport / access</b>	15	4	19
<b>Health and safety</b>	16	0	16
<b>Positive comments: time to think of the young people</b>	13	0	13
<b>Economic sense</b>	5	3	8
<b>Attraction of paedophiles /drug dealers</b>	5	0	5
<b>Learn from what happened before</b>	0	5	3
<b>Misc</b>	17	3	20

5.6 Respondents were asked if they thought a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits

- Overall 76% of respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits
- 77% of District Panel respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits
- 67% of internet respondents thought that a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits

**Combined results chart**

**Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits?**



<b>Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits? – District Panel</b>		
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	685	77.1
<b>No</b>	204	22.9

<b>Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits? – Internet/intranet</b>		
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	78	67.2
<b>No</b>	38	32.8

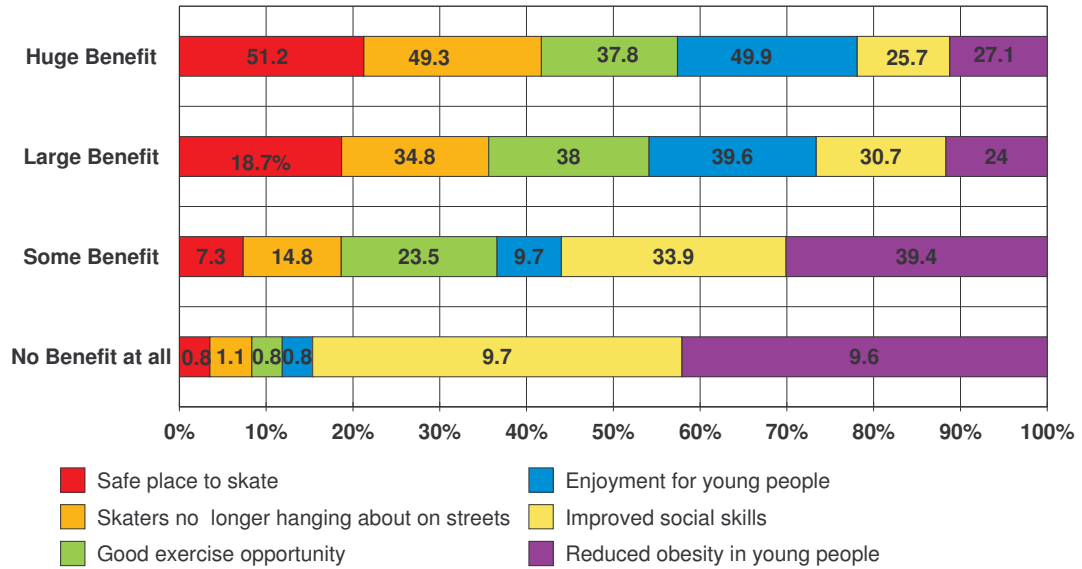
<b>Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits? – Combined</b>		
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	763	75.9
<b>No</b>	242	24.1

5.7 Finally respondents were asked to indicate the nature and level of benefit they thought a skate park would bring

- Overall the most common area of 'huge' benefit was safe place to skate (51%), the most common area for 'large' benefit was enjoyment for young people (40%)
- The most common area of 'huge benefit' for District Panel respondents was a safe place to skate (50%), the most common area for 'large benefit' was enjoyment for young people (41%)
- The most common area of 'huge benefit' for internet respondents was a safe place to skate (64%), the most common area for 'large benefit' was Good exercise opportunity (27%)
-

## Combined results chart

Please indicate the nature and level of benefit a skate park will bring



If you answered yes to the previous question, please indicate the nature and level of benefit you think it will bring  
District Panel

	Huge benefit		Large benefit		Some benefit		No benefit at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Safe place to skate	354	49.8	287	40.4	66	9.3	4	0.6
Skaters no longer hanging about on streets	354	48.5	260	26.5	99	13.9	8	1.1
Good exercise opportunity	259	36.7	277	39.3	164	23.3	5	0.7
Enjoyment for young people	346	48.6	294	41.3	67	9.4	5	0.7
Improved social skills	168	24	220	31.4	244	34.8	69	9.8
Reduced obesity in young people	182	25.9	172	24.5	281	40	68	9.7

If you answered yes to the previous question, please indicate the nature and level of benefit you think it will bring Intranet/internet								
	Huge benefit		Large benefit		Some benefit		No benefit at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Safe place to skate	51	63.7	17	21.3	10	12.5	2	2.5
Skaters no longer hanging about on streets	45	57	15	19	18	22.8	1	1.3
Good exercise opportunity	37	46.8	21	26.6	20	23.5	1	1.3
Enjoyment for young people	49	61.3	20	25	10	12.5	1	1.3
Improved social skills	31	42.5	18	24.7	18	24.7	6	8.2
Reduced obesity in young people	29	37.7	15	19.5	26	33.8	7	9.1

If you answered yes to the previous question, please indicate the nature and level of benefit you think it will bring Combined								
	Huge benefit		Large benefit		Some benefit		No benefit at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Safe place to skate	405	51.2	304	38.4	76	9.6	6	0.8
Skaters no longer hanging about on streets	390	49.3	275	34.8	117	14.8	9	1.1
Good exercise opportunity	296	37.8	298	38	184	23.5	6	0.8
Enjoyment for young people	395	49.9	314	39.6	77	9.7	6	0.8
Improved social skills	199	25.7	238	30.7	262	33.9	75	9.7
Reduced obesity in young people	211	27.1	187	24	307	39.4	75	9.6

In order to establish which issues are most important to respondents, a simple arithmetical format was designed to show strength of feeling associated with each area of benefit covered in the question.

In this question the respondent was asked to assess each area of possible benefit as; **huge benefit**, **large benefit**, **some benefit** or **no benefit at all**. The following values were assigned to the responses:

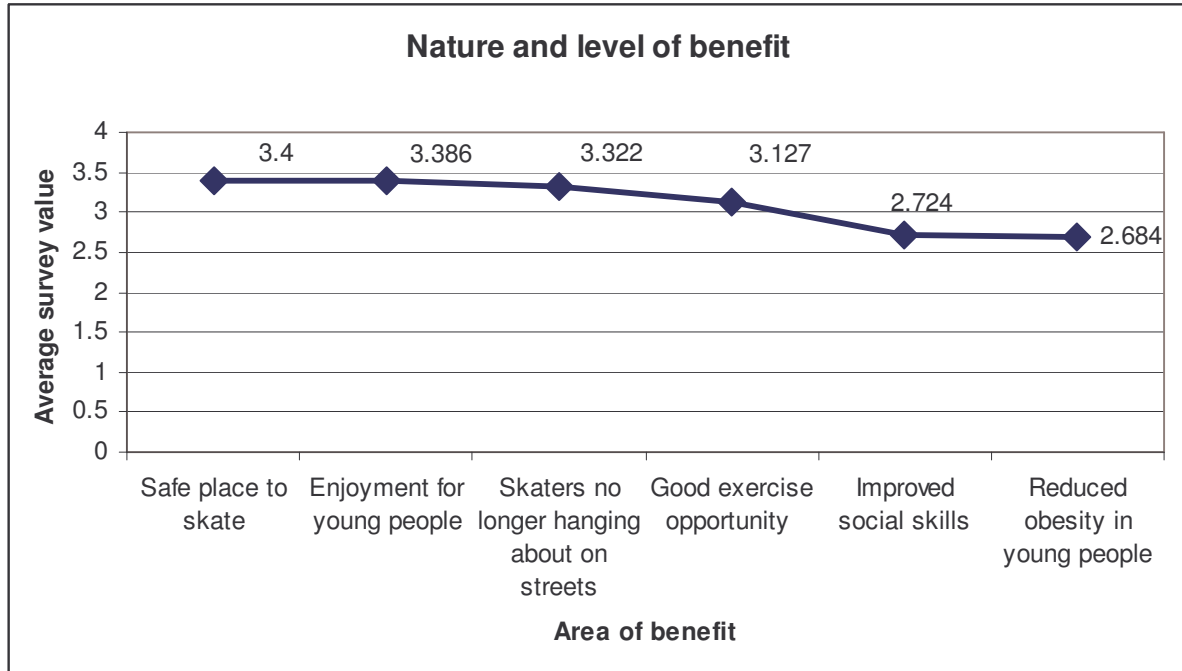
- huge benefit -value 4.00
- large benefit – value 3.00
- some benefit – value 2.00
- no benefit at all – value 1.00

For each benefit area a total value based on the responses received has been generated (*survey value*). An average survey value is then calculated based on the number of responses to a particular area of benefit.

In simple terms, the higher the average survey value the greater the level of benefit respondents considered that type of possible benefit to have.

The chart below details the average survey values from highest to lowest:

**Survey value chart**



## 6.0 A PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

**Table 1: Response by gender**

Gender	Panel		Internet	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	449	48.4	71	59.2
Female	478	51.6	49	40.8
Total	927*		120**	

\* 4 respondents did not supply this information  
 \*\* 2 respondents did not supply this information

**Table 2: Response by age**

Age (yrs)	Panel		Internet	
	No.	%	No.	%
17-24	11	1.2	16	13.3
25-34	21	2.3	35	29.2
35-44	138	14.9	27	22.5
45-54	217	23.4	21	17.5
55-64	258	27.8	17	14.2
65+	284	30.5	4	3.3
Total	929*		120**	

\* 2 respondents did not supply this information  
 \*\* 2 respondents did not supply this information

**Table 3: Response by economic position**

Economic position	Panel		Internet	
	No.	%	No.	%
Employed – full time	402	43.7	99	82.5
Self employed	89	9.7	5	4.2
Unemployed/govt. scheme	7	0.8	2	1.7
Retired	383	41.6	3	2.5
Full time education	3	0.3	9	7.5
Looking after home/family	36	3.9	2	1.7
Total	920*		120	

\* 11 respondents did not supply this information  
 \*\* 2 respondents did not supply this information

<b>Table 5: Response by physical or mental impairment</b>				
<b>Yourself</b>				
	<b>Panel</b>		<b>Internet</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Impaired	64	7	8	6.9
Not impaired	845	93	108	93.1
Total	909*		116**	
<b>Full time carer</b>				
Carer	34	3.8	11	9.7
Not Carer	867	96.2	102	90.3
Total	901***		114****	
* 22 respondents did not supply this information ** 6 respondents did not supply this information *** 30 respondents did not supply this information ****.8 respondents did not supply this information				

<b>Table 6: Response by area</b>				
	<b>Panel</b>		<b>Internet</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Harrogate	429	47.0	94	87.9
Ripon	106	11.6	5	4.7
Knaresborough	86	9.4	1	0.9
Rural	292	32.0	7	6.5
Total	913		107*	
* 15 respondents did not supply this information				

## **7.0 FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Cross tabulation of all none literal responses is available on request from Fiona Friday, Community Engagement Officer, Harrogate Borough Council 01423 556068 or by email [Fiona.Friday@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.Friday@harrogate.gov.uk).

Note: Cross tabulation available: by respondent; by age, gender, ward and disability





## Appendix A

### Questionnaire

#### Youth Leisure Facilities

Harrogate Borough Council has been investigating the possibility of developing a new skate park within Harrogate. With greater funding and direct support and input from young people, we now have an opportunity to create a new skating facility for the present population of Harrogate and for future generations.

So that Harrogate Borough Council is able to gauge local opinion on the possibility of a new skate park please take some time to complete the following questionnaire.

**Q1 Do you think there should be a skate park facility in Harrogate?**

*Please tick one box*

Yes

No

**Q2 Please rate each each of the following Harrogate locations as either Suitable, Possible or Unsuitable for the location of a state park.**

*Please tick one box for each suggested location*

	<i>Suitable</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Unsuitable</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
1. Hydro Swimming Pool open space, Jennyfields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Stonefall Park, Plompton Drive, off Hookstone Chase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Valley Gardens, various locations e.g. Between the tennis courts and the dahlia beds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Queen Ethelburga's open space, Young's Drive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Library Gardens, Victoria Avenue, next to the library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Claro Rd, top end by allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Belmont Park, off High Street, Starbeck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Oatlands Recreation Ground, Hookstone Rd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Victoria Gardens Car Park, Station Parade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Overflow Car Park, Asda, Bower Rd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Car Park inbetween Bus Station and Railway Station Car Park, Station Parade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Park View Car Park, off Station Parade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Bilton, rough land adjacent to Iron Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Pannal, Crimble Meadows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Harlow Hill Open space, off Otley Rd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Camwell Road, Starbeck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Bogs Lane, Starbeck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Wedderburn area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Granby area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might attract problems?**

*Please tick one box*

Yes

No

**Q4 If you answered yes to Q3, please indicate the nature and the level of your concern**

*Please tick one box for each area of possible concern*

	<i>Great concern</i>	<i>Some concern</i>	<i>Possible problem</i>	<i>May be an issue for some people</i>	<i>Not an issue at all</i>
Litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graffiti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Antisocial behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drugs/Alcohol usage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q5 Do you have any other areas of concern that are not detailed above?**

*Please specify*

---

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**Q6 Do you think a skate park in Harrogate might bring about benefits?**

*Please tick one box*

Yes

No

**Q7 If you answered yes to Q6, please indicate the nature and level of benefit it will bring**

*Please tick one box for each area of possible benefit*

*Huge Benefit Large Benefit Some Benefit No Benefit at all*

Safe place to skate

Skaters no longer hanging about on streets

Good exercise opportunity

Enjoyment for young people

Improved social skills

Reduced obesity in young people

**Anonymous Personal Details**

**Q8 Are you?**

*Please tick one box*

Male

Female

**Q9 How old are you?**

*Please tick one box*

17-24

55-64

25-34

65-74

35-44

75+

45-54

**Q10 Are you?**

*Please tick one box*

Employed

Unemployed

Student

Self employed

Retired

Looking after family or home

**Q11 Do you consider yourself to have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and longterm effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities?**

*Please tick one box*

Yes

No

**Q12 Are you a full-time carer for a disabled, sick or elderly relative or partner?**

*Please tick one box*

Yes  No

**Q13 Which ward of Harrogate do you live in?**

*Please tick one box*

<i>Bilton</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Boroughbridge</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Granby</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Claro</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Harlow Moor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Killinghall</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>High Harrogate</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Kirby Malzeard</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Hookstone</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lower Nidderdale</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Low Harrogate</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Marston Moor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>New Park</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mashamshire</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Pannal</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Newby</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Rossett</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nidd Valley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Saltergate</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ouseburn</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Starbeck</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pateley Bridge</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Stray</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ribston</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Woodfield</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Knaresborough East</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Washburn</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Knaresborough King James</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Wathvale</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Knaresborough Scriven Park</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unknown Harrogate Ward</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ripon Minster</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unknown Knaresborough Ward</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ripon Moorside</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unknown Ripon Ward</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ripon spa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unknown Rural Ward</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bishop Monkton</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Q14 To which of these groups do you consider you belong to?**

*Please tick one box*

<i>British</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>White and Black Caribbean</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bangladeshi</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Irish</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>White and Black African</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Any other Asian background</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Any other White background</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>White and Asian</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Chinese</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Caribbean</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Any other Mixed background</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other ethnic group.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>African</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Indian</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>Any other Black background</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pakistani</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Thank you for completing this survey, please press the submit button**





## Appendix B

### Do you have any other areas of concern that are not detailed above?

#### Supervision – District Panel

1. I think a skate park would be a good thing, but wherever it be sited there will always be a minority of youngsters out to abuse and misuse the facility due to the lack of parental control and upbringing, a degree of supervision from a distance may be advisable.
2. Adequate full time supervision.
3. Supervision ad safety issues.
4. Health and safety issues if not supervised - additional cost of operation.
5. Who would supervise?
6. Sitting may be such that inadequate supervision occurs. Needs to be central and monitored.
7. Where ever it is situated there will be a mess for regular daily supervision.
8. Any park would have to be patrolled.
9. Security of area.
10. Any skate park would need proper policing/ monitoring.
11. I see no problem with a supervised area for skate boarding if the community officers can be involved some how or to be seen then all should be well.
12. How will it be managed?
13. Will need supervision for above.
14. With regret I feel it should somehow be supervised.
15. Needs supervision to ensure correct use of facilities
16. Needs to be properly managed.
17. Supervision needed.
18. It needs supervision. It also would be better to be out of town centre.
19. Where groups of youths congregate there will always be minor problems. Reasonable supervision should keep it to a minimum.
20. How to police/ supervise the area. A staffed facility near-by is required.
21. I feel that there should be a right manager that needs to supervise the skate park when youngsters ever use it.
22. I think a skate park will always need monitoring.
23. Lack of supervision.
24. Would there be any supervision?
25. How is it policed? Perhaps you could organise a youth group to oversee it.
26. Will it be properly organised/ supervised to avoid the sort of problems which occurred at the Hydro skate park?
27. Police presence.
28. Expenditure of more already stretched police time. Council re-instatement spending, as well as maintenance.
29. Nature of supervision at such a park?
30. All above dependant upon how managed, no point in just building a park and then no supervision.
31. Will it supervised/ policed?
32. I feel it needs to be an organised experience in a club where it is run by the council just like sports centre or swimming.
33. Unattended children at risk
34. Lack of supervision.

35. Lack of effective policing.
36. Will it be patrolled?
37. Policing the site.
38. How to manage the facility to minimise possible problems before they arise, yet not so tightly managed as to discourage use of the facility.
39. Any should be well supervised, possibly as a club type venue.
40. Control?
41. Supervision.
42. How will it be supervised, if at all?
43. Easier to supervise if town centre location and fairer for all. Needs to be supervised possibly by CCTV.
44. Such a park would use full and adequate supervision. The police would not have resources to monitor the users - so who would have sufficient authority?
45. The above are not specific to skate parks. It will require proper controls to prevent intimidation of younger children.
46. You need to patrol these premises.
47. CCTV coverage necessary to protect park and give added security.
48. What is the intention re policing as the previous park was vandalised to the point of destruction.
49. There would need to be adequate supervision to ensure that possible misuse would not occur.
50. Some sort of supervision should be provided e.g. CCTV, hourly monitoring by police or warden.
51. Skateboarding is a dangerous activity and without close supervision could result in accidents and injury. Are there any proposals to ensure the safety of the children using such an amenity?
52. Skate park needs constant supervision to avoid question 20. But it is needed.
53. There needs to be some kind of supervision.
54. Depends on how it is set up and monitored

### **Supervision – Internet**

1. Some areas may be too remote to be supervised properly
2. Bullying and general unsafe environment for children attending, unless the facility is supervised.
3. Lack of policing
4. The skate board park needs supervising when it was at the Hydro youths using it caused major problems - we live next to it and couldn't use it because they beat us up if we went near it and stole our skate boards
5. If not fully supervised, in effect, indoors then the skaters may not get the most out of it and it will be an expensive, token white elephant.

### **Antisocial behaviour – specific – District Panel**

1. Such facilities tend to be vandalised.
2. Better to have small numbers wherever they find to do it rather than a dedicated ghetto for hundreds to gather.
3. Gangs of kids just hanging about not using the skate park as it should be and bullying those
4. who are actually there to skate.

5. Younger children bullied by teenagers/ adults - they need protection/ support.
6. Large volume of youth = trouble.
7. Bad language.
8. I have concerns because the skate park in Ripon was over taken by people who intimidated others and ruined it for the genuine skate boarders. I think it is a great idea because we need places like this but it has to be thought about and these problems need to be addressed.
9. Gang warfare.
10. Facility spoiled by older youths.
11. It must be supervised or CCTV. Well lit. Kept clean/ dog free.
12. It could turn into a hang around place for youths who have no interest in skating at all.
13. Vandalism of adjacent and surrounding areas and property.
14. Intimidation of younger users.
15. Bullying of younger users by older ones.
16. Bullying, unsupervised, skaters use anywhere to skate.
17. Previous facility on Hydro site caused great inconvenience/ offence to local residents due to noise/ abuse/ violence.
18. Issues as people travel to now centralised or isolated park. E.g. Harassment or insecurity of older population.
19. Damage to surrounding properties. Thefts from surrounding properties.
20. Where ever there is a congregation of people there will be a degree of litter and the potential for ASBO's and drugs/ alcohol use. More likely where adults meet than young people
21. Any areas that teenagers hang around in will cause problems.
22. Anti-social behaviour is a concern in any area, as are drugs and alcohol abuse - it is appropriate to channel and monitor any skate park or other recreational ground.
23. If within anti-social behaviour you included bullying of younger users then no.
24. My concern is that older youths may spoil it for younger users through bullying, etc.
25. I work with vulnerable young people and bullying and intimidation also worry me.
26. Gangs.
27. Proliferation of unchecked gang cultures.
28. Genuine skateboarders will loose out as facility will attract other groups.
29. Intimidation by older children to the younger children.
30. violence.
31. Magnet for undesirables.
32. Vandalism.
33. Children of a younger age mixing with older people who may have drug related problems.
34. Everyone knows that it will become a focal point for anti-social behaviour - all of these above will happen.
35. Older people may be afraid to walk past and this could be a problem if somewhere like Library gardens or Asda. Noise could be a problem.
36. I would be concerned if it was placed near railway lines or car parks due to anti-social behaviour of some. Will have to be affordable to the young people.
37. Bullying.
38. Vandalism.
39. Big gangs of teenagers can be intimidating to older people.
40. Noise and vandalism.
41. Vandalism, children around on a late night.
42. Gathering of young people can be feared by some (especially the elderly).
43. Noise, fighting, trouble, gangs, knives, bullying, unsupervised.

44. Bullying of younger users.
45. Gang wars. Gang culture in general.
46. Chav's being there and not proper skaters.
47. May intimidate other from using the area.
48. I believe a skate park may simply become a hub to attract anti-social behaviour.
49. Bullying of younger children.
50. Might be a rendezvous point for older teenagers.
51. Aggression.
52. Possible bullying of younger children.

### **Anti social behaviour – Specific – Internet**

1. It probably won't be the skaters that cause problems, it will be the use of the skate park as a location to congregate.
2. May act as a gathering place for youths who are not interested in skating - I don't think the skaters themselves would cause any problems
3. Gang behaviour
4. Intimidation to local families wanting to use the children's play areas
5. Violence between gangs of youths
6. Behaviour of those going to & from designated area.
7. Even if behaviour is impeccable a large group of teens is intimidating
8. When the skate board park was next to the Hydro, the Hydro itself, cars in the Hydro car park, visitors to the Hydro, local residents, their property and the police were abused and attacked regularly. The noise level was extremely high and there was antisocial behaviour going on 24/7 with cars parked in the middle of the night with their headlights lighting up the skate board park - the police, having been attacked several times could not control the situation.
9. I remember the horrific things that went on when it was first sighted at the Hydro my son and I were verbally abused and boys were standing with their flies undone using the beck as a toilet
10. Bullying, muggings, attracting paedophiles
11. Bullying
12. It would act as a place for non skaters to meet and may lead to concentrated drug and alcohol usage.

### **Noise – District Panel**

1. Noise and time of day/ night use.
2. Noise.
3. Noise pollution
4. A skate park was built in Poole, it looks like its never been used.
5. Needs to be central to all Harrogate young people.
6. Noise.
7. Noise.
8. Noise
9. Noise and the above in central tourist areas will quickly destroy the good reputation of the town as a shopping and safe relaxation area.
10. Noise.
11. Noise near dwellings
12. Noise

13. Noise. Elderly people find large groups of teenagers intimidating rightly or wrongly. It should not be in areas used by a lot of older people. If it is not to become a no go area it needs to be visible - perhaps traffic passing, etc.
14. Noise. Which is why built up areas are, probably, not suitable.
15. Noise to nearby residents.
16. Noise
17. Noise
18. Possibly noise in some areas.
19. Noise. Especially in residential areas.
20. Noise and associated problems for nearby residents
21. The unruly noise and escalating problems due to not controlled.
22. Bright lights and noise late at night. Over night noise.
23. Noise.
24. Noise nuisance problems for those who live nearby.
25. Noise levels. Disturbance to nearby homes. Gangs.
26. Noise, depending on location.
27. Noise? Are some of these areas near housing? Large congregations spilling out into the roads and other areas.
28. The noise one creates is annoying, we have one near us in Knaresborough and on light nights in summers, you have to close your bedroom window on you are kept awake until late by the noise.
29. Noise factor.

### **Noise – Internet**

1. Noise
2. Level of noise and how appropriate that is given the location selected
3. Unsociable noise
4. Yes the noise, with its distinctive 'clattering' sound and its potential if sited in an unsuitable place to disturb the peace of local residents
5. Noise pollution

### **Location - District Panel**

1. Although I believe that the town centre is unsuitable for a skate park, if the only skate park is located in a fairly remote or outskirts of the town area, then the problem may continue elsewhere.
2. Have you been to Otley! Where they now have a skate park in what use to be a nice area.
3. Question 18 - Why not mention the so called posh areas of the town? Clearly not in my backyard.
4. If you suggest library gardens as a possible place it shows the councils lack of interest in green spaces.
5. A skate park in location with other recreational parks (e.g. swings, etc) and fairly central.
6. Keep the valley gardens peaceful.
7. Nimby - distress to residents nearby.
8. Skaters are very much a community. By locating them near to another identifiable group or youngsters - e.g. a school there could be aggravation. I strongly agree that a skate park is needed but suggest this is a neutral place - e.g. near the station.
9. This can work if it is not hidden away. Needs to be in the open where other people are less likely to lead to anti-social behaviour and it needs managing where ever it is open.

10. No concerns. I agree with a skate park, but it needs to be visible, not hidden away somewhere.
11. Impact on visitors to Harrogate - dependency on location.
12. Once again Harrogate is favoured against Knaresborough. Where are the Knaresborough option?
13. Needs to be in a central area. Away from housing and easy to police.
14. Should not be placed near car parks as when park full/ busy they may be tempted to use car park with possible damage to vehicles.
15. Skate boarders I feel will not travel any great distance to where they can perform legally without interfering with any one else.
16. Even though I didn't answer yes I would like to suggest a main skate park in the valley gardens.
17. I am concerned that the skate park might be too far from Knaresborough. Is the proposal for a park in the town of Harrogate?
18. Although a skate park is provided on the field near the community centre off Halfpenny Lane, Knaresborough it is rarely used by skaters.
19. What about the large play field attached to Woodlands School?
20. Sighting is the crucial issue. Kids should have a say in sighting, planning and running. This will give them ownership and responsibility which most will respond positively to
21. A town centre location would be dangerous.
22. Careful siting required to avoid detrimental effect on tourism and conference trade.
23. My concerns are more about the area in which the skate park would be put. The wrong area would see it unused or damaged. Needs to be central to town where plenty of people could keep an eye on it and report any bad behaviour.

### **Location - Internet**

1. The Valley Gardens already have large numbers of young people, drinking, littering, leaving graffiti and damaging the fabric of the park. A skate park would only add to these problems!
2. If the area is wrong, it will attract bad people, and be used as a place to cause trouble, but if it was somewhere like the valley gardens, it would be surrounded by people.
3. I don't think the skate park should be near to car parks due to possible damage from flying boards and possible harm to skaters from cars!
4. I do not think a skate park is necessary but if one were to be provided it must be open to view to lots of people all of the time to prevent unsocial behaviour such excessive noise becoming a problem. Therefore the town centre is the only place that meets this criteria provided that officials, the public and on rare occasions, police personnel can oversee activities.
5. The Granby site would be unsuitable because the area is already saturated with school children dropping litter and not behaving in a socially-conscious manner (smashing bottles on the road, etc.) It's too near a residential area.
6. With regard to the Stonefall Cemetery location, a skate park should not even be considered. Stonefall Cemetery is supposed to be a tranquil setting in which funerals take place and the relatives of dear departed loved ones, wish to spend time in a calm and QUIET stillness, in which to gather their thoughts and enjoy their treasured memories. How could these respected traditions take place with a constant background clatter of skateboards in use and the associated shouting, screaming and the usual foul mouthed language which seems to be ever present. Do the members of Harrogate Council have no respect at all, for decency and the feelings of the bereaved???

7. I think there is less likely to be problems if the skate park is located in a public place where people are around all the time. Any problems will occur if it is located in an isolated location where members of the public do not go often. My preferred choice would be Valley Gardens or in the town centre. This would make it accessible to all and ensure that any anti social behaviour is kept to a minimum.
8. Killingham moor park area could be a good choice, it's a very big park, teenagers need somewhere to go and activities to do, there must be some type of sports centre in Harrogate for them, rather than having them drinking and behaving unsociably in car parks.

### **Already a dated fashion / site quickly becoming obsolete / potential lack of use – District Panel**

1. Could be for a limited period as fashion fades. What next for the skate park dereliction?
2. It is a fad - we will spend a lot of money on it and in a couple of years it will be disused.
3. Kids will tend to do things adults disapprove of. Give them a skate park to legitimate their skating and they will ignore it.
4. Why a skate park? This is so out of date.
5. Skate parks may cease to be popular then we have an unsightly white elephant.
6. Skate boarding not as popular as it was. Too late now. Would attract as a place to hang around.
7. Potential lack of use. I have never seen the park at Pool Bank used on the few times I have passed it.
8. I feel it will quickly become unused and then become an eyesore.
9. Built and then unused - a multi purpose spaces would be better.
10. Yes because skating is an aspect of a particular kind of lifestyle/ attitude, which (as a teacher) I have found to carry over into school work/ performance and family relationships. It is the thrill of free riding around town and not skating in a park which generally appeals.
11. Not enough users..
12. That skating will go out of fashion leaving you with an empty concrete waste land.
13. Youth culture has moved on.
14. Is there any demand?
15. Would go out of fashion.
16. Is this a passing craze? Will skate park still be used in 2 years time?
17. Skateboards may quickly go out of fashion.
18. Such facility tend to be vandalised. Skate boarding is now out of fashion.
19. Skate boarding is now out of fashion.

### **Health and Safety – District Panel**

1. Safety of users and passer-by.
2. Safety of children.
3. Casualty - accidents.
4. First aid, oversight for safety.
5. Health and safety of users and residents. You are asking for opinions on areas when they really should be actually visited and assessed before an opinion is given by any person qualified or otherwise.
6. Concerns about children being hurt or injured and even with supervision on it wouldn't work. Money could be spent on better things.

7. Injuries in nature of skateboarding
8. Safety of users.
9. Injuries to kids.
10. Safety
11. Safety.
12. Risk assessment.
13. Safety and first aid. Open to liability, etc.
14. Risks to participants. Risk to other pedestrians in the area.
15. Wherever the skate park is built it is important that the ensure the area is clean and litter free.
16. Good evening lighting should be considered.

### **Need for Parking / Transport / Access – District Panel**

1. If only one skate park there and need for parking.
2. Many users will need transport to get to a skate park so it needs to be close to bus routes and not at the extreme edge of town, or at least a sensible drop off/ pick up space.
3. Possible hazard for road users.
4. Increased traffic congestion/ pollution
5. Access - parking areas.
6. Problems of access to the skate park via areas that are prohibited from riding skate boards and cycles.
7. Congestion.
8. Traffic congestion.
9. Travel arrangements.
10. My main concern is young people getting to the skate park with their boards.
11. Busy road.. Accessibility for all.
12. Parking.
13. Need easy access to avoid children skateboarding on roads and footpaths.
14. The facility needs to be easily accessible to all to be meaningful - such as near to a bus station
15. Travelling to and from skate park on skate boards, raises danger concerns for pedestrians and road users.

### **Need for Parking / Transport / Access – Internet**

1. People coming from other areas of town - possible extra traffic
2. Transport for people towards the skate park. 'Policing' of site to ensure it is used fairly by all and not abused
3. Traffic problems
4. The site needs close available parking, and close available toilet facilities - preferably existing ones to limit the cost.

### **Positive comments: Time to think of the young people**

1. It would be very naive to think a park would create problems. Anything that helps stop youths getting bored is a bonus. We need more things, especially in Starbeck, to avert the vast teenage gang culture.
2. A skate park is long overdue. Just get on and organise one.

3. For heaven's sake, lets put our young people first for once.
4. I think to encourage youths to be in a central place (not in a car park) will give them an area and help them feel part of society.
5. Must have facilities for the young.
6. Yes - kids need somewhere to hang out and a variety of places will lessen any of the above.
7. Any area where young people meet may create problems but it is vital that young people with no money have places to go.
8. I think if it is properly run there shouldn't be too many problems. possibly a caretaker.
9. We desperately need some facilities for young people throughout the Harrogate District.
10. I do think the benefits of a place with a focus for young peoples to congregate would outweigh the concerns.
11. No but I do believe that is would be a good thing but it has to be though through properly.
12. Young people must have areas to play
13. Many skate parks are graffiti zones, enabling an area for urban art. Skate parks I have visited are clean and non-threatening.

### **Economic sense – District Panel**

1. The young people will be noisy, boisterous but should not be shunned. A skate park is not a huge investment.
2. The initial expenditure would not make economic sense when compared with the very small number of Harrogate residents who would benefit. It would be seen as a waste of tax payers money by those living within the district, but outside of Harrogate, any area would be owned by local skaters, cyclists, skateboarders in that area and would not be willingly opened by them to other enthusiasts outside their area but within the borough. I fear a type of gang culture could evolve from this territorialisation of an amenity which could not be effectively policed by the council whose responsibility it would be.
3. Value for money
4. Cleaning costs.
5. Strain on council to pay for litter, graffiti and pressure in hospitals to give treatment.

### **Economic sense – Internet**

1. Why would tax payers pay for a facility which is unnecessary and will undoubtedly cause extensive on costs in terms of vandalism, litter and antisocial behaviour?
2. Cost to manage properly
3. Council should be concentrating on the important things, like keeping the town clean and crime free. Skateboarding is a passing fad and graffiti and drug taking are part of this sub-culture. Forget it - waste of money.

### **Attraction of paedophiles / drug dealers – District Panel**

1. Maybe a focus for paedophiles/ pimps/ pushers/ etc.
2. Sexual predators.
3. I've heard of drug problems at the Hydro skate park.
4. I note sadly that you have not included sexual misconduct which needs checking.
5. Attraction of deviously sexually misorintated adults.

### **Learn from what happened before – Internet**

1. I was absolutely appalled to read that The Hydro site was being considered again for the skate board park. The Council are fully aware of the major problems caused the last time, where a normally peaceful, community used field was turned into a war zone. Our garden and rear entrance face onto the bridle path opposite the site previously used and we literally lost 2 months of our lives, made unbearable by the noise, antisocial behaviour and downright abuse of the hundreds of youths who just took over the area. My wife uses the back entrance to get to and from work as she has difficulty walking up hills, she was pelted with stones by these youths more than once and told to f... off out of their territory! With our fully double glazed windows closed (and during warm weather) the noise levels were still extremely high. We are keen gardeners and it was no pleasure to work or sit in our garden with the site of youths lined up opposite opening using the beck as a toilet as well as all the abuse that was shouted across to us. Our basic human rights were taken away from us, we had no peace in our home, we could not get to sleep on a night time as they used the skate board park even up to 2a.m. We could not go into our garden, we did not feel safe walking on the street we live on - do you really think we want to go through all of this again - would you?
2. I don't 'think' the skate board park will attract problems I KNOW IT WILL - I lived through the last debacle at the Hydro - please don't put us residents through this again, some haven't got over it yet!
3. The Council must take into consideration and learn from everything that has happened at the two sites previously used. The Council cannot have egg on its face once again for not looking at the past history and learning from other areas. I can only comment on the first site I happened to be visiting the Hydro Swimming Pool came out and found youths sitting on my car who became very threatening and abusive when I asked them to get off it. I certainly never went back to the Hydro until the skate boarding facility was removed - and if it is sited there again I will certainly not visit the Hydro. The facility needs to be properly supervised - not just something in the middle of quiet residential development where gangs are left to maul and abuse residents of the town as they please because the Council and police cannot control them.
4. apparently there was a Skate Park previously at the Hydro which had to be closed due to problems caused by all of the above. Therefore, it would be foolhardy to even think of re-opening it.
5. Of course it is of great concern to the residents and ratepayers of our town - we saw first hand what happened at the Hydro and the second placing all one can say is please learn from your mistakes Harrogate Council. A skate board park needs to be in a covered building and SUPERVISED.

### **Misc – District Panel**

1. If several smaller parks were funded, less likely to draw large groups (as happened at the Hydro).
2. Could Harrogate please have an ice skating rink - this would appeal to all ages and both sexes.
3. The above problems will not be dealt with and the skate park will be closed soon after it is opened.
4. Place lots of litter bins and make it a no dog zone.
5. Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children and could encourage them to be more energetic in other ways that are not dangerous or distracting to everyone.

6. Why not include a graffiti/ street art area too?
7. I think the users should take responsibility for the condition of the park by using a membership scheme (with annual fee), or a radar key type system.
8. Perhaps there should be more than one? As central to town centre would alleviate problems and give access to toilets, food outlets, transport.
9. Must not be developed as an isolated activity but part of a youth community centre.
10. A few more skate parks would be more accessible for children.
11. If you make it more of a social place for young persons i.e. have cafes. Have it run by someone, have some control on hours of use, most of the above could be avoided.
12. While all or some of the above might happen they would not be more than might happen without a skate park. Skate park would not increase such.
13. Didn't there used to be something in the Stonefall area - and what was usage?
14. Will only benefit local children.
15. Change the character of existing site.
16. Ball games on grass near Cenotaph in town centre. Plenty of other space on stray available
17. How about a multi-purpose site, basketball, etc.

### **Misc – Internet**

1. I do not see any benefit to Harrogate in having such a park. As skaters have already said, they will continue to do street skating as it is more fun so building a park will not do anything to reduce this risk but will just create a magnet for youths to gather and engage in anti-social behaviour. The last park was closed down after a few months because of these issues, what would be different this time? Nothing. Given that I doubt few if any council tax payers would want this park I cannot understand why you would waste tens of thousands of pounds on its development.
2. I cannot see any benefit to the rate payers of Harrogate in having a park built. How will this park be any different to the last one that was a disaster?
3. It goes without saying that all the above will happen!