

## **MEMBER Question for Place Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2019**

<p><b>Question from Councillor Mrs Thompson</b></p> <p>Some residents living near the Skate Park at Exeter Arena are experiencing noise disturbance late into the evening, including the warning sound to advise users of the facility's approaching lights out- this is not proving conducive with children's bedtimes, so is it possible to consider options to cooperate with residents please?</p>	<p><u>Response made by Councillor Harvey Portfolio Holder Health Place and Commercialisation</u></p> <p>Councillor Harvey referred to the skate park which had opened at the Exeter Arena in December, having undergone a period of consultation which included potential users of the facility as well as the skate park's concrete construction to reduce further maintenance and costs. Already the facility has proved to be extremely popular with a wide range of users from young children on scooters and bikes through to those using skateboards and it has become a remarkably popular facility and something that the area needed. Councillor Harvey said that Councillor Thompson was correct and there have been some problems with noise. There were also some other problems of anti-social behaviour in the area, and the police were looking into that but the infrastructure surrounding the area and in particular the railway tunnel over Summer Lane was providing a challenging environment. Devon County Council are in the process of building a cycle and pedestrian bridge over Summer Lane, with construction due to commence shortly and this may also in reduce some of the noise level. He said that they were not taking this complaint lightly and they had also received a petition with 20 to 30 signatures with regard to noise emanating from the skate park. He advised that this issue was currently being investigated by the Council's Environmental Health team, and that included a survey being conducted to measure the level of noise and disturbance at different times of the night and day. If the noise measurement proved conclusive then appropriate action in respect of some noise reduction measures would be taken.</p> <p>He said that Councillor Mrs Thompson could rest assured that this problem was being taken very seriously, and it would be a shame for this facility which was enjoyed by so many young people to be seen to be the cause of disturbance to the local residents.</p>
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