

Public Consultation Summary

- 1.1 In November 2013, a consultation was conducted with residents and individuals using Arboretum Place and the Town Square. The Borough Anti-Social Behaviour team wrote to every resident of the area, posted signs in the Barking Learning Centre and Town Hall, sent text messages to all skaters for whom they had telephone numbers, communicated with businesses in the area, posted links on the Barking Learning Centre computers and e-mailed all Councillors inviting them to take part in the consultation.
- 1.2 In total, 94 individuals responded to the consultation; 84% were residents of Arboretum Place and the Town Square, 3% were users of the Town Hall, 3% were users of the Barking Learning Centre, 1% were individuals using the area for skateboarding, 3% were individuals working for a business in the area and 4% were individuals using the area for another reason. The following responses were obtained:
- 81% felt that skateboarding in Arboretum Place and the Town Square had a negative impact;
 - 67% felt that there had been no or very little improvement to the issue;
 - 61% felt that the use of skateboards, scooters, roller skates or other self-propelled toys should be banned in this location.
- 1.3 The main concerns expressed by those who felt that skateboarding had a negative impact in the area were surrounding:
- Noise levels – particularly after 7pm
 - Feeling unsafe and intimidated by skateboarders
 - Litter left by skateboarders
 - General anti-social behaviour perpetrated by skateboarders
- 1.4 The views of the Council Noise Team are set out at 3.1.1 in the main report.
- 1.5 A Crime Prevention Design Advisor was consulted on the possibility of introducing anti-skate measures to the area. This was not felt to be possible, for reasons set out at 1.3 in the main report. The advisor felt that the only anti-skate measure which could be used on the surface in the area would be rumble strips, which would make it more difficult to push other wheeled vehicles (like pushchairs and wheelchairs) over them and could also make it more difficult for anyone with reduced mobility to use the area.
- 1.6 Council security officers were consulted and felt that if a byelaw was imposed in this location the skaters would abide by this regulation.

1.7 Consultation was conducted with the relevant services. Where they were made, issues and comments are included below:

- Children's Safeguarding – it was noted that there is currently a working skate park in Barking that could be used as an alternative for skate boarders. However, as mentioned at 1.9, the skaters concerned have asserted that they are 'street skaters' and so are unlikely to use the designated park.
- Housing and Neighbourhoods - it was suggested that the area covered by the byelaw should be extended to include the pavement surrounding the Broadway Theatre. However, as the area surrounding the Broadway is not residential and the implementation of the byelaw is intended to address residential concerns about noise disturbances, this would not be an appropriate action at this stage. It was noted, however, that the original map did not take into account the Axe Street area, which is also residential and used by skateboarders, this has been included in a revised map of the affected area.
- Regeneration – it was noted that the Terazzo paving directly underneath Arboretum Place, which had previously been the main site for skateboarding, has recently been cordoned off due to leaking from the building above. It was anticipated that this may have deterred skateboarders from using the area, however skating has continued in other sections of the Town Square and thus remains an issue. Further to this, regeneration noted that Police staff are due to move into the Barking Learning Centre, which should assist in the deterrence of skaters.