



Long Live Southbank  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 6-10 Lexington Street  
London W1F 0LB

All Norwich City Councillors  
Norwich City Council  
City Hall, St. Peter's Street  
Norwich NR2 1NH

Ref: NCC02

13<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Dear Norwich City Councillors,

Further to our open letter to the Leader of the Council, we wanted to extend our letter on the proposed ban on skateboarding to all Norwich City Councillors.

The letter is attached and you can view it and updates and responses here at our website;

<http://www.llsb.com/llsb-open-letter-to-norwich-city-councils-proposed-skate-ban/>

We also encourage you to read our Cultural and Heritage Assessment Report which highlights just how important and influential British Street Skateboarding is on an international scale;

<http://www.llsb.com/report/>

We noted Cllr Keith Driver's comment that 'London did not allow skateboarders to skate down Whitehall or on the Cenotaph' in response to our letter and we would like to provide a reply to give context and perspective.

London is a vast city with huge possibilities for street skateboarding which is why it is a mecca for skateboarders from across the world. Purely based on size and number of structures, Norwich and London are not comparable as landscapes and opportunities.

So as not to be misunderstood, though we recognise the reality that no structure is finite and is subject to many forms of wear and tear and erosion, we do not condone the deliberate misuse of structures and objects such as the war memorial. A collaborative solution is possible and we shouldn't reduce the issue to an unrealistic comparative.

In addition, we are presently in multiple channels of dialogue regarding the future of skateboarding, cities, public spaces, young people, art and culture, and how they work together, which will further highlight the regressive and archaic method being suggested by Norwich City Council in terms of how these things work together in an ever evolving world. We welcome Norwich to become part of those conversations alongside London, Bristol, Barcelona and countries such as Denmark who show a real ability to be open and inclusive and lead by example.

Though the public space we successfully campaigned for is in London, our 150,000 members are from all across the UK and beyond. We operate as a local, national and global community which is why this matter is important to us. We are your residents as well as your neighbours and visitors.

Skateboarding is a global scene and network and you should not be under the impression that this is London telling Norwich what to do - it is a progressive, diverse and inclusive way of thinking that has become a vessel and platform for the public to be able to express views and opinions to decision makers.

We have shown what positive outcomes can be achieved when people engage in dialogue and conversations. Something you would think would be first on the agenda, but is sadly lacking in decision making - which is why we instigated a return to prioritising discussion and hope people will take from the positive results from our example.

It is worth noting that not only are over 3,000 people actively engaged by signing the petition to oppose a ban, the mere fact that this issue has already had significant publicity is already a deterrent to anyone who may have considered the war memorial. Authorities and governance should be looking at understanding and encouraging physical activities such as skateboarding and BMX riding - led by the people who do them. Generalising and stereotyping will not provide a sustainable long-term solution, it will serve to create further division and problems.

The solution is not to put criminalisation ahead of conversation and we truly hope Norwich will set an example by taking the lead in working together with its communities and cultures to find a symbiotic outcome that everyone can benefit from.

We look forward to your response and updates on the matter.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louis Woodhead', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Louis Woodhead on behalf of LLSB