

DRUG STORE

Drug Store
8 Pottergate, Norwich
Norfolk NR2 1DS

Councillor Brenda Arthur, all Councillors, MP Norwich South, MP Norwich North
City Hall, St. Peter's Street
Norwich NR2 1NH

Ref: NCC3
18th November 2014

Dear Cllr Arthur,

I have just read your letter and it has reinforced my opinion on this matter.

1. NOBODY wants the memorial to be skated or damaged. We are in full agreement with this, as we have clearly stated from the beginning. However, the ban area covers a larger area and this is where we take issue.
2. Skateparks are not an alternative to street skateboarding for many people. Skateparks provide an alternative venue but are not a replacement as was agreed during the consultation process for Eaton park. All those who spent 7 or 8 years going to those meetings were aware that street skating would still occur.
3. Myself and Lewis Ross both offered to help with the re-design of the memorial garden in order to skate-proof it. We were literally laughed at! I'm aware there are lots of rules around what can be done with a listed monument but to make no attempt to take us up on this offer says a lot about the way the council view young people.
4. You mention there being skateboard facilities in many areas but, with the exception of the concrete park at Eaton, these are all terrible and mostly dilapidated. None of these other parks were built by real skatepark designers or with any input from local skateboarders and as such are unused and in most cases unusable. A perfect example is the Heathgate Park, an ideal area completely wasted due to poor facilities. Also, as I have said many times, parks are not the answer
5. The Eaton skatepark is good but often overrun by children with all manner of toys (scooters, trikes, radio controlled cars, mountain bikes etc etc) which is not what it

was built for. Some of these children are very young and accompanied by protective parents who become aggressive towards skateboarders who they see as "in the way".

6. I also feel I should point out that the consultation process for skateparks is in itself a flawed one. For instance we were not given any other viable option for a location so Eaton was the only "choice", secondly we were only given 4 options to choose from (because only 3 legitimate contractors submitted plans) and of those 4 options, 3 were completely wrong and did not fulfil the brief at all. The end result is what you see at Eaton today - a good park, but not one that was designed or built by the community it is there for. A far cheaper and more satisfying solution to providing facilities would be to simply give an area over to the community and let the design and build their own park. I can provide many example of the success of these areas in other places if you would like to see them? If this approach was taken at the multiple sites of bad skateparks around Norwich then we'd really have something great, and at a small fraction of the cost of the existing facilities

Yours sincerely,

Sam Avery
Drug Store