


## CENOTAPH COMPLAINTS

27/05/21 – Operation Centre

Skateboarders on the street outside electricity house and near Colston Avenue bus stops.	
Date confirmed	
CREATED_DATE	27/5/2021
Your name	
Your email	
Issue type	Pedestrian / cycling
Concern summary	Skateboarders on the street outside electricity house and near Colston Avenue bus stops.
Describe the problem	There are so many skateboarders using the street as a skatepark. I've been hit several times by a skateboard while walking through. It's a massive public safety hazard.
Additional information	If affects the public using this area as a walkway, which it is meant to be - not a skatepark.
Potential solutions	Install additional seating in the middle of the area to reduce space for skateboarders. Fine people who skateboard there.
Voting	
Officer comments	
Cllr suitable	
Estimated cost	
Viable	
Highway teams	
Request status (once selected the issue will be	



Morning [REDACTED]

FYI – On 18.05.2021, at around 15:20, I noticed few youths were trying to lift the drain hole metal cover in order to make a skateboard ramp by cenotaph.

Police were made aware, log number – 711.

By this time, the youths managed to lift the cover and were using for skate board stunts.

I asked one of my colleague to keep an eye out for the police so we could pin point the offenders.

Police attended the location in few minutes, we pointed out the main culprit and he was asked to put it back.

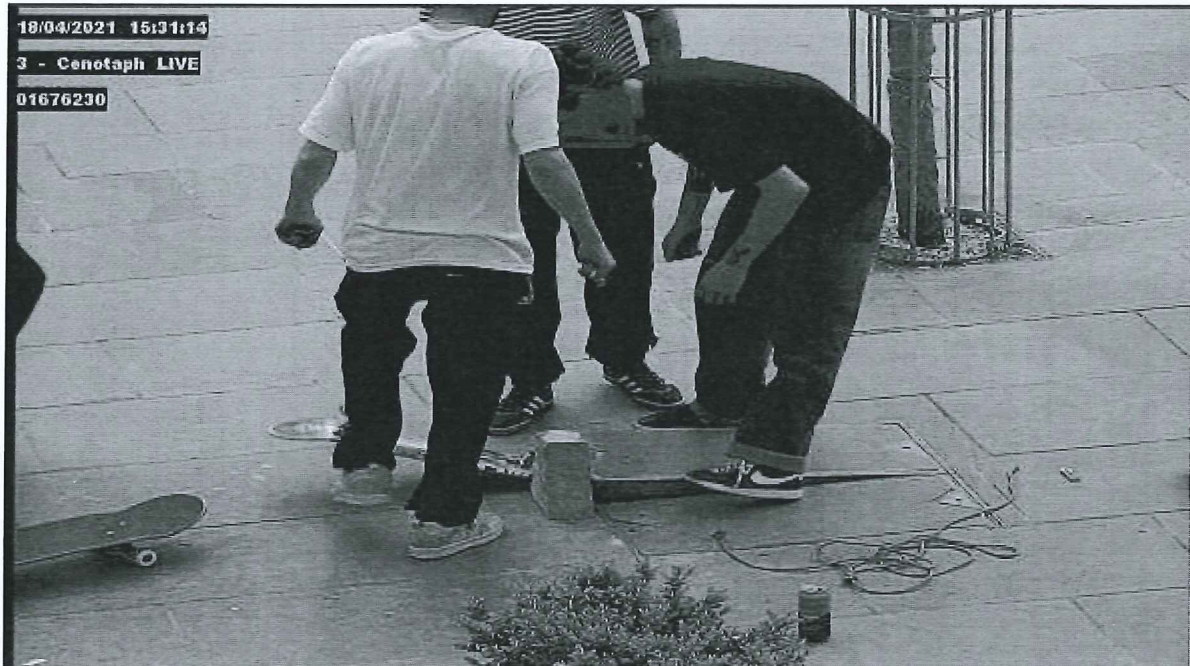
Police confirmed no criminal damage and the log was closed.

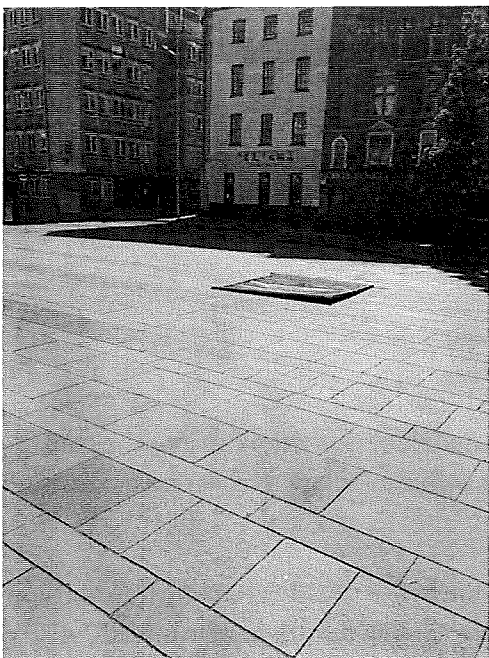
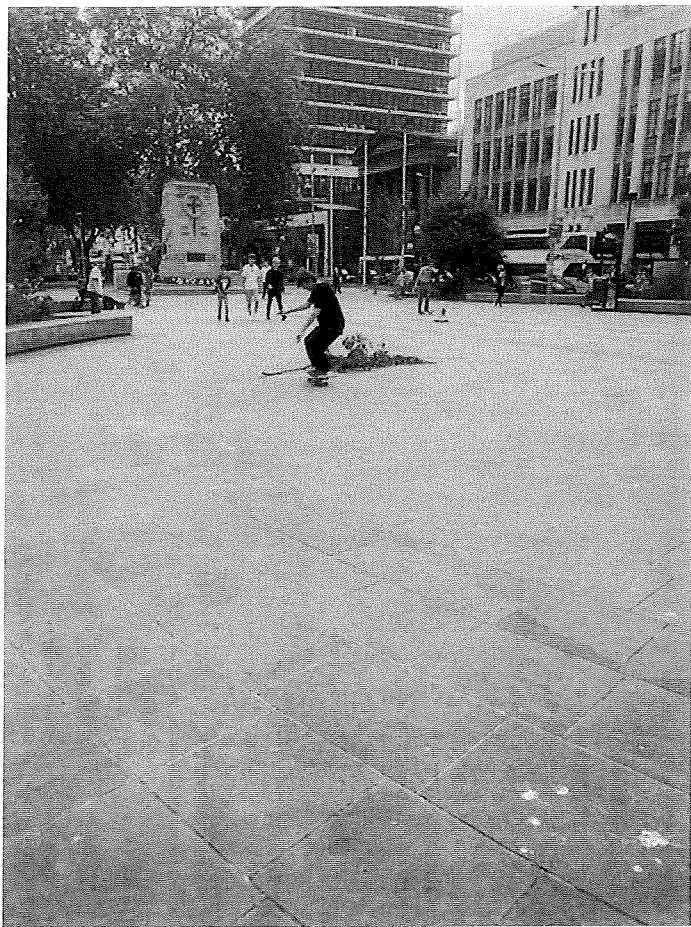
I have also attached the snap pic of the incident.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

CCTV footage 18/04/21







[REDACTED]  
Bristol City Council

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 2 December 2020 at 15:41:06 GMT  
**To:** [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Noise, COVID law breakers - Cenotaph

[REDACTED]ust to follow on from [REDACTED] emails, I have gathered up the road sign and placed it in our bin store, but could not carry the pallet.

I've added a couple picture below. Please feel free to send someone around to collect it from [REDACTED] when they collect the other items from the street.

As has been said, 4 years we've been fighting this issue of skateboarders, their noise into the early mornings and general couldn't care less attitude, sadly along with a total lack of concrete action on the matter from council or police.

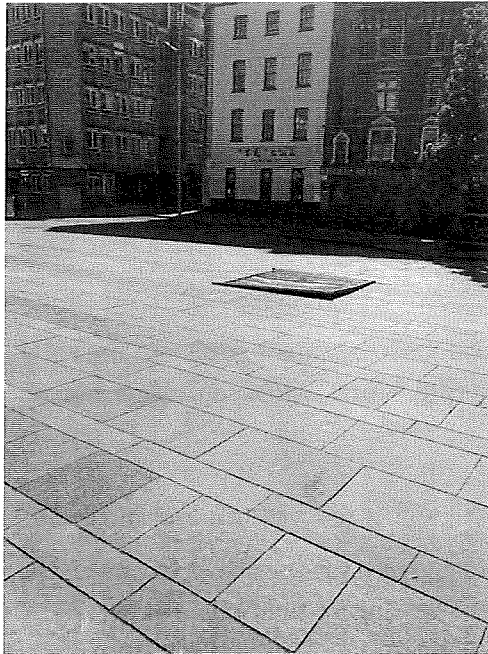
There isn't even a 'no skateboard' sign covering the area, so the police say they have no power, the anti skate boarding measures do nothing and you provide area lighting for them, so in effect the council are actively supporting the ongoing nuisance, to the detriment of all others and the negative impact on residents mental health and well being.

Things need to change and we hope you can once and for all get some measures in place that actively prevents them from using the area. Ideally also to put up whatever is necessary for the police to be able to use their powers to stop the activity if it's inflight and reported.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] >

Date: 2 December 2020 at 9:36:11 am GMT

To: [REDACTED] >

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>, Bristol City Council  
<coronavirus@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Noise, COVID law breakers - Cenotaph

[REDACTED]

Can I add that this is causing real problems for [REDACTED], besides the fact these skateboarders are breaking the Covid regulations. I was in touch with you and your colleagues numerous times over the past two years, with little action. The council created this open area, that you publicised if open for all residents,, yet we've shown you a video where people don't walk through the middle of the square, as it's taken over by skateboarders.

Can you please do something about this and don't leave it until something tragic happens, as you did with the bear pit.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 2 December 2020 at 15:41:06 GMT  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Noise, COVID law breakers - Cenotaph

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There isn't even a 'no skateboard' sign covering the area, so the police say they have no power, the anti skate boarding measures do nothing and you provide area lighting for them, so in effect the council are actively supporting the ongoing nuisance, to the detriment of all others and the negative impact on residents mental health and well being.

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**To:** S [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>, Bristol City Council  
<coronavirus@bristol.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Noise, COVID law breakers - Cenotaph

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Can I add that this is causing real problems for [REDACTED], besides the fact these skateboarders are breaking the Covid regulations. I was in touch with you and your colleagues numerous times over the past two years, with little action. The council created this open area, that you publicised if open for all residents,, yet we've shown you a video where people don't walk through the middle of the square, as it's taken over by skateboarders.

Can you please do something about this and don't leave it until something tragic happens, as you did with the bear pit.

Regards

On Wed, 2 Dec 2020 at 09:24, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I have contacted you many times over the skateboarders outside the cenotaph and no effective measures have been taken to deter them.

They gather in large groups (about 20 yesterday) from approx midday through to the early hours, 4am this morning. Clattering stolen road signs as they use them as ramps.

Despite being in tier 3 or lockdown no effort is made to move them on or create a floor surface that would deter them in the first place.

They are in breach of COVID guide lines daily.

They cause noise disruption through the day and night.

They cause criminal damage.

Please can you campaign for some effective action to remedy this ongoing nuisance that is making our lives hell.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 21 April 2021 09:14

To: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: cenotaph - skateboarders

From: Councilor [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 January 2020 17:05

To [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Still the skateboarders

What are they doing when they get in? Any idea why they are doing this?

[REDACTED]

On 5 Jan 2020, at 5:31 pm, [REDACTED]> wrote:

To [REDACTED]

I'm also a [REDACTED] and this is to inform you that yet again skateboarders gained access to [REDACTED] a few days ago. This incident was reported to the police. It's just a matter of time that something more serious will happen.

At the previous incident, communicated by [REDACTED], I went out to discuss it with the skateboarders and asked them not to enter, let them know, we had video evidence and that the police had been called. I was mocked and someone shouted they would kick my head in; it was intimidating. The police were informed but they did not arrive for two hours.

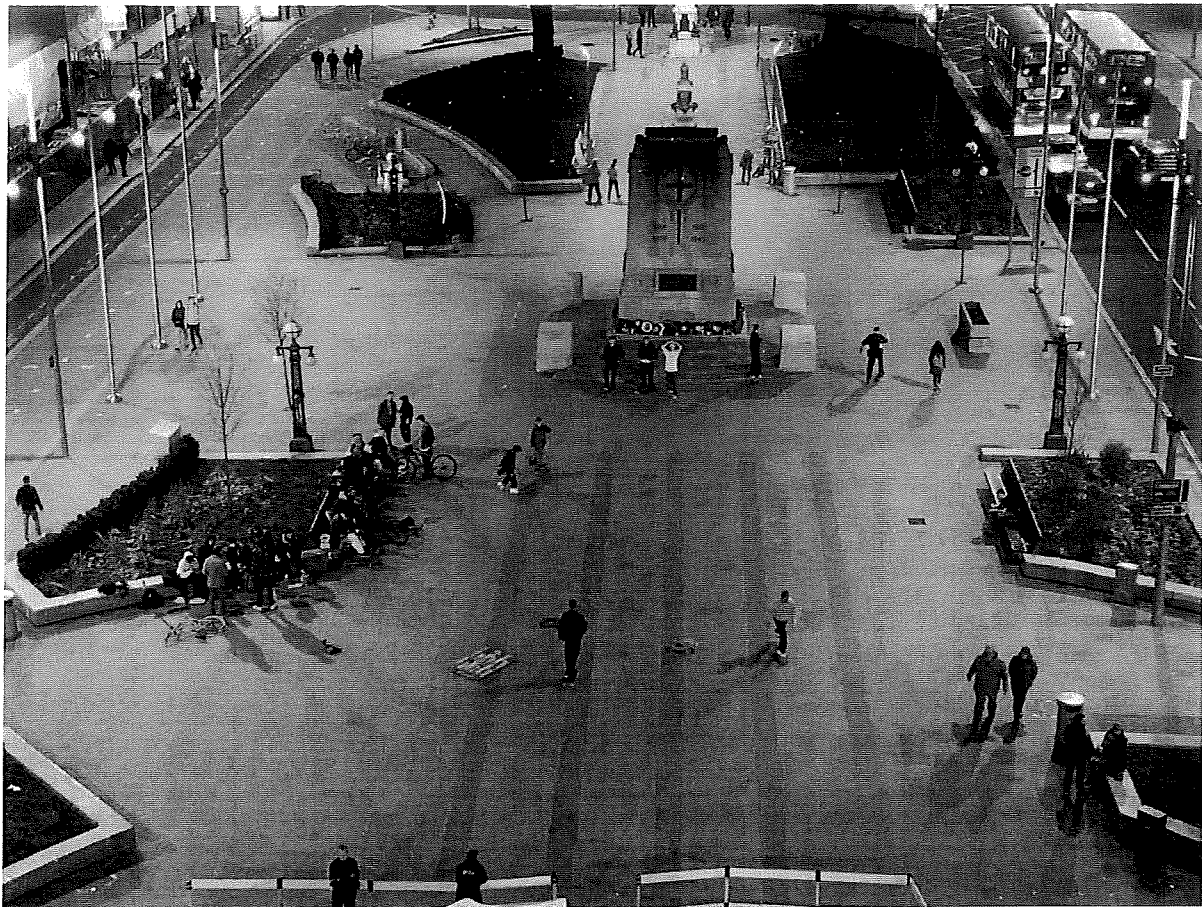
We are improving how quickly the door closes and trying to educate our owners\renters to pause to watch the door close, to try and stop any more unauthorised entrance into our property.

It's clear that the council is doing very little to deal with this anti social behaviour and I believe that you will only take action when someone is either attacked or injured. What is your risk assessment on this area, based on the evidence that has been supplied to you?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



On Sun, 15 Dec 2019 at 09:34, [REDACTED]@co.uk> wrote:

Dear all,

Once again we had an intrusion from 7 skateboarders entering [REDACTED] at 5.02pm on Sat 14/12/19.

[REDACTED] spotted them in the atrium and chased them off and rang 101.

We have a video of them.

Despite all the calls to stop the antisocial behaviour from skateboarders we have not made any progress.

[REDACTED]

Sadly, the recent metal strips have not been any deterrent and given their position it was obvious they were not likely to be. A complete waste of money.

Do we have a date for replacing the trees and benches?

[REDACTED] can you do anything towards establishing a PSCO?

I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
On 18 Oct 2019, at 4:42 pm, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

I think we will need to establish a PSPO to ensure the space is managed  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On 17 Oct 2019, at 07:54, [REDACTED].co.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email, it is good to hear we have some measures planned to begin to restore the area having witnessed the destruction over the last 2 years.

Are the benches and trees due to be replaced as part of these works?

These measure will restore the area to its original position but it is disappointing they will not impact the issue of skateboarders setting up ramps, drinking alcohol, smoking weed and dominating the area to the exclusion of others. (As per [REDACTED] video)

Without further measures to ban skateboarders from the area the situation will not change, benches and trees will be broken again. We have already provided 2 years of evidence of the public nuisance and vandalism caused. Including the digging out of previously installed metal strips.

Unfortunately, the current plans seem to be very shortsighted and tokenistic and will not address the anti social behaviour we have to put up with everyday until the earlier hours of the morning.

Please ensure I am updated with the plans as they develop.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 October 2019 16:46

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Still the skateboarders

Hi [REDACTED]

To answer your questions:

1. There was no mention of skateboarding in the planning application. The space was designed to be open and accessible to accommodate Remembrance Sunday and other events. In principle, however, a public space is intended to be available for the whole community. It is only if issues emerge that consideration would be given to restricting certain activities.
2. We have provided information to [REDACTED], who manage the area, to commission further works to deter skateboarding in the space. They now secured funding for these work and I believe are progressing them, but you would need to contact them for further details. [REDACTED] is copied in.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 October 2019 21:21

To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Still the skateboarders

Dear [REDACTED]

Unfortunately tonight another bench has been ripped up. I have called 101

Incident number: [REDACTED]

In the event of an emergency please call 999 immediately.

Could we please have some action on resolving this issue before the area is completely vandalised?

[REDACTED] please could you find out who is now responsible for the area in the council and find out what is being done.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] On Fri, 4 Oct 2019 at 13:45, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Colleagues

[REDACTED], I've already been in touch with you about the problem of the skateboarders. So, can I ask one of you to please respond to the following questions:

1. when the pedestrian area was created was the council, was any reference in the planning that it can be used by skateboarders?

2. is the council going to do anything about stopping the skateboarders?

I would appreciate an answer.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
On Thu, 3 Oct 2019 at 06:26, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]  
Can you please confirm when measures are being put in place to deal with this mixture of 'fun', anti social behaviour and vandalism

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
> On 2 Oct 2019, at 23:58, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> It's 11:44pm and still no measures have been put in to deter the skateboarders. Tonight there are

at least 30 and they are skateboarding off the roof of the bus shelter. All very skilful I am sure but not what I expected when I bought an apt overlooking the proposed pedestrian area. The designs didn't include a skate board park.

>

> The bench and trees still missing with no sign of any council engagement to replace them. A pizza van burning logs with smelly black smoke and no one in authority cares.

>

[REDACTED]

>

> [REDACTED] to be able to sort this out. ☹ ☹

>

> It's not young people I have a problem with, I have twins aged 18, it's just the lack of respect for property, the constant noise from midday until the early hours.

>

> It's gone on long enough, are the council in control or not?

On Thu, 3 Oct 2019 at 06:26, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Can you please confirm when measures are being put in place to deal with this mixture of 'fun', anti social behaviour and vandalism

Thanks

[REDACTED]

On 2 Oct 2019, at 23:58 [REDACTED] wrote:

It's 11:44pm and still no measures have been put in to deter the skateboarders. Tonight there are at least 30 and they are skateboarding off the roof of the bus shelter. All very skilful I am sure but not what I expected when I bought an apt overlooking the proposed pedestrian area. The designs didn't include a skate board park.

The bench and trees still missing with no sign of any council engagement to replace them. A pizza van burning logs with smelly black smoke and no one in authority cares.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] really hope you have some influence/ power to be able to sort this out.

It's not young people I have a problem with [REDACTED] it's just the lack of respect for property, the constant noise from midday until the early hours.

It's gone on long enough, are the council in control or not?

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

> On 9 Aug 2019, at 12:46, [REDACTED]com> wrote:

[REDACTED]

> > As you are aware, [REDACTED] copied on this e-mail) have been in discussions with you and/or colleagues at the Council, about the skate boarders around the cenotaph. In the last month I had to go out after midnight, on two occasions, to politely ask them to leave because of the noise they were making, as we had our windows open due to the hot weather.

> > They are now using a window ledge on Electricity House on Quay Street, opposite Quay Street Dinner, as a ramp and as you can see from the attached picture, it is causing some damage. This is a listed building, what can the Council do to protect its listed buildings?

> Regards

[REDACTED]

> > <EH ledge damage>

**Sent:** 29 May 2019 11:07

**To:** public.relations

**Subject:** Skateboarders rip up bench near Cenotaph

[REDACTED] [REDACTED], attached are the two videos we have been sent through.

As I said just want to check it's council land and council property they have damaged?

If not do you know whose land it is?

If it is just looking for a comment from the council about how annoying this is I imagine?

How much is it likely to cost to fix and replace?

Have you reported it to the police?

What action will the council be taking - if any - to try and prevent this from happening again?

And deadline - as soon as possible - we want to put something up online today. Could we say 3pm?  
Just in case it's not your land and I have to go elsewhere for comment.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

.....

[REDACTED]

Sent: 27 May 2019 22:55

To: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Fwd: Ramps drinking and skateboarders photos

More vandalism to public realm features

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED].co.uk>

Date: 27 May 2019 at 19:36:02 BST

To: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Ramps drinking and skateboarders photos

Trying to insert pole in the paving before using the bench for leverage.

[REDACTED]

On 27 May 2019, at 7:28 pm, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk wrote:

<Video.MOV>

[REDACTED]

On 27 May 2019, at 7:25 pm, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk wrote:

It's Monday 27th approx 6pm and the skateboarders are using the bench as a skateboard ramp and then leverage to force a metal pole into the ground.

Having called 101 4 police officers attended and they have moved in for a while but are now regrouping.

Please find attached a video of their handy work. I will send some photos I. A separate mail.

I appreciate resources are short but it would be cheaper to protect the area than replace broken benches, paving etc. and use police time.

<Video.MOV>

[REDACTED]

On 15 May 2019, at 6:17 pm, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk wrote:

[REDACTED]

This is the officer response I have had, which I have to say is not massively helpful. I walked through the middle of the space this afternoon at felt very threatened by the behaviour of the skateboarders who are ruining this space for everyone apart from themselves

On 15 May 2019, at 17:17, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk wrote:

Please can you advise when the new anti skateboarding measures will be fitted.

The large groups of people, drinking alcohol, boarding over obstacles are ruining the area. We have ramps and [REDACTED]. It's a joke to say the area is for everyone's use!

They are left unchecked or challenged for illegal public drinking and dominating the area with props, ramps and noise until the early hours.

<IMG\_2072.jpg>

Please can the council do something for the sanity of those who live and use the area in a civilised manner.

I look forward to to hearing from you with a date for installation.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 May 2019 10:23

To: [REDACTED]ky  
[REDACTED]bristol.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Skate border's Colston Avenue

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, sad to hear of yet more vandalism from skate boarders in that location. The council keeps promising [REDACTED] action but without any obvious timescales

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 26 May 2019, at 10:19, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I'm sorry to bother you again, as I'm sure you're very busy but over the weekend the skateboarders pulled up a park bench and used it as a ramp. They did this on both Friday and Saturday and we assume its the same bench (see attached photographs). Because of this, I informed the police on both days who agreed it was criminal damage, they attended the scene and the skatboarders left. I felt it was unfair that I needed to call the police, as they are so busy on issues more important than this but they are having to do what the Council should be doing.

What will it take for the Council to take action - more damage to benches and the general area or for a pedestrian to be injured? The skateboarders have taken over the area and are sticking their two fingers up to us and the council.

I would still appreciate the name of the person in the council to contact over this issue?

Regards

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 20 May 2019 at 16:32, [REDACTED] com> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Can you give me the name of the person who I can contact at the council as requested?

On Saturday, the police were called as there looked like underage drinking, what smelt like the use of cannabis and they were jumping over a fire extinguisher that must have been taken from somewhere. Scarce police resources should not be used to deal with a situation created by the council. The situation is getting worse.

Regards

[REDACTED]

On Sun, 12 May 2019 at 11:43, [REDACTED] @bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]

yes I'll follow up tomorrow

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 12 May 2019, at 08:39, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt response. Please ask the Council to talk to [REDACTED] clearing up around the Cenatoph today, I just spoke to one and he said the mess was bad last night and they collected over 25 large bags of rubbish of drink and food cartons. When I went out the front of [REDACTED] yesterday evening there must have been 40 skate borders, the Council has lost control of this area. Did they envisage it becoming a skate park when they built this pedestrian area?

Who can I contact in the Council to get this situation addressed with a sense of urgency?

Regards

[REDACTED]

On Sat, 11 May 2019 at 14:02, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Yes thanks for your email. I can understand your frustration. We have been presureing the council to do something about this situation. Works have been costed to put some metal strips into the area and we have also been told that enforcement action will be taken, closely nothing has happened yet. We will chase again to get timescales

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Sat, May 11, 2019 at 10:35 AM +0100, "[REDACTED]":

[REDACTED]

I'm [REDACTED]. I have written before about the numbers of skateboarder's taking over the area opposite Electricity house and the Cenotaph.

As you can see from the attached pictures, were getting large numbers of skateboarder's who have effectively taken over this area. With the summer coming the numbers will increase and last year some were skateboarding up to 3.00am in the morning and I've personally referred this to the police. We were promised action by the Council but nothing has happened, can you let me know what the plans are and when they will be implemented?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<IMG\_6062 (1).jpg>

<IMG\_6064.jpg>

<IMG\_6063.jpg>

Seat vandalism



Video 1.MOV

Good [REDACTED]

I had a call from the police on 27/05/2019 18:26, police log 785. They informed that one of the benches on the Centre by the Cenotaph had been removed from the floor (unbolted). They were requesting if it could be re-fitted/re-bolted to the floor asap today 27/05/2019 or tomorrow 28/05/2019. Via pinpoint the ownership of that area was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I then called out our on call for [REDACTED] and yourselves. We do not have out of hour call out numbers for [REDACTED] and due the issue not deemed life threatening/dangerous via the police the email to yourselves.

Are you able to look into/arrange the re-fitting of the street furniture bench by the Cenotaph? Or able to email/pass on this request to who would be able to help, if known.

Thanks for your help in advance, and please see attached for out hour of hour call log ticket.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
Operation Centre - Super Operator | Citizen Service  
Communities

Bristol City Council  
100 Temple Street  
BS1 6AG  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** "[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk"  
<[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>, "[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@avonandsomerset.police.uk>  
**Subject:** Skatepark

It's 7:45 and thankfully too cold to have the door open because once again we have a full on skatepark outside. Ramps, tricks and approx 40 young people congregated.

Please could you advise how soon we should hope to have measures in place to ensure this area is not a danger to pass through and a noise nuisance.

It gives me no pleasure to complain but feel this is not acceptable.

I dread to think what it will be like when it warms up if we don't get this sorted. Would you find this acceptable outside your front door?



I look forward to receiving your reply.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 May 2019 17:26

To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: cenotaph skateboarders

[REDACTED]

Do we have any dates for any action physical or enforcement. Issues include

- Damage to public realm & infrastructure
- Fly tipping (often of items which have been taken from roadworks or public realm)
- Threat to residents
- Excessive noise well into the early morning

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

On 12 Apr 2019, at 12:34, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Two months has passed and nothing has been done to deter the skateboarders.

As the weather has warmed up they have been arriving in larger numbers and now have a rail that they place in the middle of the paved area and store in the flower beds at night.

<image1.jpeg>

Please can you advise when we can expect to have the steel seat trims replaced and ground fittings added. Hopefully the trees that were broken can then be replaced without getting snapped off again.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 March 2019 23:06  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Skatepark

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing from [REDACTED] and following up on [REDACTED] numerous emails over the last months.

Over the weekend, and again today, the skateboarders have lifted a paving slab on Quay Street using this as a ramp and filming their jumps. As part of this they have taken over the entire pavement as part of their "run up" to this ramp. This is obviously creating a health and safety hazard, as well as making the pavement impossible to use for anyone else.

Additionally outside the cenotaph, as [REDACTED] have indicated on numerous occasions, they have stolen road work barriers and signs and using them to jump over. Again this represents health and safety hazards - presumably there are road works and holes without any barriers. We have already raised the noise, disruption, drug taking, drinking, rubbish and damage they have caused, whilst their presence has disenfranchised others from using what should be a beautiful and public space.

We have raised this issue to you on numerous occasions, and I am somewhat tired and fed up of having to live with this; I'm sure you would not accept this outside of your house, particularly at 2am. Their actions have also gone beyond an annoyance and general damage; it now constitutes a real safety hazard to the public and can no longer be ignored.

Please can you indicate what is going to be done to address this situation, with some clear timescales.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 13 March 2019 09:05

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Skate park

[REDACTED]

We have to find ways to stop our property being damaged by skateboarders

Yours

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 March 2019 23:06

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Skatepark

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing from [REDACTED] following up on [REDACTED] numerous emails over the last months.

Over the weekend, and again today, the skateboarders have lifted a paving slap on Quay Street using this as a ramp and filming their jumps. As part of this they have taken over the entire pavement as part of their "run up" to this ramp. This is obviously creating a health and safety hazard, as well as making the pavement impossible to use for anyone else.

Additionally outside the cenotaph, as Sarah and Tom have indicated on numerous occasions, they have stolen road work barriers and signs and using them to jump over. Again this represents health and safety hazards - presumably there are road works and holes without any barriers. We have already raised the noise, disruption, drug taking, drinking, rubbish and damage they have caused, whilst their presence has disenfranchised others from using what should be a beautiful and public space.

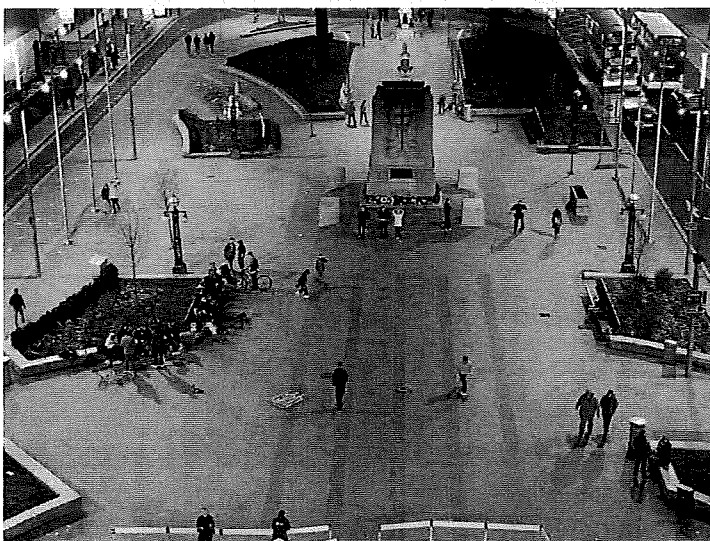
We [REDACTED] on numerous occasion, and I am somewhat tired and fed up of having to live with this; I'm sure you would not accept this outside of your house, particularly at 2am. Their actions have also gone been an annoyance and general damage; it now constitutes a real safety hazard to the public and can no longer be ignored.

Please can you indicate what is going to be done to address this situation, with some clear timescales.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: [REDACTED] 2019 18:48  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Skateboarders Sat evening 16.2.19

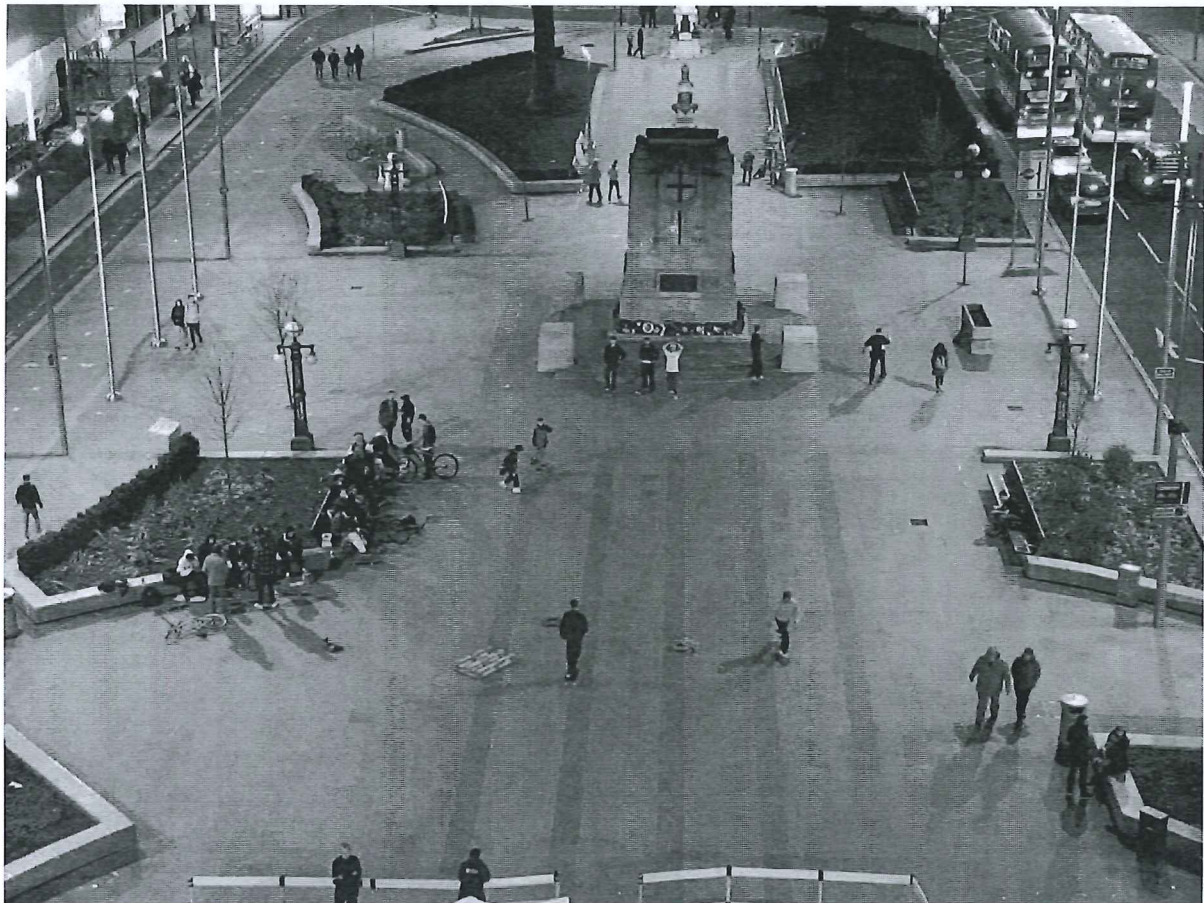
Dear All,

[REDACTED] doesn't seem to have acted as a deterrent to the skateboarders, there are more than ever, they have been causing a noise and nuisance all afternoon and are still at it, leaping off walls, the cenotaph steps and bits of road works.

They have now lifted a manhole cover, outside bluebell agency in Quay St, to use as a ramp to jump obstacles, landing in the path of on coming pedestrians. See video

They are also sat in the window sills of Electricity house.

I appreciate it's a busy Sat night for the police but if someone could have a word if you're passing by we would be very grateful.



[REDACTED]  
Do you have an update on the anti- skateboard metal strips. The constant noise about 19 hours a

day is driving us mad.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: [REDACTED] 2019 15:00  
To: Site Permissions  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED] Weekend

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your help in setting up our activation in Bristol this weekend, the process was good however the location was a disappointment.

I've had feedback from the team who were on the ground and I'm afraid to say it wasn't very positive about the location itself.

They reported low footfall generally, I understand that the area is more of a business district and busier during the working week.

More worryingly - the team reported that the area was used by the locals as a skate board park and to smoke cannabis, so our security were challenged with skate boarders believing this was their territory and encroaching on our space - and at one point nearly hitting a child. Therefore barriers had to be placed between The Sky Cinema activity and the skateboarders which was a slight deterrent to them but still the skate boarders were challenging the boundaries.

Bearing in mind we were engaged in family orientated films and activities with specific appeal to younger children, it would have been relevant to be informed of the type of individuals who frequent the Cenotaph area in advance. Had we known this we wouldn't have placed our client or our customers in this position, and this has caused me some embarrassing internal communications as a result.

I look forward to your feedback.

Thanks

**From:** "Customer Relations Team" <[complaints.feedback@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:complaints.feedback@bristol.gov.uk)>  
[<mailto:complaints.feedback@bristol.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 12 November 2018 11:57

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Complaint allocation [REDACTED] - please respond prior to 03/12/2018 10:20  
[REDACTED]



Hi [REDACTED],

I tried to contact you last night when skateboarders were spotted jamming a metal bar into a hole in front of the Cenotaph yesterday. If you're not the person I need to talk to this can you advise me as to who is please. The hole in question appears to be an access chamber (see attached) and now has been badly damaged and is now a trip hazard. Colleagues in the control room filmed this and reported it to the police, there are stills of the offenders too. Can you arranged to get this vandalism fixed as soon as possible please.



Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bristol City Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The complainant - [REDACTED]

Their contact details - [REDACTED]

The complaint -

Ongoing complaint/issues regarding the skateboarders on the cenotaph.

Yesterday during the remembrance sunday parade, whilst the parade was taken and the service was on. There was no skateboards, but as soon service finished the skateboarders jumped striaght onto the cenotaph area.

When I approached them and asked them to stop skateboarding, they were abusive to me and my friends. I contacted the police on their non-emergency number 101 and was told that as there isn't a sign up there saying that this isn't a skateboarding area, then they can't enforce and take action.

I was told that the council should be taking enforcement over this and putting up signage.

This is an on going thing and and seems to be happening every day. But yesterday was disgraceful.

The council have been told before about this, but do nothing.

If possible, please can you discuss the actions that are being made to stop this. I can be contacted on [REDACTED]

Additional Information (if any)

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Customer Relations Team

signing off as safe.

Please let me know if any questions.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: "[REDACTED].co.uk>

To: "[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk"  
[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>, "[REDACTED].uk>

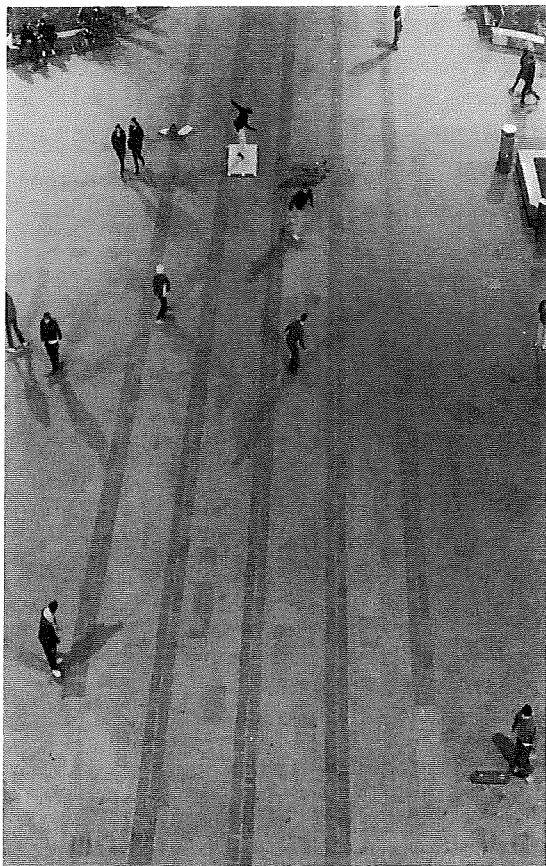
Subject: Skatepark

It's 7:45 and thankfully too cold to have the door open because once again we have a full on skatepark outside. Ramps, tricks and approx 40 young people congregated.

Please could you advise how soon we should hope to have measures in place to ensure this area is not a danger to pass through and a noise nuisance.

It gives me no pleasure to complain but feel this is not acceptable.

I dread to think what it will be like when it warms up if we don't get this sorted. Would you find this acceptable outside your front door?



.....  
From: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Sent: 01 August 2018 10:29

To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Fwd: Skate boarders outside electricity House

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 1 August 2018 at 09:27:05 BST

To: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Skate boarders outside electricity House

[REDACTED]

Sorry to bother you again about this, but I'm not sure if you or the people concerned with looking after the area are aware that the boarders are systematically lifting the anti-board devices off the

flower beds. They've been lifted in 3 separate places now. Amazing what you can achieve with a crow bar and a hacksaw!!!!

We've seen the permission notices around the area for the traders, so fingers crossed there isn't too much by way of opposition!

Kind Regards

■

**From:** ■

**Sent:** 27 July 2018 11:02

**To:** ■

**Subject:** RE: Skateboarding at the Cenotaph

Dear ■

Thank you for your reply.

Since this matter has come to my knowegle, it has come up in conversation with a number of people, and like myself I am sure they would be very disappointed by your response.

Only a couple of evenings ago, I got off the bus on the stop near to the Cenotaph, and witnessed twenty plus skateboarders using the area in front of the Cenotaph, there were obstacles put in this area for the skateboarders to jump over and ramps to go over, and I was narrowly missed by a young man on a bike performing a dangerous stunt on one wheel, and I felt quite intimated when walking across the centre. The anti skate features around the Cenotaph are ineffective and the skateboarders were using the Cenotaph as a push off point.

This area is a place where people should be able to go to pay there respects to those who gave there lives in war and conflict, but due to skateboarders and stunt cyclists it is not possible.

It is my opinion, and I know many people would agree, that the City Council are not doing enough to ensure this area is used for the intended purpose, and not as a skateboard park and area for stunt cyclists.

You said in you email that this area is clearly not designed as a skateboard park, but clearly it has become one.

Please could you tell me what are the intentions of the City Council to enable the use of this area for the general public and not just for skateboarders and stunt cyclists.

Thank you

Regards

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 15:01  
**To:** Complaints and Feedback  
**Subject:** Skateboarding at the Cenotaph

Recently in the Bristol Post there was a letter about skateboarding in the area of the Cenotaph. The letter pointed out that this area was a place to respect those who gave there lives in the time of war. The writer asked if the City Council has allowed this area to become a skateboard park. I would be interested to know the City Council's view on this matter

Thank you

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 July 2018 11:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Skateboarding at the Cenotaph

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply.

Since this matter has come to my knowegle, it has come up in conversation with a number of people, and like myself I am sure they would be very disappointed by your response.

Only a couple of evenings ago, I got off the bus on the stop near to the Cenotaph, and witnessed twenty plus skateboarders using the area in front of the Cenotaph, there were obstacles put in this area for the skateboarders to jump over and ramps to go over, and I was narrowly missed by a young man on a bike performing a dangerous stunt on one wheel,

and I felt quite intimidated when walking across the centre. The anti skate features around the Cenotaph are ineffective and the skateboarders were using the Cenotaph as a push off point.

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You said in your email that this area is clearly not designed as a skateboard park, but clearly it has become one.

Please could you tell me what are the intentions of the City Council to enable the use of this area for the general public and not just for skateboarders and stunt cyclists.

Thank you

Regards

[REDACTED]

On 6 Jul 2018, at 10:45, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]

I'll keep in to this, I haven't been given a date for the traders, will seek that out too. Previously when I raised this issue the police response was that it was not a problem

Yours

[REDACTED]

On 6 Jul 2018, at 09:01 [REDACTED]

Thanks for your help with this.

I phoned 101 again last evening - at around 9:00am - although the manhole cover had been replaced during the day, the boarders had lifted it up and were filming each other going off the ramp, over a piece of fencing and landing right next to the bus stop. This morning the manhole covers are still up. There were also boarders deliberately weaving in and out of the families trying to look at the Wallace exhibit - which is so intimidating. I appreciate that the boarders probably see it as a fun challenge, but don't really think they have the slightest notion of how intimidating they are.

I have tried, and will continue to annoy you with my emails, but at the end of the day, it seems something needs to go wrong before anyone takes this at all seriously. It all feels a bit out of sight out of mind, to be honest, I'm a bit in awe of how few people who could do something about it seem not to have noticed the problems.

Out of interest, do you know when these much fabled 'trader's are due to arrive? I struggle to understand how daytime traders are going to resolve a night time issue - but there we are!

Thanks again.

[REDACTED]

On 5 Jul 2018, at 15:14 [REDACTED] bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Thank you for you email. I have passed it on to the relevant council officers for action. Please do provide me with information like this it helps build a body of evidence. I have been reporting resident concerns on this for some time - it has mainly fallen on deaf ears.

The stock answer is that there will be traders in that space soon who will change the dynamic.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I agree on that! They are so heavy, not sure how they even get them there

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 July 2018 10:52

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Skateboarding around the Cenotaph area

Thanks. I have no problem with the skateboarders but BCC should manage abandoned highways materials which in themselves cause an obstruction.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Bristol City Council

City Hall

College Green

Bristol BS1 5TR

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 July 2018 10:19

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Skateboarding around the Cenotaph area

Hi [REDACTED]

Not sure who is collating this response but this is what I said to Kye previously and is still my view.

I appreciate that the skateboarders may be irritating for the [REDACTED], but they have bought a place next to a public space in the city centre. We don't not have events in [REDACTED] because one resident complains persistently.

Pleased to see the concessions are now advertised as this will help to change the dynamic and introduce other users into the space.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

On 5 Jul 2018, at 14:37 [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

I am writing regarding the ongoing problems with the skateboarders in the public space outside Electricity House. At the moment there is a half-pipe which was taken from some nearby roadworks, along with a concrete construction, which I imagine has also been taken from other works in the area.

At the moment all of this is competing with Wallace in all of his glory, attempting to attract passers by to sit and take their photographs. It is not the least bit welcoming to have to walk through the skateboarders to sit on the bench and enjoy the exhibit. This is only going to get worse as we approach the summer holidays with more people wanting to photograph the exhibit and more

young people wanting to skateboard. The Gromit Unleashed tour is a big draw for the city, yet this particular exhibit is bordering on a no-go area simply because of the number of skateboarders dominating the area.

I am aware that the council has tried to limit skateboarding by installing anti-skate boarding strips, but these are now being sawn off of that the boarders can still do tricks on the flower beds.

On top of that, when I walked across the area this morning I noticed that overnight the boarders had lifted up concrete manhole covers, which they were managing to keep propped up using other bits and pieces from the ongoing road works. This created a huge safety hazard as it was right next to the bus stop on Colston Avenue. I telephoned 101 and made a complaint to the council - the manhole cover has been replaced, but for some reason all of the 'stuff' that they used to prop it up was left behind and as a consequence the boarders are now using this 'stuff' to try and build yet more obstacles on which to practice their tricks.

[REDACTED]. I don't have a problem with skateboarders using the area along side other members of the public and some of their tricks are quite impressive. I do have a problem with the continual wilful destruction of what was meant to be a facility for all of the people of Bristol, not just one small minority. This is not just something that is happening in the day time. Last night (4th July) there were still boarders in the area at 1:30am. I am also getting increasingly frustrated with the council not taking responsibility for the area. No one at the council offices seems to know who is responsible for maintaining this area. We have been advised, as residents, that we need to contact 101 if we have a problem - this shouldn't be a police problem, the problem should be dealt with sufficiently by the council.

Can I ask you:

- When are the bits remaining from the roadworks going to be removed? These would limit in some way how many obstacles can be built.
- When is somebody at the council going to take responsibility for this space? It needs to be monitored and managed effectively and not just responded to as and when people complain.
- How are you going to guarantee the safety of all members of the public who want to visit the Wallace exhibition throughout the next two months?

As before, it seems the only way to reach some resolution on this matter is to write to the Bristol Post - which I am intending to do as it is totally inappropriate that the council is taking no responsibility for the upkeep of the area and safety of pedestrians using the area.

I look forward to hearing your response, along with steps which are going to be taken to improve this area.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent: 04 June 2018 16:55

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Place

Subject: RE: Skateboarding around the Cenotaph area

Hi [REDACTED]

I pass through the space more than once most days, either walking or on the bus and my personal view is that there is not a problem with the skateboarders intimidating people. They are no more of a problem than the occasional uber cyclist whizzing through the space.

Obviously we had the initial issues with crowds of skaters dominating the space, and of course that was problematic. Now the skate stops etc are in place though this has really abated and most nights there are only about ten people maximum when I leave at about 6.30, whereas initially it would have been full. They are mostly just sitting on the benches chatting, with only a few actually skating around. Of course its irritating that they keep dragging contractors fencing blocks etc in to jump over, but now the scaffolding is off Colston 33 and we can get the pedestrian crossing open the possibilities for this will be removed. Once [REDACTED] awarded the concession that will also add another dynamic to the space.

There are of course some people who feel intimidated by the presence of young men, and I respect that, even if I consider it sad. There are also those who are offended in principle by people skating near the Cenotaph, but I think we have to be fair and say that it is not the skaters who are disrespecting the Cenotaph it is the drunks. In my personal view though we also need to be concerned about the recent suggestion that Bristol is not a good place for children to grow up in, and I know myself that if you have boys you really feel they are not welcome anywhere.

On your last point, we did have some attempts at removing the skate strips initially but once again, we took some remedial action and this has calmed down. Fingers crossed.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent: 26 July 2018 12:08

To: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Patsy Mellor

<patsy.mellor@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Complaint of skateboarders using newly created open space by the Cenotaph in Colston Avenue (Centre)

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email

We have been raising these concerns with council officers for some more than now, they have been met with indifference

Yours

[REDACTED]

On 26 Jul 2018, at 11:20, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

We have received several phone calls from members of the public at the Customer Service Centre on the Anti-Social Behaviour line in respect to skate boarders using the newly created open space by the Cenotaph in the centre (Colston Avenue) at all times of the day and at night time.

[REDACTED] who advised that the skate boarders were using the open space up until 3.00 a.m.

[REDACTED] who works in the centre of Bristol.

[REDACTED] contacted the Police who state that they can not enforce any action as there is no signage up stating 'no skate boarding'.

[REDACTED] are concerned that the skate boarders put planks, blocks in the open space and also use the concrete benches etc to skate/jump from. This is a potential hazard to other members of the public using or walking through the open space.

[REDACTED] was particularly concerned as he lives beside this open space and the noise of the skateboards is very disturbing.

[REDACTED] wanted their concerns raised with the local Councillors to see if any action can be taken in preventing the area being used for skateboarding and other anti-social behaviour.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Customer Services Centre

.....  
On 4 Jun 2018, at 13:35, [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] receiving a number of complaints about skateboarding in the new space created around the Cenotaph. We have also had reports of the mental strips being removed.

The feeling I get is that the problem is the monopolisation of the space for one purpose which then causes others to avoid it due to safety fears etc. I wonder what you view was and what could be done to ensure the space has a mixed use.

Kind Regards  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 January 2018 09:32

To: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk>; Mayor <mayor@bristol.gov.uk>

Subject: Cenotaph skateboarding measues

[REDACTED]  
Please can you let me know if the measures to deal with skateboarders have been completed? I am still getting complaints. If they have not been completed please can you confirm when they will

Yours  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 November 2017 15:00  
[REDACTED]

Please can you confirm what the additional works are so I can feed back to residents

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 November 2017 12:17

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Cenotaph

[REDACTED]

We are getting complaints about this area being turned into a skate park. Are we planning measures to make this area less of a playground, I would have thought that anti-skateboarding measures on walls would be standard in design given experiences in other locations (usually metal studs on walls). I realise these may be planned but in the rush to get the area opened for Remembrance day that it hasn't yet been completed.

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

