

15<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Harrogate Borough Council,  
Parks and Open Spaces,  
Brandreth House,  
St. Luke's Avenue,  
Harrogate HG1 1AA.

For the attention of Trish McLaughlin

Dear Trish,

**Skate Park at Valley Gardens**

Further to our visit to the skate park site yesterday I confirm the points of our discussion with Mary Jones, the Environmental Health Officer.

**General Arrangement of Platforms and Bunds**

The overall requirement is that the direct line-of-sight between the skating areas of the park and the ground floor of dwellings in Sovereign Park and Harlow Moor Drive should be interrupted by some form of barrier to provide sound attenuation. The barriers were initially intended as earth bunds but the skate park contractor made the suggestion that the concrete platforms which form the rim of the skating bowls, particularly at the Harlow Moor Drive side of the park, will provide substantial barriers to the skating noise which is emitted from the curved surfaces which form the bowl and are lower than the rims. The platforms around the rim were described as being normally used for viewing and by novice skaters to start their skating run, thereby causing little noise.

**Landing Platforms**

The platforms onto which skaters land (often with a considerable impact noise) during a pause in their skate run are the smaller ones, mainly at a lower level than the rim of the bowl. The surfaces of the landing platforms will be shielded from the direction of Harlow Moor Drive by the rim of the bowl but not in the direction of Sovereign Park. It was agreed to shield them from the Sovereign Park dwellings by adding earth bunds at that side to a height which will interrupt the direct sightline between the platform surfaces and the ground floor of the dwellings.

The main skating areas at (a) the curved bowl and (b) the rectangular area with sliding rails are fully shielded from dwellings in both directions by the rim of the skate park and by the landing platforms. The landing platforms at the Sovereign Park side are the only noisy areas fully visible from dwellings, and these will be shielded as described above.

### **Entrance**

There will be an entrance to the skating area through a gap between landing platforms at the Sovereign Park side of the skate park. This appears as a potential open sound path towards the dwellings at that side. We could not fully assess this potential because the construction is incomplete at that part of the skate park. If it is found that the entrance does funnel noise from a skating area towards the Sovereign Park dwellings then it may be necessary to erect a barrier at this position. An earth bund spaced further back from the entrance would appear the obvious solution to either have in hand to be constructed later if necessary, or incorporated now as a precaution if more convenient.

I believe this covers the points raised but please let me know if any further discussion is required.

Yours sincerely,

S.F. Garritt.