

Dear All,

I am PC 0078 LEY of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. I am writing this letter in my capacity as a Neighbourhood officer for the City Centre and West of Cambridge. I would like to voice my support for renovations to the two skate parks in my area; Donkey Common and Jesus Green.

There have been large amounts of ASB (anti-social behaviour) reported to us in the area of Jesus Green Skate Park. Since this time last year, we have had 46 incidents reported to us relating to Violence or Nuisance behaviour in the area.<sup>1</sup> There are also numerous intelligence items which suggest that the area of Jesus Green Skate park has been used for drug dealing. The area presents several challenges for police and skaters alike. Firstly, the skate park is poorly lit. This means that skating in the winter finishes when things get dark. This in turn impacts crime and anti-social behaviour in the area as it makes it hard for police passing in cars to identify if there is anyone actually in the park and by the time police have disembarked their vehicles those who might have been committing offences have plenty of time to disperse and avoid detection. With increasing lighting in the area and renovations to the park, pro-social use of the facilities is likely to increase which will diminish crime. In addition, from a policing perspective we feel that including some sort of CCTV would be helpful in this. Currently the park is very poorly served by CCTV meaning that when incidents do happen we are reliant on members of the public to give statements or to make their own recordings of incidents. There is also little deterrent for those who might wish to undertake criminal dealings. CCTV would not be intended to target skaters but to give good coverage of the park as a whole.

In addition to this we have had several reports from business owners in the area of Jordan's Yard that people have been skating there. This is not ideal for the business owners who feel that they are dealing with damage as a result of the skating. However, it is also not ideal for the skaters who have very limited space in the area and, in the city as a whole there, is almost no covered space to skate in the colder months or when it rains. I would therefore also be in support of renovating one of the skate parks to include some sort of covered space provided that there was adequate lighting and that the space was not fully enclosed. I would also be in support of skaters utilising underused space in the multi-storey car parks, provided that it was with the consent of security staff and the council at any locations. We often find that car-parks are used for anti-social behaviour and pro-social use of the Car park, with effective communication between security and the skaters would act as a natural deterrent for this anti-social behaviour.

In short, any increase in pro-social use of the spaces would likely diminish anti-social behaviour. In support of this I would also cite the redesign of skateparks in Melbourne as a successful example of how cities have approached these issues.<sup>2</sup> I would also like to stress that I would advocate for skaters to be consulted at every stage of the planning process to ensure that the spaces are redesigned to suit their needs. I am happy to provide further consultations regarding any planning initiatives.

Yours Sincerely,

Beatrice Ley, 0078.



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<sup>1</sup> Information drawn from camnetVision.

<sup>2</sup> Bishop, K. & Corkery, L. 2017, *'Designing Cities with Children and Young People: Beyond Playgrounds and Skate parks'* Routledge, Melbourne