

Hi Dan,

My name is Peter and I'm a Green Party candidate in Queen's Edith.

Though it's evident that you are not voting in the same ward, I still wanted to take the time to respond to you, as this is definitely an interest of mine. I am a roller skater; I was training to join the men's Roller Derby team pre-pandemic. Though I am not a skateboarder, we do share common facilities; or we would do, but as a relative newbie, I have been put off using outdoor facilities during the pandemic due to their small size and lack of council upkeep.

Another candidate recently answered a question from Cambridge News about potholes (which I agree with wholeheartedly). Potholes are a huge issue that the council has not done enough to solve. This is dangerous and affects so many people who use: bikes, skateboards, longboards, roller skates, roller blades, scooters, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, etc., but also pedestrians (especially those who are visually impaired, or have mobility issues).

No, I don't believe that the council is doing enough for skaters in Cambridge. Facilities (which are all outdoors) need upkeep, which the council is not committing to. In the same way that we would like to work with CamCycle on cycling issues, we would like to work with CamSkate and Cambridge RollerBillies on skating issues.

I definitely agree with the proposals to replace the Donkey Common skate park with something fit for use. In fact, I would like this to happen for all skating facilities. It would be great to enlarge facilities too as I personally wouldn't call a couple of ramps a "skate park". I would like to see more.

We need dedicated indoor skating facilities, desperately. I would love to see RollerBillies to have a dedicated roller rink. We now have an ice skating rink, so why not something suitable for wheels? I grew up in Ramsgate, Kent. Weekly, I would go climbing at Revolution Skatepark and Climbing Centre in Broadstairs, and that had a huge indoor skatepark that was used all year! I don't see why we couldn't have the same in Cambridge.

And to answer your last question, yes! That is a basic health and safety issue, there is absolutely no reason not to have adequate lighting. In fact I would suggest sufficient lighting all along foot/cycle paths in Cambridge's parks, similarly to what we now have on Parker's Piece, as many residents do not feel safe walking alone at night through these paths.

I know many of my colleagues will agree with me. Skating is a great form of exercise and it's very green!

Kind regards,

Peter Price

Equality and Diversity Officer - Cambridge Green Party  
Queen Edith's ward City Council candidate.