

Joanna Wright

Good Evening

BANES

I have come here tonight to present this petition for ~~the~~ council to back the building of a skatepark in the east of Bath. This petition has been signed by over ~~500~~ members of the local community

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Many who signed the petition agreed that "this is exactly what young people need here, there is nothing for them". They also asked where it could be built.?

According to BANES Play Policy "YOU", the Council have a strategy that promises to deliver:

"more safe and attractive outdoor play spaces near home"

In 2008 BANES was awarded £2.5 million pounds from the Department for Children, Schools and Families and renewed 32 play spaces including a successful skatepark in Midsomer Norton.

Larkhall, has a large population of children. Alice Park and Larkhall Rec are the only parks within walking distance for many children.

There is land close to Lambridge Training Ground which would support a skatepark.

What I am asking for tonight is the political will to turn this currently unused space into a vibrant skatepark for the local community.

Everyone mentions money. With political will, there is money. The National Lottery have funded other skateparks. There are plenty of successful models for raising funding to get skateparks built – there are foundations, trusts and charities in Bath, which would support a project of this nature if it was backed by BANES.

Why as a mother am I committing myself to such an uphill struggle to create a skatepark?

I have two sons and I can see how skateboarding affirms their courage, strength and resilience. It channels their youthful energy and aggression into something positive and meaningful.

When you fall, you get up and try again, it teaches you something about yourself.

Handwritten notes on the left margin: "I have two sons and I can see how skateboarding affirms their courage, strength and resilience. It channels their youthful energy and aggression into something positive and meaningful. When you fall, you get up and try again, it teaches you something about yourself." with circled numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Bath is very proud of Amy Williams. Her gold medal was won because facilities were created at Bath University to allow her to train. Clearly sport offers great opportunities for life - and that is why I am asking you for the political will to build a skatepark. It will offer so many young children a community space in which to learn social skills, to develop personally, whilst keeping their bodies healthy. It is about inspiring and supporting confidence.

As Councillors I am aware that you are often asked to use your political will to help your community but as Cllr David Dixon says, constituents need to "manage their expectations". What I would like you to do is to look these two young people in the eye (and remember the thousand plus young people that they represent) and tell them that they need to manage their expectations, or to tell them - NEVER give up.

I am asking you for the will and the vision to support the creation of a skate park, to create a community space that will give many young people the chance to develop positive qualities, to stay fit and learn lessons they can take with them through life.

Thank you for listening