



Horsham
District
Council

Mr Philip Bowell, MBE
Chairman
Steyping Parish Council
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Date: 29 August 2014

Dear Mr Bowell

STEYNING SKATE PARK

I completely understand the concerns that the Parish Council have about the way matters developed with the planning application. We are all aware of the long, complex and contentious history of the matter but the key points as far as the planning application are concerned are as follows:

1. Our Environmental Health specialist recommended that there should be a restriction placed on the times that the skate park could be used in order to prevent noise and disturbance to residents.
2. In order to make such a restriction enforceable through a planning condition, it would also be necessary to require the facility to be fenced with a lockable gate.
3. When the area was given village green status by WSCC that meant that it could not be enclosed.
4. As we could not impose an unenforceable condition restricting times of use, we were left with no choice but to recommend refusal.

It is very regrettable that the impact of village green status on our ability to impose an appropriate hours of use condition was not spotted at an earlier time. However that does not detract from the relevance of the issue and had we not recognised the point we would, in all probability, have faced a legal challenge.

Yours sincerely

Tom Crowley
Chief Executive