

Wiltshire Council

Chippenham Area Board

10 September 2013

Item 8 – Chippenham Skate Park Task Group Report

Richard Taylor on behalf of Chippenham Residents (Skatepark Petition)

Question 5

To all members of the Area Board

Dear Sirs,

We are asking why you are not considering this large group of objectors to Monkton Park as a skatepark site.

You will be aware that as residents of Monkton Park, we collected 1123 signatures in a petition requesting that the skatepark be sited in an alternative position to Monkton Park.

There have been many reasons given not to put the skatepark in this lovely conservation area, and most were included on the petition.

This petition was done on a face to face basis with local residents, mainly living on Monkton Park and St Mary Street area. Although addresses were not included, a quick look at the Register of Electors will show that this is the case. Other residents of the town requested to be included in the petition, also some who visited the Folk Festival every year. Incidentally, many of those from the Folk Festival were appalled that the park they enjoyed each year was being considered for the skatepark. However, **the majority of signatories were from Chippenham, and felt very strongly about this.**

This petition seems to have been largely brushed under the carpet and **deemed unimportant.** Surely in a democratic society every effort should be made to seriously consider other sites because of the number of objections. Bristol Road is an ideal site, and the reasons given by the Task Group as it not being acceptable, seem to be the very ones that our petitioners are raising not to use Monkton Park – using footpaths, skating down banks, noise, complaints from dog walkers and nearby residents etc.

.Please, when you vote, do not be persuaded by some who feel they have the power to sway your vote, but honestly make your very own decision. Please base your decision on the genuine concerns of so many local people who really believe we will be losing so much by completely changing the character of this lovely park. One of Chippenham's most precious assets close to the town for everyone to enjoy.

Wiltshire Council slogan is "Where Everybody Matters", but apparently this does not include the 1123 signatories of the petition.