

APPENDIX 2

BYELAW FOR GOOD RULE AND GOVERNMENT

RESULTS OF PRE-CONSULTATION

A questionnaire was circulated to officers of the borough along with the draft Byelaw for Good Rule and Government for the Borough of Northampton. This report sets out responses so far received. A selection of relevant comments have been included.

Ban skateboarding in the proposed designated areas of Abington Street, Market Square and All Saints. This was agreed 100% by those who responded.

Comments:-

- They are a danger to members of the public, and they occasionally cause damage to the street furniture
- Dangerous to both pedestrians and skateboarders
- Skateboarding in heavily used public and pedestrian areas can be dangerous to pedestrians
- Too noisy and is a pleasure pursuit not a form of transport

Additional areas requested were:-

- Fish Street
- NBC car parks

It was decided that the four multi storey car parks in the town centre (Grosvenor, Mayorhold, St Michaels and St Johns), along with the open car parks at St Johns and Albion Place would also be included. A fine balance is required to keep both pedestrians and the skateboarders safe without being perceived as acting in a tyrannical way towards the skateboarders.

Comments:-

- Borough council car parks. Skateboarders regularly use the multi storey car parks because of the ramps up and down, and are in serious danger of getting hurt or even killed. Damage to vehicles is also a possibility
- Needs to be a balance between restriction and provision of facilities to enable use of skateboards. Without investment in appropriate facilities restrictions should be limited to dangerous or inappropriate use
- We should actively seek a high standard recreational space outside of this area but not as if to segregate but to enhance the sport. Sixfields and surrounding open spaces or Midsummers meadow for example.
- Car parks and other main shopping areas like Weston Favell, Kingsthorpe, Kingsley, St James - however this brings up the issue of private landowners & whether they wish to adopt and enforce this byelaw.

Skateboarding to the danger or annoyance of other users of the footway or carriage way. This was agreed 100% by those who responded.

Comments:-

- Definition of dangerous should be reasonably clear as could otherwise be open to interpretation and subjective assessment
- Dangerous to both pedestrians and skateboards

Fairground obstruction to traffic – this was agreed by 88% of those who responded. 6% did not comment and 6% disagreed with the byelaw but gave no explanation.

Dangerous games near highways – agreed by 95% and 5% did not comment.

Playing games to the annoyance of local residents – agreed by 81%, the remaining 19% actively object, however concern was raised that this byelaw would completely prohibit games. This is not the aim of the byelaw as it can only be enforced if games are played in a manner ‘as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any person living nearby’.

Touting – agreed by 95%

- Can be seen as form of harassment when the touts are very pushy

Urinating etc – agreed by 100%

- The alley ways of drum lane, Osborne jetty, Swan Yard are regularly used as toilets mostly on a Friday and Saturday night, however people have been seen to urinate during the day as well.
- Urination in public areas is anti-social, unpleasant and costly to keep parts of the town clean. The recent environmental audit of the town centre identified urination as a specific problem

Interference with road warning equipment – 100%

Interference with live saving equipment – 100%