

STEYNING PARISH COUNCIL



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD SKATEBOARD FACILITY

28TH January 2012

WHY WE NEED A SKATEBOARD FACILITY

1,000 young people under 18 in Steyning

No outdoor activities other than organised sports

Our recent survey showed there was a need

Skateboarders currently skate in unsuitable locations like Fletchers Croft car park causing damage and are a danger to traffic and themselves

Other towns have experienced a drop in anti-social behaviour in the centre of town when a skateboard facility is installed

Nearest facilities Small Dole and Shoreham

RECENT HISTORY

March 2011 survey on skateboard facility in MPF or Horsham Road

- **685 responded**
- **70% voted for Horsham Road site**
- **25% voted for the MPF**
- **5% did not want a skateboard facility**

May 2011 Steyning Football Club offered space

- **2 sites offered**
- **Preferred site on south east corner**
- **Football club agreed and planning permission sought**
- **25th May 2011 offer withdrawn and planning withdrawn**

RECENT HISTORY (cont'd)

July 2011 decision by Parish Council not to proceed with Horsham Road site

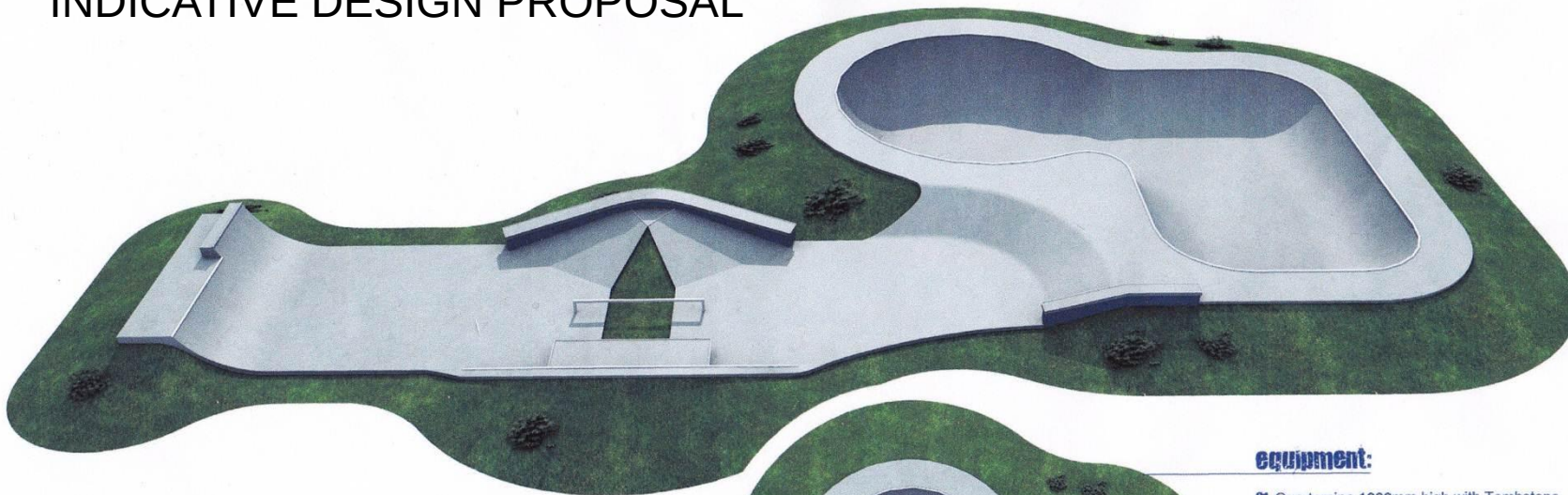
- On-going cost of uncontrollable rent
- Concerns over road safety with young children on a busy road
- High cost of providing traffic lights and on-going maintenance costs
- Site drainage meant increase build costs
- Isolated location and concerns over child safety
- Ambient light could encourage night time skating
- Toilet facilities across the busy road

RECENT HISTORY (cont'd)

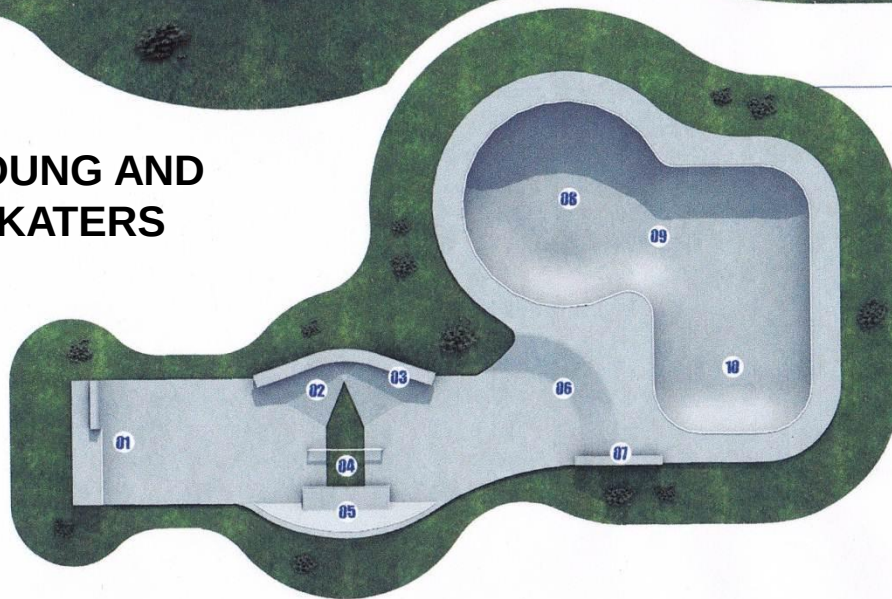
September 2011 Parish Council decide to re-consider the MPF site

- The Parish Council own the MPF
- The MPF is designated as a place for sport and recreation
- The only available site
- Busy so providing better security for young children
- Suggested site is currently a tarmac skateboard strip
- Safe access to toilets
- Regular patrols by wardens and PCSOs
- CCTV coverage

INDICATIVE DESIGN PROPOSAL



**DESIGNED FOR YOUNG AND
EXPERIENCED SKATERS**



equipment:

- 01. Quarterpipe 1000mm high with Tombstone
- 02. Flatbank Hips 600mm high with Grass Gap
- 03. Curved Ledge 400 - 450mm high
- 04. Grass Gap with Box Rail 300mm high
- 05. Manual Pad 300mm high
with inset Half Penny 1000mm high
- 06. Flatbank 600mm high with Rolled Top
- 07. Ledge 300 - 450mm high
- 08. Bowl Deep End 1650mm deep
- 09. Waterfall / Hip 450mm Deep
- 10. Bowl Shallow End / Mini Ramp 1200mm high

Park dims: 31.2m x 18.8m



Steyning visual.1

AERIAL VIEW



BUND
1600mm
HIGH

PROPOSED
SKATEPARK
LOCATION

BUND
1600mm
HIGH

GROUND VIEW



CLOSE-UP GROUND VIEW



DISTANCE FROM NEAREST PROPERTIES



APPROX. 1:1000

NOISE ASSESSMENT REPORT

The noise assessment report was commissioned without a final design being agreed and was;

- Based on calculations from a previous installation
- Calculated without sound mitigation – earth bundings



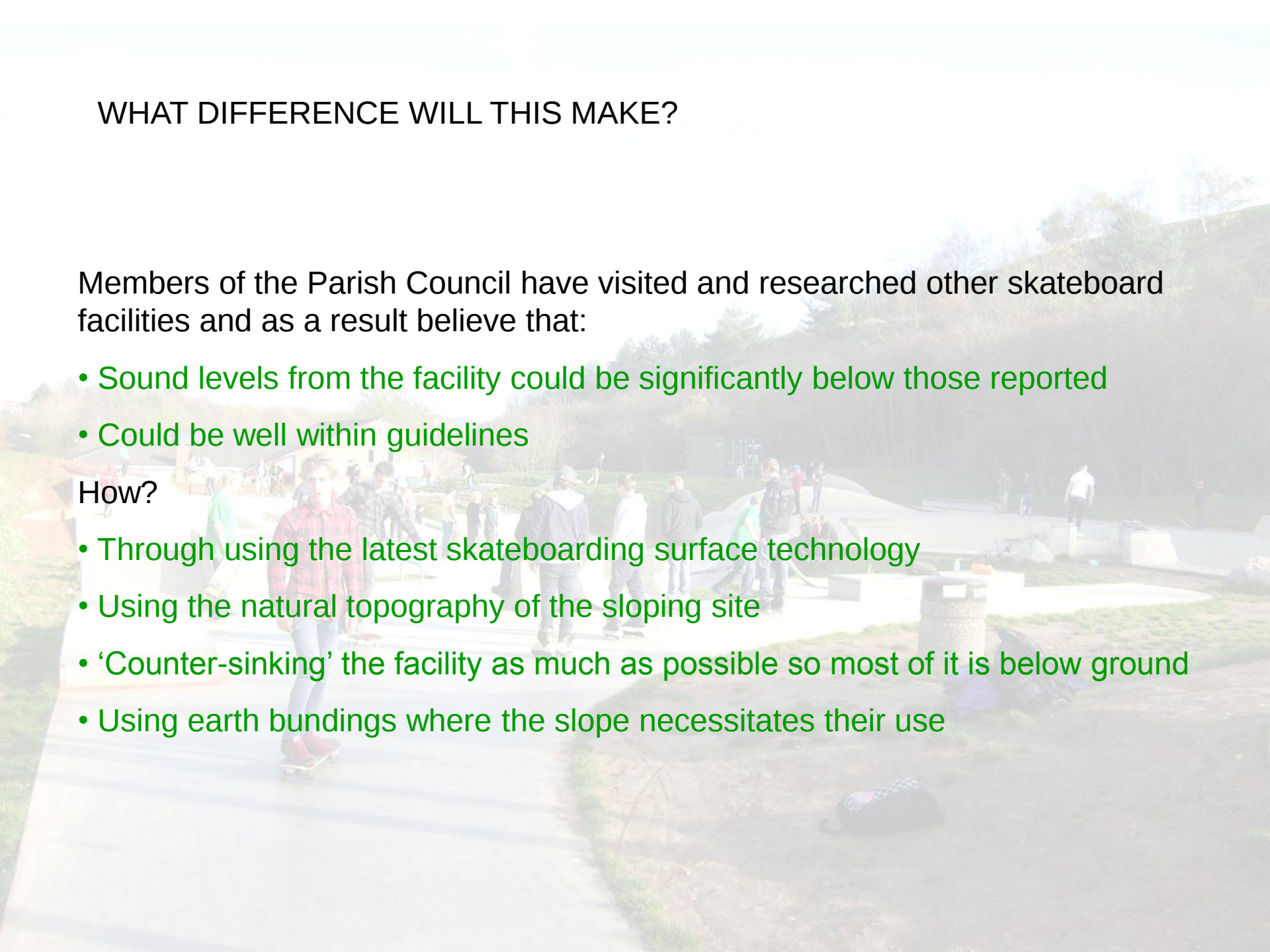
WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THIS MAKE?

Members of the Parish Council have visited and researched other skateboard facilities and as a result believe that:

- Sound levels from the facility could be significantly below those reported
- Could be well within guidelines

How?

- Through using the latest skateboarding surface technology
- Using the natural topography of the sloping site
- 'Counter-sinking' the facility as much as possible so most of it is below ground
- Using earth bundings where the slope necessitates their use



CONCERNS OVER NOISE

Skateboarding does create noise particularly high impact noise caused when skateboarders complete or fail a 'trick'

The Parish Council is committed to ensuring that the potential noise from the facility is within guidelines laid down by British Standards, WHO (World Health Organisation) and CIEH (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health)

The Parish Council would not consider installing a skateboard facility that did not meet these criteria

It should be noted that the MPF is a sport and recreational facility and is subject to high levels of noise

HOW IS SOUND QUANTIFIED?

The noise assessment report highlights use sound level measurements which are calculated and quantified using dB(A):

dB is the scale on which sound pressure is expressed

dB(A) Is the measure of the overall sound level across the audible spectrum with a frequency weighting (ie: A weighting) to compensate for the varying sensitivity of the human ear to sound at different frequencies

They also use:

La90 is considered as the 'average minimum level' - used to describe background noise in the absence of a specific noise

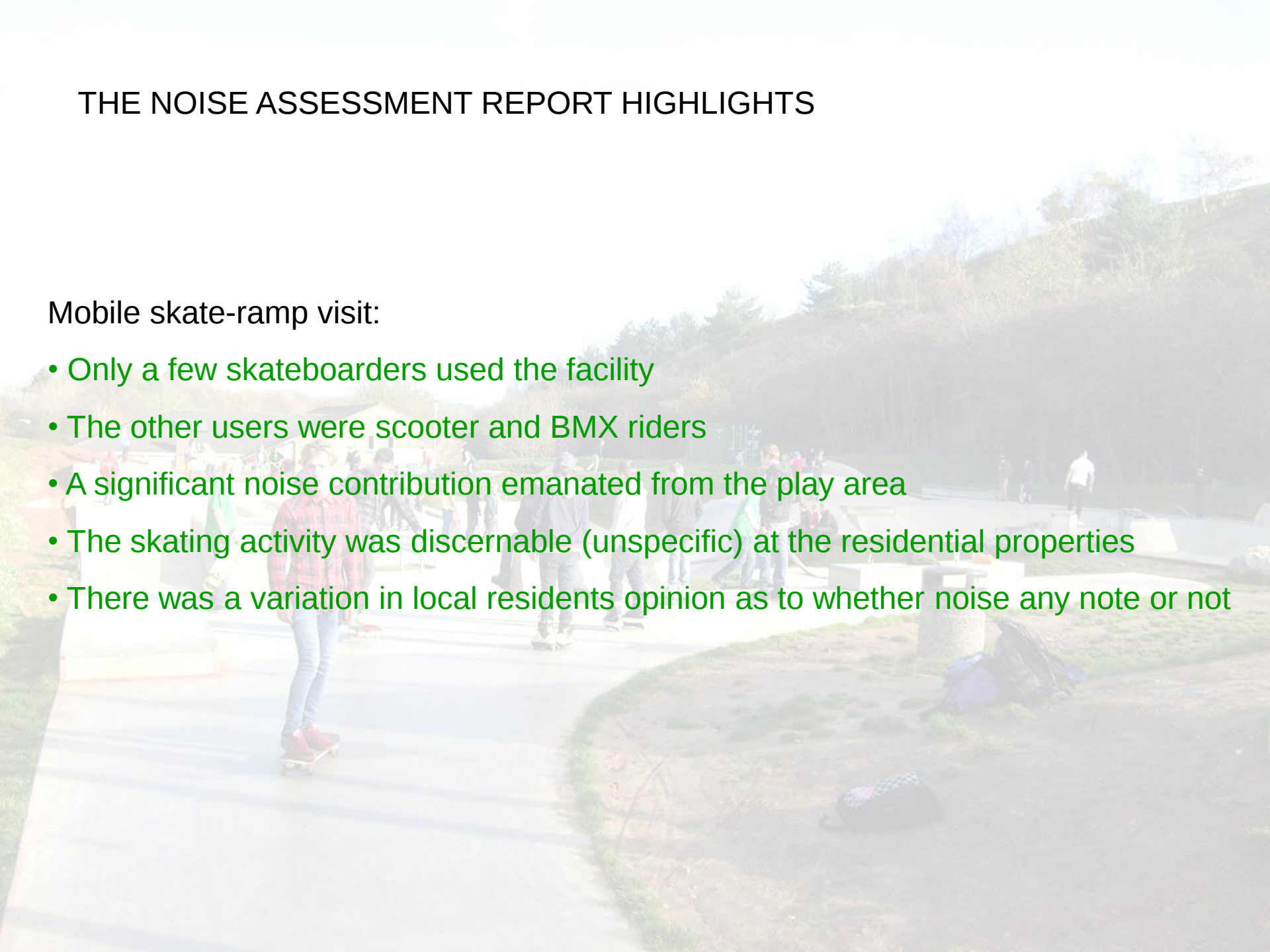
L_{Aeq} can be thought of as being similar to an 'average' continuous sound level over a period of time

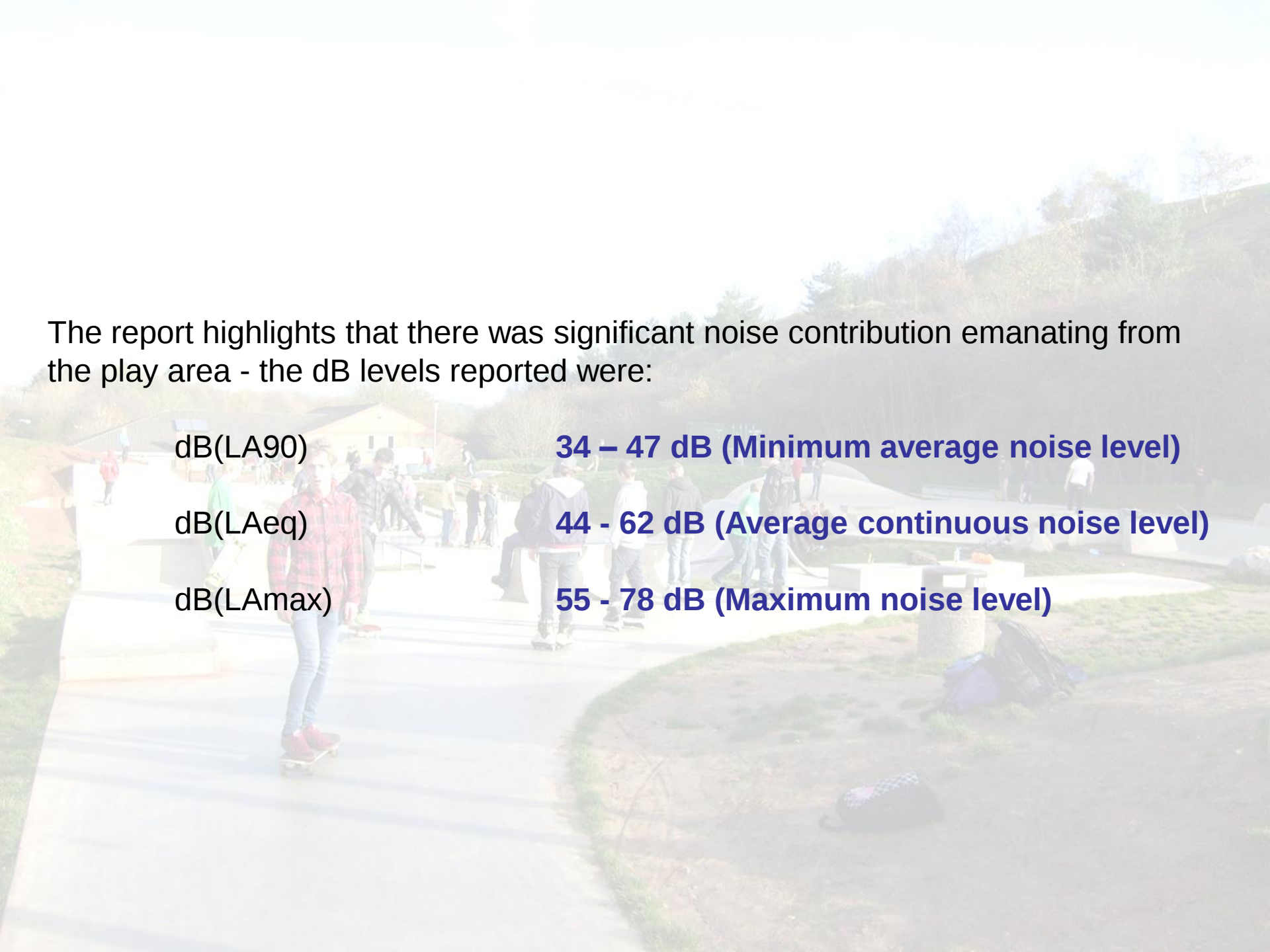
L_{Amax} is sometimes used in assessing environmental noise where occasional loud noises occur, which may, have little effect on the overall L_{Aeq} noise level but will still effect the noise environment

THE NOISE ASSESSMENT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Mobile skate-ramp visit:

- Only a few skateboarders used the facility
- The other users were scooter and BMX riders
- A significant noise contribution emanated from the play area
- The skating activity was discernable (unspecific) at the residential properties
- There was a variation in local residents opinion as to whether noise any note or not





The report highlights that there was significant noise contribution emanating from the play area - the dB levels reported were:

dB(LA90)

34 – 47 dB (Minimum average noise level)

dB(LAeq)

44 - 62 dB (Average continuous noise level)

dB(LAmax)

55 - 78 dB (Maximum noise level)

Following the departure of the mobile skate-ramp further sound measurements were taken from 14.36 – 19.00 hrs.

NOTE: THESE MEASUREMENTS WERE TAKEN WHILE THERE WAS NO SKATEBOARDING ACTIVITY - ONLY NORMAL EVERYDAY TYPE ACTIVITY

The report highlights that there was significant noise contribution emanating from the play area - the dB levels until 19.00 hrs were:

Newham Lane	dB (LA90)	33 - 37 (Minimum average noise level)
	dB (LAeq)	39 - 42 (Average continuous noise level)
	dB (LAmax)	58 - 61 (Maximum noise level)
Mill Road	dB (LA90)	35 - 39 (Minimum average noise level)
	dB (LAeq)	45 - 52 (Average noise level)
	dB (LAmax)	62 - 69 (Maximum noise level)

The BS, WHO and CIEH guidelines do not agree as to the dB noise level at which annoyance is likely.

This varies from 50 – 55dB for Relative Steady Noise Levels

For impact noise the SNL (Shooting Noise Level – for clay pigeon shooting) guidelines are used which is 55dB and below. In urban areas with background noise the guideline is 55 – 60dB

The L_{Amax} (maximum noise levels) in the MPF, from normal daytime and evening activity, are shown to be significantly higher than 55dB (up to 69dB).

The Impact Assessment for properties in Mill Road and Newham Lane did not allow for sound mitigation which are estimated to reduce the sound levels by 10%

Newham Lane Impact Assessment – Daytime

Without
skateboarding

WHO Guidelines	dB	dB	dB
Average Ambient Skateboard Noise	44		
Adjustment (for noise mitigation -10%)		40	39-42
Maximum Ambient High Impact Trick noise	51		
Adjustment		46	58-61
SNL (Shooting Noise Level)			
Equivalent SNL	59		
Adjustment		54	58-61
BS4142			
Average Ambient Skateboard Noise	49		
Adjustment		45	39-42
Maximum Ambient High Impact Trick Noise	56		
Adjustment		51	58-61

Newham Lane Impact Assessment – Evening

Without
skateboarding

BS4142

dB

dB

dB

Average Ambient Skateboard Noise

49

Adjustment

45

39-42

Maximum Ambient High Impact Trick Noise

56

Adjustment

51

58-61

Mill Road Impact Assessment – Daytime

WHO Guidelines	dB	dB	Without skateboarding dB
Average Ambient Skateboard Noise	46		
Adjustment (for noise mitigation -10%)		42	45-52
Maximum Ambient High Impact Trick noise	53		
Adjustment		48	62-69
SNL (Shooting Noise Level)			
Equivalent SNL	61		
Adjustment		56	62-69
BS4142			
Average Ambient Skateboard Noise	51		
Adjustment		46	45-52
Maximum Ambient High Impact Trick Noise	58		
Adjustment		53	62-69

Mill Road Impact Assessment - Evening

BS4142	dB	dB	dB
Average Ambient Skateboard Noise	51		
Adjustment		46	45-52
Maximum Ambient High Impact Trick Noise	58		
Adjustment		53	62-69

Conclusion

The Parish Council is committed to ensuring that noise nuisance is within the guidelines specified in the report but is mindful of the fact that there is already considerable noise emanating from the MPF during periods of recreational and sports use

If the go ahead for the facility is approved at this meeting, acoustic advice will be sought regarding sound mitigation measures proposed, to ensure that the facility as designed and installed, will meet the guidelines criteria. Also a full acoustic impact assessment will be implemented on the final skateboarding facility design

A further consultation will take place to present the final design and acoustic assessments and to get public comment for the design

MOST FREQUENTLY MADE STATEMENTS AND ASKED QUESTIONS

The MPF was 'gifted' to the town as a playing field why are you considering putting the skateboard facility there?

- **'Gifted' to the town for sport and recreational purposes**
- **Skateboarding is a recreational activity and a sport**

The top of the playing field was purchased by the Parish Council for informal public space

- **Not true. It was purchased for recreation and sport activity**
- **The top of the MPF is an integral part of the 'gifted' space'**

The skateboard facility will threaten other activities like family games, rounders, kite flying etc.

- **It is a sloping site and is the least used part of the MPF**
- **The current tarmac surface is set back from the boundary**
- **The facility will use this space if possible**
- **Any further encroachment will be kept to the minimum**

The money for the facility could be better spent elsewhere

- **Funding from outside sources. Other projects not affected**
- **NO capital funding will come from precept or rates - £15K set aside**

The on-going costs will be prohibitive and a drain on resources

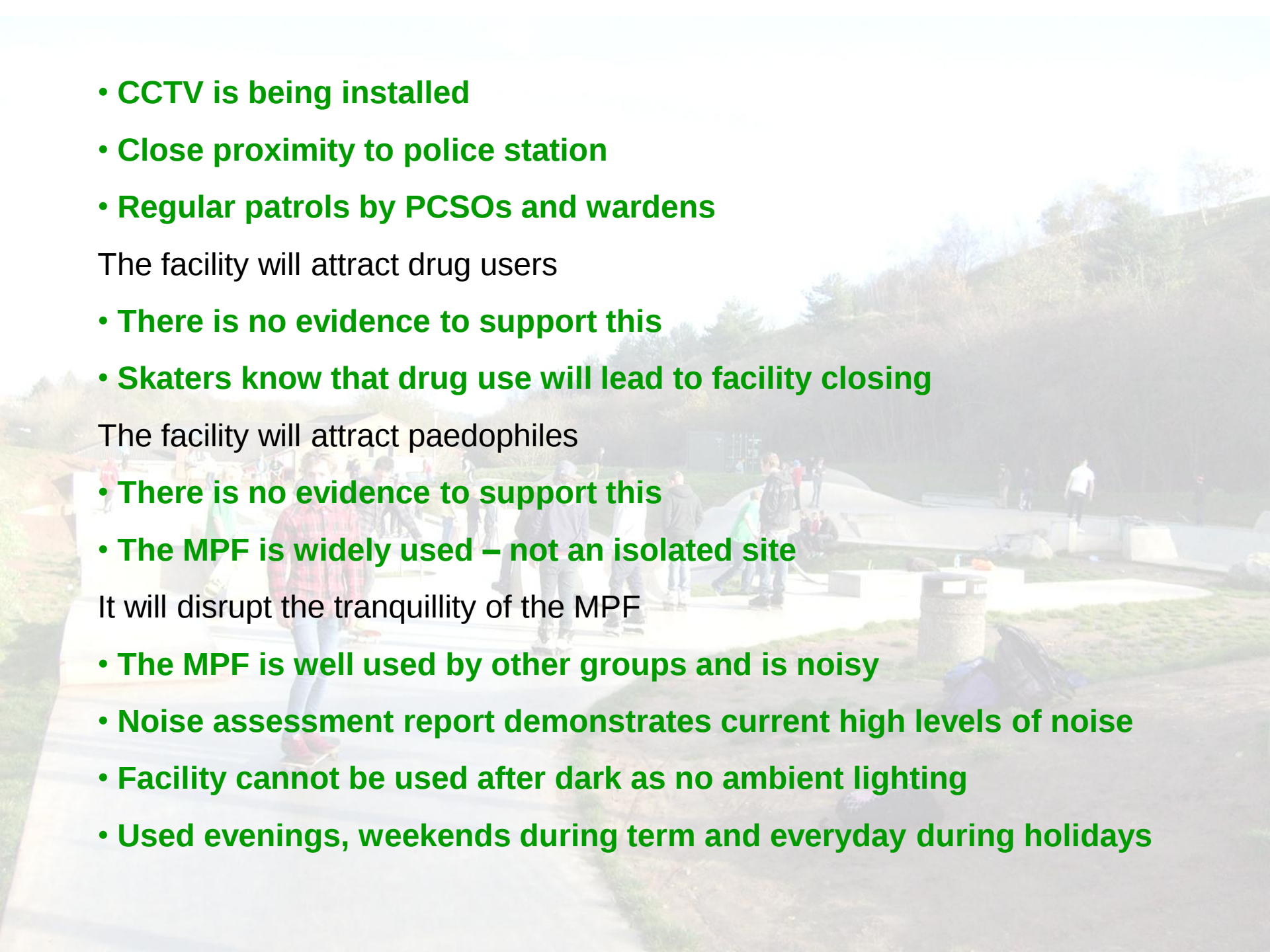
- **The cleaning of the facility will come in the street cleaning budget**
- **Compared to Leisure Centre site annual costs very low**
- **There will be small remedial damage costs**

The site will be defaced with graffiti and litter

- **Adequate litter bins will be provided**
- **Experience has shown that sites attract minimal offensive graffiti**
- **Visits to other sites show that litter a minor issue if bins provided**

There will be an increase in anti-social behaviour

- **There is no evidence to show that anti-social behaviour increases**
- **Town centre anti-social behaviour has shown to decrease**
- **Facilities are self-regulated to avoid closure**
- **Similar facilities visited exhibited no anti-social behaviour**

- 
- CCTV is being installed
 - Close proximity to police station
 - Regular patrols by PCSOs and wardens

The facility will attract drug users

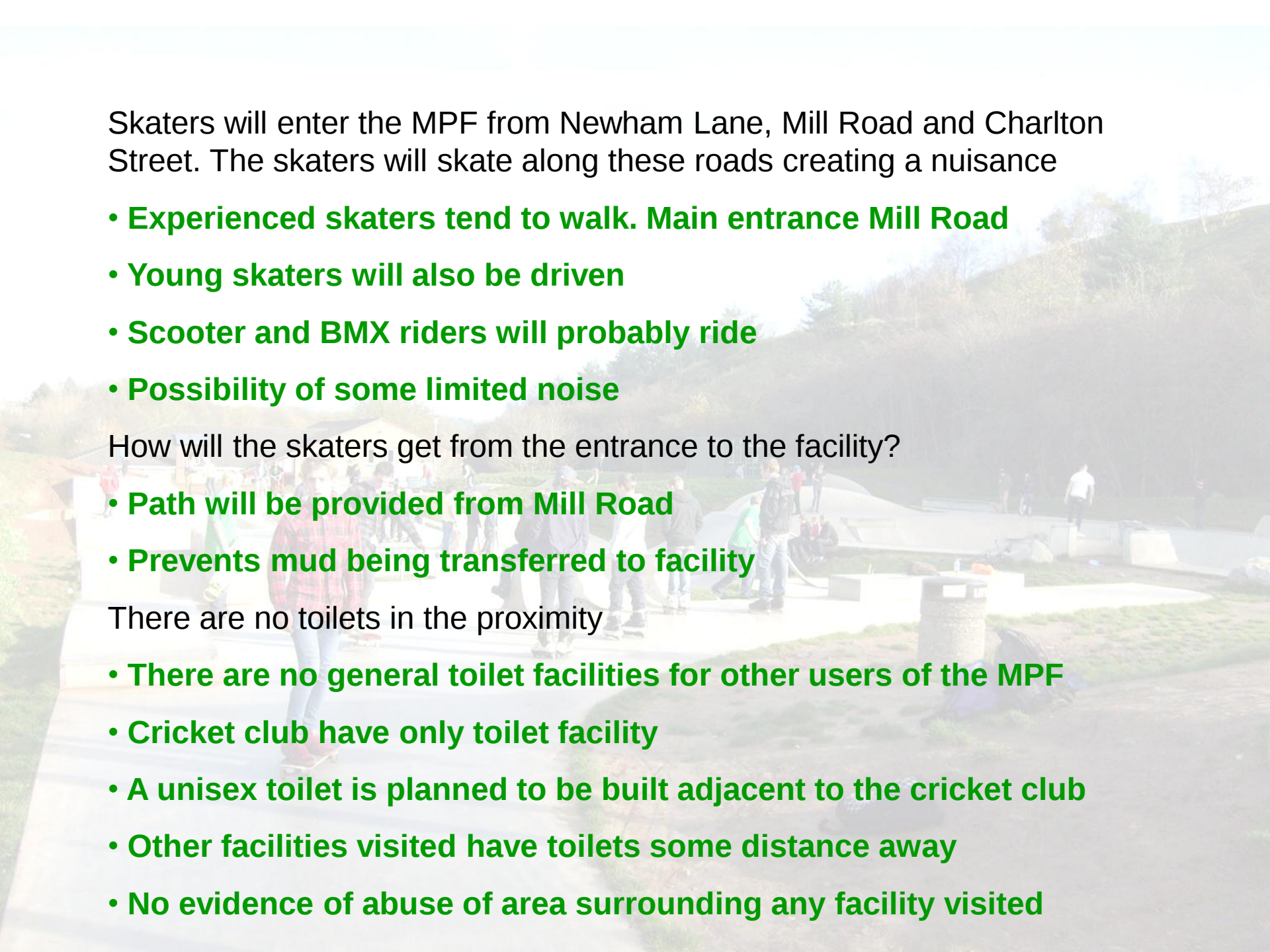
- There is no evidence to support this
- Skaters know that drug use will lead to facility closing

The facility will attract paedophiles

- There is no evidence to support this
- The MPF is widely used – not an isolated site

It will disrupt the tranquillity of the MPF

- The MPF is well used by other groups and is noisy
- Noise assessment report demonstrates current high levels of noise
- Facility cannot be used after dark as no ambient lighting
- Used evenings, weekends during term and everyday during holidays



Skaters will enter the MPF from Newham Lane, Mill Road and Charlton Street. The skaters will skate along these roads creating a nuisance

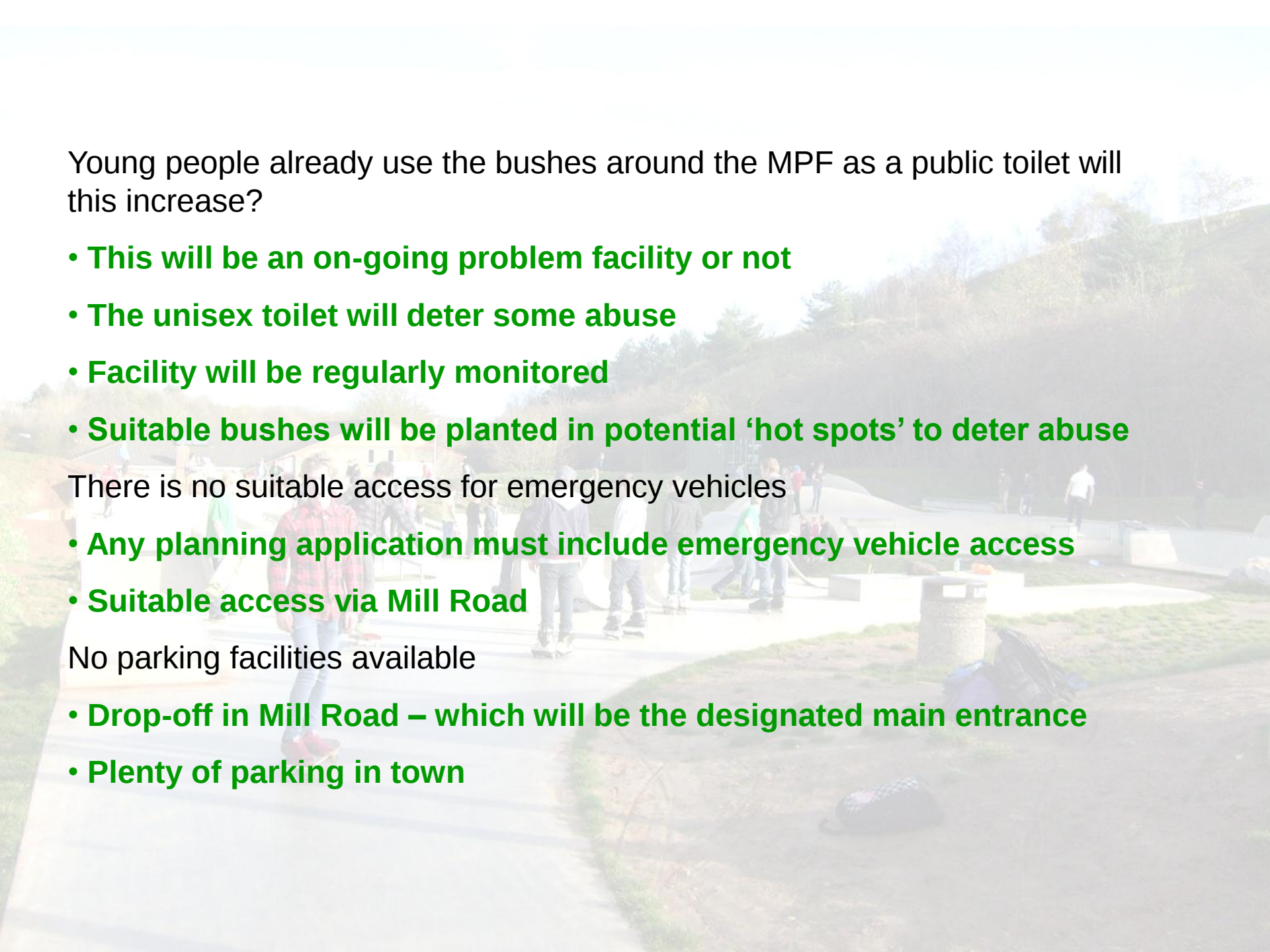
- **Experienced skaters tend to walk. Main entrance Mill Road**
- **Young skaters will also be driven**
- **Scooter and BMX riders will probably ride**
- **Possibility of some limited noise**

How will the skaters get from the entrance to the facility?

- **Path will be provided from Mill Road**
- **Prevents mud being transferred to facility**

There are no toilets in the proximity

- **There are no general toilet facilities for other users of the MPF**
- **Cricket club have only toilet facility**
- **A unisex toilet is planned to be built adjacent to the cricket club**
- **Other facilities visited have toilets some distance away**
- **No evidence of abuse of area surrounding any facility visited**

The background image shows a skate park with several people, including a person in a red plaid shirt in the foreground. In the background, there is a grassy hill and some trees. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be read clearly.

Young people already use the bushes around the MPF as a public toilet will this increase?

- **This will be an on-going problem facility or not**
- **The unisex toilet will deter some abuse**
- **Facility will be regularly monitored**
- **Suitable bushes will be planted in potential 'hot spots' to deter abuse**

There is no suitable access for emergency vehicles

- **Any planning application must include emergency vehicle access**
- **Suitable access via Mill Road**

No parking facilities available

- **Drop-off in Mill Road – which will be the designated main entrance**
- **Plenty of parking in town**

Worried about late night noise from the skateboard facility

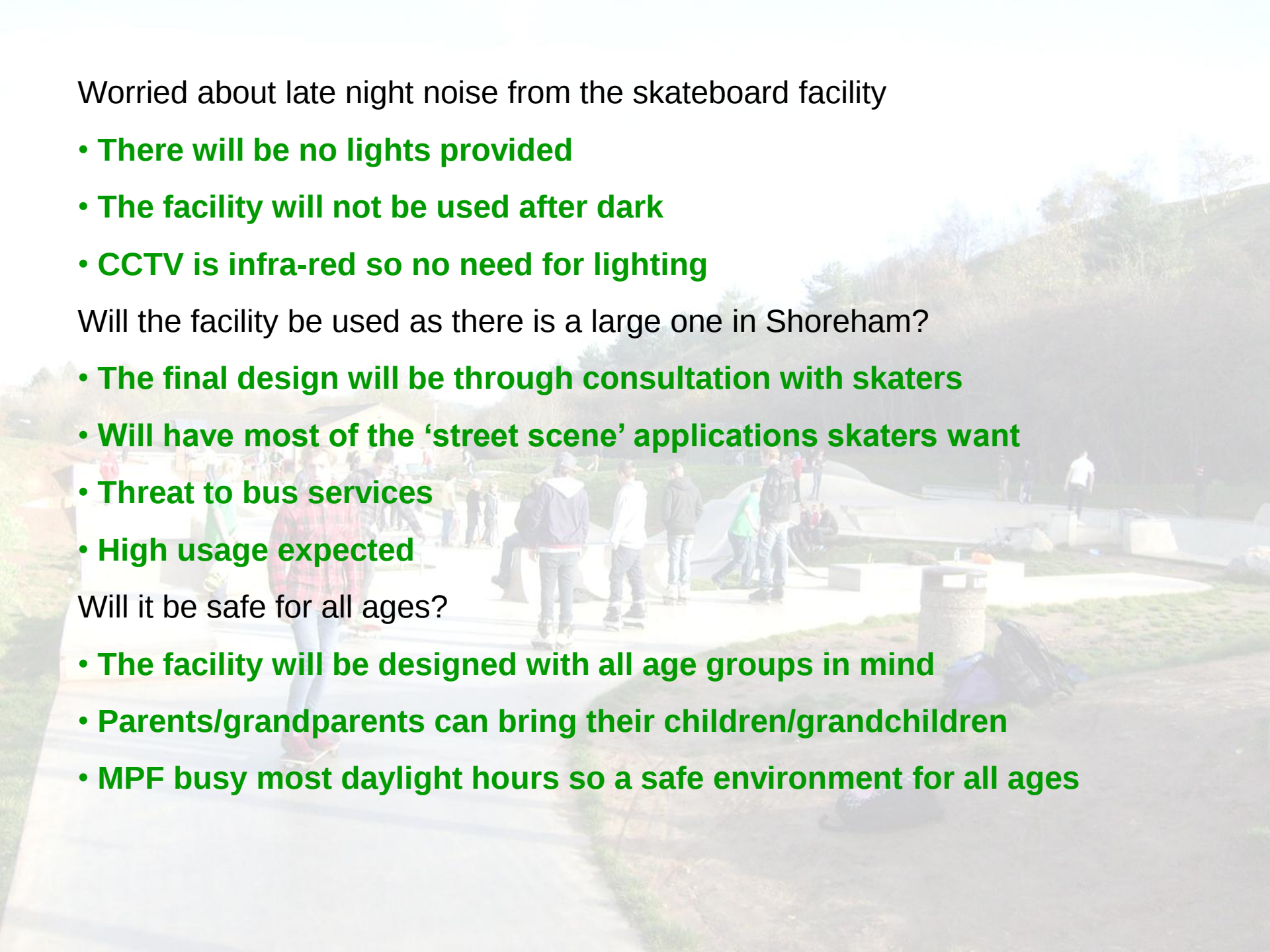
- **There will be no lights provided**
- **The facility will not be used after dark**
- **CCTV is infra-red so no need for lighting**

Will the facility be used as there is a large one in Shoreham?

- **The final design will be through consultation with skaters**
- **Will have most of the 'street scene' applications skaters want**
- **Threat to bus services**
- **High usage expected**

Will it be safe for all ages?

- **The facility will be designed with all age groups in mind**
- **Parents/grandparents can bring their children/grandchildren**
- **MPF busy most daylight hours so a safe environment for all ages**

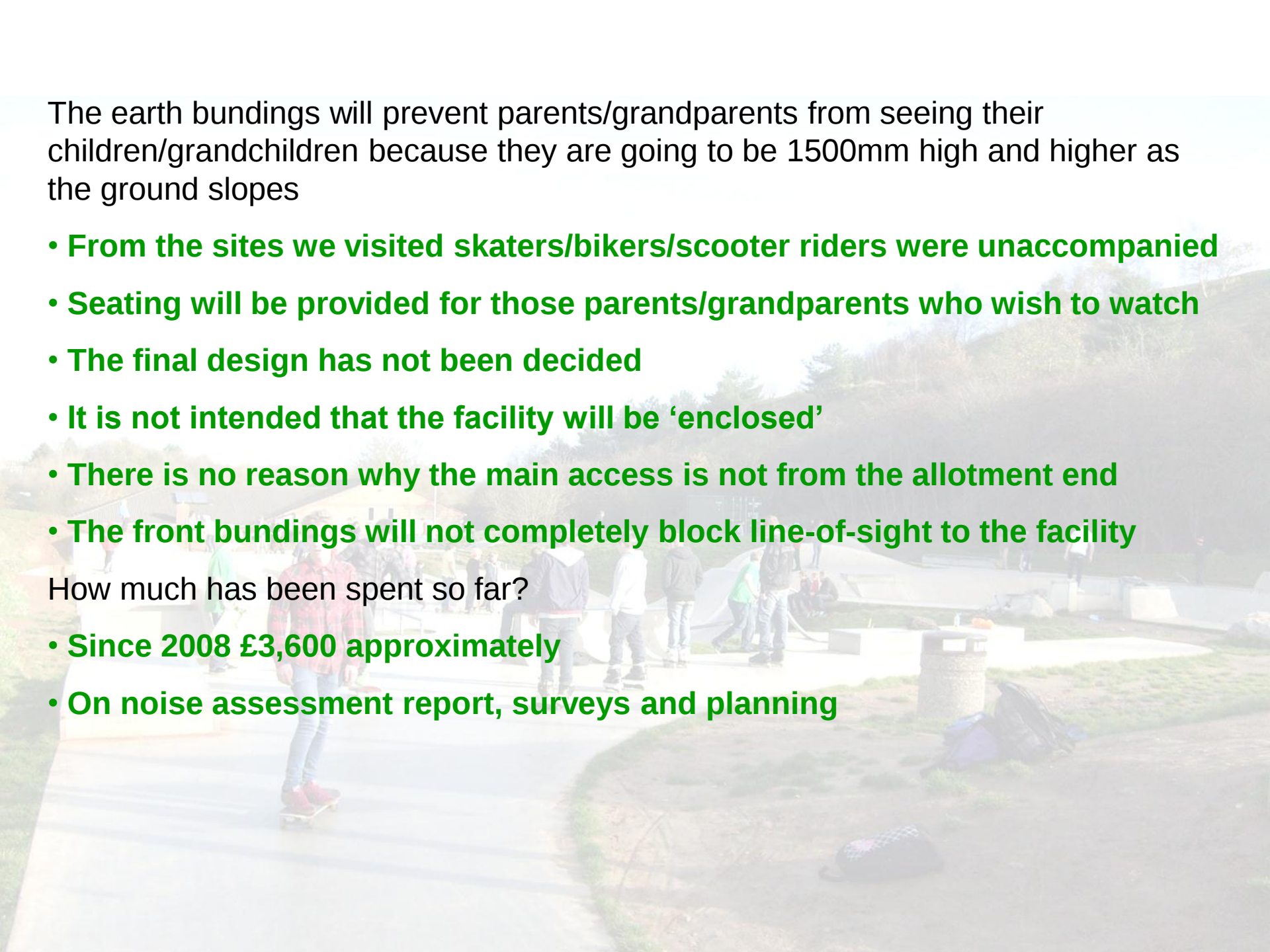


The earth bundings will prevent parents/grandparents from seeing their children/grandchildren because they are going to be 1500mm high and higher as the ground slopes

- From the sites we visited skaters/bikers/scooter riders were unaccompanied
- Seating will be provided for those parents/grandparents who wish to watch
- The final design has not been decided
- It is not intended that the facility will be 'enclosed'
- There is no reason why the main access is not from the allotment end
- The front bundings will not completely block line-of-sight to the facility

How much has been spent so far?

- Since 2008 £3,600 approximately
- On noise assessment report, surveys and planning



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A great deal of emphasis has been put on existing anti-social behaviour in the MPF and the concern over an increase if the facility is installed

- We have nearly 1,000 young people in Steyning
- We are very fortunate that Steyning has a **very** low level of anti-social behaviour
- Why? Largely down to good and responsible parenting
- Steyning is the second safest town in the district
- It is wrong to 'demonise' all young people in Steyning particularly skateboarders
- If we expect young people to misbehave how does that make them feel?
- We should empower young people with a sense of responsibility
- Skateboarders are not 'yobs' waiting to cause trouble
- Skateboarders enjoy their sport, self-regulate their parks and are disciplined
- The MPF is a sports and recreational field and young people will/do make a noise
- Teenagers have met in the MPF for many years to do what teenagers do!
- Yes, there is litter. No, it is not always cleared as quickly as some residents wish
- Greater problem from irresponsible adult dog owners and adult vandalism
- Despite this the MPF is still a clean, safe environment for families

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Whether the show of hands is for or, against, the MPF as being a suitable site for the skateboard facility the Parish Council will take the decision back to the committee and then full council for debate on the decision

Any decision made by the Public Meeting is not binding on the council but the council will take all comments into consideration before making a final decision



THANK YOU COMING AND FOR LISTENING



STEYNING PARISH COUNCIL



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD SKATEBOARD FACILITY

28TH January 2012

FACTS ABOUT CALLING A TOWN POLL

A town poll on any subject is only advisory and the Parish Council is under no statutory obligation to abide by the result

Should a poll be called on a vote of no confidence in the Parish Council and, be won by the majority of voters, the parish Council is still deemed to be elected by the people and will remain in office until the next election

EACH POLL WILL COST THE TOWN APPROXIMATELY £3,000

The alternative to a town poll is a town postal survey so that everyone has an opportunity to respond without having to make time to attend a poll on a given day and time

A survey is also advisory and the Parish Council is under no statutory obligation to abide by the result

A SURVEY WILL COST THE TOWN APPROXIMATELY £1,200 DEPENDING ON RETURNS

THE POLL OR SURVEY COSTS ARE PAID BY THE TOWN RESIDENTS FROM THE PRECEPT

THE QUESTION FOR THE TOWN POLL MUST BE DECIDED BY A MAJORITY VOTE AT A PUBLIC MEETING

A question for a town survey could be decided in the same way