

On behalf of all the Steyning Parish Councillors and the youth of Steyning, I have to thank the electorate for the amazing turnout for the poll on Wednesday 27th November. We even had friends from Bramber and Upper Beeding who wanted to vote but did not realise they could not. The result was as follows

Total electorate who voted	1520 or 32.08%
For the motion to build a skatepark in MPF	816 or 53.7%
Against the motion	703 or 46.3%

The council was appalled by the misleading comments in the poll flyers from the FoMPF such as the tarmacking of the path at Mill Road, which has never been the intention of the Council. It would appear that by demonising the youth of Steyning the FoMPF are against any skatepark anywhere in Steyning. We have a great group of youngsters in Steyning and they deserve the best we can give them. There were comments made in the FoMPF leaflet about the Council burning money but I wish to point out that the Council chose the MPF because there would be minimal cost to the council tax payers as we own the land, and maintenance would mostly be absorbed within the existing contracts.

We have now had a democratic vote on the subject and I sincerely hope that everyone will get behind the plan and support the Steyning Parish Council (SPC). The SPC has been challenged with two Judicial Reviews (JR's), two appeals when the JR's were overruled, a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office which was upheld in favour of SPC but has now been challenged on a further appeal which has yet to be heard.

Much has been made of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) issue and the lack of consultation. Contrary to continuous statements being made, we have consulted with SDNP and have been advised that SDNP are happy not to call the planning application in and to delegate the decision to HDC. Both HDC and SPC understand their responsibilities and we will continue to consult with SDNP as necessary and continue this dialogue. As HDC Planning have not yet finally deliberated on the skatepark in MPF, they cannot be charged with any failure to comply with their statutory obligations, which is exactly what the appeal Judge said in the Royal Court of Justice in London two weeks ago.

We still have a lot of work to do, the first of which is to get planning permission. If other issues arise we will deal with them on an ongoing basis.

The Council have acted responsibly throughout this process and after planning permission has been granted we will continue to consult with the Town as we agreed to do to achieve a facility that the Town will be proud of.

Phil Howell
for and on behalf of Steyning Parish Council