



# Ingatestone Skate Park



## Ingatestone Parish Council challenged the children of Ingatestone to raise £300 towards a Skate Park.

The children organised a sponsored 'Skate' from Mountnessing to Ingatestone and Raised £1000..!!!

**"Thank You Billericay Round Table"** for sponsoring the boys £300, and helping the children get their Skate Park.

**News** BGTO [www.thisistotalessex.co.uk](http://www.thisistotalessex.co.uk)

## Skateboarders flock to new £40,000 facility in local park

# New skate park ramps up fun for youngsters

**Piers Meyler**  
editorial@gazettenews.co.uk

A NEW skate park has become one of the most popular attractions for dozens of youngsters.

The £40,000 skate facility at the Fairfield play area, off Stock Lane in Ingatestone, means young skaters do not have to travel to parks in Brentwood and Chelmsford, as they previously had to.

The project was the brainchild of Ingatestone Parish Council.

Despite opposition from a small but vocal section of the village, the scheme has received massive support from

not just dozens of youngsters who want somewhere to practice, but parents too.

Youth organiser Phill Poston said skateboarders were using the facility, which consists of a series of jumps and ramps, the day before it was finished two weeks ago.

The project was financed through £10,000 from the parish council, £20,000 from Essex County Council, and £10,000 from Essex Environmental Trust.

The skaters even raised £1,000 themselves through a sponsored skate on June 28.

Mr Poston said between 50 and 70 children took part in the event but many more are likely to use the facility now it has been built.

He said: "It's been absolutely fantastic. Over the weekends there are around 50 kids on it."

"Mums and dads are having to enforce homework before they go onto it."

"There are no kids aimlessly wandering the streets. They are all at the skate park."

"If you see how many are there you'll wonder where they all went before."

Henry Jennings, 13, from Ingatestone said: "I know people who've been skating for six years and they love it. It's really good for beginners too because there are so many things you can do."



**NEW TRICKS:** Ian Jennings of Maverick Industries

**ON BOARD:** Youth organiser Phil Poston surrounded by fans of the new park in Ingatestone  
Photos by Gareth Morgan

This was in the Brentwood Gazette on 7<sup>th</sup> October, and was a fantastic Article finishing off the story of our struggle to get the Skate Park built. About 50 children, 20 Councillors and 25 Parents all showed up for the Opening Ceremony. Afterwards the Maverick Pro Skaters held competitions with the Skaters for almost 3 hours... giving away loads of prizes.....

Go-ahead for facility welcomed by youngsters, parents and police

# Council all on board for new skate park

Piers Meyler

piers.meyler@gazette-news.co.uk

JUBILANT youngsters are celebrating the news a purpose-built skate park will soon be constructed on their doorsteps.

The decision to build a £40,000 skate facility at the Fairfield play area, off Stock Lane in Ingatestone, was made unanimously by Ingatestone Parish Council last Thursday.

Despite opposition from a small but vocal section of the village, the scheme has received massive support from not just dozens of youngsters who want somewhere to practise, but parents too.

Ingatestone youngster Callum Gale has been skating for four years.

## Somewhere to go

The 14-year-old said: "The best thing is we will have somewhere to go rather than places like the community centre."

Joanne Russell, whose 13 and 14-year-old boys both skate, has been a fervent supporter of the parish council scheme ever since it was raised two years ago.

She said: "They need somewhere to go so they are not being a nuisance in the street, and where it is going is an ideal place for it."

"It is not going to interfere with anyone."

The project has been financed through £10,000 from the parish council, £20,000 from Essex County Council and £10,000 from Essex Environmental Trust.

The skaters have raised £1,000 themselves through a sponsored skate held on June 28.



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL: Young skaters and Phil Poston, centre, jump on their boards to celebrate the news

G3IN2437 gm 03

Youth organiser Phil Poston said between 50 and 70 children took part in the event but many more are likely to use the facility once it has been built.

The design and construction of the park is being carried out by Maverick Industries, which specialises in concrete skate parks. Experts say such skate parks

are considerably quieter than metal ones. Maverick's design consultant, Mark Clogg, said: "I genuinely believe it will not cause a sound

nuisance. The site is close to perfect. "And the police love them. Instead of kids roaming around they know where they are."

This Picture was taken on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and celebrated us getting a 100% "YES" vote from the Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council for the go ahead to build the Skate Park.

Hard to believe that just 12 weeks later the park was finished.



GET US ON BOARD: Harry Russell does a trick in front of his friends at Ingatestone village hall.

F1B04287 gm 02

Row between young and old to be settled tomorrow

## Village split over skate park plan

Piers Meyler

piers.meyler@gazette-news.co.uk

THE disadvantages of introducing a skate park far outweigh the benefits, claim protesters who want to preserve the high quality of life in their village. But despite the strong opposition the young skaters are bringing those in power to press ahead with the proposals for a new park at the Fairfield play area, off Stock Lane, in Ingatestone.

The debate could be settled at the Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council meeting tomorrow, Thursday.

The skaters and the protesters have already come head to head over the matter, meeting at a

Q&A session last week. Plans for the £40,000 facility were laid down so all parties could comment.

Protestor Colin Ware, of Avenue Road, said at the meeting: "We have lived here since 1952 and need reassuring that the quality of life in this village is one that remains permanent."

"I do feel that the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages."

Another resident from Avenue Road said she believed parents should take more guardianship of their children.

The woman added: "At that age they should be at home with their families. There is stacks to do at home."

"They can read. Why should they come here?"

But the scheme has received huge support from many parents.

One youngster said on Tuesday: "We are only boys. We just want something to do in the village."

## Confidence

Clive Rownscroft, a company director, said he had complete confidence in skate parks after seeing the way skaters at St Georges in Brentwood, where he takes his nine-year-old son Tom, look after each other.

Tom added: "We know a lot of people in Brentwood."

"It's a really caring group and the older ones teach us how to do tricks."

Joanne Russell has two sons

aged 13 and 14 who are also keen for the project to get started. She said: "They need somewhere to go and a proper place to skate."

"People are screaming and are frightened of change."

"I am afraid some people have the mentality that children should be seen and not heard."

The project is being financed through £10,000 from the parish council, £20,000 from Essex County Council and £10,000 from the Essex Environment Trust.

Design consultant, Mark Clogg, reassured residents: "I genuinely believe it will not cause a sound nuisance. The site is close to perfect," he said.

"And the police love them. Instead of kids roaming around, they know where they are."

This Photo was taken just before the Public Meeting to discuss the planning of our Skate Park.

Maverick Industries came along to do a presentation. All the Parish Council were in the Audience, as well as about 20 residents and almost 30 young Skaters.

Without going in to too much detail.. it was the children who left the meeting with their dignity intact.. a few of the residents believing that the louder and more rude you are.. the more 'right' you must be.

This and the Sponsored 'Skate' on June 28<sup>th</sup> was what really helped the members of the Parish Council to eventually vote "Yes".