

Petition:	Campaign for adequate lighting in Charlton Park, London SE7
Number of signatures:	344
The petition read as follows:	<p>Charlton park in London SE7 had a new skatepark added in late 2017 alongside the outdoor gym. A timely addition for the 2020 Olympic sport of skateboarding. However adequate lighting was not installed in this area, so when the clocks go back late in October, an almost £400k council facility will not be used during the week for almost 6 months of the year. Crazy, isn't it? There is floodlighting in place for the footballers near the space, however we, and the Friends of Charlton Park Group, want the space to be used more inclusively in the evenings, by all park users, be it do walkers, joggers, gym users, and skatepark users. Currently the limited lighting means that many park users do not feel comfortable using the space after dark.</p> <p>Unfortunately we don't currently have support from the council, so we need to show them that the public want to use this space in the late afternoons & evenings. If you are users of these facilities in Charlton Park, please sign this petition to get low-level directed lighting installed around this area, so the working public can enjoy these facilities while we are back on GMT from the 29th of October.</p>

Submitted to Council on:	12 December 2018
Presented by:	Councillor Linda Perks

Directorate:	DCE
Ward(s):	Charlton
Cabinet Member:	Culture, Leisure and the Third Sector

I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and the Third Sector met with Annie Drewry from the Friends of Charlton Park and managers from Parks, Estates and Open Spaces on 4th December 2018 regarding this matter.

- 1.2 The success of the skate park was discussed and that it is a well-used, popular facility. Annie Drewry explained the demand for lighting the skate park and outdoor gym areas in the park and the fact that these popular facilities are not used because of the lack of adequate lighting during the dark early evenings of the autumn, winter and spring months. It was also discussed that the number of female users of the park fell during the winter months during the evenings partially due to the lack of lighting and concerns for their personal safety.
- 1.3 The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and the Third Sector and officers acknowledged that the provision of floodlighting for the skate park and outdoor gym areas would allow these areas to be safely used during the dark early evenings of the autumn, winter and spring months.
- 1.4 It was explained to Annie Drewry that planning permission would be required for the installation of floodlighting as this was not sought as part of the original skate park development project. It was also explained that the Council has no funding for the costs of installing the lighting. It was acknowledged that public consultation would need to be undertaken if it is proposed to install floodlighting for the skate park and outdoor gym.
- 1.5 It was proposed in principle that the Friends of Charlton Park could seek external funding for the planning and installation costs for floodlighting and that PEOS officers would obtain an estimate for the costs of installing floodlights to allow the Friends to understand how much funding would be required.
- 1.6 PEOS officers have checked with DRES officers if lighting cost estimates were obtained as a provisional item during the original skate park development project and they have confirmed that this was not included but a lighting plan of the skate park area was prepared and that lighting ducting was installed during the installation of the skate park as a future proofing measure.
- 1.7 It was agreed that the Friends would collect data on usage of the skate park and outdoor gym to demonstrate usage levels with some support from the Park Rangers.
- 1.8 It was agreed in principle subject to public consultation, planning consent and that planning and installation costs being secured by the Friends Group that floodlights for the skate park and outdoor gym could be installed. However, it was recognised that this could take a couple of years to achieve due to uncertainty regarding funding being secured.