

ARFORD COMMON CONSULTATION RESULTS

The consultation period ran from 4 April 2011 – until 3 May 2011. The questionnaire was made available on the Parish Council's website and 90 hard copies were printed together with a covering letter and management plan summary and were hand delivered by Mr D Skinner primarily to the properties that share a boundary the Common. There were a total of 41 completed questionnaires returned. 10 were completed on-line and 31 were returned to the Parish Office. As well as answering set questions, respondents were given the opportunity to write their own comments which are summarised at the end of this report.

Question	Results	Comments
Ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 25 – 1 • Age 36-45 – 2 • Age 46-55 – 9 • Over 55 – 29 	93% of respondents were ages 46 and over.
Post Code GU35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arford Common - 9 • Beech Hill Road - 8 • Barley Mow Hill - 3 • Glayshers Hill Road - 3 • Kays Crescent - 12 • Not Stated - 2 • Other - 4 	
How often do you use the Common?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely – 6 • Maybe once or twice a month - 11 • Weekly - 9 • Daily – 12 • More than once a day - 3 	29% of respondents use the Common daily.
What do you use the Common for? (All that are applicable were selected).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running or jogging for exercise - 4 • Walking for exercise - 26 • As a short cut or route through an area - 14 • Walking the dogs – 13 • Cycling or mountain biking – 6 • Other -2 	63% of respondents use the Common for walking for exercise, followed by a short cut or route through (34%) and walking the dog (32%).

Question	Results	Comments
Do you agree that Arford Common should be actively managed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly Agree - 20 • Agree - 19 • Disagree - 2 • Strongly Disagree - 0 	95% of the respondents supported the active management of Arford Common.
Do you agree with the proposal to clear the invasive species like cherry laurel and holly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly Agree - 19 • Agree - 17 • Disagree - 4 • Strongly Disagree - 1 	88% of respondents supported the proposal to clear the invasive species on Arford Common.
Do you agree with the proposal to expand the existing clearings which will involve the felling of some tree to encourage more ground flora?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly Agree - 12 • Agree - 19 • Disagree - 6 • Strongly Disagree - 4 	76% of the respondents supported the proposal to expand the existing clearings.
Do you agree with the proposal to fell the large conifers on a gradual basis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly Agree - 14 • Agree - 15 • Disagree - 7 • Strongly Disagree - 5 	71% of the respondents supported the proposal to fell the large conifers on a gradual basis.
Do you think the Parish Council should consider additional benches at the site?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly Agree - 8 • Agree - 18 • Disagree - 13 • Strongly Disagree - 2 	63% of the respondents supported the consideration of additional benches at the site.
Do you think the Parish Council should consider an interpretation board which provides information about the Woodland to visitors?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly Agree - 6 • Agree - 24 • Disagree - 8 • Strongly Disagree - 3 	73% of the respondents support the consideration of an interpretation board at the site.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- The removal of the Pine trees will change the character of this area. This would not be acceptable, however they must be managed.
- Strongly agree to felling the leylandi type conifers but not the healthy Scots Pines unless they are dangerous. Removal of lower branches may be more appropriate and thinning out the number of trees would be acceptable.

- I would not like to see more of the large conifer trees removed, as they are an integral part of the character of Arford Common. A considerable number were felled some years ago, changing the common's character and contributing to the problem of invasive ground species, including silver birch. The more that are removed, the greater the problem and the character change.
- We have concerns about the wildlife on Arford Common due to the amount of clearance work undertaken. Areas look very bare now with little foliage.
- I am concerned about removing the large trees and opening the land up too much. I would like to see a balance. The volunteer warden and helpers should be officially recognised by the Parish Council in some way for all the hard work they do FREE!
- Need to stop motorcycles scrambling and 4x4 vehicles racing on tracks on the common.
- Generally it's a very peaceful quiet common, nice to visit when life gets a bit fraught! I think we should not make it too popular so that hordes descend on it at weekends!
- We would be concerned if they (the large Scots pines) were to be cleared substantially leaving ours exposed to westerly gales. We feel that the tall trees on the common currently protect ours which if they fell, could damage our property.