

RESULTS

SUMMARY - public consultation



Over 200 people attended the public consultation hosted by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust at Highgate Common over two days.

The aim of the consultation was to gauge the opinion of the public and to give you the chance to contribute ideas towards our management plan for the site. This publication summarises your answers to key questions posed by the Trust.

Many thanks to all who were involved!

BINS

We asked:

Would you like more litter and dog poo bins?

81% of you said YES.

We asked:

Where would you like these bins?

**45% of you said MAIN PATH
INTERSECTIONS...**

and 43% said ALL CAR PARKS.

Although the vast majority would like to see more bins, a lot of you were concerned that bins would attract more rubbish to the site. The Trust will explore options for providing some more bins, but we need your help to make sure they are used.



ACCESS

We asked:

Would you be happy for night time closure of car parks (except main car parks) to prevent anti-social behaviour?

87% of you said YES.

We asked:

How would you like us to maintain car parks?

**74% of you would like us to fill
pot holes in car parks with gravel
rather than spending money on tarmac**

The Trust is currently exploring options for night-time closure of some car parks, along with car park maintenance.

We have also taken note of the many comments regarding the confusing marking of trails and bridleways, and problems navigating the all access path.

WILDLIFE

We asked:

Would you be happy to stick to main paths in heathland areas to protect the fragile plants and animals?

86% of you said YES.

We asked:

Would you like more information and maps around the site?

86 % of you said YES.



WILDLIFE continued..

We asked:

Would you be happy for us to designate a dog free pool to protect wildlife?

71 % of you said YES.

We know that many of those who enjoy the Common like to let their dogs have access to water, particularly during the summer. The dog walkers we spoke to, however, agreed that it would be a reasonable compromise to have one of the three pools kept dog free to leave wildlife, like frogs, toads and dragonflies, relatively undisturbed.

YOUR VIEWS

There were also many people interested in volunteering for the Trust to help manage Highgate Common, and much interest in wildlife themed guided walks and ID courses on site.

Many thanks to everybody who participated in our questionnaire and offered their opinions about Highgate Common. We greatly value your local knowledge and experience and appreciate your input to help us manage the reserve in a community-friendly manner.

We are currently reviewing these findings and will try to incorporate as many of the points raised as possible into our management plan given our limited funds and resources. We hope to strike a balance that will suit all users of the Common and be beneficial for the wildlife that really makes this site special.

If you would like any further information please contact us on 01889 880 100.