

New Milton Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Questionnaire for users of Barton Common, Ballard Water Meadow and Ashington Park Woodland

(NB: please clearly underline or ring your yes or no answer below and feel free to write a comment)

1. Would you support the Town Council's plans to enhance their management of the above sites for nature conservation and the enjoyment of local people?

Yes

No

Comments...

2. Would you support the Town Council entering Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Scheme for the next 10 years to secure, support and guide management of the sites for wildlife and people?

Yes

No

Comments

3. Would you support in principle the reintroduction of grazing animals (small breed cattle – perhaps up to 10) to Ballard Water Meadow for up to 6 or 8 weeks end of summer/early autumn each year?

Yes

No

Comments

4. Would you support in principle the reintroduction of grazing animals (small breed cattle and New Forest ponies – perhaps up to 8 of each) to Barton Common?

Yes

No

Comments

Response from the public consultation on future land management of Barton Common, Ballard Water Meadow, Brockhills Woodland and Ashington Park Woodland.

Advertising

Signs were put up at the entrances to Barton Common, Ballard Water Meadow and Long Meadow.

Articles were put in the Barton Bugle, New Milton Mail and Focus. The Barton Bugle and New Milton Mail go into 7,800 homes and Focus goes into 3,800 homes.

A full display advertisement was put in the New Milton Advertiser/Lymington Times on 19th October 2012 as well as an advert in Forthcoming Events in the same paper on the same day. The paper has a wide circulation throughout the New Forest area.

The event took place on October 23rd from 4pm to 8pm at the New Milton Memorial Centre.

Organisers/staff attending

Cllr Geoff Blunden

Cllr Steve Clarke

Ros Bowles (New Milton Town Partnership)

Mark Larter (Natural England)

Julie Stubbs (New Forest Land Advice Service)

Angela Peters (Community Wildlife Plans Project, New Forest Land Advice Service)

Number of members of the public attending the public consultation: **53**

Questionnaires

Number of questionnaires filled in at the public consultation: **40**

The consultation was also taken to the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow AGM on October 24th where further questionnaires were circulated. Number of questionnaires filled in: **5**

Questionnaires filled in outside these two events by New Milton residents: **2**

Results :

1. Would you support the Town Council's plans to enhance their management of the sites for nature conservation and the enjoyment of local people? **Yes: 98% No: 0% No comment: 2%**
2. Would you support the Town Council entering Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Scheme for the next 10 years to secure, support and guide management of the sites for wildlife and people? **Yes: 100% No: 0%**
3. Would you support in principle the reintroduction of grazing animals (small breed cattle – perhaps up to 10) to Ballard Water Meadow for up to 6 to 8 weeks end of summer/early autumn each year? **Yes: 94% No: 4% No comment: 2%**
4. Would you support in principle the reintroduction of grazing animals (small breed cattle and New Forest Ponies – perhaps up to 8 of each) to Barton Common? **Yes: 96% No: 4%**

Particular concerns raised by respondents

- That all current public access be at least maintained
- That scrub that shields houses around Barton Common from public view is not removed
- That full access to horse riders is maintained on Barton Common
- That scrub and trees are managed on Barton Common
- That fencing be kept as discreet as possible
- That school children be involved in education on the sites
- That dog training may be required to ensure livestock are not injured
- That the sites are not overstocked with animals
- That injurious weeds are removed prior to animals going onto the sites

These were very useful comments and all of these issues can be included and incorporated in the management plans for the sites.

Therefore the total number of consultees filling in questionnaires was 47.

Names and contact details of attendees have been recorded by Ros Bowles. Comments written on the questionnaires are being held by Julie Stubbs for incorporation later when management plans are written.

Julie Stubbs and Ros Bowles, October 24th 2012