

Bateswood Local Nature Reserve - Proposed Consultation on Additional Recreational Facilities

Proposal

Following the resolution of the Cabinet on 7th September 2011 it is proposed that consultation is carried out to ascertain public opinion on requests from the community for additional bridle route provision and use of part of the main pool for fishing in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve, Halmer End.

Who we intend to consult

COMMUNITY

*It is proposed that the consultees include the following:
All residents of residential properties within a 600m catchment of the site. This figure is the agreed local standard for access to semi natural open spaces in the Green Space Strategy. This equates to approximately 1000 properties and a plan showing the catchment area is attached to this paper.*

Groups currently active in and around Bateswood Local Nature Reserve will also be consulted, and include the following:

*Podmore Volunteers
Halmerend Wildlife Trust
Local Fishing Clubs
Equestrian Forum
LAP's (Audley, Madeley, Silverdale & Keele, & Chesterton)
Local Horse Riding Establishments*

It is also proposed that on-site surveys are carried out with users of Bateswood LNR by Council officers.

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to the above, it is proposed that the following organisations are also consulted:

*Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Newcastle Countryside Project
Staffordshire County Council Ecologist
Staffordshire Police
Parish Councils (Audley, Madeley, Silverdale & Keele, Betley and Balterley)
Coal Industry Support and Welfare Organisation (landowner)
Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Officer
Environment Agency
RSPCA
Natural England*

How we intend to consult

It is intended that the "other stakeholders" identified above will be consulted by letter and asked to respond with any views which may impact on the proposal from their

particular field of expertise. It is proposed to provide a 12 week period for stakeholders to respond.

Similarly, it is intended that the groups and organisations identified in the “community” section above will be consulted by letter and provided with a 12 week period to respond. Officer contact details will be provided in the letter so that additional advice and information can be provided to groups during the consultation period if required.

For residents, it is intended that a leaflet including maps and questionnaires will be posted to every home in the catchment area by local ward members. The same information will be made available on the Council’s website for residents and other interested people to add their comments on-line. A questionnaire will be designed for on site surveys with people using the site and for the website. The questionnaires would be completed by Park Attendants during targeted periods of use of the site by the community.

The consultation process would also be advertised in the November 2011 edition of the Reporter and in the local press.

Posters / Leaflets would also be posted on site and in local shops/businesses/community buildings informing people of the consultation and referring them to the website.

Timescales

Newcastle Borough Council’s Community Engagement and Involvement Strategy, recommends a 12 week consultation period.

The proposed consultation period would start following scrutiny and a formal decision by members on the format and content of the consultation plan.

Documents in consultation package

Letter/leaflet to residents

Letter to community groups/organisations

Site Maps

Plan of catchment area

Web page and questionnaire

Site survey questionnaire