

## Appendix D: Review of Rugby Borough Council's Consultation

### 1 Purpose

This document summarises the steps Rugby Borough Council (RBC) undertook to consult on the proposal to create a new woodland in the Rainsbrook Valley and summarises the feedback received.

### 2 Consultation

RBC has sought to engage with its communities throughout the development of this project and has undertaken the following activities:

1) Wide spread publicity and promotion of the consultation activity to gauge public interest in the concept of having a living lasting legacy for the Diamond Jubilee. This started over the Jubilee weekend in early June. Coverage was given on Rugby FM and in the local printed media.

2) A staffed display in Caldecott Park on the Jubilee Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 (using material in Appendix C.2) where several hundred members of the community interacted with the staff and volunteers that accompanied the displays, with a large number of consultation responses being made over the day.

3) Bluetooth electronic information "pushed" out in the town centre advising visitors to the town centre for the jubilee celebrations of the proposals. The Jubilee parade in the Town on Jubilee Saturday was attended by circa 10,000 people. The data from these devices show that the message was received by around 1,100 enabled devices over that weekend. A copy of message sent to devices attached.

4) Static un-staffed displays (using the same material at point 2) in the Rugby Art Gallery, Museum and Library and Town Hall reception for a four week period after the Jubilee, with consultation forms and response box, from 6<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

5) On-line survey options to accompany website promotion (including Facebook and Twitter feeds) of the consultation using the same material as at point 2, this facility was live for approximately six weeks, from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

6) Accompanied displays at the six Rugby area locality forum meetings during June, with consultation forms and response boxes. In addition notification of this consultation was sent by colleagues in Warwickshire County Councils Locality team to all Rugby Parish Councils and others that subscribe to their circulation lists.

7) Direct communication with all applicants for street parties (circa 100 groups) to celebrate the Jubilee with the same information as at point 2.

8) Direct communication to ALL Rugby Borough Councillors with an express request that they promote the consultation within their own contacts and community groups etc., using information as at point 2.

9) Presentation to the Rugby Disability Forum using the same material used at point 2.

### 3 Responses to the consultation

No “official” closing date was attached to the consultations the majority of responses had been received by around 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012, which is around the time that a report to Council was completed.

The results gathered from the paper and online consultation questionnaire are shown in table 1.

**Table 1: Survey responses to RBC consultation**

Question	No (count)	Yes (count)
Should the communities in and around the Borough of Rugby mark the Diamond Jubilee with the creation of a special Diamond Jubilee Wood in the Rainsbrook Valley as a lasting and living tribute to Queen Elizabeth II?	52	232
Should the communities in and around the Borough of Rugby try to increase the amount of woodland and trees?	38	244
Would you be willing to come along to a community tree planting day to help create additional woodlands?	80	191
Are you part of a school, group or organisation that would be willing to come along to a community tree planting day to help create additional woodlands?	143	125
Would you like to suggest any areas where it may be possible to plant trees or woods as part of the Jubilee celebrations?	109	109

### Forestry Commission Analysis of survey results

The responses show a support for the creation of the woodland and also the general idea of increasing woodland and tree cover across the Borough as a whole. There is also interest from the local community in getting involved with the tree planting at the site.

#### 3.1 Substantive comments

Towards the end of the consultation phase and around the time that the report to the Council was being written a large number of letters of objection (165 separate letters) were received, some of which were after the report had been prepared and some even after the meeting.

Of these 165 separate letters, all originated from 44 individuals with many from within the same household. The number of separate households was 24. It was therefore considered that 44 objections was a more accurate reflection of potential opposition to the proposals.

## Forestry Commission Analysis of objections

Forestry Commission have undertaken an assessment of the consultation and the letters of objection to ensure they have been considered in our EIA Opinion.

Many of the letters share the same template text and our assessment of the objections is set out in table 2 below. Data protection means FC are unable to make an assessment of how these letter relate to households though we have no reason to doubt RBC's own assessment that these letters originate from around 44 individuals as typically one letter was submitted for each ground for objection.

The key themes which were raised in theses letters are listed in the table below. These points have been assessed by the EIA screening process – see the Log of Issues (Appendix A) – and the table below.

**Table 2: FC assessment of letters of objection**

Grounds for objection	Letters of objection	FC response
Noise from machinery to manage the woodland	40	See reasoning at Point 57 in Appendix A.
Loss of grade II farm land from arable production	45	See reasoning at Point 20 in Appendix A.
Negative impact on landscape	38	See reasoning at Point 2 in Appendix A.
Negative impact on farmland bio-diversity	37	See reasoning at Points 42, 43 and 41 in Appendix A.
Negative impact on visitors due to reduced visibility and therefore safety.	6	See reasoning at Point 3 in Appendix A.
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	

FC also note the messages of general support for the proposal from the Barby and Onley and Kilsby parish councils.

## 4 Conclusions

In summary FC considers that RBC took steps to make the local community aware of the proposals and provided opportunity for local residents to comment. Overall the responses show support for the creation of a woodland and an increase in tree and woodland cover in general. The letters of objection identify impacts that the tree

planting will have but these have been considered during the EIA screening process. None of the impacts can be considered significant.

Forestry Commission England  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2012