

# Feedback from the Jeskyns Public Consultation 2012



At the beginning of the year the Government laid out new challenges for the Forestry Commission to improve its efficiency.

In response we recently held a public consultation to ask you how we should continue to manage Jeskyns with reduced central government funding.

All responses have now been collated and analysed. This leaflet summarises the consultation's key findings and outlines the next steps we will be taking, to help secure a sustainable future for Jeskyns.

**Almost 400 of you gave us your thoughts and ideas by completing a questionnaire.**

*Thank you!*

## *We asked:*

**To meet the required efficiencies would you prefer that we:**

- a)** reduced services and maintenance on site
- b)** implemented income generating schemes
- c)** a combination of the above

### **Your feedback told us:**

We should focus mainly on income generation with some limited service reduction to meet the required savings.



### **Therefore we will:**

- **Focus our energies on developing and implementing mainly income generating schemes.**
- **Identify opportunities to make savings on maintenance without significantly reducing the standards currently achieved.**

*We asked:*

**Which services/facilities do you value most at Jeskyns?**

**Your feedback told us:**

- The most valued services are provision of dog bins, vegetation management and maintenance of infrastructure.
- The least valued services are Ranger led activities, security and litter picking.



**Therefore we will:**

- **Strive to maintain the current number of dog bins across site.**
- **Strive to maintain the current level of vegetation and infrastructure management, but will investigate more cost effective methods.**
- **Devise a scheme to enable groups to use Jeskyns more self-sufficiently without the need for supervision by the Ranger.**
- **Devise a volunteer litter picking scheme to help reduce site litter picking costs.**
- **Investigate possible cost reduction methods such as sharing security services with neighbouring landowners or partners.**

*We asked:*

## Which income generating schemes would you prefer?

### Your feedback told us:

- Creation of a refreshment facility and farm buildings area development were the most popular schemes.
- Rental of space on site for events/ activities and car parking charges were the least preferred options.
- However, many respondents stated that car park charges would be acceptable if an affordable annual pass could be developed, if the charges were sensitive to visit length and frequency and if inconsiderate parking outside of the site could be prevented.
- Many respondents expressed concern at the potential for "over-commercialisation" of Jeskyns.



### Therefore we will:

- Investigate proposals for the creation of a café facility in the car park area.
- Investigate options to generate income from the farm yard area.
- Investigate how car parking charges could be implemented in a way that will ensure they are affordable for our visitors.
- Investigate how inconsiderate parking outside of the site could be discouraged.
- Endeavour to ensure that all development proposals complement the natural look and feel of Jeskyns and are sensitive to the ethos of the site.

# *What happens next..?*

Feasibility studies will need to be completed for each of the proposals to ensure that they are capable of generating the necessary income or savings and are the right fit for Jeskyns. This will involve investigative work, business planning and close consultation with key stakeholders, local businesses and statutory bodies.

Your responses to the consultation have given us a clear indication of which proposals we need to be progressing, but it is the results of the feasibility studies that will finally determine which proposals actually become reality.

We will do our best to keep you updated on progress by placing information on site and on our website. We will also email updates to everyone who originally submitted a questionnaire with an email contact address.

If you would like to be added to this list then please send your email address to:

**[jeskynsranger@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jeskynsranger@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)**

Thank you again for your continued interest in Jeskyns. With your support this special Community Woodland can look forward to a bright and sustainable future.

Further information: **[www.forestry.gov.uk/jeskyns](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/jeskyns)**

**Tel: 01474 825118**

**If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example in large print or in another language, please contact: The Diversity Team**

**Tel: 0131 314 6575 Email: [diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)**

©Crown Copyright

Printed on FSC approved recycled paper. Designed by [www.buffalodesign.co.uk](http://www.buffalodesign.co.uk)