

Two Waters Consultation May 2011

This consultation sought resident's views on improvements proposed for Lawn Lane Open Space, Durrants Hill Playing Field and Durrants Fishing Lake in Apsley, to be funded through a £300k government grant. The project plans were developed by Dacorum Borough Council in partnership with Boxmoor and District Angling Society, 1st Apsley Scouts, the Box Moor Trust and Dacorum Heritage Trust.

Around 70 people responded via an online survey, with approximately 30 people attending an event at Apsley Community Centre. Respondents were asked to give their views on the plans by answering the survey questions and were also invited to add further comments. The responses received are summarised below.

The majority of people who took part were local residents or had an interest in the local environment.

Lawn Lane Open Space

Most people who used Lawn Lane Open Space visited to relax, walk the dog and for peace and quiet. People thought that it was an important area for wildlife, but that safety was an issue and the entrances were poor and needed improving.

From the options offered, the priorities for Lawn Lane Open Space were -
tree management; better access to the canal; new seating and bins; surfaced footpaths through the park; clearly marked and accessible entrances from Lawn Lane and Durrants Hill Road.

Durrants Hill Playing Field

Most people who used Durrants Hill Playing Field were visiting the play area, accessing the canal or walking their dog. People felt that this was an area for children and young people but some were concerned that the changes would stop other people and dog walkers using the area in the future.

From options offered, the priorities for Durrants Hill Playing Field were –
new play equipment; new entrance from Durrants Hill Road; views of the river, lake and canal; new surfaced footpath to the playing field from Durrants Hill car park; new seating and bins.

As a result of the consultation, the proposed design for Durrants Hill Playing Field was changed to leave a large open area in the centre of the field to be used by the scouts, dog walkers and for informal play.

Durrants Fishing Lakes

People responding were interested in the lakes as an area where they could enjoy the natural environment and learn about the wildlife of the water habitats. It was thought of as an important area for wildlife, but the needs of the anglers also required considering as part of the plans.

From options offered, the priorities for Durrants Fishing Lakes were – creation of open meadow area; non-native tree removal & replacement with native species; opening of views across the lakes and to the canal.

What happens next

The improvement works will start over the winter period, following a tender procedure and award of the contract. Further information will be available via press releases, Dacorum Digest and contact with local residents nearer the time.

For a copy of the full survey results, please contact Claire Covington, Strategic Planning and Regeneration, Dacorum Borough Council on (01442) 228788 or email Claire.covington@dacorum.gov.uk