

Bedford River Valley Park

Information and Consultation

June – September 2006

Aims

1. To communicate scale and location
2. To collect some first desires and concerns from local people, to feed into master planning process

Process

Forest Team and volunteers visited a series of events in & around the BRVP area between June and September 2006, as listed below. All parish clerks within and close to the area, were contacted to make a Team member available to present the BRVP to council members and answer questions

May

Commentree 40 published

- Direct mailed to 1000+ addresses
- Distributed to 93 000 homes including brvp – Bedford to Sandy
- Logo, promo & exhibition material produced

June

Commentree 41 published

Distributed to 48 000 homes – brvp and beyond; loosely Bedford – Sandy

Web site

- www.marstonvale.org/brvp page published
- Including a blog at marstonvale.org/brvp/news

Events

- 17 June, Sandy Summer Festival
- 24 June, Shortstown Fun day
- 25 June, Priory Country Park
- 27 June, Willington Parish Council Meeting
- 1 July, Great Barford Monthly Market
- 15 & 16 July, Bedford River Festival
- 12 July, Eastcotts Parish Council Meeting
- 18 July, Great Barford Parish Council meeting
- 23 July 'Run Wild' event at the Forest Centre
- 27 July, Renhold Parish Council meeting
- 25 August, Family Fun day, Queens Park, Bedford
- 9 & 10 September, Woodworks! at the Forest Centre
- 16 September, Launch of Willington Parish Plan
- 18 September, Cople Parish Council meeting

September

Commentree 42

- Direct mailed to 1000+ addresses
- Distributed to 94 000 homes including brvp – Bedford to Sandy



Bedford River Valley Park

Key findings

1658 comments were received

Response was overwhelmingly positive

Positive Comments - highlights (Number received, percentage of total comments)

Top 3 areas of interest overall - **observing wildlife** (133, 9.8%), **cycling** (132, 9.8%) & **walking** (121, 8.9%) fig (iv)

Other points of interest:

Play areas, for adults and children (78, 5.8%) fig (viii)

"Somewhere to have a cup of tea" - **visitor centre/café** (65, 4.8%) fig (ix)

Facilities for **picnics and bar-b-queing** (41, 3.0%) fig (ix)

Beach/swimming -pool & lake (39, 2.9%)

Rowing lake support (39, 2.9%)

Boating activities non-specific (38, 2.8%)

Trees (38, 2.8%)

Horseriding/ponytrekking (37, 2.7%)

Water ski/sailing school (31, 2.3%)

Camping/caravanning sites - there are very few in Bedfordshire (30, 2.2%) fig (ix)

Within "sport" - **climbing and abseiling** were the most popular activities (24, 1.8%) fig (vii)

Concerns (Number received & percentage of total comments in brackets) see figs (iii) & (v)

Top 3 areas of concern - **security/safety** (28, 1.7%); **Access** (17, 1%); **East-West Rail** (17, 1%)

Other points of interest that are worthy of note:

Overdevelopment (15, 0.9%)

Funding/cost (14, 0.8%)

Noise & intrusion (14, 0.8%)

Motorsports (13, 0.8%)

Retention or loss of natural countryside (13, 0.8%)

Vandalism & Anti social behaviour (12, 0.7%)

Excessive commercialisation (10, 0.6%)

Impact on Route 51 (10, 0.6%)



Bedford River Valley Park

Results A selection of results are presented graphically. Full data are also shown below

Fig (i) Desires and concerns resulting from initial consultation (total comments received - 1658)

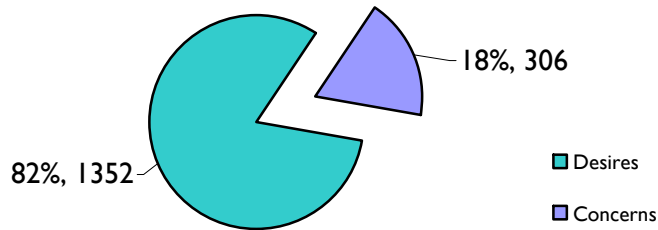


Fig (ii) Positive comments grouped according to area of interest or activity

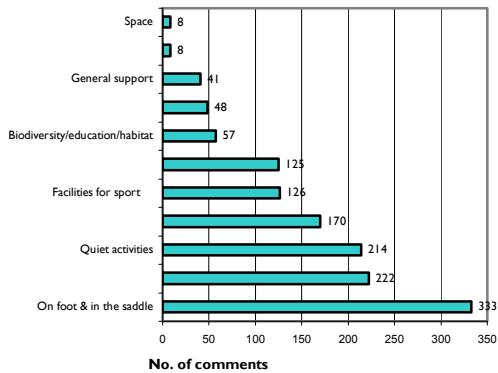


Fig (iii) Concerns grouped according to area of interest

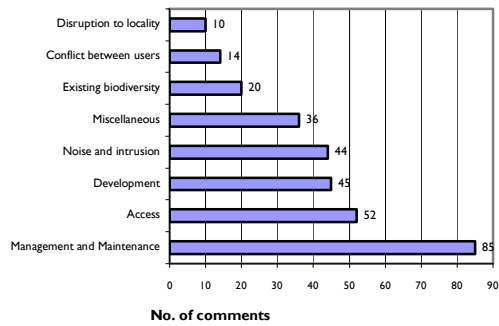


Fig (iv) Top 10 desires

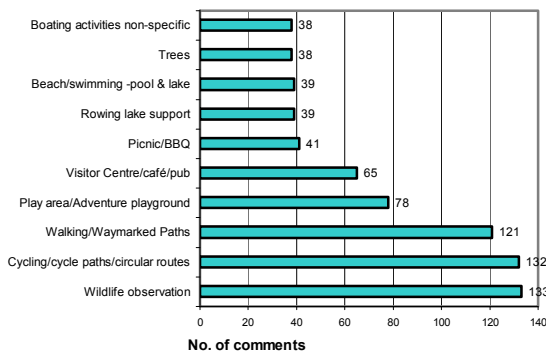
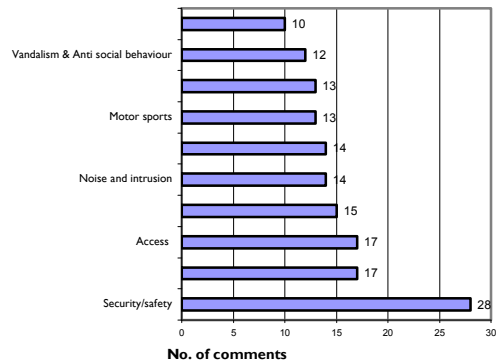


Fig (v) Top 10 concerns



Bedford River Valley Park

Figures (vi) - (ix) show 'Top 5 Desires' in four categories

Fig (vi) "Quiet activities"

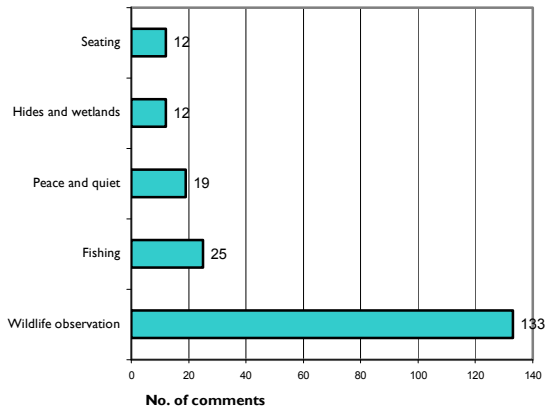


Fig (vii) "Facilities for sport"

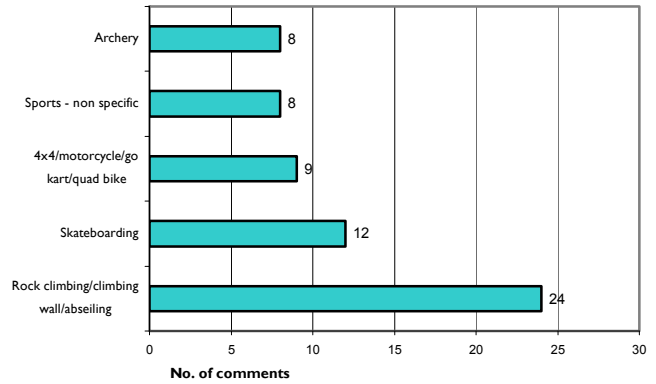


Fig (viii) "Child specific activities"

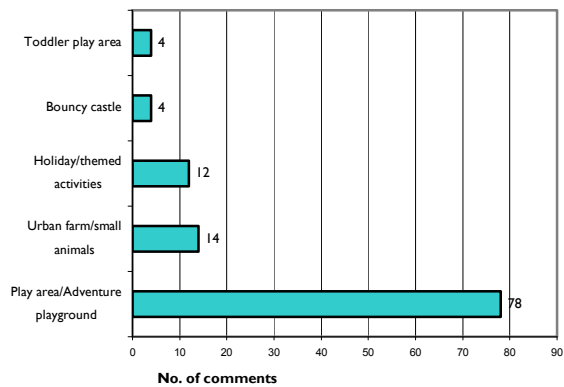


Fig (ix) "Visitor facilities - general"

