



What do people want?



Subject: Community consultation final report
– short version

For: Pebsham Countryside Park Project team

From: TK Associates

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1. Summary

The Pebsham Countryside Park Project consultation has delivered clear messages from the community.

With certain exceptions – mainly Crowhurst village and affected land owners – local people are greatly in support of the project. They want the park to go ahead to preserve the green gap between the towns. They want it for nature conservation, for wildlife watching and for leisure activities – especially walking, cycling and riding.

Young people want it for these reasons too, although they are also enthusiastic about sports and play facilities. Certain groups have their own ideas for specific uses for parts of the park – from energy schemes to sports clubs and heritage projects. People with business interests want the park for the commercial benefits it would bring. Those informed about regeneration believe it will complement the other local regeneration initiatives under way.

There is room enough in the park project area, of course, to cater for a great many of these needs and wishes.

The following pages present a summary of our findings, followed by appendices with details on the questionnaire data, on each of the workshops and exhibitions and copies of media coverage gained about the project.

2. How did we consult people?

The project team commissioned consultants TK Associates (www.tkassociates-uk.com) to undertake the consultation programme, supported by leisure industry experts Acorn and PLB (www.acorn-tourism.co.uk, www.plbltd.com). We developed a three-pronged approach to engage target groups in some depth of discussion, as well as reaching out to a broad cross section of the community. This involved:

1. A series of five half-day workshops with:
 - i. Community and resident representatives and councillors
 - ii. Land owners
 - iii. Interest groups - arts, sports, disability, ethnic, environmental
 - iv. Primary school pupils
 - v. Young people aged between 12 and 19
2. Three day-long exhibitions in Hastings, Bexhill and Crowhurst to hear views from a range of local people
3. Questionnaires - placed in local libraries, information points and doctors' surgeries for freepost return as well as online for electronic return – to collect views from the broadest spectrum of people.

This approach proved highly productive. We had 146 attendees at our workshops – equating to over 600 hours' input from community members. In addition, well over a thousand people attended the exhibitions, with 391 submitting questionnaires on the spot. An additional 561 questionnaires were returned by post or email, giving us just short of a thousand questionnaires in total. We also kept the broad community updated through, to-date, over 30 articles in the press, including on regional TV and radio.

Most importantly, the feedback has given us an extremely clear view of the wishes, aspirations and concerns of local people.

Clarification about approach

It is worth responding to three points raised by some members of the community at the February Feedback Meeting about the consultation approach:

1. *Point raised:* The numbers of local people expressing support for the project are very small as a proportion of the local population (around 120,000).

This is true, just as we could say that those expressing opposition are an even smaller proportion of the population. This, however, is not really the point. We did not set out to conduct a census of the views of the entire local population and there is no attempt to present the consultation as such. Such an exercise would have been greatly time consuming and a prohibitively expensive use of public money. Instead, we conducted a programme to consult a **sample** of local people.

2. *Point raised:* The consultation does not provide a completely unbiased snapshot of local views as it's likely to have been people most interested in the project – either for or against - who took part.

This is also true. The exercise was not meant to produce a scientific analysis of the 'typical' local view. We set out to engage people who are most interested in, or opposed to, the project. These are the most important views to hear: those in support are most likely to be the users of a future park, for whom the local authority team needs to cater; those against have important concerns that need to be addressed.

We believe it is of less value to analyse the views of people who are apathetic about a park, and it is difficult to see how we could compel such people to take part. We did make efforts, however, in our promotion of the consultation to encourage as many people as possible to take an interest.

3. *Point raised:* The consultation was biased towards a park from the start as it asked people not what they wanted from the *space* but from a proposed *park*.

Again, this is true. Every consultation must start with some assumptions and the brief for this assumed the creation of a park – something which has been defined in local plans for several years.

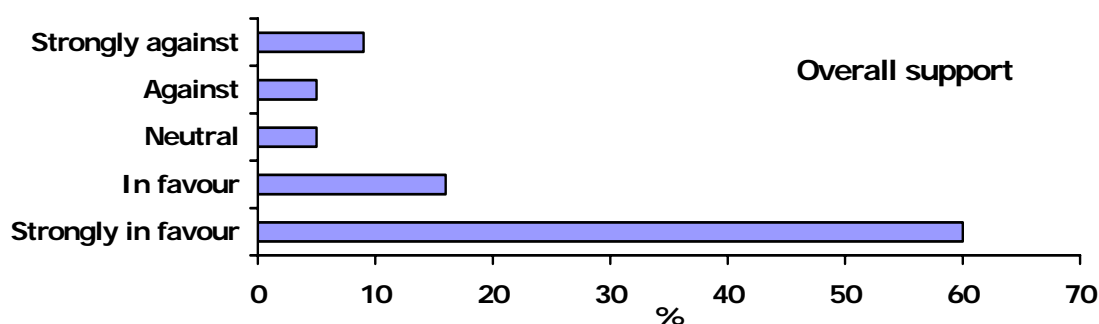
That said, it still asked people whether they supported the creation of a park. People also had other scope to express opposition to the park if they wished - in the workshops, at the exhibitions and in answer to the open questions on the questionnaires. Many (although a relatively small minority) did so: some said 'leave it alone – we like it as it is'; others said 'build houses on the land instead.'

3. What did people say?

While the detail of what people told us is in the appendices of the full version of this report and on the project web site (www.eastsussex.gov.uk/pebsham), here is a summary of the main findings.

A. Do people support the project?

The answer to this is emphatically yes, with certain well defined exceptions. Having amalgamated all 561 questionnaires returned by post and email, we can see that 76% support the project (combining 'strongly in favour' and 'in favour'), 14% are against (combining 'against' and 'strongly against') and 5% are neutral.



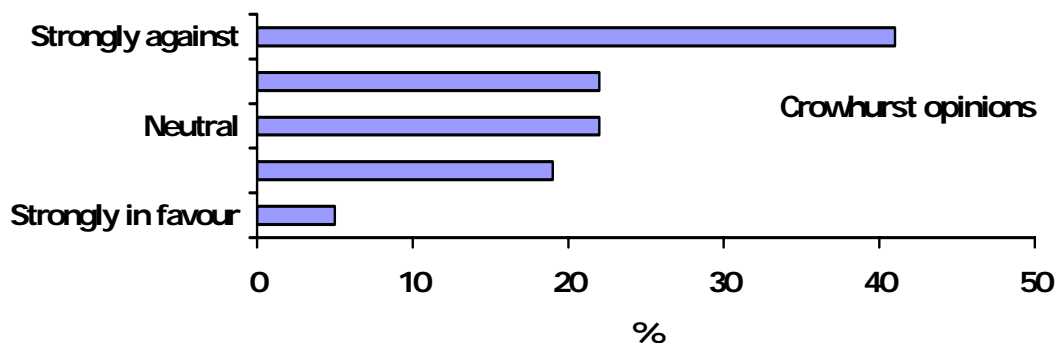
Support is strongest from Hastings and Bexhill and people from outside the local area, where the percentage in favour is 88%. This is in line with the Hastings and Bexhill exhibitions where we encountered 97% and unanimous support respectively. Forms completed at exhibitions are good indicators of informed opinions as the respondents have had more chance to gain a greater understanding of the project.

Many people at the exhibitions and workshops told us how refreshing it was to be consulted about the preservation of green space rather than more urban development. They place a high value on making this countryside area a more useful amenity for the community.

B. Who does not support it?

The two groups with mixed or negative views are the Crowhurst community and the private land owners within the project area.

Isolating the 160 feedback forms from **Crowhurst** - from the exhibition and by post and email - shows an inverted picture to the above. Only 5% are 'strongly in favour'; while 63% are 'against' or 'strongly against'.



From studying the comments on the forms, reading articles in Crowhurst News and talking to people at the Crowhurst exhibition, their concerns centre on:

- A perceived threat to the village's 'way of life': especially fears about the impact of traffic and parking if the park draws numerous visitors
- Suspicion – in some cases, anger - that Crowhurst is not represented on the project Steering Group
- Anxiety about the proposed park boundary extending as a 'finger' north of the proposed link road to 'swallow up' Crowhurst recreational ground and 'engulf' the village.

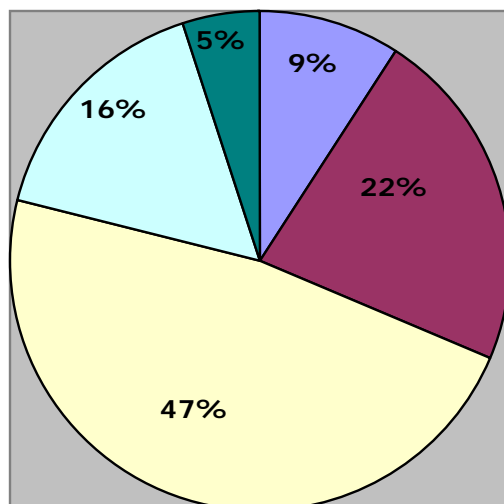
There were, on the other hand, some positive views from Crowhurst about the potential of the park to preserve the countryside and wildlife habitat against urban sprawl and to provide an economic boost to the village.

As for the **land owners**, during our workshop session several were vocal in their concerns and opposition, while others reserved their views. The opinions and questions aired can be summarised as:

- Confusion and anxiety about the status of the project. Are they being compelled to join a scheme whether they like it or not? Will their land be compulsorily purchased?
- Opposition to the idea of diversifying from traditional farming: "We chose to be farmers, not park keepers"
- Fears that their land will be damaged and farming disrupted by park visitors
- Disbelief that the local authorities would be flexible over planning consents within a new park project
- Calls for compensation from the local authorities.

C. What's seen as the main purpose?

Unlike the matter of overall support, which varies by area, all parts of the community and all age groups provided an extremely strong, consistent direction on the matter of primary purpose. **Nature conservation** came out top in every area, cited by almost half of all respondents (47%).



Main purpose - all groups

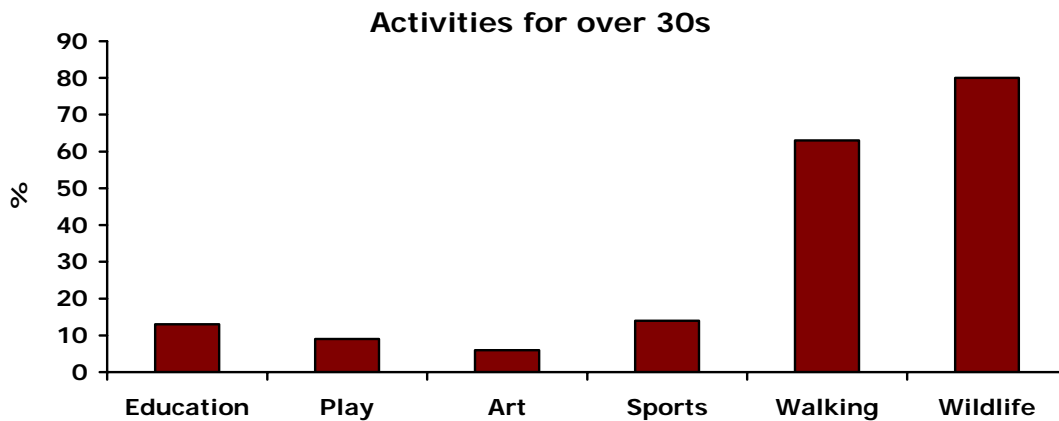
- Attracting visitors
- Access for all
- Nature conservation
- Relaxation
- Other

The next most popular response was 'access for all', cited by 22%. The fact that the commercial regeneration purpose – attracting visitors – received less prominence reflects the fact that consultation engaged more residential and leisure users than business people.

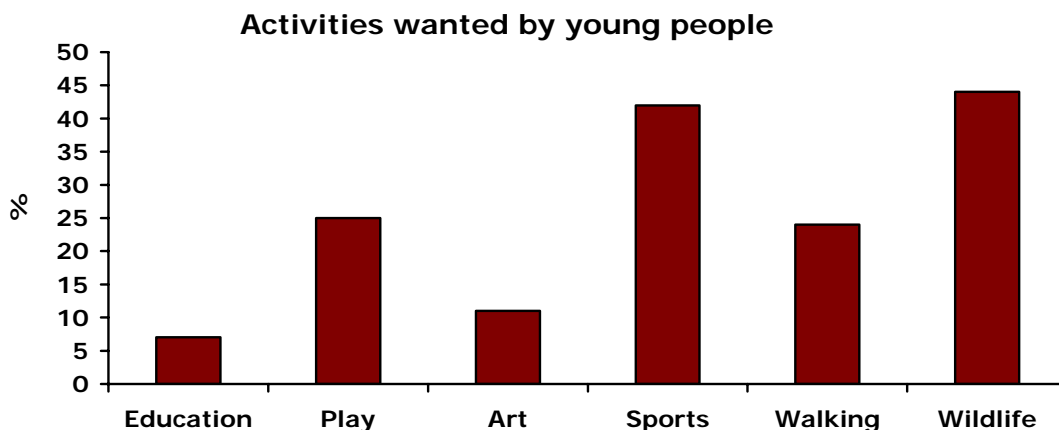
D. What activities do people want?

Again, we have a strong, consistent direction from all geographic segments of the community. Across all respondents, the two most popular activities that come through loud and clear from the questionnaires are wildlife watching (cited by 66%) and walking (49%).

Here, however, there are clear differences by age group. The preferences of people aged over 30 are as follows – with a massive 80% opting for wildlife watching, 63% for walking and only 14% for sports.



Looking at the under 30s, we see that they too are keenest on wildlife (44%). For them, however, sports follow closely behind at 42%. They, like their parents and grandparents, are interested in walking (24%), but they are keener on play facilities (25%). They have more interest than older groups in public art, but this does not score highly overall.



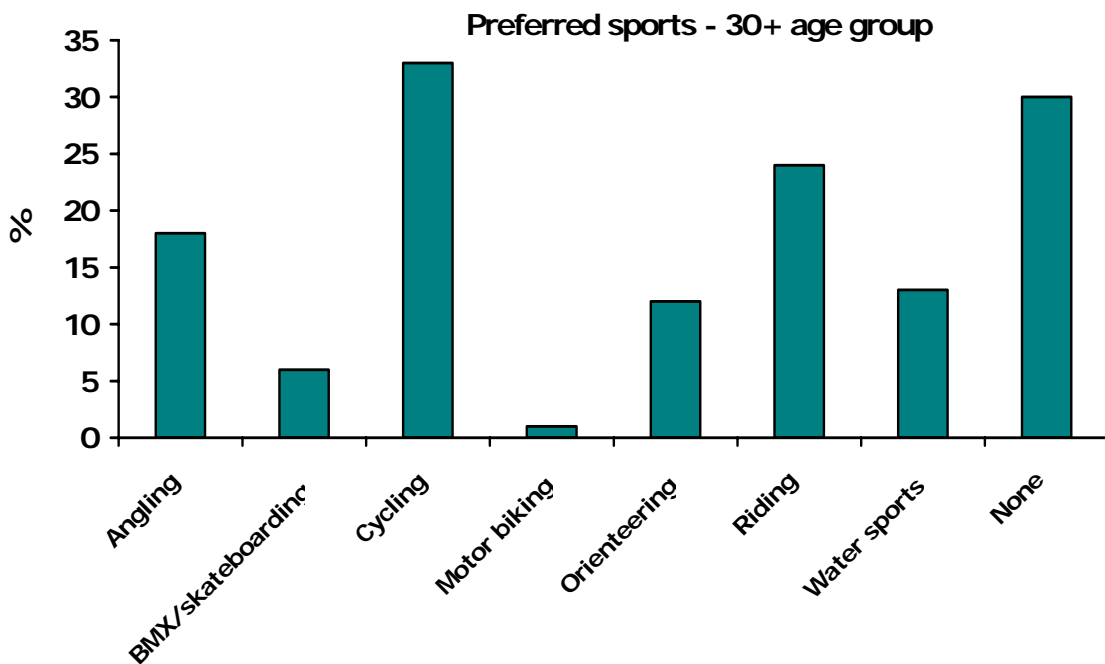
These survey results are reinforced by our two young persons' workshops, where the 68 consultees enthused about their ideas for sports and play as well as nature and wildlife – with no less than 156 ideas for the park from water parks, bouldering and dry skiing to bird hides and a pond life centre.

E. What are people's favourite sports?

Feedback on sports to be accommodated varies by age group.

Amongst the 30+ age group, cycling comes top, named by exactly a third - and by as many as 42% of people from Hastings.

Next from this group comes a call for no sports in the park at all, cited by 30%¹. This is followed by a request for horse riding (24%) and for angling (18%). Motor-biking was requested by only two people (0.5%).

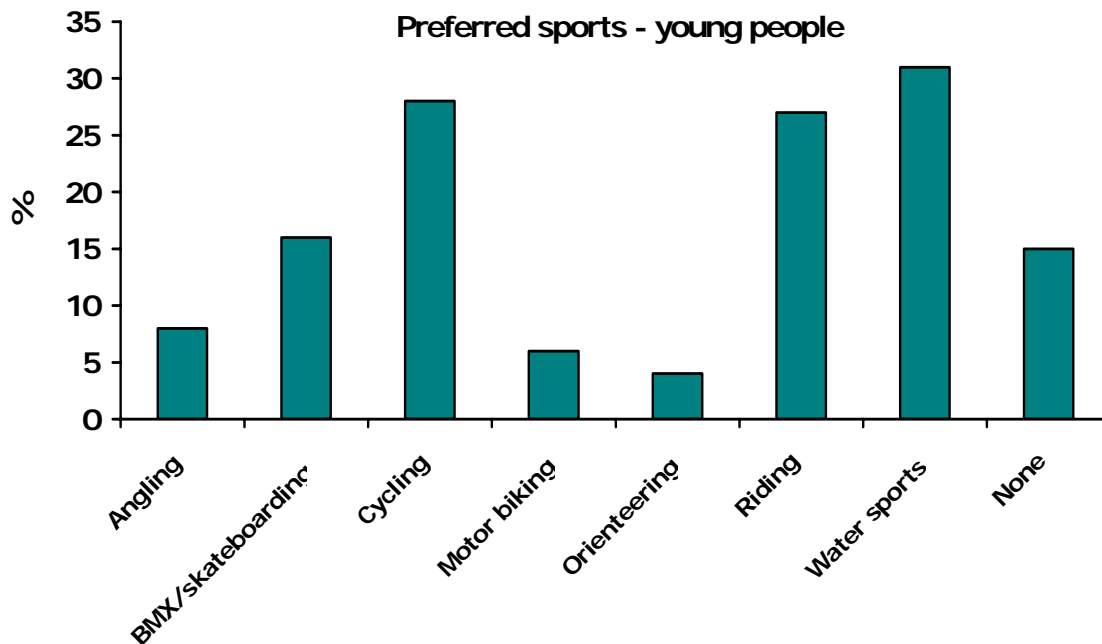


Looking at the younger age group, we find that they too want cycling (28%) and riding (27%) – but they also want more active sports. Water sports comes top of their list, named by 31%. BMX and skateboarding were popular amongst some (16%). Motor biking is not a popular option.

These survey results were reinforced by the views we heard at the young persons' workshops, where water sports was an extremely popular idea, and where riding figured highly, especially from school pupils from Bexhill.

Note again that the young people's 'no sports' vote (15%) was skewed by feedback from Crowhurst.

¹ This 'no sports' vote is skewed by a 66% vote against any sports from Crowhurst.



F. What other comments did we hear?

A great many of our questionnaire respondents used the 'open comment' section of the forms to reinforce the preferences they had already ticked – for nature conservation, wildlife watching, walking, disabled access and so on. Some used it to call for other facilities, with the most popular options being:

- A café
- A visitor/education centre
- Sheltered areas
- Picnic areas.

These additional comments are summarised in the Appendix as part of the questionnaire findings and can be read verbatim in the file of actual questionnaires held by the project team.

Other comments and suggestions were raised during the exhibitions and workshops. The most common themes were:

- We should designate the area as a 'countryside park' - or perhaps a 'country park' – right away to protect it from inevitable urban sprawl
- Doing nothing is not an option
- The park must be created for everyone – without any particular group being allowed to dominate
- Plans need to be bold, not bland
- Access, parking and traffic are crucial issues to be managed
- The link with the sea must be maintained as this is the area's defining asset
- There could be a natural distinction between developed activities in the southern park area and the northern area, which should be left to be natural
- Enhancing a northern nature zone means not putting activities nearby that are noisy and disruptive to the environment and wildlife

- Is 'Pebsham Countryside Park' the best name? We could call the wildlife section 'Combe Haven Nature Reserve' to help protect it; 'Pebsham' has become too closely associated with the landfill site
- Safety in the park is a prime consideration
- Signage is a simple issue that must be addressed, including sign posting for the blind, where Braille is not always the answer
- Disabled access must be made part of the park design from the start, not bolted on later - especially with flat surface pathways
- There's an opportunity for sports clubs to join forces to share areas of the park to help with affordability – e.g. clay pigeon shooting and archery clubs
- The park could be a great place for bowls – indoor and outdoor
- We could have a huge iconic sculpture as a symbol for the park and the wider area – an Angel of the South
- There's great scope to involve local artists, with a link to the De La Warr Pavilion
- A flagship, sustainable Biopark could be created to use the natural resources to generate energy and provide an educational role
- The landfill site could be used for BMX, motor cross, skateboarding
- A large lake could be created for water sports, as an Olympic training facility and as a focal point for regional events
- Wildlife areas could include fishing, reed beds, bat groups and badger watches.

From primary school pupils, the most popular ideas were:

- A maze (including a water maze), a café, a running track, a swimming lake, wind mills, hot air ballooning, an animal farm, zip wires, a recreational ground, a dry ski slope, a fishing lake and riding stables;

From young people over 12, the most popular ideas were:

- Rock climbing, a skate park, a café, an animal farm, a sculpture park, water sports, an ecologically friendly art house, dry ski, paint-balling, quad biking, a llama park and zip wires.

4. Feedback on initial designs

At a community Feedback Event on 27 February, we presented a summary of the consultation results. Nigel Marshall from East Sussex County Council then presented early thoughts on park designs. He described a northern zone to be left as natural as possible; and a southern zone developed for sports, public art and play facilities; plus new and improved woodland, water areas and opportunities for land owners to diversify. Notes on the project web site outline the discussion and comments in detail.

Views expressed at the meeting

Many questions were raised and comments made during the meeting, both for and against the designs proposed. There were further concerns expressed from land owners and Crowhurst residents.

Towards the end of the meeting, we asked the audience for a show of hands from those “broadly in support” and “broadly against” the initial plans as outlined. Approximately three quarters of the audience were in support, with about a quarter against. We then took further views from the audience via questionnaires handed in at the end of the event. The 42 completed at the event showed:

- 29 people thought the consultation findings were presented “very clearly” or “clearly”
- 18 were “strongly in favour” and 13 “in favour” of the plans presented. Three were neutral, four “against” and four “strongly against.” This equates to 74% in favour, 19% against
- The open question about what people most liked generated the following answers (with frequency of mention in brackets):
 - The nature reserve (11)
 - The southern sports area (5)
 - Activities for the young (5)
 - All of it! (4)
 - Access for all (4)
 - Nothing (3)
 - The N/S divide (3)
 - The range of activities proposed (3)
 - Cycling (3)
 - Wildlife (3)
 - The Bio-park/energy park (2)
 - Angling (1)
 - How the ideas fit with people’s wishes (1)
 - The clarity of ideas (1)
 - Preservation of green space (1)
- The open question about concerns generated the following answers (frequency of mention in brackets):
 - Public/visitor invasion (5)
 - The threat from NIMBYs/farmers stopping the park (5)
 - Cycling will be under-provided (3)
 - Lack of money (2)
 - The Link Road (2)
 - Intrusion into farms (1)
 - The Link Road being used as blackmail (1)
 - Flooding (1)
 - Don’t alienate the farmers or Crowhurst (1)
 - You won’t pay a proper price for our land (1)
 - Crowhurst could spoil it for everyone (1)
 - The word ‘park’ (1)
 - Leave it as it is (1)
 - Will these ideas actually be implemented? (1)

- Don't let a decision against hunting include clay pigeon shooting (1)
- Don't over-develop the south: leave opportunities for existing businesses to expand e.g. riding (1)
- We want financial support for riding businesses (1)
- The landfill not closing as planned (1)
- The phasing (1)
- Proper disabled access (1)
- Too much parking (1)
- Get on with it – too much planning/consulting (1)
- Red tape strangulation (1)

Final views expressed after the meeting

At the meeting, we explained that there would be a final three weeks for views to be submitted by post or email, with 22 March as the closing date for the consultation. We received 15 items of further feedback during this period, the originals of which are being collated in a file to be retained by the project team.

A summary of the points raised by this feedback is:

- Two letters stated strong support, particularly praising the division of a natural northern zone and developed southern zone.
- Three stated strong opposition, saying they believe few people want it and so it should be left alone.
- A letter from a Crowhurst resident welcomed the fact that the Crowhurst recreation ground has now been excluded and that Crowhurst is not now earmarked as an access and parking point, but asked for the exclusion of the northern pathway through Hilcroft farm because of its agricultural value.
- A letter from Friends of the Earth said:
 - There is too much development proposed and "road building is a non-starter"
 - This is a "golden opportunity" for alternative energy alongside some sports, especially cycling, as part of a sustainable, carefully managed scheme
 - Any north-south route should not cross the SSSI which should also be preserved from car parks, teashops etc
 - An Eden-style scheme would be OK if small and sensitively located on the tip site. A large Eden scheme would cause congestion and pollution
 - A pre-condition for development should be a public transport strategy encompassing cycling. "Why not be visionary" with an ultra light rail system linking the two towns, powered by the alternative energy centre?
- A letter from Crowhurst Parish Council states that it must reflect the majority opposition from Crowhurst people, but that it welcomes the removal of the recreation ground from the project area (although it still opposes any northwards stretch beyond the link road) and of a designated parking area at the village. It welcomes the northern nature reserve but recognises the land owners' concerns about the threat to agriculture.
- The Sussex Ornithological Society expressed concerns about the impact on plants and rare birds of development in the area of the Coastal Park, Glyne Gap marsh and reed-bed sections.
- A Pebsham resident supports the park plans but calls the proposed waste transfer site "intolerable".

- The Land Access & Recreation Association [LARA] calls for an area for off-road motor bikes and 4x4s.
- A local resident welcomed the proposals but had detailed questions about the park area, link road and timetable for closing the tip.
- A Crowhurst resident welcomed the proposals, recognising the land owners' concerns but also the diversification opportunities. He praised the nature reserve zone but has concerns about other parts of the countryside "which have equal if not greater scenic and amenity value ... particularly the area to the south of Catsfield Road." He says the link road would be better running "further to the south, aligning with the area ... which will be the subject of more intrusive activity." He emphasised the importance of having representation from Crowhurst Parish Council on the Steering Group.
- East Sussex Transport 2000 wrote to say:
 - Preservation of the natural assets of the Combe Haven area is not possible with the link road
 - It supports activities around the landfill site as long as this does not intrude into the nature reserve
 - It supports improved access only by non-motorised transport
 - It is concerned that "vagueness" in the early plans could enable "unsustainable activities" to creep in
 - There is a strong opportunity for sustainable access serving the southern area involving cycling, walking, rail and bus
 - Designation as a Country Park will provide the best long term protection of the area.
- Hastings Alliance wrote in a similar vein:
 - Supporting the preservation of the valley but opposing the link road
 - Calling for an 'environmental vision' involving: 're-naturalisation' of the valley; sustainable access; landscaping of the tip; and improvement of the existing playing fields.
 - Requesting Country Park status.

Appendix: Questionnaire results

This section outlines the results from the questionnaires submitted by post and email (the forms completed at the three exhibitions are summarised in the press releases about the exhibitions posted on the project web site). Files containing the full set of questionnaires are being lodged with the project team.

The questionnaire data is presented first as an amalgamation table and then broken down by respondents' home towns. All options selected by over 50% of respondents are marked in **bold green** to make the strong trends immediately clear.

How many questionnaires did we get?

By post or email we received:

- 218 from Hastings residents
- 184 from Bexhill
- 108 from Crowhurst
- 51 from people outside the immediate area.

This is a **total of 561**.

Post was a far more popular form of return than email: we received only 13 (2%) electronically. This low level of electronic response is likely to be partly because the council web team was unable to create an online form for submission: questionnaires had to be downloaded and resaved to be emailed back.

When added to the 391 questionnaires collected at the exhibitions, this gives a grand total just short of a thousand at **952**.

In terms of age profile, as with many consultations, the feedback was skewed towards older age groups, with approximately two thirds of questionnaires from people aged over 30. The fact that we received as many as a third from young people reflects the effort we placed on soliciting ideas from this group.

Notes on the analysis:

- The percentages are expressed as a proportion of the total number of questionnaires received in each category.
- The percentages indicating favourability and main purpose do not always add up to 100% because of the way respondents completed the forms: some did not complete all sections while others ticked more than one option.
- In the case of preferred activities and sports, the responses would not be expected to add up to 100% as we invited respondents to tick up to two options per question.
- As for the open comments, we have briefly drawn out the main themes: the full comments can be viewed in the file of actual questionnaires.

All questionnaires - amalgamated: 561

	AGE 0-29	AGE 30+	TOTAL	%
Q1 – FAVOURABILITY:				
Strongly in favour	82	255	337	60%
In favour	19	70	89	16%
Neutral	12	16	28	5%
Against	12	18	30	5%
Strongly against	27	26	53	9%
Q2 – MAIN PURPOSE:				
Attracting visitors	13	39	52	9%
Access for all	34	87	121	22%
Nature conservation	73	192	265	47%
Relaxation	19	71	90	16%
Other	12	17	29	5%
Q3 – MAIN ACTIVITIES:				
Education	11	47	58	10%
Play facilities	42	34	76	14%
Public art	18	22	40	7%
Sports	71	53	124	22%
Walking	41	235	276	49%
Wildlife watching	75	298	373	66%
Q4 – SPORTS:				
Angling	13	68	81	14%
BMX/skateboarding	27	23	50	9%
Cycling	48	124	172	31%
Motor biking	10	2	12	2%
Orienteering	6	45	51	9%
Riding	45	88	133	24%
Water sports	52	49	101	18%
None	26	111	137	24%
Other	17	32	49	9%
TOTAL RESPONDENTS AGE 0-29	169 (30%)			
TOTAL AGE 30+	372 (66%)			

Breakdown by place of residence

i. Questionnaires from Hastings and St Leonards: 218

	AGE 0-29	AGE 30+	TOTAL	%
Q1 – FAVOURABILITY:				
Strongly in favour	27	134	161	74%
In favour	7	26	33	15%
Neutral	8	4	12	6%
Against	2	4	6	3%
Strongly against	0	0	0	0%
Q2 – MAIN PURPOSE:				
Attracting visitors	6	21	27	12%
Access for all	11	46	57	26%
Nature conservation	19	93	112	51%
Relaxation	11	37	48	22%
Other (music, local clubs, landmarks, environmental education, a llama farm)	2	3	5	2%
Q3 – MAIN ACTIVITIES:				
Education	5	26	31	14%
Play facilities	13	18	31	14%
Public art	8	13	21	10%
Sports	20	27	47	2%
Walking	12	112	124	56%
Wildlife watching	22	127	149	68%
Q4 – SPORTS:				
Angling	5	38	43	20%
BMX/skateboarding	7	14	21	10%
Cycling	16	73	89	40%
Motor biking	5	1	6	3%
Orienteering	2	24	26	12%
Riding	15	46	61	28%
Water sports	21	20	41	19%
None	2	38	40	18%
Other	7 (climbing, running, football, golf)	17 (running, swimming, model aircraft, tennis, golf, archery, dry ski)	24	11%

Q5 – WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE FROM THE PARK?	206 comments made. The most commonly recurring themes are walking, preserving the tranquillity, wildlife and disabled access.
Q6 – OTHER COMMENTS	142 comments made. Most popular were calls for a café, to ban motor bikes, for well-drained walking and cycling paths, to conserve the environment and to avoid any sports that would damage the landscape.
AGE GROUPS:	
0-11	0
11-17	36
18-29	9
30-44	31
45-59	84
60+	58

ii. Questionnaires from Bexhill: 184

	AGE 0-29	AGE 30+	TOTAL	%
Q1 – FAVOURABILITY:				
Strongly in favour	50	84	134	73%
In favour	10	12	22	12%
Neutral	0	3	3	2%
Against	0	0	0	0%
Strongly against	3	2	5	3%
Q2 – MAIN PURPOSE:				
Attracting visitors	6	8	14	8%
Access for all	16	27	43	23%
Nature conservation	28	33	61	33%
Relaxation	6	20	26	14%
Other	0	1 (family activities)	1	1%
Q3 – MAIN ACTIVITIES:				
Education	6	5	11	6%
Play facilities	20	13	33	18%
Public art	7	6	13	7%
Sports	38	12	50	27%
Walking	16	56	72	39%
Wildlife watching	23	82	105	55%
Q4 – SPORTS:				
Angling	8	17	25	14%
BMX/skateboarding	17	3	20	11%
Cycling	24	24	48	26%
Motor biking	4	0	4	2%
Orienteering	1	14	15	8%
Riding	20	19	39	21%
Water sports	23	14	37	20%
None	1	18	19	10%
Other (cricket, dry ski, golf, archery, croquet)	3	11	14	8%

Q5 – WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE FROM THE PARK?	98 comments received. Popular calls for disabled access, a peaceful environment, nature conservation and bridle paths.
Q6 – OTHER COMMENTS	168 comments made: 41 called for disabled access; 29 for sheltered places; 30 for an information centre; 10 for a café/shop; 9 for no noisy sports; 5 for good policing. One asked for a return to the old name of 'Peblesham' to make a break from associations with the tip.
AGE GROUPS:	
0-11	21
11-17	32
18-29	17
30-44	16
45-59	44
60+	33

iii. Questionnaires from Crowhurst: 108

	AGE 0-29	AGE 30+	TOTAL	%
Q1 – FAVOURABILITY:				
Strongly in favour	0	5	5	5%
In favour	1	20	21	19%
Neutral	4	6	10	9%
Against	10	14	24	22%
Strongly against	24	20	44	41%
Q2 – MAIN PURPOSE:				
Attracting visitors	0	2	2	2%
Access for all	4	4	8	7%
Nature conservation	25	37	62	57%
Relaxation	2	5	7	6%
Other (mostly preservation of green space and 'don't do it')	8	11	19	18%
Q3 – MAIN ACTIVITIES:				
Education	0	4	4	4%
Play facilities	5	1	6	6%
Public art	2	0	2	2%
Sports	7	3	10	9%
Walking	13	41	54	50%
Wildlife watching	28	50	78	72%
Q4 – SPORTS:				
Angling	0	6	6	6%
BMX/skateboarding	1	1	2	2%
Cycling	7	9	17	16%
Motor biking	1	0	1	1%
Orienteering	4	2	7	6%
Riding	7	10	17	16%
Water sports	4	3	7	6%
None	23	41	64	59%
Other	6 (walking x 4, football, bird watching)	2 (hunting, bird watching)	8	7%

Q5 – WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE FROM THE PARK?	112 comments received: 36 say 'leave it alone'; 14 say 'preserve the peace and quiet'. Most other comments reinforced wildlife and nature conservation as high priorities. Two called for Crowhurst's cricket pitch to be excluded; one for a world class BMX facility; two for a play ground.
Q6 – OTHER COMMENTS	65 comments received, with the most popular theme traffic and parking at Crowhurst. 16 said 'leave it alone'; three asked if council tax would increase; four called for a Crowhurst Parish council representative on the Steering Group; one said divide the area into two for both sports and nature.
AGE GROUPS:	
0-11	31
11-17	8
18-29	7
30-44	13
45-59	24
60+	25

iv. Questionnaires from 'elsewhere': 51

	AGE 0-29	AGE 30+	TOTAL	%
Q1 – FAVOURABILITY:				
Strongly in favour	5	32	37	72%
In favour	1	12	13	25%
Neutral	0	3	3	6%
Against	0	0	0	0%
Strongly against	0	4	4	8%
Q2 – MAIN PURPOSE:				
Attracting visitors	1	8	9	18%
Access for all	3	10	13	25%
Nature conservation	1	29	30	59%
Relaxation	0	9	9	18%
Other	2 (preserve green space)	2 (park not wanted; family day out)	4	8%
Q3 – MAIN ACTIVITIES:				
Education	0	12	12	24%
Play facilities	4	2	6	12%
Public art	1	3	4	8%
Sports	6	11	17	33%
Walking	0	26	26	51%
Wildlife watching	2	39	41	80%
Q4 – SPORTS:				
Angling	0	7	7	14%
BMX/skateboarding	2	5	7	14%
Cycling	1	18	19	37%
Motor biking	0	1	1	2%
Orienteering	0	5	5	10%
Riding	3	13	16	31%
Water sports	4	12	16	31%
None	0	14	14	27%
Other	1 (tennis)	2 (dance, rambling)	3	6%

Q5 – WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE FROM THE PARK?	71 comments made - most highlighting wildlife and nature conservation as most wanted. One called for an Eden project.
Q6 – OTHER COMMENTS	42 comments made, calling for a wide range of facilities from picnic areas to toilets, wild flower areas, a sculpture park and bird watching centre.
AGE GROUPS:	
0-11	3
11-17	3
18-29	2
30-44	13
45-59	12
60+	18

END