



DELIVERED BY HAND

Your ref:
Our ref:
Contact: parks@guildford.gov.uk
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Email:

13/02/2019

Dear Resident,

Chantry Wood Campsite

We are sending this letter to keep local residents informed regarding the local consultation on our proposals for the future of the Chantry Wood campsite.

After long consideration, the Council has decided to revise its policy for the Chantry Wood Campsite. In recent years, the site has been underused and has had little investment. The Council wishes to ensure that the full potential of the site is realised at reasonable cost to the taxpayer and in a way which best preserves its landscape and maintains existing public access. Bookings by campers have been steadily reducing and the interest of scout and forest school groups has also diminished because of the quality of its facilities.

Given ecological concerns about the disruption likely to be caused by increased camping activity and the cost of bringing the camping facilities up to modern standards, it has been decided, subject to further consultation with interested parties, to concentrate in future on using the site as an educational resource and help deliver the Council's Countryside Vision and Play Strategy. If finally agreed, the Council plans to carry out some minor refurbishment of the existing building and its facilities to make the site more suitable for increased use by a Forest School and other Scout and Youth Groups, all of which operate in small groups fully supervised by a responsible adult. The Forest Schools are regulated by OFSTED.

Access to Chantry Woods would not be affected but if this decision is finally ratified, it will mean that the site will no longer be available for campers and bookings by campers will no longer be accepted.

Scale of proposed change for clarification:

- Buildings: We are proposing minor repairs to the buildings. No development of the site is proposed.
- Forest schools:
At present two Forest Schools operate at Chantry Woods for over 5 years. There are usually 2 sessions per day (9-11:30 and 13:00 - 15:00) with 8 children during term time, as well as all day sessions with an average of 20 children during holiday time.
We are proposing to limit any leaseholder's arrangement to 3 groups of 8 children between 7:30 and 18:00 for 5 days a week.
Transport will be by minibus. This will represent a reduction in traffic to the site.





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Peter O'Connell
Director of Environment

- Protection of habitat and blue bells: Leasing the campsite area to a Forest School operator will increase understanding for future appreciation and protection of Chantry Wood. It will create additional resources to educate visitor's understanding of the fragile blue bell habitat.

Please provide any comments by 24 February to parcs@guildford.gov.uk and include Chantry Wood campsite in the subject header.

We would like to direct you to the full Executive report which details the various business cases and rationale for the decision. This can be found here on the Council's website:
<http://www2.guildford.gov.uk/councilmeetings/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=749&Ver=4>

Yours sincerely

Hendryk Jurk
Countryside Manager



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