

FOI 2019/629 Chantry Wood Campsite:

1) Please provide the full list of organisations and interested parties that were contacted by the Council to ask for views or submit feedback on the proposals.

The decision of the Councils Executive on 8th January was to undertake an informal local consultation with nearby residents on forest school use. As it was a targeted local consultation, it was not advertised on our website or broadly advertised. It was however mentioned in our press release dated 10th January after the Executive meeting.

The consultation letter was distributed to the Chairman of the Tytings Society who we understand distributed the consultation to the Tytings Society members. Guildford Borough Council distributed letters to the eleven houses in Halfpenny Lane on 13.2.2019 to ensure that all local residents received the consultation. The consultation email was also sent to Holy Trinity Amenity Group for distribution to their members. In addition, we offered an opportunity to other interested parties to comment via email. The email was sent 8.2.2019

We do not hold a record how many emails were distributed through these networks. Please see attached the letter sent to local residents.

2) Please publish the responses to the consultation

I have attached the full list of responses received. This includes the 12 responses received up to 26 February 2019, which was after the deadline set.

I have included further six responses that have been forwarded to the Parks Section from Members and other departments since 26 February.

Not included are additional communications that requested further clarification but did not offer any comment on the campsite proposals.

Comments were received from the Tytings Society, Holy Trinity Amenity Group (HTAG) and residents.

3) Please provide evidence that the Council publicly advertised the consultation

Please see point 1 regarding the scope of the local consultation. The Executive decision was to implement an informal local consultation with nearby residents on forest school use, not ongoing camping use. As it was a targeted local consultation, it was not advertised on our website or broadly advertised.

It was however mentioned in our press release dated 10th January after the Executive meeting.

4) Please provide evidence of who the Council invited to the site meeting on Feb 5th, aside from representatives of one group, the Tytings Society, and of what was discussed during the meeting:

“An onsite meeting was held with representatives of the local residents 5 February 2019 to address concerns regarding the impact on immediate residents.”

As agreed at the Executive Meeting minutes detailed below, we agreed to consult local people to address the following issues:

- Lack of consultation with local residents and users of the campsite
- Absence of detail regarding the proposed new arrangement in terms of the number of children on site at any given time, the days and the hours during the day on which the site will be used, and how this compared with the current operational use
- Noise disturbance arising from the proposed use
- Impact on the natural environment
- Safeguarding concerns associated with the presence of a large number of young children in an area of open access to the general public
- Inadequate vehicular access

The decision was to implement an informal local consultation with nearby residents on forest school use, not ongoing camping use. The site meeting was held with representatives of local residents 5 February 2019 to address concerns regarding the impact on them. The people attending represented the local residents through the Tytings Society.

The site meeting was held to discuss the above points and to distribute the local consultation letter. I refer to the attached letter sent to local residents.

5) Please provide evidence to support the claim by the lead Coucillor on this matter, made in the Surrey Advertiser on 21st Feb, “He added that consulting all site users would be "difficult" as many travelled in from outside the borough”

No. of Nights booked by customers from	Outside the Borough	Within the Borough
2016/17	77	65
2017/18	50	53
2018/19	45	48

6) Please provide evidence to back up the statement by GBC’s director of environment “use of the site by the target group, Scouts and Guides is decreasing each year and Forest Schools are using the site already” – 9th of Jan 2019, Surrey Advertiser

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Scout/ Guides/ Schools bookings (Booked Visitor Numbers)	10 (859)	5 (276)	4 (160)
Commercial Activities similar to Forest Schools including Local Authority Run events (Booked Visitor Numbers)	4 (374)	15 (294)	5 (160+)