



RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

Report to: Council 12 July 2016
Protected Open Spaces

Summary:

A report on the **Protected Open Spaces Survey**

Attachments:

a) **Copy of survey**

1.0 Details of survey

In June 2016 the Town Council undertook a survey to better understand local people's views regarding land lying to the south of Meadow Lane. The purpose of the survey was to better inform the neighbourhood plan,

The survey was distributed to every household in Raunds and Stanwick.

In addition the survey was made available in hard copy at The Town Hall and Library was promoted through the Council's web and social media sites.

A copy of the survey is attached.

2.0 Responses to the survey

The Council received 648 responses to the survey.

474 surveys were completed online.

174 copies were completed in hard copy.

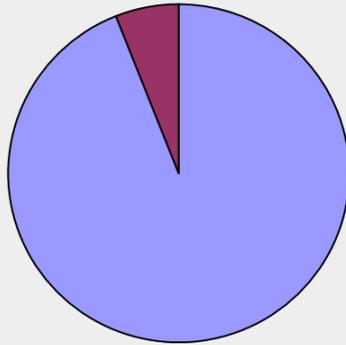
3.0 Results of the survey

Protected Open Spaces, Raunds

Please select the statement which you agree with?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I believe the area outlined in red should be kept as local green space	94.0%	600
I believe Warth Park should be extended across Meadow Lane into the area outlined in red	6.0%	38
	<i>answered question</i>	638
	<i>skipped question</i>	4

Please select the statement which you agree with?



- I believe the area outlined in red should be kept as local green space
- I believe Warth Park should be extended across Meadow Lane into the area outlined in red

Further analysis will take place to show the distribution of responses by postcode area and this will be presented to the Town Council meeting.

The majority of people who responded gave detailed reasons for their answer and these have been emailed to councillors. However the word cloud below gives a good visual summary of the types of comments and concerns that people raised when considering the loss of green space. A more detailed summary will be made available.

Q6 Please provide us with any additional comments that you wish to make.(there is no limit to the amount of text you can add)

Answered: 464 Skipped: 178



	<u>Recommendations</u>	
	<p>a) That the results of the survey be passed to the Neighbourhood Planning group so that these can be incorporated in the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan to be submitted to East Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p>b) That the Neighbourhood Planning group make any further recommendations on the Neighbourhood Plan to the Full Council.</p>	
Council objectives:		X
Good Governance		X
Equalities & Human Rights	There are no equalities and human rights issues	X
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	X
	There will be financial implications –	X
	There is provision within the budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	X
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	
Legal	Local Government Act 1972	
	Other considerations: None	
Risk Management	There are material risks which are shown at para 3.0	
	- Inherent risk score:	
	- Residual risk score:	
Person originating this report: Kate Houlihan, Clerk to the Council		
Date: 6 July 2016		

Summary:

A report on the **Protected Open Spaces Survey**

Appendix 1**a) Summary of comments**

Detailed analysis of responses by postcode has not yet been completed. However initial analysis shows that whilst there was a large response from residents of London Road, Meadow Lane and Cherry Walk as you would expect responses are well distributed across the town.

474 individuals gave additional comments on their reasons for supporting / rejecting the proposals for designating the area as protected open space.

In future should a planning application/s be forthcoming for the area then the comments made will provide valuable evidence of the views of local people.

The notes below highlight some of the recurring themes from respondents.

1) Rural feel of the area

“My family and I have recently (28th April 2016) moved into Raunds from Milton Keynes. We moved to the area because of the area being so rural. We are so happy and feel very fortunate that we can go on family walks into Stanwick from our house down the bridal bath. I feel that if the land is extended, these walks will no longer be as beautiful and any feelings of being in the country will be taken away!”

“A county of Squires and Spire not warehouses and housing estates”

Large numbers of comments related to the view and amenity value of the area. Many people used the footpaths around the area for dog walking, family walks and cycling.

2) Protecting wildlife

Many comments were made about the amount of wildlife in the area. “Further damage to local ecosystem with regards to wildlife. While I realise not many people actually care about this, the parts of Hog Dyke around the proposed area are often home to visiting Egrets and resident nesting Kingfishers which tend to be more reclusive birds and would almost certainly have to vacate the region after construction due to the amount of noise, lighting, and possible pollution. The area used to see Oystercatchers also but I have not seen these for a few years, possibly due to the increasing amount of construction around the area. Regarding less rare wildlife, the area is also home to a large number of migrating swallows as it is a warm area that is humid (from the Dyke) that allows a large quantity of insects to reside there, including a notable number of butterfly species that have declined roughly 40% in the past ten years. –

It was also suggested that the council ask the local RSPB for their comments.

A numbers of people mentioned sightings of Red Kites, Kingfishers, Herons and Munt Jack Deer.

3) Archaeological significance

"The field in question contains an important henge monument which is several thousand years old and the field is extremely close to other significant archaeological remains. Such important historical sites should not be built upon but preserved for future generations. (For information, see the book "From Barrows To Bypass" by Dave Windell, Andy Chapman and Jo Woodiwiss, produced by Northamptonshire County Council 1990)."

It was also suggested that part of the site contains a mosaic floor.

Other comments related more to the possible detrimental impact of possible future development.

4) Noise and Light Pollution

Comments regarding noise and light pollution featured very heavily in the consultation. Many described the current noise and light levels fearing that this would worsen if there was further development

"the area is already noisy from warehouse activity day and night"

"there is a lot of noise coming from Warth park especially at night"

"If the area were developed could the site be in keeping with recommendations from the campaign for darker skies"

"from my house I can hear pallets being handled and machinery being operated"

"the new Howdens units has recently turned their lights on at night in the loading bays and it looks like a football stadium"

5) Flooding

Concerns were also raised about the impact that building could have on water levels and the capacity of Hogs Dyke.

6) Infrastructure

A number of residents commented on the capacity of the A45 and how this would cope with additional traffic if the area were not protected.

7) Employment

A number of people commented that they did not feel that an extension of Warth Park would increase local employment opportunities.

8) Town Centre

A number of people commented that that they would prefer to see any development and improvements focused on the town centre.

A small number of comments received suggested that they would find it acceptable if part of the land closest to London Road were kept as protected open space with the remainder being designated as development land.

The small number of respondents that did not support the area being maintained as protected open space generally supported:

- a) Improved employment opportunities for local people.
- b) Opportunities for s106 funding for the town
- c) The area is currently farmland and not open space
- d) Raunds has a sufficient supply of open space in accordance with East Northamptonshire Councils Open Space Appraisal.
- e) The existing landscaping workings have been done to a very high standard.