

**Leybourne Lakes Country Park Management Plan 2017-2021  
Summary of Consultation Comments**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommended Amendment/ Reasons for no Change</b>
1. A Customer Panel Member	Part 1, Sections 3, 5, 7 and elsewhere: Reference is made to findings of the 2015 Visitor Survey. This survey does not seem to have been structured to gain systematic data from a range of users. For instance, according to analysis of postcodes presented in the survey report, none of the 400 respondents was recorded as resident in ME20 ( <i>i.e.</i> Larkfield). Thus despite the fact that most of the immediate neighbours to the Country Park, and surely some of its heaviest users, reside in Larkfield it appears that none was consulted during this survey. So conclusions such as modes of travel to the park (1 in 5 people walked and 1 in 10 people cycled; page 16), and distances travelled (59% live within 5 miles of the park; page 25) are likely to be underestimates because apparently the data did not include many of the nearest residents.	<p><b>No change proposed</b> - <i>The survey method was considered robust and undertaken by qualified external market researchers. Face to face interviews took place at the Park over the course of several weeks in July and August of 2015 at various locations throughout the site. The survey represents those that visited the Park during this time.</i></p> <p><i>The sample size was sufficiently robust to permit some sub-sample analysis, for example by frequency of use.</i></p> <p><i>Market surveys are just one way that we engage with users, as indicated in that section of the Plan, other methods include the parks User Panel, talking to residents and Parish/Town Councils, correspondence and feedback from events.</i></p>
2. A Customer Panel Member	It should also be noted that whilst the survey identified over-riding preferences for improvements to refreshment, water sports and educational facilities, it was not designed to inform views on the nature and extent of a visitor centre and options for its management.	<b>No change proposed</b> - <i>Comment noted</i>
3. A Customer Panel Member	Whilst this probably does little to change the overall conclusions presented in the present draft,	<b>No change proposed</b> – <i>Comment noted</i>

	<p>lessons should be learned for future [market] surveys. The bias in this survey might reflect the location where visitors were interviewed. This may have been close to the main car park or rangers office, which is unlikely to be on the entry or exit route for pedestrians or cyclists visiting from Larkfield.</p>	
<p>4. A Customer Panel Member</p>	<p>Part 1, Site history (page 17): For historical accuracy, it should perhaps be noted that prior to 1946 most of the site was arable or grazing farmland. For parts of the site, including for instance what is now Ocean Lake, this continued into the 1960s.</p>	<p><b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - Amend site history 'It is understood that the land was originally in agricultural use prior to quarrying.'</p>
<p>5. A Customer Panel Member</p>	<p>Part 1, SWOT analysis (page 42): The opportunities include "Adopt a business like approach to management of the park". I am not sure what this is intended to mean given, one hopes, that the Council already seeks to manage the Park in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. However, if this slightly contentious phrase is to be included then could I suggest it is balanced by something along the lines of "Explore ways to attract greater community investment in facilities and management". This already happens with, for instance, donations for memorial seats or benches. It might include examining business models for the visitor centre such as a community interest company or similar forms of social enterprise.</p>	<p><b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - Amend SWOT to recognise the potential to seek community investment.</p>
<p>6. A Customer Panel Member</p>	<p>Part 3: This section sets out aims and objectives for the next five year period and how these are</p>	<p><b>No change proposed</b> - The structure of this Management Plan follows that of others already</p>

	<p>going to be achieved. However, as written there seems to be considerable confusion between, on the one hand, routine tasks and responsibilities of the management team; and on the other hand projects, defined as “specific areas of work that may require investigation, costing, identification of funding and in some cases several tasks to complete them”. This reflected both in the Table 12 Five year Work Programme Project List, and in the next section of this table which identifies many of the activities as for funding from revenue. That indicates that many of these activities do not require costing and identification of funding and I think it is misleading to list these as “projects”.</p>	<p><i>successfully in place for other parks.</i></p> <p><i>The more detailed Annual Action Plans will split out individual tasks and clarify the distinction between routine and project work.</i></p>
7. A Customer Panel Member	<p>Incidentally “progress colours” are not visible in this table so it is not possible to assess what stages these works have reached.</p>	<p><b>No change proposed</b> - <i>The colours are intended for the Site Manager to use in order to monitor progress and will be periodically added once the Plan is adopted.</i></p>
8. A Customer Panel Member	<p>Part 3 - Clearly, a number of current and prospective projects are central to the sustainable development the Park over the next five year period and I think this section needs re-writing to more clearly set out new and perhaps more challenging projects and to distinguish these from ongoing, day-to-day routine management and maintenance activities. I would suggest a more critical approach to specify smaller range of specific objectives that require projectisation.</p>	<p><b>No change proposed</b> – <i>As highlighted above the Annual Action Plan will develop the outline projects in the Five Year Action Plan and distinguish between routine and project work.</i></p>
9. TMBC Health and Safety Officer	<p>No issues with the Plan at this time</p>	<p><b>Comment Noted</b></p>

10. TMBC Planning Services	Part 1 – page 1 should read Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	<b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - amend as suggested
11. TMBC Planning Services	Part 1 – page 17 (second para.) delete and an Area of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI) as this is no longer a type of designation in the LDF/Local Plan	<b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - delete the designations
12. TMBC Planning Services	Part 1 – page 19 could include a reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas(BOAs) that came out of the 2012 Kent Habitat Survey. We use BOAs in the Green Infrastructure Report as a method of identifying key areas of habitat management/creation.	<b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - reference to be added to the plan
13. TMBC Planning Services	Part 1 –page 28 should/could we make reference to the Old Chalk New Downs partnership project.	<b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - add to list of partners on page 27 text reading “Old Chalk New Downs project – A project funded by the National Lottery that focuses on the restoring chalk grassland.”
14. TMBC Planning Services	Part 1 – page 40 Delete the following text from Site designations: The park is designated as a Strategic Gap and an Area of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI) in Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council’s Local Development Framework. These are no longer types of designations. Also only part of the park is designated as a Local Wildlife Site.	<b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - amend as suggested
15. TMBC Planning Services	Might also be worth referencing Kent Biodiversity 2020 and beyond – a Strategy for the Natural Environment 2015-2025 published by the Kent Local Nature Partnership.	<b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - reference to be added to the plan
16. TMBC Legal	The legal deeds show covenants attaching to the land which protect various easements which	<b>Proposed Plan Amendment</b> - amend the plan to include the current covenants

Services	could be added to the plan	
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