

## **Hawkshill Consultation**

The public consultation ran from 1 January 2016 until 31 March 2016.

### **Local residents**

The attached letter was sent to approximately 60 residences in the near vicinity of the Freedown. In total 33 responses from residents were received. Of these 28 (85%) fully support the proposal. One resident requested the “do nothing” option and three did not give an opinion but requested further information which has been supplied. One resident was opposed to the plan but made some comments which can be addressed.

Some of the supporters gave additional comments and three main themes emerged:

1. Concern over increased number of visitors and cars parking
2. Loss of privacy in gardens in Badgers Rise
3. Concern over use of site as a picnic area: increased rubbish and consequently foxes

These comments will be addressed within the tender document. The idea of a picnic area can be withdrawn since no evidence of need has been established.

### **Wider public**

In addition the East Kent Mercury ran two large pieces (February 11 and 25) which prompted further interest. Approximately 60 dog walkers were engaged in conversation on the Freedown one Sunday morning. Four large posters were fixed around the Freedown and carpark informing visitors of the proposals and how to comment. All information was published on our web-site and booklets were on display in the office window.

### **Agencies**

Favourable responses have been received from KCC Public Rights of Way, English Heritage (Walmer Castle) Transition Deal, Deal with It, Kent Downs Ramblers, The Deal Society, Dover and Thanet Rights of Way Society. Kent Wildlife Trust are supportive and have offered further advice and assistance as necessary.

Natural England responded to say they are unable to comment. Both Deal Town Council and Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish Council received the details which were discussed and noted at full Council meetings.