

## Countryside Services consultation 2016

The county council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. Over the next five years to 2020/21 the council needs to make savings of £262m on top of those agreed within previous budget processes. This extremely difficult financial picture is the result of continued cuts in funding by Government, rising costs and rising demand for key services.

Based on current spending and forecast demand for services, the council will not have sufficient financial resources to meet its statutory obligations by April 2018, even if we no longer continue to deliver any of the non-statutory services. The council will need to rely heavily on reserves in order to set a balanced budget for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The provision and maintenance of countryside sites is not a statutory requirement and it is proposed that Lancashire County Council ceases to provide this service in April 2018. We will be looking for new ways to manage the countryside estate and will be working with partners, other organisations and local people to explore a range of options to ensure that the key sites will continue to be available and well looked after for visitors.

The county council owns and manages a range of green spaces across the county. Countryside Services looks after sites including country parks at Wycoller (Colne), Beacon Fell (Preston) and Lee Quarry (Rossendale). Other sites include Crook O' Lune (Lancaster), Conder Green (Lancaster), Spring Wood (Whalley) and Marles Wood (Ribble Valley).

There are also many sites close to urban areas, the result of the county's land reclamation and tree planting programmes, eg Rowley (Burnley), Townley (Burnley), Woodnook Vale (Accrington), Preston Junction (South Ribble) and Fleetwood Marsh (Wyre). These green spaces provide the opportunity and incentive for physical exercise such as walking and cycling, with the associated benefits to the physical and mental health of the population.

In addition to day-to-day maintenance of sites, including dealing with litter and vandalism, the Ranger Service provides an annual events programme, environmental education for schools and other groups, supports over 100 volunteer rangers, provides trampers (all terrain mobility scooters) for people with disabilities or mobility problems at a number of sites, and provide advice and guidance to the many visitors.

We are seeking your views on the proposal that the county council no longer provides the countryside service and new ways of looking after the sites are found.

This consultation can be completed online at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay). However, if you would prefer to complete a paper copy then:

1. Please read the instructions carefully and use blue or black pen to fill in the questionnaire.
2. Please check you have answered all the appropriate questions.
3. Return your completed questionnaire to where you picked it up from, or mail it to 'Countryside Service, Cuerden Depot, Cuerden Way, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 6BS'.

## Your use of Countryside Services

1

**And, which, if any, of these Lancashire Countryside Services' sites have you visited in the last 12 months?**

PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY

- |   |                          |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Wycoller Country Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Whinney Hill                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Beacon Fell Country Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Accrington to Baxenden cycle route and The Hollins | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lee Quarry Mountain Bike Centre         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarry Hill Nature Reserve                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Preston Junction Local Nature Reserve   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Healey Nab Wood woodland and mountain bike trails  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fleetwood Nature Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bickerstaffe woodlands and mountain bike trails    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Crook O' Lune picnic site and cycleway  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hameldon   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conder Green picnic site and cycleway   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chisnall Hall                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jubilee Tower and car park              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Martholme  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spring Wood picnic site                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Helmshore  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scorton picnic site                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cinderbarrow                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Warton Crag car park and picnic site    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Access land  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marles Wood car park and Riverside Land | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rowley                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | None of these                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Towneley                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |                          |

**2****How often, if at all, have you visited these sites in the last 12 months?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

- More than once a week
- About once a week
- About once a month
- About once every six months
- About once in the last 12 months
- Not visited in the last 12 months

**3****And, what do you use any of the Lancashire Countryside Services' sites for?**

PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Cycling
- Horse riding
- Wildlife/heritage interest
- Events
- Café
- Visitors' centre
- Environmental education
- Volunteering
- Tramper hire
- Other

**4****Which, if any, of the following are important to you when visiting a Lancashire Countryside Services site?**

PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY

- Well-maintained paths
- Accessible tracks and facilities
- Lack of litter/dog mess
- Having events
- Refreshment facilities
- Information office
- Environmental education
- Toilets
- Picnic tables and benches
- None of these

**5**

**Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the Countryside Services in Lancashire?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

**6**

**How will Lancashire's Countryside Services ceasing impact on you?**

PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX BELOW

**7**

**Some countryside sites in other areas are run by volunteers. Which roles, if any, would you consider volunteering for?**

PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY

- Forming a group or charitable trust to own and look after the site
- Litter picking and keeping the site tidy

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- Vegetation cutting
- Repairs to paths and furniture

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- Patrolling and talking to visitors
- Running events and walks

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- Fundraising
- Other

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- None of these

**8**

**And, if you would consider volunteering, on average how many hours each week would you be willing to volunteer?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

- Less than two hours
- 2-4 hours
- 5-8 hours
- 9-16 hours
- More than 16 hours
- Don't know

**9**

**A range of options will be explored for the future management of the countryside sites. Which, if any, of the following organisations do you think would be appropriate to manage the sites currently run by Lancashire Countryside Services?**

PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY

- An established national or regional charity, eg The Lancashire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, National Trust, Woodland Trust
- A parish or town council

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- A district council
- A local community group established specifically to look after the site(s)

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- A not-for-profit trading company or charitable trust
- Other

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- None of these

**10**

**Do you have any other comments about these proposals?**

PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX BELOW

## About you

To ensure that we meet the needs of all residents, it is important that we ask you a few questions about yourself. As with all the questions your answers will be completely confidential. However, if you do not wish to answer a question, please leave it blank and go on to the next one.

**11**

**Are you...?**

PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY

A Lancashire resident

An employee of Lancashire County Council

An elected member of Lancashire County Council

An elected member of a Lancashire district council

An elected member of a parish or town council in Lancashire

A local business

A member of a voluntary or community organisation

Other (please write in)

**12**

**Are you...?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

Male

Female

**13**

**Have you ever identified as transgender? Transgender is someone who lives, or wants to live, fulltime in the gender opposite to that they were assigned at birth.**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

**14**

**What was your age on your last birthday?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

Under 16

16-19

20-34

35-64

65-74

75+

**15****Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?**

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

Yes No **16****Are there any children in your household aged under 20?**

PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLY

No, but expecting	Yes, aged under 5	Yes, aged 5-8	Yes, aged 9-11	Yes, aged 12-16	Yes, aged 17-19	No children aged under 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**17****Are there any children with disabilities in your household aged 20-25?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION

Yes No **18****Which best describes your ethnic background?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

**White**English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller Any other white background **Black or Black British**Caribbean African **Other**Arab 

Any other ethnic group (write in below)

**Asian or Asian British**Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Chinese **Mixed**White and Black Caribbean White and Black African White and Asian

**19****What is your religion?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

- |  |                          |                    |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| No religion  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hindu              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian (including CofE,<br>Catholic, Protestant and all other<br>denominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jewish             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buddhist   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Muslim             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  |                          | Sikh               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  |                          | Any other religion | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**20****Are you in a marriage or civil partnership?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Marriage          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Civil partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of these     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**21****How would you describe your sexual orientation?**

PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY

- |                         |                          |                   |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Straight (heterosexual) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lesbian/gay woman | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bisexual                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gay man                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**22****What is your postcode?**

PLEASE WRITE IN

Thank you for taking part.

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