

East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council



Quarry Survey July 2010

Introduction

East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council is committed to consulting with the residents of both villages to ensure that everyone's views are taken into account. A number of previous consultation events have already taken place, this latest consultation survey was held in July 2010

Response

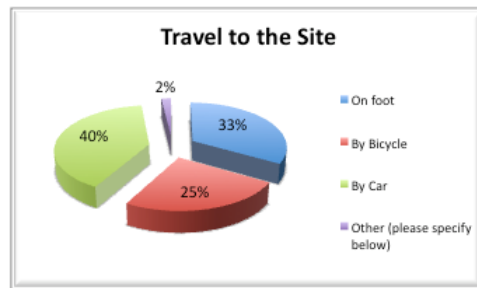
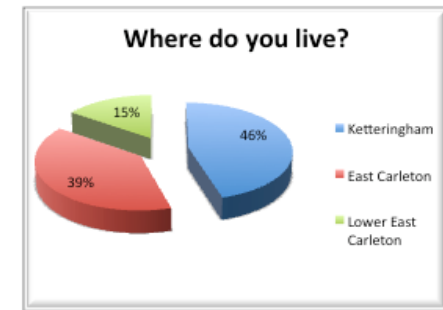
East Carleton has a total of 125 households and Ketteringham has 104 giving a total of 229 addresses. There were problems in delivering to 4 homes due to non-accessibility therefore a total of 225 surveys were delivered by volunteers.

Each of the surveys was numbered to ensure no copying of surveys took place and they were randomly distributed to preserve the anonymity of the survey.

One person tore off the number and another one photocopied their survey both of these have been included in the results, as it is not believed that there would be any adverse effect on the overall public view.

66 completed surveys were received back, which represents a return rate of 29.3%. 54% of these were from East Carleton and 46% from Ketteringham, which represents an equal response rate from each village.

19 responses indicated there were children in the household.



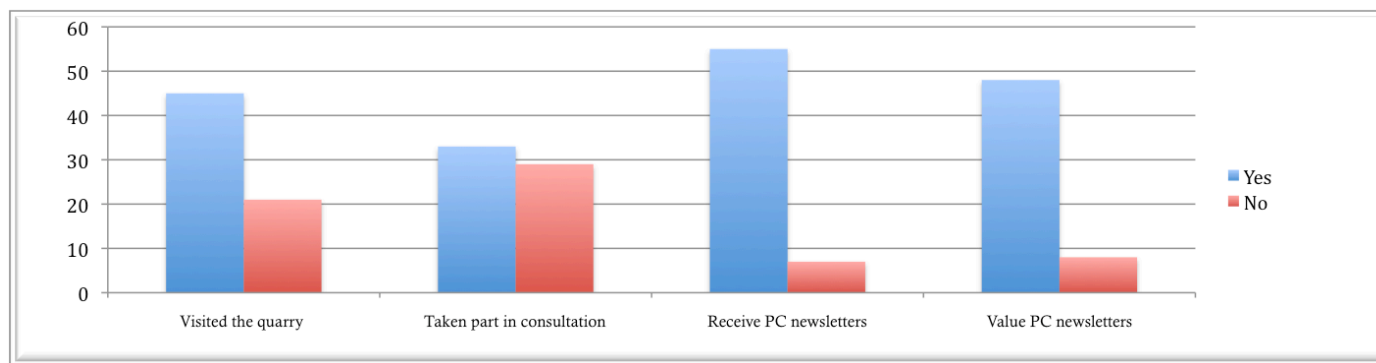
Consultation and Visits

44 responses confirmed that there had been a previous visit to the site, 21 had not. 33 had taken part in previous consultations, 28 had not; there were 4 nil responses.

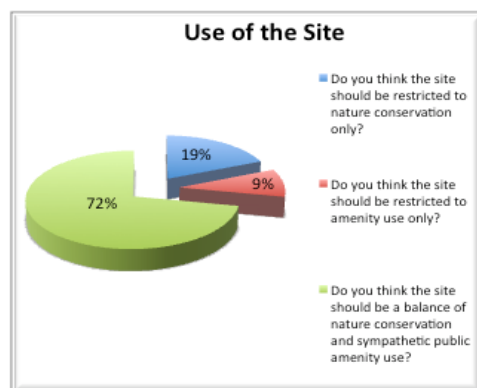
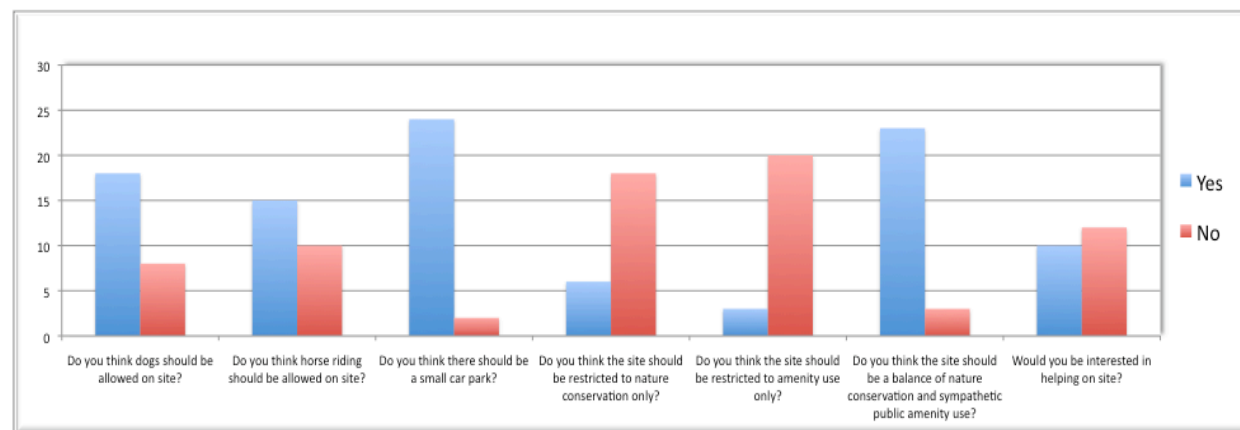
Travel to the site

When asked how they would travel to the site many people indicated multiple methods they may use, therefore the responses to this question is greater than the overall response rate. This question is important to ensure the correct provisions can be made for those people wishing to access the site.

A number of general information questions were asked to establish how many residents had visited the quarry or previously given their views. People were also asked if they were receiving the Parish Council newsletters to ensure that people are receiving information on the quarry and other parish issues and also if the newsletters are of interest to people. These questions all provided a yes or no answer and the results are illustrated below.



There are a number of areas that the Parish Council is aware are causing some division within the parishes and they wanted to see proportionately how many people were for and against these issues. The results can be seen in the chart below and these results will be used to inform decision made on the future use of the quarry along with the results from previous and future consultation exercises. The Parish Council is committed to ongoing consultation using a variety of methods of information gathering at events on site, this type of survey and open days at the village hall and churches and also potentially, on-line surveys.



The Parish Council is aware that the main issue surrounds how the site should be used and developed into the future and therefore asked how people felt that the site should be used in the future and the answer to that question is illustrated in this chart.

The full results of the survey are shown below along with all of the comments made. We asked people to use a scale of 1 – 5 with 1 being the most important and answer the following questions:

Section 1 – Can you indicate how important the following items are to you and your family?

	1	2	3	4	5
Q1 Nature conservation	42	19	4	0	3
Q2 Heritage	29	22	9	2	2
Q3 Culture	17	20	14	2	4
Q4 Children's play	10	12	13	10	18
Q5 Nature Education	21	19	12	5	6
Q6 Seating	21	14	14	9	6
Q7 Dog Walking	10	8	11	8	26
Q8 Practical Conservation	13	27	9	3	4
Q9 Others (please specify below)	4				2

Comments made on section one were: -

Peace & tranquillity & as natural as possible

Somewhere to hold village events

Q2 – The icehouse repaired

Q4 – with parents

Q7 – on leads

Amenity for the village – pleasure walking etc

Q6 – Recycled tyre type

Compostable toilet as at Holkham

Q8 – please define practical conservation

Q3 – what does this mean

Q8 – what does this mean

The space we have should be available and enjoyed by all!

Q8 – Don't really know what this is

Usable public space for all ages non- commercial/rural countryside to enjoy

Access for people who need to use wheelchairs

Disabled access

Wildlife conservation can take place alongside public usage in a controlled way. As NWT & RSPB do already

I support the use of the open land for the amenities such as kite flying or other local events

We are interested in children's play but the site is too unsafe for a children's play area

Registered bridleways

Play for all ages, teenage and adult. Exercise opportunity to be integrated around the site that you discover as you walk. Interesting seating to be placed around the site to suit all ages. Dogs on a lead, under close control. It would be good to see plays or have occasional opportunities to hear music in a variety of styles. I'd like to know more about the history of the area. The icehouse should be seen from the main site with better access and be restored, it is an asset.

We are not sure what is meant or intended by culture or practical conservation so we have not answered these questions. We feel that children's play is important – but play does not have to involve an equipped area. We do not support an equipped area for play.

Providing amenities for people

making sure that nobody is excluded

Section 2 – Can you now indicate if you are interested in protecting any of the following species?

	1	2	3	4	5
Q10 Owls	43	11	1	3	0
Q11 Hares	31	17	10	1	3
Q12 Bats	31	8	11	4	3
Q13 Snakes	30	9	6	8	9
Q14 Lizards	29	13	7	7	6
Q15 Others (please specify below)	16	4			

Comments made on section two were: -

Deer

Fox

Birds

Birds of prey

Otters

Chinese water deer

Hedgehogs

Voles

Butterflies

Moths

Heron

Stoats

Weasels

Badgers

Insects

Bees

Glow worms

Woodlice

Buzzards

Kestrel

Orchids

4
3
4
1
1
1
2
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4
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1

All species of plants and animal since nature encompasses all flora and fauna and interdependencies of species

People from other parishes should be made welcome

All other animals for whom this is a natural habitat

Future use should not be to the detriment of any/all wildlife

There should be an area of wildflowers to encourage bees etc

All of our natural environment/animals should be protected but there is no reason that we can't use/share the environment with them

Plants and the whole biodiversity

All kinds of birds especially thrushes

We are keen to conserve all forms of wildlife, plant & animal. Many of the so-called species listed above are protected by law

Any creature

I wouldn't like to encourage snakes to use the site with a reptile reserve; they will be there anyway. A reptile reserve would prevent some people from enjoying it, especially if adders were on the parkland, I'd think about where I had a picnic.

All other indigenous species

Species that occur naturally in our area

Note that “protecting” means just that and not providing abnormal habitat to encourage one species over another. I am also extremely interested in providing people with suitable habitat.

All wildlife should be protected unless a professional ecological study proves otherwise

Section 3 - Can you indicate if you are interested in any of the following recreational activities?

	1	2	3	4	5
Sports	12	11	15	8	13
Art/Literature	11	16	12	9	13
Music	15	16	13	10	8
Learning	21	19	10	6	5
Walking	34	13	8	3	2
Sitting	12	12	17	9	9
Others (please specify below)	7				1
Comments from section three					
Quiet and peaceful, shady & natural - trees					

Comments made on section three were: -

Bird watching x 2

Go Karting

I presume these questions relate to the quarry site

Picnicing

Perhaps an area for youngsters to play - sympathetic play equipment. Information about the environment/animals etc

Horse riding

Cycling x 2

Q17, 18 & 19 - strange question - what have some of these to do with the quarry site?

All questions - not at quarry

To be social and meet neighbours and friends, would like to have a café opportunity once a month. Have fun and enjoy the space. Picnic tables, barbeque or fire pity available.

Having events with different themes to suit all.

We are extremely interested in most of the above, and other recreational activities such as golf scuba diving and skiing - but do not support any of them (except 19, 20, and 21) in the context of the quarry.

All kinds of things people can do in a public open space

No - how is this relevant?

Section 4 - Can you tell us how you would travel to the site?

	Yes	No	No response
Q23 On foot	35	13	18
Q24 By Bicycle	26	17	24

Q25 By Car	42	11	22
Q26 Other (please specify below)	2	4	60

Comments made on section four were: -

I do not intend to visit the site

Grove's bus

Bt disability bus

Horse

Would not travel to site while being used commercially even at weekends. Certainly not walk or cycle - too dangerous.

Section 5 - Other general issues?

	Yes	No
Q27 Do you think dogs should be allowed on site?	18	8
Q28 Do you think horse riding should be allowed on site?	15	10
Q29 Do you think there should be a small car park?	24	2
Q30 Do you think the site should be restricted to nature conservation only?	6	18
Q31 Do you think the site should be restricted to amenity use only?	3	20
Q32 Do you think the site should be a balance of nature conservation and sympathetic public amenity use?	23	3
Q33 Would you be interested in helping on site?	10	12

*NB due to data Protection issues the information from q33 are not included in this report

Comments made on section five were: -

Q27 - depends on conservation matters

NB In respect of question 32, the proposed "balance" has not been defined. We have therefore defaulted to nature conservation

In answer to q27 - reluctantly no, since it cannot be policed

In answer to q29 - max 4 cars only otherwise no

In answer to q32 - Provided effective decision making processes are implemented and public amenity is carefully considered to assess impacts on nature conservation landscape and aesthetic value

In answer to Q27 & 28 - in selected areas

In answer to Q27 - only if owners clean up after them

In answer to Q27 - on leads

Q 30 & 31 - Don't know what you mean exactly

In answer to Q27 - must be under control

In answer to Q27 - on leads

In answer to Q29 - limited to 6 cars

In answer to Q27 - if owners clear up mess

In answer to Q28 -only on set pathway

In answer to Q27 - on lead

In answer to Q27 - on leads

In answer to Q27 - on leads only & with bins for fouling. I'm afraid of large dogs due to bad experiences in the past

Q35 Comments

***NB Please note any personal or sensitive information has not been replicated and there may be a series of to indicate where this has been edited.**

- Possible village gathering site occasionally i.e. BBQ, village party evening, Fetes Burlingham Plantations would be a wonderful role model
- If the site were open to the public I think vandalism would prevail and it would be to the general detriment of the village. Please leave to managed conservation with restricted access.
- We like music, but we do not think it should be encouraged in this place
- I believe the site should as a basis be to enjoy the natural features of the site, views, icehouse, nature. Cut paths with a tractor or other areas for village fetes, kite flying, nature days, picnics etc.
- In days where schools and police force are short of funds we should be careful to restrain expenditure on luxuries such as the quarry
- It is important the site is kept as natural as possible and not developed into a public park
- One worries about the responsibilities involved with no caretaker or watchman also general upkeep costs
- This is a major opportunity for important conservation projects - though we need to be clear what we mean by "conservation". It could also have educational value
- In order to continuously raise funds for maintenance I suggest a rock concert, one contact is Sheringham Shantymen contact detailsalternatively if a piece of land could be worked, a??????? Contest contact
- A good example to this site would be Holt Country Park
- To be able to enter from Ketteringham church end
- Car park should be at site perimeter, not on site
- Access should be limited to residents of East Carleton & Ketteringham villages. The site should not be promoted for general public use. The requirement to post or deliver this reply will be a great deterrent to a fair and representative response
- Keep it as natural as possible
- Somewhere that is kept nicely. Good to walk around/appreciate our rural environment and what is in it, with a couple of strategic seats and possibly a play area for children
- Balance needed between wildlife reptiles, amenities and general public use
- Look at Ashwellthorpe wood/common as an example of how to utilise the site. Marked walks with information boards, but obviously managed with wildlife/conservation as a priority. This looks a good balance.
- I fully support the Parish Council in their efforts to make this land a place of real benefit to the local community and others who would respect it. I simply support both amenity and conservation projects. The last event was a real success and it was a pleasure to see the enjoyment of children with the story-telling chair and the general environment of the icehouse
- Provide picnic tables so people can picnic clear of the deer ticks. What do you mean by "sympathetic public amenity- if children's play area bmx tracks, trim trails etc then no! Remember it is our council tax you are proposing to spend!
- I was not able to attend this year's event becausewe did attend last year and found it a lovely afternoon, it was good to walk round and the icehouse, also have a go at the kite flying, it is a shame if the opportunity is lost to keep this open for such an occasion
- Compromise with all interested parties very necessary
- The Parish Council should ensure that vehicular access to the quarry is restricted, if travellers gain access to the site it will be very expensive to obtain eviction notices to quit the site
- I've enjoyed seeing the kites at events, as it gives another dimension and interest. The events have meant I've met people from both villages and had chance to chat with neighbours I don't often see. It would be good to have a better grass surface near the entrance and in the area for recreation. I'd like to see sculptures appropriately placed and have different areas that give different experiences or feel to your walk i.e. open space, interesting discoveries, play, different planting - flower meadows. I hope most of all this land brings our community together and not divide us - to learn compromise and appreciate we are not all the same and celebrate that.

- We believe there are some ambiguities and lack of clarification contained within some of the questions making them difficult to answer without qualification.

With only 185 households between the two parishes of East Carleton & Ketteringham, the phased acquisition of a large piece of restored former Quarry land (of up to 54 acres) is bound to be significant for both villages.

For this reason it is a great shame that this formal questionnaire was not circulated to the parishioners of both villages well before now. Even more of a pity is that a formal written consultation process limited to the parishioners of both villages was never carried out in respect of the 21013 and 2029 options related to the Quarry.

If this had happened, we would now be going forward in the absolute certainty that the 2029 option is what the majority of parishioners want. As it stands, we don't believe we do know this.

At the end of the day, it will be down to the individual households within both villages to provide the financial support for the Quarry (outside of monies which will be forthcoming under legal obligation from Middleton Aggregates). All villagers need to be full aware of what they are being committed to in the longer term. The cost relating to the maintenance of the basic site is only the start of it, and the more amenity that is added, the greater financial burden will become.

- I always thought that this area was to be a public open space, now it seems that a few people with their own agenda are trying to hijack the project and include specialised "species encouragement" areas (which are not "conservation" areas) to further their own particular interests - snakes as an example. The problem with such areas is that that are **not open to all** - they're restricted to those who wanted them in the first place, and ordinary people have to keep away. Not acceptable - this project surely needs to be **inclusive, not exclusive**.

Items 10 - 15 of the questionnaire are badly chosen. Its implied that the specific wildlife species listed may be "protected" by this project. If an area is to be fenced off and as I have said, this isn't protection - it's promotion) for a particular species, where does it stop? How many fenced off areas will there be, for how many different species? This has actually been done before - it's normally called a zoo. This isn't what we need.

Stand in the middle of the area and look around. In every direction you will see wildlife habitat, including woodland, scrub, hedges, lakes, old building and so on. There is **No Need** for further wildlife habitat to be created.

What you won't see when you look around is any habitat for **People**, which is what needs to be created. We have neither a village green nor a common - this can provide something akin to these. There's room for everybody - as was demonstrated at last weekend's open day.

I personally don't want to mingle with children, but I do accept that there's a need for a children's play area - along with lots of other "play areas" for all ages. The objective needs to be that of being inclusive and catering for everybody, not keeping some people out. The quarry parkland is big enough to accommodate a wide variety of interests.

If this project is allowed to proceed correctly, is the area not ideal for a future new Village Hall? Our villages sorely lack any form of social interest. What we really need is a pub, but I guess that's not going to happen -unless of course it's restricted to snakes and bats, when no doubt certain people will all be in favour.

I've heard it said that some people in East Carleton don't want this facility available to those from Ketteringham. If this is true, any such comment needs to be ruled out of order instantly. The same principle needs to be applied to the car park - without this, only those within walking distance would be able to use the site. Once again, some people would be excluded, and this shouldn't happen. A vocal minority seem to influence this project to the detriment of others.

I think it's time for the parish council to act decisively on this matter. A decision needs to be made, and adhered to, which takes into account the views of everybody in the twin villages, without giving undue preference to the views of the vocal minority. Bear in mind that many residents who are in favour of the scheme won't have strong enough feelings to make their voices heard, and so will be drowned out by the few who are blatantly pursuing their own agenda.

- Quarry Site

1. The ownership and management of the quarry site should be transferred to a recognised wildlife

2. The lack of financial information, with or without continuing commercial use of the quarry, is misleading. In these circumstances, it is not acceptable to expect residents of both small villages to suffer any increase in their council tax due to this site.

This survey/questionnaire

1. This consultation process was unsatisfactory, as without full financial information, it is impossible to make informed judgements.

2. Furthermore, the questionnaire itself is disappointing because of the leading and subjective nature of some of the questions. It appears to have been designed to deliver the responses that the authors wanted.

- I refuse to lend the dignity of completion to the recently circulated box ticking, totally biased Quarry Survey. If "points make prizes" than no matter how this document is answered it would lead to the same unbalanced conclusion.

The people of the Parish have been offered a wonderful gift that should be for the use of everybody in a balanced manner that does not reflect the self centred desires of a vocal minority. Unfortunately this passionate, academic, vocal minority seems to have been allowed to influence the unbalanced suggestions on the survey to the extent that

even if some of the "silent majority" respond to by "box ticking," the reading of the survey will appear to favour overall Nature Conservation as the majority option. All areas of the site should be open to everybody in a civilised manner and not restricted solely to the promotion of minority interest wildlife such as snakes, that no matter how "safe," would frighten off a off many "common" rather than "academic" individuals. This should be a public open space for general enjoyment complete with woodland and water areas that will naturally nurture wildlife without promoting a protected nature reserve to the exclusion of the greater wider usage interests of not only our Parish, but those surrounding. I would envisage enjoyment of both the nature and open space by supervised School Visits, Clubs, Societies, Scouts and Girl Guides, perhaps even camping etc without "no go" areas. The Quarry should evolve as somewhere for both adults and children to enjoy a green environment with play areas available for everybody without undue restriction, other than the effect of the immediate environment. I further take issue with the unbalanced "Survey" in that if "yes" is answered to any of questions 27 to 33 then the respondent is required to give contact details - Contact details for who and why?? This intimidating requirement alone, together with the probable reluctance of those without extreme views to bother answering at all, leads the very questionable survey to a foregone UNDEMOCRATIC conclusion. The "Survey" appears influenced by narrow minded vociferous academics rather than the wider generally silent, in my case uneducated, but perhaps common sense viewpoint.

The villages need a new Village Hall, could the present terminal building be sold with Planning for a house and a new Hall built from the proceeds on the social focus of the Quarry Site?? Parish Councillors must represent the decisions they made many years ago in promoting a habitat for PEOPLE. Despite not strictly being part of the Ketteringham Community until Parish Boundary adjustment I have been aware of the Quarry project for many years, having occasionally attended PC Meetings. I believe that common sense decisions made years ago for the majority of "common people" should not now be drastically altered by the narrow minded views of more recent minority but vocal objectors, who despite considerable PC publicity claim a historical lack of knowledge. Whilst I feel such views should still be SENSIBLY considered I believe the PC should be strong willed and allow the Quarry to become the natural social focus centre for people of all ages and interests and feel that the evolving original project successfully achieves this opportunity in a manner that will achieve a balance for not only the currently ageing parish demographics, but by imaginative planning at this time provide a blueprint for the balanced enjoyment of future generations. Decisions made now will not cause great effect during the lifetime of the majority of the present population so it is morally incumbent upon us all to reach a balance in Quarry usage for the benefit of our children and our children's children.

May I also please take this opportunity to state my concern at the manner in which a member of the PC continues to object to the previously recorded and implemented views of the majority of the Council. Whilst I am not formally educated I had thought that when a vote was taken by a PC as in other Government Bodies, the decision made became that of the PC in total and was not a matter for further negotiation. My personal view is that continued active, public, minority but very vocal opposition to decisions historically properly democratically decided and minuted is undemocratic, undignified and morally incorrect.