

Flanders Moss NNR Managing For People Consultation Exercise - Responses

Consultation Exercise

- The consultation document was firstly sent out to about 50 interested local people, community councils and organisations.
- The consultation exercise was publicised through the local newspaper and local radio.
- A community council requested that they could put consultation document onto their community web-site.
- A further 5 people requested consultation papers after they had seen the publicity.
- 25 responses were received
- The responses were collated as below:

Responses

All 25 responses were in favour of an access facility onto Flanders Moss but many stated that this should be conditional on that there should be no damage to the natural heritage

Responses in Detail

Objective 1 - To enable the public to find out more about Flanders Moss

Proposals for off-site interpretation

By what method would you like to find out more about Flanders Moss ?

Flanders Moss newsletter

Flanders Moss web-site

Information boards at viewpoints

General information leaflets

Articles in local newsletters

Which aspects of Flanders Moss web-site would you use ?

Information of site visits to Flanders Moss

Scientific reports

General background information on aspects of Flanders Moss

Specific information on a range of subjects.

Are there any community events where you would like to see information on Flanders Moss available ?

Responses

People were happy to receive information by all of these methods, none were any more or less popular

All these were popular aspects of the NNR website

Annual Thornhill gala - stall

Kippen market
Stirling University freshers week
Thornhill mid-week market - leaflets
Falkirk environmental and heritage fair

Any further comments on the proposals for off-site interpretation for Flanders Moss

?

A number of locations / publications were suggested that might have information and links to Flanders Moss including

Trossachs Bird of Prey Trail / Argaty Red Kite site
Tourist Information Centres
Local tourist publications
Local public buildings/notice boards - Libraries, local schools,
Other local heritage tourist sites e.g. Stirling Castle, Bannockburn

Other comments

A number of people said about the need for good sign posting
Continue open days and publicise well.
Viewpoint interpretation at Kippen
Newsletter well received - more of the same

Objective 2 - To enable visitors to enjoy a visit to Flanders Moss - Proposals for on-site interpretation.

Comments on the types of activities proposed at the access facility.

Open days

Training workshops in aspects of conservation.

Art based activities

Guided walks

Specific theme activities e.g. moth trapping events

Others

Previous events popular, more requested
Suggestions include bog management,
Some thought this would be good, others were not keen, they didn't think that it would be appropriate to the site.
Most people in favour of these
Most people liked this idea - suggestions included photography, bird watching, historical walks,
Schools visits,
Task days for volunteers
Self guided activities
Open days for local landowners

What sort of facilities would you like to see on-site at Flanders Moss ?

Viewing tower	Some people really liked the idea, others less keen with concerns over damage to site.
Picnic site	Many people had concerns about litter, attracting the wrong people etc.
Information boards	Generally liked
Artworks	Less popular, some people had concerns and thought they should be off site.
Self guided leaflet trails	Generally liked
Others	Environmental toilet Shielding reconstruction Café / Information centre
Would you or your organisation visit the Flanders Moss NNR access facility ?	Most people/organisations said that they would
Any further comments on the proposals for on-site interpretation for Flanders Moss ?	Many people only wanted access to the moss if the wildlife wasn't not affected. It was suggested that the best way of interpreting the site was face to face to the public. Use humour to interpret the site, can be more effective to getting the message over to the masses. 3 suggestions of keeping any activities and interpretation low key to complement the site.
Other suggested subjects to be covered by the interpretation	Farming history, agricultural practices, heavy horses,

Objective 3 - To encourage local community involvement in the management of Flanders Moss NNR - Proposals for working with local people

What sort of activity would you like to be involved with Flanders Moss NNR ?	About half the responses showed an interest in getting involved in at least one of the activities below.
Volunteer work parties undertaking practical habitat management	
Training workshops in aspects of conservation.	Least popular
Species and habitat monitoring tasks on Flanders Moss NNR	The most popular of these activities
<u>How can we link a Flanders Moss visitor facility to local businesses ?</u>	Tie in with the Trossachs bird trail

Get the Trossachs trundler to stop off at Flanders Moss.
Advertise local services and facilities at the visitor facility
e.g. B&Bs, toilets, pubs, restaurants, cafes, garages.
Make links with green tourism businesses
Set up web-site links to local green tourism sites
Set up web-site links to local services and businesses e.g. B&Bs,
pubs, cafes etc.

Would you like to see Flanders Moss linked to the surrounding communities by
cycle routes and footpaths?

Reasons put forward for footpaths/cycle links

Reasons put forward against footpaths/cycle links

Equal numbers for and against this.

Encourages exercise, reduces pollution through reduced car use,
reduces cars in car park
Concerns over damage to moss,
Concerns on attracting the wrong types of people
Concerns about the capacity of the roads leading to the moss
Concerns over reactions of landowners over whose land a path
might go.

Any further comments on the proposals for encouraging local community
involvement at Flanders Moss NNR ?

RSPB Local group volunteers keen to get involved in management
of the site.
Many people keen to see schools involved
Contact should be made with Stirling University
Scope for using local people as wardens for the site.
Several people expressed interest in SNH coming to their local
group to give illustrated talks on Flanders Moss.
Some recognised the challenge in building a link with a community
for a site that none had visited before.