

Feedback from Survey Monkey questionnaire February 2018 – Clausentum Fen

Q1

There has been a significant amount of work on the Fen in the last year. Please comment on any specific views you have on work undertaken to date.

Very happy with the work to date and still keen to contribute where we can. Unfortunately due to work and child commitments our availability is a bit limited. Views have improved, great to see the brook looking to healthy and great to see the back of the nettles. Perhaps more standing water than I had anticipated and will be nicer clearly once the re-growth starts to occur. Overall the progress has been much quicker than I expected and overall the project is good for bringing the community together.

2/13/2018 7:56 AM

The water flow has been successfully achieved & also the clearing of invasive plants. However it was disappointing to return from a period away to find the central zone excessively dug to well below the water table creating lakes & a mini 'Slimbridge' The 'spoils' from this area have been heaped up & over the next zone to spoil this area. The height of the bund & area beyond is much too high. None of this had been planned. This has created very different zones which was not agreed & is not conducive to creating the overall return of a 'Fen'. Some areas have been successfully cleared of trees to create open areas. The planting of trees on the bund was not agreed & they should be removed so as not to further set apart this zone.

2/5/2018 6:26 PM

It is unclear what is being aimed for. The pictures on the info board doesn't have the big expanse of water. This water does not look natural, it looks very man-made.

2/5/2018 6:03 PM

Work in 2017 has led to a bit of an eyesore in the Clausentum Fen area. Notices do explain that it is transition, and give an idea of what the end result may look like. Yet it's not suggested when this might be, how long it will take. Communication and consultation on the work, especially the large earthworks, has been patchy, and could be improved (e.g. Local news articles, making public access to surveys such as this).

2/5/2018 5:49 PM

Genuinely looks like it should, needs fish. Stream at the back needs access for children and the elderly. West side needs love.

2/2/2018 7:25 PM

Generally very good in clearing non-native species. Looks a bit barren at the moment but plans look great

2/2/2018 12:19 PM

We were deeply saddened by the sheer devastation of the fen from what was a green and lush area. This was not in the original plan.

2/2/2018 11:45 AM

Impressed by the phenomenal amount of work clearing the scrub, streams and views. However the excavation work went too far with wide ditches and high banks where there is now standing water. This was not in the plan and should have been consulted on as should any other major new proposals such as removing the new wooden bridge.

1/31/2018 5:17 PM

I think we have had a fantastic first year and achieved what we set out to do in the first year of this long term project

1/30/2018 11:53 AM

by felling the trees and clearing all the vegetation the habitat and therefore the food chain has been lost. How are you going to redress the balance ?

1/30/2018 10:38 AM

There has been a significant amount of landscaping on zones 3 and 4. The clearance is generally welcomed. However, the depth of Zone 3 is questionable with so much standing water. The bund is still high and I question why new trees have been planted on it?

1/29/2018 1:57 PM

The work carried out at on The Fen was transformed a stale and static area into one that breathes live and biodiversity into the area

1/27/2018 3:24 PM

OK, it looks pretty 'abused' but give it a year or two and it'll look great.

1/27/2018 9:58 AM

Excellent work done in relatively short time

1/24/2018 6:07 PM

I am happy with the removal of trees to let more light in, the improvement of stream flow, and the removal of nettles, brambles and scrub. The works in Zones 3 and 4 have gone beyond what was originally agreed and there are now steep banks and deep areas of standing water which are out of keeping with the area and are something of an eyesore. It is very sad that this has caused unhappiness within the community.

1/23/2018 6:07 PM

I think the amount of clearance is far more than was agreed at the meeting, this has shocked, angered and split the community in Clausentum Road. Surely birds need trees.

1/21/2018 8:15 PM

I fully support the work that has taken place. I feel it has improved the landscape, improved views and will benefit wildlife. The work has brought the community together and will provide benefits for many years.

1/21/2018 8:08 PM

Transformational and positive for biodiversity.

1/20/2018 8:04 AM

Excellent work undertaken by the management team in guiding this work to restore the Fen to get it back so biodiversity is prioritised.

1/19/2018 9:19 PM

I have several concerns. I don't think I missed any notifications but I was not expecting large scale excavations and flooding of Zone 3. In the Conservation Plan it said there would be a small pond on Zone 4 but nothing about standing water on Zone 3. I thought the idea was to restore the fen and fen plants, to cut back some of the brambles and overgrown stuff but not to create a permanent wet zone with large ditches and islands. I am very unhappy about this. I feel it looks a flooded, alien landscape completely out of character with the Fen and the neighbouring meadows. I have visited restored water meadows near Salisbury - and they are meadows with small ditches nothing like this. I fear what will happen if we had heavy rain - would the whole site flood? I don't know how this went ahead so different than what was originally proposed. There was never any mention of diggers. I think the ground must have been dug out well below water table level and feel this is artificially creating lakes. I would like the natural drainage to be restored. I would prefer there to be no permanent standing water on Zone 3. You never said you were planning to create ponds or lakes here and I think nobody would have approved the plans if you had. The high bunds are very ugly too and need to be reduced in height.

1/19/2018 8:28 PM

Excellent work undertaken by the management team in guiding this work to restore the Fen to get it back so biodiversity is prioritised.

1/19/2018 7:46 PM

The previous site was an eyesore and seemed to be almost impenetrable and 'choked' by nature. It has been so rewarding to see the area cleared in preparation for its future life as a biodiverse area for the community.

1/19/2018 7:24 PM

Transformational and positive for biodiversity.

1/19/2018 7:21 PM

Much improved. Looking forward to seeing Spring take over the bare mud and water space. Stream improvement and views across are great

1/19/2018 11:12 AM

Clausentum Fen has been transformed for the better as explained in the management plan developed Jan-Jun. It will look much better when the greenery reappears. The improved views across the fen and beyond to St Catherine's Hill are wonderful. If the faster flowing streams, wetland and pond develop as predicted we will enjoy a rebirth of the wildlife that has been held back so long by lack of care.

1/18/2018 11:10 AM

Too early to give an honest opinion but the future is taking shape - well done. I worry about the depth of silt and toddlers/children playing there,

Q2

We have drafted a Plan for 2018 (attached to AGM notice email/letter) and would like your views. Please comment on any aspects of concern, in support or ideas that you would like to see included.

Plan looks fine, less ambitious than 2017. Concern would be reliance on community. Is it not possible to get the local government to support on maintenance given they have a commitment to do this? Cannot see from the plan if there is further seeding planned, but would hope to see some re-growth this year to try and improve the appearance of the fen

2/13/2018 7:56 AM

Fine tuning excavations in Zone 3. Too wide? Re-wetting or flowing water? Expense of joining to St. M Brook - skuice etc? Query amount of management required and by whom?

2/10/2018 7:40 PM

Concerned that you want to remove a bridge. Concerned that it needs a lot of volunteer help - is the amount needed sustainable in the long term? It's a huge area to tend.

2/5/2018 6:03 PM

Budget: the risk seems high that without both funding and volunteer work the area will remain in its present state, half-complete. Is there sufficient HCC and community will to see it through, beyond 2018? Is there a low-cost, interim 'put back' option if it becomes clear that the project is too big? - Water courses: level control, courses of the water stream. The focus of all the earthworks and descriptions in the plan appear to be on the habitat and biodiversity, yet there is little about the potential impact of the water channels itself. Since the earthworks, the area opposite Clausentum Road has the appearance of flooded trenches or half-completed road-works projects. Over the winter the water levels have been high at times. Have flood risk assessments changed for the area since the earthworks (see UK gov environment agency <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/summary/447797/128183>). In 'zone 4', where a pond has been created in an area where ground level that is higher in places than the road, there has been flooding into the road itself, impeding access to cars. - There is much mention of benefits to flora and fauna, but what of changes to insect population. The swamp-like development of the area would likely attract mosquitos, other insects less desirable to residential living. - The plan suggests closing off zone 3 to access, removing one of the bridges over the stream. This seems contrary to the aims of the management plan, p2, 'maintain community access via the recreation area and paths'. The area should remain open to all.

2/5/2018 5:49 PM

Support for bridges. Suggest more. Banks could use wood panels.

2/2/2018 7:25 PM

The plan looks excellent. Happy to contribute where required to achieve

2/2/2018 12:19 PM

Zone 3 needs to be levelled as it was and the 'lakes' filled in, the area has always flooded and did not need to be so damaged. The bund of earth also needs to be removed and hedges replaced. It is ironic that the one person who would not allow the hedge in front of his house to be cut had now been instrumental in removing everyone else's hedge!

2/2/2018 11:45 AM

The Plan takes into account that the Fen will need time to recover and regenerate. The community needs time to get used to the changes which will have to slow down in pace. The Pond area requires leveling of the steep banks and the whole system of water flow through the ditches needs expert planning. The new wooden bridge does not need to be removed until it is rotten.

1/31/2018 5:17 PM

Would like to see more work in zone 4 as feel this area is exposed to high risk of injury from potentially unaccompanied children

1/30/2018 11:53 AM

I do NOT want any more trees felled especially the mature sycamores along St. Michaels Brook and what is the reasoning behind removing the bridge and filling the natural pool with soil?

1/30/2018 10:38 AM

I think it is a good idea to slow things down. The work appeared to be running beyond the agreed 2017 plan and it felt like the the community was starting to disengage with the project.

1/29/2018 1:57 PM

The plan is robust, sustainable and I give my full support

1/27/2018 3:24 PM

I think it's the right thing to do to let the site sit and develop with little more than gentle tidying in the coming year or so. Zone 2 clearance of some of the trees would be fabulous from my perspective.

When we came down in 1984 I could see St Catherine's hill clearly. There are too many ash and sycamore trees and, in my opinion, they should be thinned.

1/27/2018 9:58 AM

Fully supported

1/24/2018 6:07 PM

I do not see the wisdom of proposing to plant more trees when a lot has been spent on removing old ones which were shading and drying out the Fen. The Fen needs light to regenerate. Zone 3 is currently too wet and does not appear to need more water at present and we should wait and see what happens to the water levels over the summer. I would support filling in the deeper areas.

1/23/2018 6:07 PM

I understand the river has been reinstated but I don't see the point of the trenches or the pond. The area looks very stark now and I think we need to be consulted about tree planting prior to it being carried out. Why is there still bamboo at the far side? I think bridge should stay as it is part of the only pretty woodland area now where the community can walk.

1/21/2018 8:15 PM

I support the Plan for 2018. I feel one of the priorities is the removal of more boundary sycamore in Zone 4. This will provide essential light and warmth for the pond to flourish.

1/21/2018 8:08 PM

No concerns. Agree people should not have any access to zone 3 to avoid disturbance and provide haven for flora and fauna

1/20/2018 8:04 AM

I support the plan fully

1/19/2018 9:19 PM

Zones 1 and 2 Like the idea of planting wood anenomes in clearing. Think some clearings would be good. Happy to keep brook clear. Agree trees shade the brook and streams are much healthier if not overshadowed. Very happy for local children to play - they always have on the swing and for visits from Brownies etc Zone 3 - as above, very unhappy about major changes to earth levels, think ditches too deep and wide, don't understand why a lake has been created and would like ground levels restored above Water table. Think it would be a good idea to remove high soil from bund and refill deep areas - make it more level again. There are streams already, we don't need Lakes. Liked the idea of wildflower meadows like Winnal Moor on the boards but cannot see why so many deep areas have been excavated and left flooded. We have never had permanent water on the fen - I cannot even remember it flooding - sometimes very wet but that was all. Thought we were aiming for damp grassland, meadow for special fen plants and wildflowers, not ponds for ducks. More like like the meadows towards St Catherine's Hill. This just looks flooded. If you can adjust the water levels please lower them. Zone 4 seems to have been cut off. It shouldn't be separate. I liked the idea of having a pond but thought it would be lower - the sides look so deep - surely not easy for deer and animals to drink from. It does look dark in Zone 4 - so agree removing sycamores should let in more light. Hope no major works will be undertaken and that bare earth will grow back, hopefully wildflowers and grass re-establish on Zone 3 - but you do need to refill the very deep areas. I hope this year you will stick just to what was agreed and not do things not in the original plan.

1/19/2018 8:28 PM

I support the plan fully

1/19/2018 7:46 PM

The Plan for 2018 seems very well considered. Great to think of the differing needs in each of the four zones.

1/19/2018 7:24 PM

No concerns. Agree people should not have any access to zone 3 to avoid disturbance and provide haven for flora and fauna

1/19/2018 7:21 PM

Looking sensible to wait

1/19/2018 11:12 AM

It has been very refreshing to see a local community take on such an ambitious and potentially very exciting project with such enthusiasm that will benefit all in the longterm.

1/18/2018 3:07 PM

good to be patient and see what grows and waters flow before any more earthworks

1/18/2018 11:10 AM

Zone 1 is already used by the public as a 'short cut' to Garnier Rd. I am of the opinion that this could become a frequent occurrence. Zone 1/2 is also used by boozing parties/courting couples/and as a toilet So the less community use methinks the better.

Q8

What do you think we could improve on in 2018? Please add any other comments

Cant think of anything, overall the communication is good and nice to see updates on instagram

2/13/2018 7:56 AM

Earth maybe needed to re-define area of water in zone 3. The bund will still be too high and looks unnatural and breaks up the site too much. Soil could be spread further towards the environmental centre. Best to wait until less wet.

2/10/2018 7:40 PM

Any plans for development to be discussed & generally agreed by the community & not just by the committee

2/5/2018 6:26 PM

Fill in the huge lake, so the fen is flat, like in the picture. Reduce the height of Area 4.

2/5/2018 6:03 PM

Communication and Consultation - beyond core team of conservation working group, Clausentum Road residents. Esp to residents of St Cross at large

2/5/2018 5:49 PM

More walks. More available days to help out. Allow people to bring lads with tools.

2/2/2018 7:25 PM

More involvement to speed up the process

2/2/2018 12:19 PM

More carefully considered replacement planting to encourage restricted access. More consultation with local community before any innovations.

1/31/2018 5:17 PM

The marginal areas around the water channels need to be replanted with a variety of plants plus the water ways need to be planted with a variety floating and underwater plants and not just left to nature

1/30/2018 10:38 AM

Ensure that any work that does not form part of the 2018 plan is consulted on. It is very damaging when decisions are made without proper consultation or at the very least notification so that any questions can be answered prior to the work.

1/29/2018 1:57 PM

Introduction of other species that are native but not currently present

1/27/2018 3:24 PM

Personally I would like to see fewer people going into the Fen but appreciate that this isn't likely.

Living opposite the entrance path in zone 2 I'm aware of how much use it gets.

1/27/2018 9:58 AM

Widen the group of people driving the work

1/24/2018 6:07 PM

Listening to the concerns of the community and not doing anything more that might cause upset or division. Trying to encourage low-growing plants on the areas of exposed soil as quickly as possible to make the area more attractive. Recognise that potential benefits for wildlife should not always take priority over what local people feel comfortable with.

1/23/2018 6:07 PM

Please don't cut anymore trees down, remove bamboo, replant trees and let the community know what is happening prior to taking action. I'm sure there are people with specific visions but the area has been devastated by far too much radical clearance and has alienated several households from the project.

1/21/2018 8:15 PM

N/A

1/21/2018 8:08 PM

Re-planting of key species to encourage more wildlife.

1/20/2018 8:04 AM

Keeping the public out of the area.

1/19/2018 9:19 PM

I feel there has not been enough consultation with members - particularly when plans have changed. I also have felt criticised when I tried to express some concerns. I have felt that the views of local residents don't really matter and that any comment has been taken negatively or overridden as ignorant. I have felt unhappy but not able to say so. I feel there is a need to listen and to be more inclusive. Everyone's opinions should matter - after all this is meant to be a community group. I have almost felt there is no point trying to contribute. I had hoped this would be a really good community group.

1/19/2018 8:28 PM

Keeping the public out of the area.

1/19/2018 7:46 PM

Encourage further volunteers to help share the experience and workload

1/19/2018 7:24 PM

Re-planting of key species to encourage more wildlife.

1/19/2018 7:21 PM

More notice of working party tasks

1/19/2018 11:12 AM

The efforts made this year set a precedent for future management leads. More involvement with locals who live beyond Clausentum road who would contribute to fund raising, volunteering etc

1/18/2018 3:07 PM

special event to celebrate the development, show people around and thank everyone who has helped

1/18/2018 11:10 AM

Don't run before you can walk. 'Bed Down' what has already been achieved. The central and south end of the Fen is going well - ensure that the residents of zones 1/2 have not been forgotten.