

Thank you for getting in touch regarding the Whiston Woods Consultation and the community drop-in events over the coming weeks. I have responded below to the queries you have raised.

1. Some members of the Save Whiston Woods group have asked about the drop-in sessions being held during June, and what the format will be.
 - *The events will be drop-in sessions for people to attend at their convenience to review the information available and provide their comments. Council officers will be on hand to explain the proposals and answer any questions on a one-to-one basis. They will not be run as public meetings.*

2. Could you tell us why there is only one drop-in sessions for Rainhill/St Helens residents, during the working week, at a time when most working people will be unable to attend.
 - *As you may have seen, the Council is running six community drop-in sessions and interested residents from any borough are able to attend any of these sessions. They take place at different locations, some are in the day, some in the evening and some are at a weekend to try and accommodate the needs of the local community. Residents from St Helens / Rainhill are welcome attend any of the drop-in sessions or complete the survey online.*

3. Also, are the sessions being ran by council staff, or are you bringing in staff especially to deal with the sessions?
 - *The sessions will be run / staffed by Council Officers.*

4. In the interests of fairness, we would also like to request that people from our group are able to attend the sessions to talk to residents, as we have a clear interest in the woods - as has happened at previous consultations in Knowsley. We're happy to set up chairs, tables etc in order for this to happen.
 - *This is a Council led consultation with the primary purpose of providing an opportunity for as many residents as possible to see the plans that are in place, ask any questions they wish and form their own views and judgements on the proposals. It would not be appropriate to accommodate other organisations or groups within that context.*

5. How is feedback from these drop-in sessions relayed back to the council, and how are the results analysed? Will we be able to see the raw data to compare the results?
 - *The feedback forms provided at the drop-in sessions will be the same format as the online survey. All of the information and comments provided will be collated, recorded and analysed following the end of the consultation period. The outcome of the consultation will be shared with the public.*

6. You mentioned a Communications Plan in a previous email to myself, which I also asked to see. Could someone possibly forward that onto me, as it might answer some of these questions already.

We have an established approach to communications to support any consultation that we deliver. The primary goal being to inform as many people as possible about the consultation and encourage meaningful participation. It is worth noting that on this occasion, given the importance of the consultation we have committed additional resources and activity to promote this. Our communications began on 5 June and will include the following:

- *Information published on www.knowsley.gov.uk/consultations.*
- *Media release and articles published on Knowsley News including promotion of drop in sessions and a link to the online form.*
- *Extensive social media campaign run across Council channels including Facebook and Twitter (this messaging will be ongoing throughout the duration of the consultation).*
- *Promotional posters and information displayed in public buildings (e.g libraries) and other locations with significant footfall including parks, leisure centres, local shops (Tesco and Londis), health centres and Whiston Town Council.*
- *5,000 A5 leaflets which are being distributed through the Parks and Green Spaces Team as well as being available to pick up in the Borough's libraries.*
- *The leaflet is also being distributed to 8,277 properties in a 1,500m radius around the current cemetery's location.*
- *A1 posters have been produced to include in an A Frame which is displayed outside of the drop-in events. The poster includes the dates for all of the consultation events as well as how to access the consultation online.*
- *The consultation is also being widely promoted through the Council's internal channels to raise awareness through staff who can share it with family / friends.*
- *Details of the consultation have also been shared with colleagues at St Helens Council to cascade through their channels and raise awareness with St Helens residents.*
- *A briefing has been shared with all Elected Members to inform them that the consultation has opened and how residents can have their say through both the drop-in events and the online consultation.*
- *A range of stakeholder briefings will be taking place (for example with funeral directors, stone masons etc).*
- *The survey will be promoted widely through the Council's network of 'Friends of' groups, local community / volunteer groups and via local schools.*
- *We will also be carrying out targeted engagement with hard-to-reach groups (for example via Knowsley's Older Peoples Voice).*

As with all our communications, we will continually monitor and review activity and engagement throughout the duration of the consultation.

I hope this addresses the queries raised.

Best Regards,