

## **Kingsclere Estates Survey 2010. Summary of Significant Points**

- Total responses 78.
- 64% of respondents stated that they lived in the area.
- Most respondents used the estate for walking (59%) and dog walking (37%). Cyclists and horse riders were slightly less common (22% and 19% respectively) Other uses included Quad bike riding, wildlife spotting and photography.
- 70% of respondents enjoy seeing the farmed landscape change throughout the year with only 6% wishing to see less of the landscape farmed. 19% found the smell of some of the processes unpleasant but many accept it as part of living in the countryside. There was also a degree of annoyance with tractors and farm machinery (7%) mainly due to the way that they are driven through residential areas.
- There was a call for more information about what was going on with the landscape and this is a general theme to all areas of the survey
- Respondents stated that they were *greatly affected* by both game shooting (11%) and quad racing (15%). The comments about game shooting were all negative but in varying degrees. The quad biking generated mixed views. A number appreciated having a safe and managed environment for their sport, whereas a smaller group of people were greatly affected by the noise pollution caused. Most said they could accept the noise if events were kept to a minimum and warning given.
- Some comments were made about the untidiness and unsympathetic nature of some tenants of the let properties.
- Respondents wanted equally to see the woodlands carefully managed and to have more access to them for horse riding and walking. Work carried out had been noticed and appreciated. Concern was expressed about removal of trees and hedgerows.
- There was a general agreement that the footpaths, bridleways and tracks should be improved, with a desire for additional routes. There was disagreement that the farm traffic should use the public roads less.
- There was acceptance of the sealing of two of the steeper routes with Tarmac but the subsequent difficulty for horse riders was raised.
- The improvements to rights of way requested were the cutting back of low branches, topping of long grass and undergrowth, keeping in-field paths passable and resting places. Major improvement work like resurfacing was not considered necessary.
- Far reaching views are highly valued followed by woodland, hills and valleys, the ability to interact with the landscape, seeing the changes during the farming year, and lastly sites of historic interest, although many respondents were unaware of the latter. Wildlife, wildflowers and hedges were also considered valuable.
- Most respondents thought that the estate was doing a good job of balancing farming and conservation, although a lot was not known about, and many would like to see more done.
- Respondents generally agreed that farmers should be paid to carry out conservation work
- When asked what people thought would increase the vibrancy and viability of the community the main thing was A local shop (56%) followed by an increase in community activities (43%) with more local businesses, and greater housing mix and more tourism all getting the same votes (15%).