



Friends of Gedling House Woods

2019 Survey Report

In early 2019 the group conducted its first survey amongst the members and the wider public. The aims of the survey were to discover what the membership and the public knew about the group and the site, and to ask for feedback on our direction.

We had 49 completed responses to the survey.

Question 1: Who owns the Woods and Meadows?

77% correctly identified that the site is owned by Gedling Borough Council.

		Response Percent	Response Total
No one		0.00%	0
FGHW		2.04%	1
Gedling Borough Council		77.55%	38
Nottinghamshire County Council		4.08%	2
Local residents		6.12%	3
Don't know		10.20%	5

Question 2: Who manages and looks after the Woods and Meadows?







For this nearly 90% selected the correct answer.

		Response Percent	Response Total
No one		0.00%	0
FGHW		89.80%	44
Gedling Borough Council		6.12%	3
Natural England		0.00%	0
Residents of Wood Lane		2.04%	1
Don't know		2.04%	1

Question 3: Where do the finances come from to help maintain Gedling Woods and Meadows?





This question had a larger deviation. The group no longer receives direct funding from the Council; instead we receive help with, for example, tree cutting works and equipment maintenance instead.

The bulk of our funding does come from Natural England grants; and we apply for other grants as and when they appear. For example, we won a grant to purchase a chipping machine from Veolia.




		Response Percent	Response Total
Gedling Borough Council		44.90%	22
Natural England Grants		61.22%	30
Lottery Funding		4.08%	2
Donations		48.98%	24
Subscriptions		46.94%	23
Don't know		4.08%	2

Question 4: What are the Woods and Meadows designated as?

Most responses to this correctly identified the site as a nature reserve.

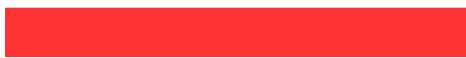

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Gardens of Gedling House		0.00%	0
2	Dog walking site		2.04%	1
3	Nature Reserve		83.67%	41
4	Farm land		0.00%	0
5	Country Park		4.08%	2
6	Don't know		10.20%	5

Question 5: Why are sheep sometimes in the Meadows?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	To stop dogs being walked		0.00%	0
2	To keep the grass down		48.98%	24
3	To spread seeds and fertilise the meadows		24.49%	12
4	To help get grant money from Natural England		26.53%	13

Question 6: Why are small children sometimes in the Woods and Meadows?

No one fell for our mud huts answer...

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Forest School activities		97.96%	48
2	They use it as a play area		20.41%	10
3	Cheap labour to build mud huts		0.00%	0
4	Don't know		0.00%	0

Question 7: What are the responsibilities of dog walkers when using the Woods and Meadows, especially when children and/or sheep are there?








			Response Percent	Response Total
1	No responsibility – it is public land and I can do what I like		0.00%	0
2	I must not let my dog worry sheep but it is ok for dogs to approach the children		0.00%	0
3	I must not let my dog worry sheep and must make sure they don't attack children		32.65%	16
4	I can keep my dog off a lead but keep it at a good distance from sheep and children		46.94%	23
5	I must keep my dog on lead		20.41%	10

Question 8: A wildlife survey found that dogs off leads reduce the number of wildlife species by 41% compared with areas where there are no dogs. What would you do to reduce the impact of dogs on wildlife, and to protect sheep and young children using the Woods and Meadows?












This question allowed a narrative response to try and understand what thoughts people had on this matter. The narratives have been discussed by the committee and have been very useful to show us what is needed. There are not going to be any changes to the current setup, but we are looking at how we can help certain dog walkers who are not respecting the site to become more responsible for their actions. The vast majority of users of the site (both with and without dogs) are responsible and look after the site; even to the extent of cleaning up after others who are not so responsible.

We've engaged with the nursery who use the site most days for forest school activities, and they have trained, and responsible staff with the children at all times. They assess any risk and will ask owners to put dogs on leads if required.

The committee value the thoughts and time taken by respondents to this question.







			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Have dogs on leads in all areas		4.08%	2
2	Allow dogs to run freely in one meadow and put dogs on a lead everywhere else		24.49%	12
3	Ban dogs from all areas		2.04%	1
4	Have dogs on leads in woods and the third meadow only		16.33%	8
5	Wildlife shouldn't be there, it's a dog walking site		0.00%	0
6	I'll leave it up to the FGHW committee to decide		4.08%	2
7	Don't know		6.12%	3
8	Other (please specify):		42.86%	21

Question 9: Which of these activities do you like doing while in the Woods and Meadows?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Walking		69.39%	34
2	Running		4.08%	2
3	Dog walking		83.67%	41
4	Wildlife photography		26.53%	13
5	Bird spotting		44.90%	22
6	Treasure hunt		12.24%	6
7	Building dens		8.16%	4
8	Watch for wildlife (animal/plant)		55.10%	27
9	Landscape or wildlife painting		8.16%	4
10	Meditation and relaxation		34.69%	17
11	Other (please specify):		8.16%	4

Question 10: What area of the County do you come from?

The response to this showed most visitors are local

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Arnold		2.04%	1
2	Gedling		81.63%	40
3	Burton Joyce		0.00%	0
4	Lambley		4.08%	2
5	Carlton		4.08%	2
6	Mapperley		4.08%	2
7	Colwick		2.04%	1
8	Netherfield		0.00%	0