Sand Bay draft management plan (2013-2017) consultation responses

The consultation ran from 5 April 2013 to 4 June 2013.

The aim of the consultation was to ask people what they think about the draft plan for how Sand Bay should be managed until 2017.

The draft management plan was available on e-consult along with an online questionnaire, and there were hard copies available for inspection in Kewstoke Village Hall. The consultation was advertised in the local press and on the NSC website.

Responses were received from residents living in Kewstoke, Wick St Lawrence and Weston-super-Mare.

A total of 5 responses were received. There were 4 responses via the online questionnaire and 1 email.

The respondents agreed with all or most of the actions set out in the 5 year action plan. Satisfaction with current site management ranges from ‘Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied’ to ‘fairly satisfied’.

Some comments and suggestions were given, and this report considers these before recommending the final version of the management plan for adoption.

These have been summarised below in Table 1 alongside our response.

Table 1:

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<th>Consultation response</th>
<th>North Somerset Council Response</th>
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<td>I don't believe the Sea Buckthorn issue is as important as made out, it is not a huge coverage, and In fact does provide shelter for some bird species</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Management of sea buckthorn will only be pursued if funding is available and it is consistent with management of the sea defence. The sand dunes are designated as a SSSI and as sea buckthorn is non native and invasive, it would be beneficial from an ecological perspective to allow more locally suitable species to thrive. Any management/action will be agreed by the management committee – fundamentally the Environment Agency and Natural England.</td>
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We acknowledge that sea buckthorn
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<th>Review the Car Parking provision in the area which is currently free and gets exploited by visitors who then cause other issues for management e.g. Dog fouling, littering, fires... They don't have any regard for the environment because they do not have to make any monetary contribution to it</th>
<th>Thank you for your comment. The provision of car parking is currently under review. The car park opposite the Commodore Hotel and the Bus Terminus car park are locked over night. Unfortunately we do not have the resources to regularly patrol the area. The Beach Warden employed by Kewstoke Parish Council is in regular contact with NSC and issues e.g. fly tipping are reported and dealt with as quickly as possible. NSC officers also visit the site when possible. The following will be added to the management plan on page 22: ‘The provision of car parking is currently (September 2013) under review by NSC’. Anti social behaviour e.g. vandalism and fly tipping is a problem in the Commodore car park’.</th>
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<td>It is so regrettable that Joe Public dog fouls the beach (despite 20 dog bins) and bonfires the dune palings. How many wardens are needed to watch out for this - too many.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. These are two ongoing issues that the management committee are seeking to address.</td>
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<td>The Management Committee does not have a high enough profile. Where is it published about when and where they meet. How is the membership decided/elected.</td>
<td>Management committee meetings are not advertised as they are not open to the public. Officers from organisations involved with management of the bay (North Somerset Council, Kewstoke Parish Council, Environment Agency, Natural England, National Trust and Marine Conservation Society) sit on the management committee. If you are a resident and have an issue you would like to raise, please contact the relevant organisation.</td>
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Part of the erosion down into the Commodore Car Park is caused by cycles. This has been caused by the youths who have made the unofficial BMX/Mountain Bike track in Weston Woods who then continue off this, down across the “Toll Road” and then down into the car park. It is not only bicycles though, powered machines are known to use the track in the woods and cut down into the car park like this. Police are called to deal with the issue but never turn out. There is an incorrect assumption that there are not antisocial issues occurring in the Commodore end car park, because it is no longer locked. There is plenty, loud music, antisocial noise, fireworks let off, fires lit, screeching car tyres etc… Again the police don’t do anything or bother to attend even when issues are reported. The Beach Ranger service doesn’t seem to visit the area anymore so there is no monitoring of behaviours of users of the Sand Bay Area, no wonder rubbish and fly tipping and dog mess are increasing issues.

Weston Woods is outside of the remit of this plan. The erosion referred too within the draft management plan is not within the car park/woodland but refers to the sand dunes themselves. Unfortunately we do not have the resources to regularly patrol the site. The Police should continue to be contacted so that they are aware of the scale of the problem and are able to act accordingly.

Great place and it's disappointing that greater resources are not being devoted to marketing its potential, as part of a wider tourism strategy.

Thank you for your comment.

Marketing should promote gentle pursuits such as walking, bird watching and painting for example, that respect the natural character, peacefulness and special wildlife value of the area.

North Somerset Council is taking part in Visit England domestic tourism marketing campaign, 2013/14 promoting the English Seaside. Our marketing brief for the campaign will include highlights of the entire coastline from Weston through to Portishead and Sand Bay and Kewstoke will be included in this brief as one of the district's most attractive and valuable visitor destinations.