

THROOP & HOLDENHURST VILLAGE COUNCIL

OFFICIAL NAMING OF THE THROOP SANG HICKS FARM, THROOP VILLAGE

Report to Parish Council members

Background

The Parish Council was approached by residents expressing concern regarding the promotional activity and naming of the Throop SANG as 'Throop Nature Park.'

A website appeared promoting the above, and the Parish Council confirmed that no official communication or consultation had taken place between BCP Council or their agents and the Parish Council regarding the naming of the site.

Public opinion ranged from concerns that the historic 'Throop water meadows' (part of local heritage) was being disregarded and potentially would be a lost; the fact that 'Throop' is in the title is directional and will lead to a significant increase in vehicle traffic and footfall; calling it a 'nature park' is disingenuous as the primary purpose of the SANG is for dog walking which will impact upon the 'nature' that pre-exists. Comment was also made that the local nature reserve is 'Stour Valley' and the proposed large-scale park is also titled 'Stour Valley'. This is a much wider geographical area and will not focus attention on Throop Village (which is within a conservation area and green belt.) Some people also felt that calling it 'Throop Nature Park' suggests a go to destination – which is one of the biggest fears since the SANG was proposed, and this concern has been widely voiced to BCP Council throughout the planning process.

Actions undertaken

The Parish Council SANG working group has discussed the matter with the BCP Project team, outlining public dissent regarding the naming of the SANG. The project leader from BCP Council has also voted for the change of name to Stour Valley water meadows.

The Parish Council conducted a poll (paper form at PC meeting, Facebook poll and via online parish newsletter.)

Two options were given for the preferred title of the Throop SANG:

- 1: Stour Valley water meadows
- 2: Throop Nature Park

430+ * people voted(as of 14/03/23) as below:

Facebook: 403 votes for Stour Valley water meadows, 47 for Throop Nature Park

Email: 19 for Stour Valley water meadows, zero for Throop Nature Park

Paper form: 27+ * forms signed. 27 for Stour Valley water meadows, zero Throop Nature Park

*Some contributors put 2 names to their vote (i.e., husband and wife). These have not been added to the 430 individual votes.

Recommendation

Councillors to consider the results of the survey and resolve to delegate authority to the Village Clerk to write to the leader of BCP Council and relevant officers requesting official change of name to Stour Valley water meadows.