

## Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group Public Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 - handout

Fuzzy Drove is part of an ancient bridle path that runs from Oakley to Kempshott Lane. It is understood to be a Restricted By-Way between Kempshott Lane and the bollards beside 1 Fuzzy Drove, and a bridleway beyond 1 Fuzzy Drove up to the cycle path.

Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group (FDCG) aims to preserve this ancient route for the benefit of future generations by maintaining and enhancing the trees, hedgerows and vegetation and encouraging a diverse wildlife habitat.

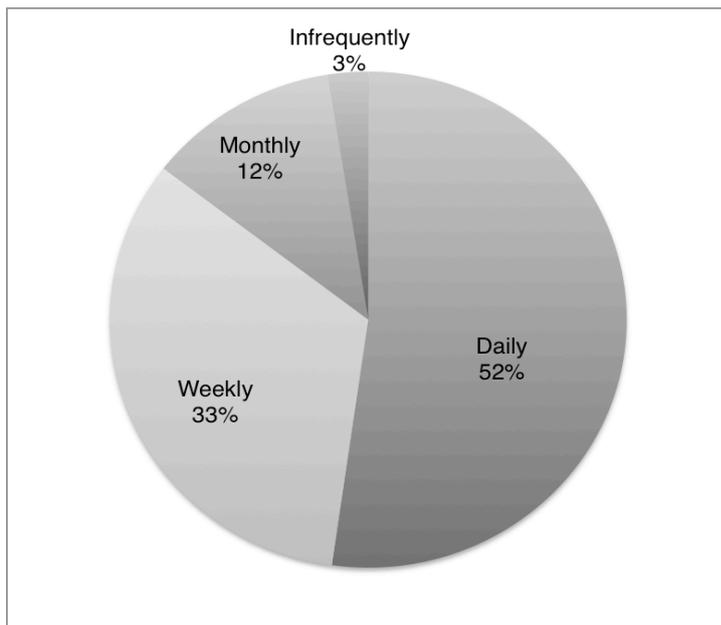
FDCG conducted a local neighbourhood survey (completed by local residents online via SurveyMonkey or via paper survey) which was widely publicised via a notice in the Kempshott Kourier (two consecutive months); hand-delivered letters to the 44 properties who share a boundary with Fuzzy Drove and at our stand at the Kempshott Festival.

### Survey Results

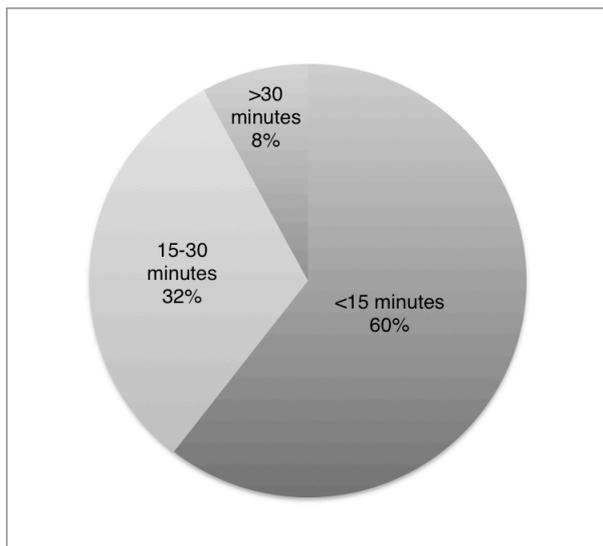
Our survey received 47 responses (of whom 32 shared a boundary with Fuzzy Drove).

The following graphs show how respondents answered our survey questions:

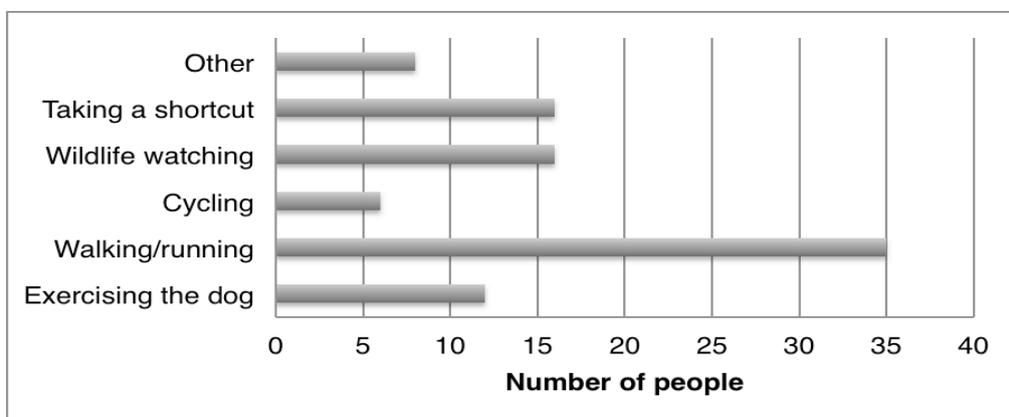
*How often do the respondents visit Fuzzy Drove?*



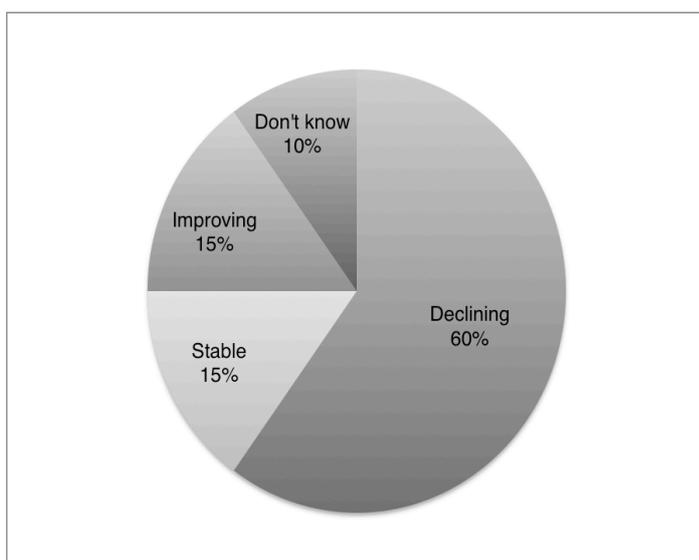
*How long does their visit last?*



*What do they do when they visit?*



*What do the respondents think about the conservation state of Fuzzy Drove?*



*Do respondents support conversation work in Fuzzy Drove?*

100% of respondents support conservation work happening in Fuzzy Drove.

*Do respondents support the idea of organised activities happening in Fuzzy Drove?*

67% of respondents support events (e.g. bat evenings) happening in Fuzzy Drove.

*Concerns raised.*

A number of survey respondents raised concerns in relation to any planned conservation work. We have addressed these comments in our working party approach, outlined below.

### **Working party approach**

We plan to hold working parties all year-round, every other Saturday morning for 2 hours.

We currently only have 6 active members, giving us a maximum of 24 man-hours per month, so progress will be slow but steady!

A specific plan of activity for each working party date will be developed and publicised via the Fuzzy Drove website ([www.fuzzydrove.co.uk](http://www.fuzzydrove.co.uk)).

We have consulted with the council to establish what work is appropriate in the different seasons:

From April to September we will conduct limited work to ensure we are not disrupting wildlife but our work will include:

- clearing weeds from around new plants
- mulching
- transplanting small plants such as bluebells, primroses, etc.
- laying woodchips to improve the surface of the path

From October to March our work will include:

- clearing fence lines (with agreement where applicable)
- coppicing (on a seven year rotation)
- pruning for height management where appropriate
- new planting

Our year round activities will include:

- litter-picking
- wildlife surveys
- events (e.g. nature walks)
- tree surveys

To address concerns raised in our survey our working parties will:

- Inform and consult householders prior to work happening outside their property
- Keep the current style and feel of Fuzzy Drove
- Maintain anything we plant appropriately

- Ensure that we do not obstruct residents' access to their property and boundaries
- Not compromise residents' security
- Not work at height e.g. pruning or felling large trees

### **The role of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) in relation to Fuzzy Drove and the work of FDCG:**

#### **BDBC Community Development**

- Works in partnership with the group and provides training, advice on plans, work parties, tools, events and anything else required
- Is the voice of the Council for the group and liaises regularly with Operations and Tree Officers on its behalf
- Advises the group of any Council activity that might affect Fuzzy Drove to ensure information flows two ways
- Liaises with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and agrees conservation plans and activity the group will undertake

#### **BDBC Operations**

- Undertake minor clearance work as and when required
- Empty dog bins

#### **Tree Officers**

- Review and survey the trees in the area
- Undertake any necessary tree works on dead, diseased or decayed trees on behalf of HCC

### **Opportunities to get involved**

In addition to participating in working parties, there are lots of other opportunities to get involved in the work of Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group. These include fund-raising, events organising/supporting, surveying and raising public awareness of our work. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in our work.

[www.fuzzydrove.co.uk](http://www.fuzzydrove.co.uk)

[contact@fuzzydrove.co.uk](mailto:contact@fuzzydrove.co.uk)