

Name of Petition: **Belper Parks Local Nature Reserve**

Additional Information:

It has come to our knowledge that the wildflower meadow is going to be completely encircled with fencing.

We wonder about the wisdom of this, as when the field last had cattle in it the fencing went across the brook. This gave the cattle access to the brook to drink, access to the coolest part of the meadow, and shade from the sun and was where the cattle were to be seen for much of the day. The cattle were obviously very happy with this arrangement as to our knowledge they never tried to escape from the field.

Belper Parks is part of a World Heritage Site, and is considered by the United Nations to be a site of international significance. We think that for both historical and safety reasons that any new fencing should be where it once stood, as that fencing scheme has stood the test of time.

We support reinstating fencing on the south side of Coppice Brook then through the trees with access points.

We would ask the Borough Council to consider the above before commencing with the project.

Name of Petition Organiser:

J L Stevens

Number of Signatures:

52

Outcome:

The petition was considered under the Council's Comments Complaints and Compliments Procedure.

Letter sent to the petitioner dated 27 March 2013 as follows:

"I refer to the petition received by the Council on 22 March 2013.

I have considered the petition and the suggested alterations to the Belper Parks cattle grazing project. However, I have concluded that it is appropriate that the project proceeds as intended, with the cattle retained by fencing on the north side of the brook. My reason for this decision is that the grazing project was included in a random consultation exercise of October 2012, where a substantial majority of local residents identified that the cattle should be retained to the north of the brook. A further well attended drop-in session was also held for local residents at St John's Chapel on 18 March 2013, where the current proposal was well received. I believe therefore, that it is appropriate that the Council implements the findings of its consultations relating to the project.

I understand that you and your fellow petitioners will be disappointed with this outcome, but trust that you are able to understand the reason for my decision."