

Bewl Water Consultation questionnaire

Thank you for helping the survey team. This consultation is to collect the views of users and visitors to Bewl Water, and all those interested in its future. The survey is being conducted by Survey Mechanics, a specialist, locally based market research company. Survey Mechanics has been engaged by Wadhurst Parish Council. The company is not charging for this service and is certified by the Market Research Society. The survey is being conducted according to the Society's code of conduct. There is full compliance with data protection legislation.

All answers will be treated confidentially and will not be attributed to individual participants

All the questions are optional, but please answer as many as you can.

1. Did you attend the Bewl Water Master Plan meeting in May this year, or participate in the questionnaire conducted there?

- ☐ I was not aware of the meeting
- ☐ I was aware but did not attend the meeting
- ☐ I attended but did not fill in the questionnaire
- ☐ I attended and filled in the questionnaire
- ☐ I attended and sent a response
- ☐ Something else (please tell us.....)

2. Which of these best describes your visits to Bewl Water?

- ☐ I visit daily [Please go to question 4]
- ☐ I visit frequently (at least once a week) [Please go to question 4]
- ☐ I visit often (at least once a month) [Please go to question 4]
- ☐ I visit occasionally (several times per year) [Please go to question 3]
- ☐ I visit from time to time (at least once a year) [Please go to question 3]
- ☐ I visit less than once a year [Please go to question 3]
- ☐ I have never visited, but plan to [Please go to question 4]
- ☐ I have not visited and do not plan to [Please go to question 4]
- ☐ I don't know anything about Bewl Water [Please go to question 4]
- ☐ I work at Bewl [Please go to question 4]

3. Why do you not visit Bewl Water more often?

- ☐ Have mobility issues
- ☐ Concerned about the water quality for my dog (blue-green algae, etc)
- ☐ Inconsiderate cyclists
- ☐ Parking charges
- ☐ Lack of facilities
- ☐ Lack of public transport
- ☐ It's getting too built up
- ☐ Too noisy
- ☐ Not interested
- ☐ Something else (please tell us.....)

Thinking of the future of Bewl Water, how much do you agree or disagree with these comments other people have made? Please indicate on the scale next to each, from "Strongly disagree" to "Strongly agree". If you have no opinion or don't know about any of the statements, please leave and move on to the next one.

4. The top priority for Bewl Water should be to preserve it as a nature reserve.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

5. Clubs for sailing, rowing, canoeing and fishing, including their facilities for children and young people, should be prioritised over providing tourists with overnight accommodation.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

6. Whilst daytime tourist facilities should be improved, there should be no more overnight tourist accommodation created

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7. Providing overnight tourist accommodation is more important than preserving the area for wildlife at Bewl Water

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8. Providing training opportunities for sailing, rowing, canoeing, etc is very important

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

9. Bewl Water's Dark Skies should be protected from light pollution

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

10. Bewl Water's tranquillity should be protected from noise pollution

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Do you have any comments on the above?

12. Do you take part in any of these activities at Bewl Water?

- ☐ Sailing
- ☐ Rowing
- ☐ Canoeing
- ☐ Bird watching
- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Horse riding
- ☐ Cycling
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Something else (please tell us.....)

13. If the facilities were improved, would you take advantage of any of these?

- ☐ Sailing
- ☐ Rowing
- ☐ Canoeing
- ☐ Day time hospitality such as a café/restaurant
- ☐ Overnight accommodation
- ☐ Something else (please tell us.....)

14. Which of these is more important in your view? Please indicate on the scale below how you see the relative importance. If not sure, or cannot answer, please skip to the next page

Providing overnight accommodation, such as a 20 bedroom hotel and a holiday village, is more important

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Preserving the natural tranquillity, 'remote wilderness', dark skies and beauty of the Bewl Water area is more important.

15. The Outdoor Centre at Bewl Water provides young people, in particular disadvantaged young people with training in outdoor and water-based activities such as sailing and rowing. The current lease expires in 2026. The facility is run by Kent County Council and could be maintained or converted to a hotel. Do you think this facility should [please tick one only]:

- ☐ Continue as an educational centre for young people
- ☐ Be converted into a hotel
- ☐ Not sure/don't know
- ☐ Other (please tell us.....)

16. There is a proposal to convert the former Sailing and Water Sports' clubhouse into 11 holiday lets, next to the shoreline of the reservoir. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Not sure/no opinion

17. Do you wish to add any comments on this?

18. The planning officials at Wealden District Council have recommended for approval:

- In 2023, the conversion of the boathouse to 11 holiday lets (not approved, application resubmitted in 2025)
- In 2024, four Yurts (permission granted)
- In 2024, a campsite near the water's edge (permission granted)

Do you approve or disapprove of the actions of the Council planning officials?

Strongly disapprove

Strongly approve

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

19. Do you consider that Bewl Water should have its own planning policy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

20. Do you have any other comments regarding planning at Bewl Water?

21. The current daily parking charge at Bewl Water is £6.50 for one to four hours. The other charges are: Free for up to 30 minutes, £4 up to one hour and £8.50 for over four hours. Motorcycles are free. Horseboxes and campervans pay £10. Minibuses are charged £12 and coaches £50. Do you think this is:

- ☐ **Expensive**
- ☐ **About right**
- ☐ **Cheap**
- ☐ **Not sure**

22. If the parking charges were reduced, would you visit Bewl Water more often?

- ☐ **No**
- ☐ **Yes (How much would it need to be?.....)**

About you

23. Where do you live?

- ☐ **Locally (within Ticehurst, Wadhurst or Lamberhurst parishes)**
- ☐ **Nearby (within 10 miles)**
- ☐ **Between 10 and 20 miles away**
- ☐ **Elsewhere in the South East**
- ☐ **Elsewhere in the UK**
- ☐ **Outside the UK**

24. With whom do you normally visit Bewl? Please tick all that apply

- ☐ Children
- ☐ Grandchildren
- ☐ My dog(s)
- ☐ Partner
- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Elderly relatives
- ☐ Older people (65+)
- ☐ Friends/acquaintances
- ☐ As part of a group or club
- ☐ No one
- ☐ Other

25. How many children aged under 18 live with you?

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 or more

26. In which of these age groups are you?

- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Under 25
- ☐ Between 26 and 35
- ☐ Between 36 and 45
- ☐ Between 46 and 55
- ☐ Between 56 and 65
- ☐ Over 65

27. Do you have any other comments or thoughts regarding the future of Bewl Water?

28. Do you have any connection with the company that manages the Bewl Water leisure facilities or with any of the companies associated with them?

- ☐ No connection
- ☐ I work at Bewl Water
- ☐ I work at One Warwick Park Hotel
- ☐ I work at the Salomons Estate
- ☐ I work elsewhere for Markerstudy Group
- ☐ I have a relative or friend who works at one of the above
- ☐ Other (please tell us.....)

30. If you would like to be involved in future consultations regarding Bewl Water, please provide your email address here. The address will not be given to anyone.

Email:

Thank you for your help with this survey.

The answers to the questions in this consultation exercise will be independently collated and the totals and the comments will form a Consultation report. The report will be available on the Wadhurst Parish Council website. The forms will not be sent to anyone except for processing responses. All responses will be kept completely anonymous.

This consultation exercise complies with the government rules about consultation exercises published in 2019.