

Source	Q1 - What do you value most about the Commons and Open Spaces in Blaxhall?
Post	Accessibility, availability for purposes not always possible in gardens, such as childrens games. Also haven for wildlife, plus value of tradition/continuity
Post	Open countryside where everybody can go and enjoy the open space
Post	It's the only plot of wide open countryside in Blaxhall that is open and accessible to all/everybody. Also part of the historical Blaxhall tradition people have even before the Crow Act had right of access over it and have used it for many forms of recreation and natural enjoyment.
Post	Their accessibility to members of the general public and their feeling of 'place' to the Blaxhall community
Post	Ability to walk the dog. Wonderful place
Post	Freedom to walk in such a beautiful place
Email	I value the wildlife that the commons and open spaces help to maintain and encourage. I value the wildness of them and the fact that they are not kept neat and tidy or manicured in any way. Would be very concerned if this were to change and bracken removed or cut back to "tidy" the village.
Form	The special character, natural beauty, yet not a restricted reserve, open access
Form	The rural nature of the village and the open spaces
Flip Chart	Sense of history of common ownership needs to be preserved. Village needs open spaces for wildlife and recreation
Flip Chart	Wildlife/birds. PEACE. Beauty, calmness, ancient landscape. Walking
Flip Chart	They are common and open
Flip Chart	The rural and unkempt character of Blaxhall
Flip Chart	Wildlife & general openness
Flip Chart	Sense of continuity
Flip Chart	Trees ??? Walks / footpaths
Flip Chart	That there is open access - we can walk there anytime we wish
Flip Chart	Visually pleasant. Also being able to walk the wide open space of the big common + wildlife, heather, trees etc..
Flip Chart	For every local + visiting + creatures great and small
Flip Chart	Timelessness + history
Flip Chart	It's difficult to build on ???
Flip Chart	Special character. A place of natural beauty for shared use, but not a strickly controlled reserve such as Captain's Wood
Flip Chart	Gathering sticks and wood (is that okay?)
Flip Chart	Freedom to own but not enchrouch

Flip Chart	Undeveloped wild space
Flip Chart	1 Open Access, 2 Quality Environment
Flip Chart	Ability to freely walk the dog in wonderful surroundings
Flip Chart	Seeing glowworms occasionally
Flip Chart	Triple SI on great common
Flip Chart	Unusual physical features it brings to Blaxhall in terms of the village layout
Flip Chart	Everyone has an equal right to be there ???`
Flip Chart	Freedom to walk and exercise dogs etc in wide open spaces
Flip Chart	They make the village of Blaxhall so special and to be able to walk around freely
Flip Chart	Public access and natural habitat
Flip Chart	Keeping the village spread out. Giving a sense of ancient rural life
Flip Chart	The sound of the nightingales
Flip Chart	The right to wander freely. The chance to ??? + conserve wildlife
Flip Chart	Rural nature of the village and the open spaces
Flip Chart	A quiet place for local activities - walking, ???, dog walking, bird watching, nature spotting etc.
Flip Chart	The allotments
Flip Chart	Unspoilt nature
Flip Chart	Wildlife and ecology
Flip Chart	The fact that they are precisely that - Open Spaces available to all
Flip Chart	They are natural unspoilt areas for Blaxhall people
Flip Chart	Wildlife - nightingales, butterflies, wild flowers, owls
Flip Chart	Place to walk dogs, blackberrying, enjoy open air
Flip Chart	
Flip Chart	Clear open spaces/commons to stay as they are now. No buildings and left for wildlife to enjoy as it does currently
Flip Chart	Walks on the Big Common seeing birds and wildlife and plants

Source	Q2 - What changes have you seen observed on the Commons and Open Spaces in Blaxhall in the last 5-10 years?	
	Any Improvements	Any Concerns
Post	No obvious improvements	Increasing change of ownership and accessibility. Also reduction of some wildlife.
Post	Seeing pieces of land being nicked and closed off to the general public	Without action we will slowly lose all the commons
Post	The management of the Great Common has kept a precious landscape (The Sandlings) open to all and has protected the wildlife. The villagers have made Parish Council aware of their love for these open spaces and so the PC has acted by 'The Right To Bid'.	Areas on the commons continue to be under threat by encroachment, illegal works – digging ditches – removal of ancient access rights and the construction of illegal re-shaping of the historic ancient landscape. Concerns that trees will be allowed to encroach again when shouldn't on heath.
Post	Continual erosion of pieces of land going to people trying to take unregistered common land	that this state of affairs will continue unless something like the charity can intervene
Post	Purchase of common land next to Mill House (Not an improvement)	Deny access to travelers
Post	The work carried out by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust has improved the condition of the big common.	The acquisition of common land within the village has not improved accessibility.
Email	The maintenance of the big common by Suffolk Wildlife to reduce the silver birch and increase the other flora and fauna seems to be effective.	The most obvious change is that caused on Mill Common by Mr Grundy, and the loss of the vegetation on that particular piece of common land.
Form	The great common is well cared for by SWT	The pressure of private ownership and control
Form	Barriers to prevent vehicles getting onto the common (Big Common)	Overgrown
Flip Chart	SWT have cared well for the great common. Open access maintained	Encroachment
Flip Chart	Barriers to stop vehicles	Concern over colonisation
Flip Chart	Clearance of scrub in big common. Different driveway at Mill Common. ??? Mary said there was better sight for ROAD. Concerns motorcycles, travellers etc	I have lived in Blaxhall for 22 years. I love to cycle & walk. I have seen trees, birds, bushes and deers & rabbits disappear from Commons. Why?
Flip Chart	Not a lot	Previously "wild" areas being turned into lawn/garden - hence loss of wildlife habitat. Nightingales haven't come back to Mill Common recently
Flip Chart	Travellers seen off	Over management
Flip Chart	Less birch and bracken. Vehicular access prevented = (loss of solid main track to Tunstall Rd)	Relatively recent residents (5 years) & part time residents. My main concern is that the open spaces remain available for local residents to use
Flip Chart	Increasingly we notice work parties clearing, doing hedges, becoming involved	Over growth and lack of people to keep under control - i.e. more organised working parties

Flip Chart	Avoid modern buildings except in the centre of the village - i.e. we need a heart to the village	
Flip Chart	Big common look spectacular at certain times of year,l	Cars parking on edges commons
Flip Chart		Threats of development on Mill Common
Flip Chart		Illegal trenching on Mill Common
Flip Chart		The awful trench dug near/on Mill Common (???)
Flip Chart		Private ownership & control
Flip Chart		Very few actual changes. Fortunately . There has been an increase in threats to the commons, hence current efforts
Flip Chart		Encroachment by gardens
Flip Chart		Land being sold without restriction
Flip Chart		Possibly too many mature trees felled on big common. Clearance and effectively fencing off part of Mill Common. This is loss of wildlife habitat which is frequented by many species. Noticeably less Nightingales in Mill Common.
Flip Chart		As the tracks are RUPPS - no carriages could use them
Flip Chart		Digging up of tracks making it usable only for horses
Flip Chart		Concerns about landowners restricting public access around dwellings + illegal digging
Flip Chart		People have tried to take ownership (Mill Common)

Source	Q3 - How would you like to see the Commons and Open Spaces in Blaxhall be managed in the future?
Post	No major changes other than to secure "friendly" ownership. Perhaps some slight intervention to encourage different wildlife and traditional plants such as Gorse.
Post	When their use as allotments is ended, I would like to see them go back to open land with Gorse and Linnets as it used to be years ago
Post	Properly, for the people and with full and great knowledge of the law on commons.
Post	that all the common lands are owned and managed by the parish council
Post	It's worked okay in the past as it is. Suffolk Wildlife Trust are already paid to manage the Big Common. The common Land around Mill Common allotments needs tidying but not manicuring.
Post	(These are two different questions)*. The Big Common North/South is well managed by SWT with Terry Pike's volunteers group under the agreement with the PC. (If it ain't broke don't fix it)
Email	<p>Happy with the management of the big common and happy to leave the other common areas and open spaces to nature's course. I would not like to see an individual be able to destroy areas as Mr Grundy has in the past, and if the charitable trust can prevent this in future then this is advantageous.</p> <p>I do not want them involved in prettifying up the areas. They are fine as they are. The nightingales were not here last year and anything done to the land which stops the wildlife returning has to be stopped.</p> <p>I am concerned that the trust might feel the need to be seen doing something, to justify its position and start interfering and sprucing. So long as they can help prevent a similar occurrence to the Grundy case, that's all they need to concern themselves with.</p>
Form	Keep SWT management, but not a restricted reserve. Maintain open access
Form	Big Common - maintain SSSI status - with input from knowledgeable people like Suffolk Wildlife Trust - continue as is. Would like to see notes about the scientific value (They may be there). Open up some of the space - to allow rambling, but keeping other areas for wildlife + biodiversity.
Flip Chart	With some volunteers from the village and direction from experts
Flip Chart	For common not private benefit
Flip Chart	Gorse kept tidy
Flip Chart	No street lights
Flip Chart	More information for visitors and residents - some boards now illegible or missing
Flip Chart	Define who is responsible for managing commons (1 body) + manage them - e.g. grazing?, vegetation management
Flip Chart	Mill Common - control growth of gorse and brambles
Flip Chart	More effective enforcement

Flip Chart	It would be great to have some signposts on each of the commons that would tell the public about the habitat, wildlife etc..
Flip Chart	Leave them alone
Flip Chart	Sympathetic management not too tidy. Re-establish tracks.
Flip Chart	Safe grazing
Flip Chart	Not made too smart or manicured (I agree)
Flip Chart	Uniform management by one body
Flip Chart	With a light touch
Flip Chart	It's all about the future, so please can we have involvement or sub group that involves the village young people/children
Flip Chart	Restrict horses to separate paths so less damage for walkers/cyclists. Grazing areas?
Flip Chart	As much community involvement as possible
Flip Chart	Through the commons trust with open meetings for local people
Flip Chart	Open access to be maintained or improved where access not open currently
Flip Chart	There should be notices to show ownership
Flip Chart	Current plans are a good start
Flip Chart	By a trust
Flip Chart	As wild life friendly as possible
Flip Chart	Keep SWT management, but not a restricted reserver. Maintain open access
Flip Chart	Leave them alone
Flip Chart	Big common managed as is with less tree felling. Mill Common left to manage itself as it has for some time to date. Little to no change overall. No clearance
Flip Chart	Some bracken could be replaced by other plants to encourage wildlife. The gorse is good to see as a native plant and it adds colour.
Flip Chart	Big Common - as it currently is. Mill Common - land owned by Mr Pugh has not been managed for many years and this has been good for wildlife and birds. I would like to see extremely limited management of Mill Common
Flip Chart	Not actively managed but rules of use clarified and enforced
Flip Chart	??? Cannot Read ??? For future generations of Blaxhall residents
Flip Chart	Stop occasional motor bikes on Big Common
Flip Chart	Continue under SWT management but keep open access not a restricted reserve
Flip Chart	There are concerns that 'Open Access' could lead to access for travellers which would not be welcome. Therefore open access requires management

Source	Q4 - What are your initial thoughts about the idea of a Charitable Trust?	
	Any Advantages	Any Concerns
Post	Potentially good for reasons above	Needs to keep communicating with village
Post	Excellent idea.	Keep talking to the village
Post	A very good idea. Gives the villagers a body to engage with that specifically deals with the commons that hopefully the trust will oversee management of the Great Common and others when they are purchased. The trust will have more knowledge, experience and training in "commons" which is essential for its protection. More access to funding as a charity – e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund.	That still no action taken on encroachment & the illegal works that have been undertaken in the last few years. If no action taken the commons will be lost and even completely enclosed. Please see legislation on this procedure – need to act now. That the group/trustees don't seek out knowledgeable people with the necessary skills and experience in the area of commons.
Post	Good idea	That they are able to see it through!
Post	Can't really see the need for it. If we all did our 'own bit' as they do in Europe.	Which open spaces are we talking about?
Post	Possible acquisition of open spaces - i.e. Mill Common allotments, to preserve for village use, if the funding is not taken up with less important parcels of land.	Over management of acquired land
Form	Yes. Protect future of commons	Advantages will outweigh any concerns
Form	Good idea. Brings focus. When common land comes up - provide a focus that can look at how they can be kept. Could bring more people involved than just the Parish Council.	What happens when the current Trustees terms come to an end. Will the next step of people be so concerned about Blaxhall
Flip Chart	Not the PC	Where is the money coming from
Flip Chart	Seems like a good idea hopefully bringing the village together to fund raise etc	Need to be wide circle of locals
Flip Chart	Good	I am in favour of charitable trust if they can get backing of majority of village & everyone feels listened to
Flip Chart	Clear governance. Tax advantages for charitable trust	Maintaining momentum as original pioneers drop off the porch
Flip Chart	It's a good idea	Should the owners of the land be on the trust's board (to hear consensus)
Flip Chart	Accountability + transparency	That the openness not be maintained
Flip Chart	??? Passionate and enterprising ???	Could another format make fundraising easier
Flip Chart	Common agreed goals - takes personalities out of it	Who would be on the board? Elected and appointed
Flip Chart	An excellent idea! Opportunities for coll	Any concerns will be outweighed by potential to protect commons
Flip Chart	It's a good idea - will involve any in village /parish that are interested	Think it seems a good idea. Am feeling more comfortable now learning more about it. Happy that it keeps village safe. But am concerned when current trustees move on, that other less "Blaxhall" people may become trustees
Flip Chart	Good - secure commons for future	How independent will Trust be from Parish Council! Potential conflicts.
Flip Chart	Good. Attempts being made to sort out problems	Certainly worth a try. Concern about a new (another) bureaucracy. Democratic nature?
Flip Chart	Yes. Protect future of commons	Funding, clearing litter, stopping motor vehicles
Flip Chart	Brings focus, allows the village to give views	Ok, but concerns of members perceptions of what is allowed re clearance etc. What does the committee plan to do in the way of "management"
Flip Chart	Should help to see off development pressures	
Flip Chart	Increase volunteering	
Flip Chart	Very welcome to preserve for public	
Flip Chart	Mechanism for securing acquisition for village land/sites come onto market	