



KCC Windmills Consultation

Background

- KCC's current strategy is to maintain in good condition the eight windmills they own, as they have done for the past 60 years.
- KCC now want to change their strategy and sell the windmills to save on the maintenance. KCC figures show that this would save them **25p per household per annum**.
- **BUT** they must first hold a consultation to see if you agree. That is the purpose of the questionnaire in the link below:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/windmills-consultation>

Questionnaire

- The questionnaire can be answered in 3 ways:
 - **Online:** You first need to create an online account with a simple username, your email address, and a password, before answering a few questions.
 - **By email:** You need to download the Word document, fill it in, save the file and email it to heritage@kent.gov.uk
 - **By post:** Fill in the Word document and post it to: KCC Heritage - Conservation, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 1XX
- The questionnaire asks whether you agree or disagree with the policy change generally and then specifically with respect to each of the eight windmills. You can answer all or as many questions as you like. You can leave some blank and move on. You do not have to complete the questionnaire in one go. You can go back if you want.

Please turn over

HELP SAVE OUR WINDMILL

Just say "NO" to KCC selling it

KCC's windmills cost just 25p per household each year. There is no guarantee that a new owner would keep our windmill in such good condition. *It needs to stay with KCC.*



Have KCC maintain it like this



1958 after 20 years neglect

Use the QR code to join the consultation and **DISAGREE** with KCC's proposal

letstalk.kent.gov.uk/windmills-consultation

Public Meeting

Vestry Hall, Thursday 11th January, 7.30pm



Key Questions

There are two key questions being asked:

1. *“To what extent do you agree or disagree in principle with KCC’s proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for KCC owned windmills?”*

If you disagree, and think that KCC should continue to own and maintain their windmills, we urge you to tick **‘Strongly Disagree’**

2. *“If a local interest, voluntary or community group(s) were to take on the ownership of the windmills, would it change how you responded to the previous question?”*

Cranbrook Windmill Association and the other Kent windmill groups believe that this is wholly unrealistic and suggest you tick **‘No’**

Other Questions

First question: we suggest that you respond as a **resident**

The questionnaire also asks for your suggestions on how KCC could retain the windmills by making them more financially viable.

How you can help

Cranbrook Windmill Association (CWA) is reaching out to as many people as possible and asking them to read the Consultation Document and respond to the questionnaire.

CWA asks everyone as a minimum to **answer the two key questions** above. You can also do the same for each individual windmill further on.

**There will be a Public Meeting in the Vestry Hall, Cranbrook
7:30pm on Thursday, 11th January**

Possible Reasons

The questionnaire includes optional boxes where you can provide the reason/s you agree or disagree with a question.

Some suggestions to think about and put into your own words are:

1. Windmills are a special part of our heritage. People love to see them ‘come to life’ when the sweeps (sails) are turning. KCC must continue to maintain them as they have done expertly for 60 years.
2. The 8 windmills cost each Kent household 25p per annum. This is very modest but neglect by a new owner could result in irreparable damage. It risks *“ruining the windmills for a ha’porth of KCC tar”*.
3. These historic windmills are part of Kent’s heritage and are for everybody to enjoy. KCC’s current strategy guarantees this.
4. It would not be realistic for the voluntary groups to run the windmills and also raise large sums of money for maintenance.
5. The windmills are a wonderful educational resource. Children love seeing how flour is made and are amazed that it doesn’t just come from the supermarket.
6. The excellent Wheels of Time initiative has greatly increased family visits to Kent heritage sites. The windmills are among the most popular to visit.
7. KCC say that new owners would be obliged to keep the windmills in good, safe condition but enforcement of this is difficult. Providence Chapel in Cranbrook has been neglected for many years.
8. KCC heritage staff have the knowledge and expertise to maintain their windmills efficiently. Individual mills would lack this capability and would deteriorate more rapidly.
9. The windmills attract visitors from far and wide including overseas. This is good for local economies.
10. If a windmill is sold privately the new owner may decide not to open it to public visitors nor to turn the sweeps (sails) as CWA does now.