

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 6 November 2019

Report by: Director of Environment & Infrastructure

Heading: Review of Naturalised Areas and Wildflower Area Development

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on the review of naturalised area as agreed by Policy Board on the 7th November 2018 and actions the Motion to Council of 26th September 2019 to report back the results of the re-examination of naturalised areas.
- 1.2 The Council's parks and green space have a key role to play in supporting the delivery of the Council's ambitions to tackle climate change. This report introduces proposals to create wildflower areas as well as outlining existing naturalised areas that are suitable for conversion to wildflower areas as agreed in the Motion decision of Council on 26th September 2019.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 and 2 to this report provides the full list of the 112 naturalised areas created in 2012. 52 of these areas were reinstated during 2013/14 into a regular grass cutting schedule and are listed in Appendix 2. The remaining 60 areas have been reviewed and proposals for each area are detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of this report, along with ongoing work to establish the Council's obligations to maintain areas of non-Council owned land that has historically maintained.
- 1.4 There are financial implications for the Council associated with this report as set out in section 3 and 4 of the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board:

- 2.1 Notes the review of naturalised areas and the grass cutting service has been completed.
 - 2.2 Notes as part of the Council's response to tackle climate change, work is being developed to enhance the role parks and green spaces can contribute through the creation of wildflower areas and tree plantations.
 - 2.3 Agrees to create roadside verge wildflower areas as initial pilots, and the associated implementation costs as set out in section 3 of this report and agrees to convert four existing naturalised areas into 2 wildflower areas and 2 tree plantation areas as set out in section 4.2 and Appendix 1 of the report.
 - 2.4 Agrees to the reinstatement of naturalised areas into a scheduled grass cutting frequency, as set out in section 4.2 and Appendix 1 of this report and the associated one off and annual revenue costs to maintain these areas as part of a regular grass cutting schedule, as set out in section 4.3 of the report.
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3. Wildflowers

- 3.1 Public green spaces provide a range of benefits for communities, the environment, the local economy and for the climate. They provide opportunities for recreation, sport, play and social interactions and support wellbeing through encouraging healthy lifestyles. They also contribute to a sustainable natural environment by providing vital habitats for wildlife and visually enhance the urban environment.
- 3.2 Wildflowers, as part of our green space, can act as pollinator trails and contribute to reducing the carbon footprint within communities.
- 3.3 Wildflower areas require to be actively grown, with the site and soil conditions suitable for growth. There are a variety of wildflower seed, plant plugs and/or wildflower turf where specified plant specific mixes and lay out shall give an instant and long-lasting effect. Costs vary depending on the option and the need to create appropriate soil conditions for growth is essential. Displays can be very popular with local residents, particularly when planted along verges and links well with Improving Environment & Place agenda.

- 3.4 There are few wildflower areas in Renfrewshire, and it is proposed to create initial areas over 2020/2021. These would be 3 roadside verges, with proposed locations of Linwood Road, Greenock Road, Paisley and locations on the A726 through Erskine as set out in Appendix 3 of this report. A cost to create these 3 wildflower areas would be around £90,000.
- 3.5 The Council's green space has a key role to play in supporting delivery of the Council's ambitious climate actions to tackle climate change. Work will continue over the coming months to seek opportunities to develop further locations for wildflower meadow and tree plantation, with the aim to create hectares of wildflower meadows throughout Renfrewshire over the coming years. Community consultation and involvement in the development of wildflower areas is planned for 2020, through the local partnerships. The 3 wildflower areas set out in section 3.4 will test different approaches, allow upskilling of employees and the findings from these pilots supporting the creation of new wildflower meadow and biodiversity areas in Renfrewshire.

4. Review of Naturalised Areas & Grass Cutting

- 4.1 In 2012, one hundred and twelve naturalised areas were introduced in Renfrewshire. During 2013 and 2014 52 of these naturalised areas were reintroduced into a regular grass cutting schedule as set out in Appendix 2. The review undertaking during 2019, therefore focused on the 60 remaining naturalised areas. The following criteria was used to assess each naturalised area:
- Close proximity to a main/arterial road route, high footfall pedestrian area
 - Within close proximity of residential properties/ residents view from properties
 - Steepness of slopes and banking's
 - Ground conditions (waterlogging)
 - Ease of reinstatement
- 4.2 Following the assessment of each of the naturalised areas against the criteria set out in section 4.1 of this report, a summary is set out below, detailed in Appendix 1:
- 45 areas could be re-introduced to regular scheduled grass maintenance,
 - 11 areas are not recommended for reinstatement due to complexity of cutting in a safe manner due to site conditions

- 4 areas are considered for conversion to wildflower (2) and tree plantation (2)
- 4.3 If the 45 naturalised areas set out in 4.2 above were returned to the scheduled grass cutting maintenance programme, there would be a one-off cost of £55,000 in 2019/2020 to prepare to return to grassed areas for regular maintenance. Returning these areas to a regular grass cutting schedule along with the 60 areas that were returned to a regular grass cutting schedule in 2013/2014, would incur additional ongoing revenue costs annually of £180,000 to maintain.
- 4.4 The options set out in the above paragraphs in section 4 of the report should be considered in conjunction with paragraph 3.5 of this report. That whilst naturalised areas can be returned into a regular grass cutting schedule, these areas shall not be excluded from consideration as wildflower meadows in the medium to long term as part of the Council's programme of creating wildflower meadows as part of its actions to support tackling climate change.
- 4.5 Through the review of the grass cutting, the service is identifying areas of grass that the Council maintains that is not in the Council's ownership, to understand if there are historical maintenance agreements or legal arrangements requiring the Council to maintain these. As this work progress, information will be detailed in future reports to this board.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The reinstatement of naturalised areas into regular grass cutting schedules will cost £180,000 of additional revenue resources per annum. The report also seeks £145,000 of one off costs to reinstate naturalised areas and to create pilot wildflower areas as set out in the sections 3 and 4 of this report.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None
13. **Climate risk** – This report impacts positively on the Council's ambitions to tackle climate change.

List of Background Papers - none

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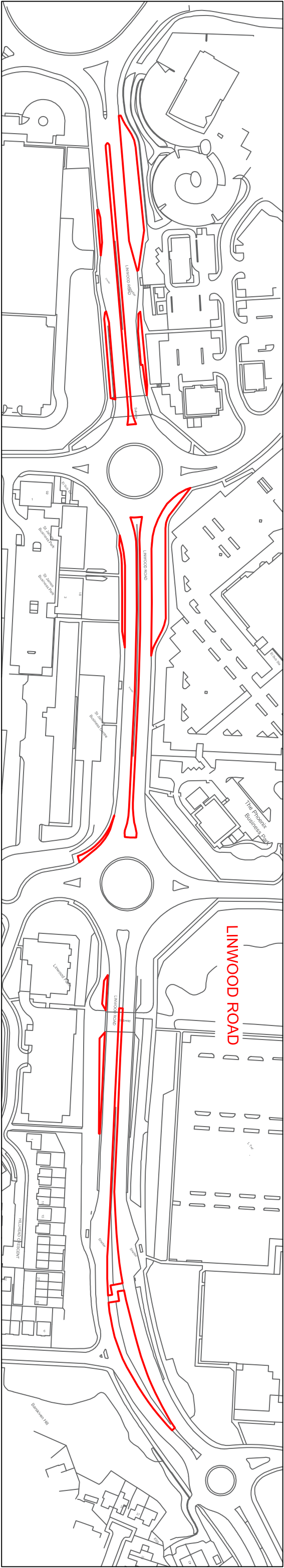
Review of Naturalised Area

Appendix 1s

Location	Reinstate	Comments
Auchenlodment Road, Johnstone	y	N/A
Barshaw Park, Paisley - Dog exercise area	y	N/A
Barshaw Park, Paisley - Rear of dog exercise area	y	N/A
Barshaw Park, Paisley - Rear of hospital	y	N/A
Blythswood Road, Renfrew	y	N/A
Brediland Road / Talisman Road /Foxbar Road, Paisley	y	N/A
Brodie Park, Paisley	y	N/A
Burnside Road / Meadows Avenue, Elderslie	y	N/A
Campbell Street, Renfrew	y	N/A
Cardell Road, Paisley - opposite Community Centre	y	N/A
Centreholm/Mainhill, Erskine	y	N/A
Erskine Park Inward Investment Site, Erskine	y	N/A
Ferry Lodge, Erskine - path & bridge	y	N/A
Foxbar Road / Abbotsford Crescent / Spencer Drive, Paisley	y	N/A
Glenfield Road, Paisley - Garage site	y	N/A
Glenfield Road, Paisley - Forest	y	N/A
Glenfield Road, Paisley - Forest banking	y	N/A
Glenshira Avenue/Glenarklet Drive, Paisley	y	N/A
Hartfield Terrace / St.Ninians Road, Paisley	y	N/A
Holly Place / Juniper Place, Johnstone	y	N/A
Kashmir Avenue, Linwood - Mill Lade	y	N/A
Kashmir Avenue, Linwood - Opposite Tesco	y	N/A
Kashmir Avenue, Linwood - before Kintyre Park	y	N/A
Kilbarchan Park, Kilbarchan	y	N/A
Ladykirk Crescent, Paisley - Rear 43-49	y	N/A
Larch Place / Chestnut Place / Maple Drive, Johnstone	y	N/A
Lochaline Avenue, Paisley - Lockups area	y	N/A
Lomond View, Erskine - Rear of	y	N/A
Low Parksail, Erskine	y	N/A
Mains Drive/Newshot Drive, Erskine	y	N/A
Marnock Terrace, Paisley	y	N/A
Merlin Way / Montgomery Road / Newton Way, Paisley	y	N/A
Methuen Road, Paisley - Rear of 57 / 67	y	N/A
Montgomery Avenue / Road, Paisley	y	N/A
North Barr Avenue, Erskine	y	N/A
Park Road, Johnstone - Ex Putting Green	y	N/A
Park Way/BT Exchange, Erskine	y	N/A
Rashieholm / Rashie Glen, Erskine	y	N/A
Rashielee Avenue, Erskine - pathway area between Police Station/New Erskine Church	y	N/A
Saucelhill Park, Paisley	y	N/A
Shaw Place, Linwood	y	N/A
St. Annes Primary School, Erskine	y	N/A
Tannahill Crescent, Johnstone - north of pathway to Beith Road	y	N/A
Tannahill Crescent, Johnstone - south of pathway to Beith Road	y	N/A
Willow Drive, Johnstone - Garage Site	y	N/A
Burnside Gardens, Kilbarchan	N	due to severity of banking
Candren Road, Paisley	N	Waterlogged area
Carlisle Quay, Paisley	N	Severity of banking
Greenock Road / Almond Drive / Craighead Road, Bishopston - Rear of houses	N	Bottom area soaking wet, remainder very
Howwood Park, Howwood	N	Severity of bankings
Linwood Sports Centre, Linwood - Pitch & Putt	N	Not used as pitch & putt, should remain
Main Road, Howwood - Opposite Howwood Inn	N	Severity of bankings
Morar Drive, Paisley - Playing Fields	N	Severity of bankings
Qwuarrelton Road / Beith Road, Johnstone - woodland area on corner	N	Woodland area, no amenity value in
Spateston Road, Johnstone - burn banking at rear of Falcon Road	N	Woodland area, no amenity value in
Station Road Playing Field, Langbank	N	Rough ground not suitable for
Freeland Drive, Inchinnan	Alternative	Convert to tree planting area as part of the
Glenburn Road, Paisley	Alternative	Review soil conditions and trial wildflower
Newark Drive / Mossneuk rive /Nethercraigs Drive, Paisley - rear of houses	Alternative	Convert to tree planting area as part of the
Spateston Road, Johnstone - underpass area to rear of Bowling Club	Alternative	Review soil conditions and trial wildflower

Returned to Cutting 2013-14 (Not reviewed)	
Location	
11 Esk Avenue, Renfrew	
14 Esk Avenue, Renfrew	
30 Nith Drive, Renfrew	
32-42 Barterholm Road/Espedair Street, Paisley	
36 Nith Drive, Renfrew	
Afton Drive / Tweed Crescent, Renfrew - play area	
Afton Drive /Morrison Crescent, Renfrew	
Almond Avenue, Renfrew- adjacent to 23	
Auchengreoch Road, Johnstone	
Barshaw Park, Paisley - Cow Park	
Barwood Park, Erskine	
Braemar Road, Inchinnan	
Brediland Road / Crosbie Drive /Magdalen Way, Paisley	
Burnfoot Crescent /Nethercraigs Drive, Paisley	
Candren Burn - Moorhouse Avenue	
Cockleshill Park, Renfrew	
Conniston Estate, Bishopton - play area	
Craigston Estate, Bishopton - Hill	
Deanpark Road / Esk Avenue, Renfrew	
Deanpark Road, Renfrew - Mill Burn area	
Dee Avenue, Renfrew - play area	
Denewood Avenue, Paisley - rear	
Elm Drive, Johnstone	
Esk Avenue, Renfrew	
Garry Drive / Lochearn Crescent, Paisley	
Garry Drive / Lochinver Crescent, Paisley	
Glasgow Road / Hallidale Crescent, Renfrew	
Glasgow Road / Morrison Crescent, Renfrew	
Hallidale Crecent / Morrison Crescent, Renfrew	
Hillcrest Avenue / Craigmount Avenue, Paisley	
Holms Crescent / Ladymuir Circle , Erskine - Power Station/play area to rear	
Hunterhill Park, Paisley	
Ingleston Drive, Bishopton	
Leander Crescent / Dochart Avenue, Renfrew	
Leander Crescent /Crammond Avenue, Renfrew	
Leslie Avenue, Bishopton - Triangle	
Linburn Road, Erskine	
Manse Crescent, Houston	
Meikleriggs Drive /Rosewood Avenue, Paisley	
Meikleriggs Drive, Paisley - Candren Burn	
Montgomery Avenue / Arkleston Road, Paisley	
Nith Road, Renfrew - lock ups	
Parksail/Low Parksail, Erskine	
Sempill Avneue, Erskine - Barwood/Power Station	
Spruce Avenue, Johnstone	
Stanely Road, Paisley - Banking facing 27	
Teith Avenue/ Nethy Way, Renfrew	
Tirry Avenue /Morrison Crescent, Renfrew	
Todholm Crescent, Paisley	
Todholm Terrace, Paisley	
Walnut Crescent, Johnstone	
Wenlock Road / Auldbar Terrace, Paisley	

Appendix 2



ST JAMES

St James' Park

