
CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 19th February 2016

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: Development of Off Road Cycling within the Regional Park

1.0 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To advise members of the Joint Committee of the potential for further development of services within the Park in the area of off road cycling and cycle touring.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 That the Park Authority supports the continued development of services within the Park to local people and those from further afield.
- 2.2 That the Park Authority recognises the Park's continued efforts to increase income and provide a quality service to our current visitors and attract new visitors.

Members wishing further information regarding this report should contact Mr David Gatherer, Regional Park Manager, Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority, 01505 614791.

3.0 Background:

Feedback from pedal the Park participants, Ride 63 members and people who responded to our online survey have been overwhelmingly in favour of developing routes across the Park to enable more off road cycling and cycle touring. We have formed a working group with representatives from Inverclyde Council, North Ayrshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Leisure, Scottish Cycling, Developing Mountain biking in Scotland and local cycling clubs and cycle shops. The group has met a couple of times over the past few months to discuss what the opportunities are and how to move forward.

It is envisaged that the plan will be in 3 phases

- Phase 1 would be to establish a safe cycle friendly route with adequate signage to ride from the new facility at Rankin Park in Greenock up to Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and access the existing routes and centre.
- Phase 2 will look at linking up Greenock Cut and Muirshiel Centre and potentially access to Brisbane Glen and develop circular routes round Muirshiel using existing track with joining sections being added as required.
- Phase 3 will be the final links between Muirshiel and Castle Semple to access NCR7 and provide a route to and from the new school in Kilbirnie along with a route to link to Glenniffer Braes.

3.1 Measures of success will include:

- Attracting more cyclists to visit the Park and use the Park facilities.
- Successfully funding the project and increasing partnership working with interested parties.
- Re- development of Muirshiel Centre into a mountain bike hub/bunkhouse.
- Developing opportunities for local businesses to provide services that cyclists/walkers may want to make use of.
- Hosting and facilitating cycling events to bring more people to the area.

4.0 Conclusion:

4.1 Within the Park ethos of continually looking to develop services and in the light of reduced resources within the Park, staff and management have come up with a service development which will utilise existing resources while developing client markets.

4.2 Cycling is still one of the sports in Scotland that is growing at a rapid rate and this shows no signs of a slowdown. We believe there is a sound business case for the potential development.

Contribution to the National Outcomes of report on Off Road Cycling within the Regional Park. Completed by: W D Gatherer, Regional Park Manager.
Date 19th February 2016.

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe	Cycling development offers opportunities for expanding or new business
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people	Funding should be available to carry out the project and result in greater income to the Park and its partners.
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation	
4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens	The project will open up many opportunities for young people including cycling Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and school led cycling trips.
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed	The project will have strong links to education and leisure departments in the 3 councils
6. We live longer, healthier lives	Cycling is a sport with proven health benefits to all
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society	Cycling is a sport open to anyone of any background, the project would be open to all
8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk	
9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger	The facilities will be used by groups and organisations that take part in youth programmes and diversionary activities.
10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need	The project will take into account the long term growth potential of cycling and endeavour to build the facilities that will last and be open to expanding as future needs may require
11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others	The project will encourage responsible access as outlined in the outdoor access code and will engage the local cycling community in its ongoing development and maintenance.
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations	The project will give more people access to the wild land and natural landscapes of the Park.
13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity	
14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production	Cycling is a green form of transport and the project aims to link cycling with at least 6 train stations across the area
15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs	The project is driven by feedback and ideas from local people and is seen by many as an important local development.