
CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY

Item 7



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 5 June 2015

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: Tag-n-Track, a Project for Environmental Education, Training, Volunteer Engagement and Programme of Events

1.0 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To advise members of the Joint Committee of the Tag-n-Track project that aims to improve environmental education by being able to follow satellite tagged birds in the classroom, engage people through social media, encourage volunteers and run training courses and wildlife events.
- 1.2 To advise members of the successful application by the Park to the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide £66,100 for the project.
- 1.3 To seek approval from the Park Authority to request additional monies to ensure the success of the Tag-n-Track project.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 That the Park Authority supports the Tag-n-Track project.
- 2.2 That the Park Authority recognises the shortfall in funding as a result of the revised timetable for Leader applications.

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

3.0 Background:

The project Tag-n-Track is concerned with our environment and encouraging understanding about wildlife and habitats. It will use satellite and radio tagging and school children will be able to track bird movements using a Geographic Information System (GIS). The project will be available through social media and will allow the wider community to see mapped bird movements.

The latest time for satellite tagging juvenile gulls is July and this is an essential start date for the project to achieve its planned outcomes with schools and research papers.

A Project Officer will develop and promote activities for schools, volunteers and events as well as developing online communication and interpretation resources.

This will give an enhanced public experience while engaging communities in species recording and monitoring. The project will demonstrate the importance of wildlife on our doorstep and the wider countryside.

Project events will facilitate opportunities for active learning and meaningful interpretation of our natural heritage. Learning opportunities will be promoted through social media, talks and work experience. Volunteers will develop skills in identification of species, radio/satellite tagging, use of motion detection cameras, information collation and work experience.

There will be training courses in radio tracking, motion detection cameras, ethics, animal behaviour, field craft, species ecology and conservation. To create ownership and involvement and to assist with the costs of tracking equipment we will seek sponsorship from local businesses and communities.

- 3.1 Tag-n-Track has been approved for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £66,100. Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is providing £17,646 which represents funding of the Project Officer's salary of one day per week over the three years. In addition, the non-cash contribution from Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be £29,775 while the value of volunteer work will be £8,540.
- 3.2 It was intended that Leader would be applied for the remaining monies, but due to uncertainty over the commencement date for Leader, options for funding the project are necessary. The shortfall is £42,297.
- 3.3 The Leader request was to be for the first two years of the three year project and the start of the project will include the purchase of the satellite tagging equipment. Leader may consider a delayed start to their funding of Tag-n-Track, but they do not as yet have the regulations to confirm that this will be feasible.
- 3.4 A breakdown of the project costs over three years are noted below (Table 1).

4.0 Conclusion:

- 4.1 The Park aims to deliver high quality services against a background of reduced resources. Funding is key to the future success of developing new services.
- 4.2 The latest time for satellite tagging juvenile gulls is July and it is unlikely that Leader will be able to commit to agreeing to part fund the project by this time.
- 4.3 Although the Park would normally aim to fully fund projects through grant applications, delays in the commencement of the Leader programme have occurred and it may not be possible to fund Tag-n-Track through this route.
- 4.4 Tag-n-Track will deliver outcomes in environmental education, people engagement through social media and volunteer commitment, run training courses in the use of technology and animal recording and a have series of outdoor events for the general public.
- 4.5 Tag-n-Track will represent excellent value for the above outcomes.

Table 1 - Breakdown of project costs

Description	How much (£)	Total (£)
Project Officer over three years	88067	88067
Motion detection cameras, security case and python lock	508	610
Five satellite tags for lesser black-backed gulls	7983	9580
Cost of Argos download (from satellite, two years)	8200	9840
Ten small radio tags to track juvenile barn owls	1342	1610
One flexible 3-element Yagi antenna	140	168
Five geolocators for adult barn owls	1600	1920
DLC1 unit for recharging geolocators	330	396
External Hard Drive	50	60
Contingency for replacements	4167	5000
Uniform	250	300
Four bannerstands, three dibond panels and two magnetic vinyls	900	1050
Attend conferences	500	583
Sika Radio tracking receiver 8MHz	1375	1650
Travel expenses for volunteers	600	600
32 Android Tablets and protective cases	3840	4608
Total	119852	126042

Contribution to the National Outcomes of Report: Tag and Tracking Project
 Completed by: D. Gatherer, Regional Park Manager.

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe	
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people	
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation	Part of this project includes training bird ringing etc.
4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens	This project will help participants develop skills and become familiar with IT applications.
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed	This project will help participants develop skills and become familiar with IT applications.
6. We live longer, healthier lives	
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society	This project will 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	
10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need	
11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others	
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations	This project will raise the understanding of participants about their natural environment.
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	
15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs	