
CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2 September 2016

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

**SUBJECT: CASTLE SEMPLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER GROUP -
TESCO GRANT SUBMISSION**

1.0 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To advise members of the Joint Committee of the successful bid by the Castle Semple Conservation Volunteer Group to secure funding from Tesco's Bags of Help/ Greenspace Scotland Grants Initiative to construct a new wildlife pond at Muirshiel Country Park.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 That the Park Authority supports the ongoing funding initiatives with other community organisations to enhance the bio-diversity of the local area.

3.0 Background:

After consultation between Park Staff, educational establishments and local interested groups it was recognised there was a need to develop a new bigger pond at Muirshiel Country Park to take the pressure off our original small pond.

This would increase the local biodiversity of the area, make better use of an already waterlogged site and improve facilities for the public at the same time. The new pond would also maintain a link with both the natural water source from the hills around Muirshiel estate and the species migration from one to the other via the small ponds spillway which would directly link the two.

Vegetation clearance and general maintenance tasks could then be carried out to prevent the smaller pond getting choked up with waterweed growth. The new pond would still allow schools and visitors to continue to be able to pond dip while this essential work was carried out.

Funding for the delivery of the project has been secured through a competitive tender by the Castle Semple Conservation Volunteer Group to the Tesco Bags of Help/Greenspace Scotland Grants Initiative sourced by the 5p levy on plastic bag use in Tesco stores.

The local community were asked to vote for their favourite project out of a shortlist of three (one of which was our pond). We came second in the voting and were awarded £10,000.

Measures of success will include:

- Attracting more visitors to visit the Park to use the park facilities.
- Successfully funding the project and increasing partnership working with local community volunteer groups.
- Providing an additional outdoor learning resource facility open to all.
- Providing an additional area for wildlife and the opportunity to increase the biodiversity of the area.
- Working with several local community groups taking ownership of the project working through to its completion by April 2017 and its ongoing maintenance thereafter.

4.0 Conclusion:

The Staff and Park Management continue to look for innovative ideas to attract funding from external sources to improve facilities for both the local wildlife and visitors alike.

This grant award also dovetails in to another submission which we hope will provide both a wheelchair accessible path to and a pond dipping platform for the new pond.

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe	The partnership purchase of the new equipment will allow business development.
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people	This equipment will attract more business.
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	Participation in these new activities will develop skills and confidence.
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed	This equipment will allow access to sport for young disadvantaged members of our society
6. We live longer, healthier lives	Active learning, recreation and healthy lifestyles are all at the fore.
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society	This equipment will allow access to sport for disadvantaged members of our society
8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk	Young people can increase their skills and competence levels.
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	This specialist equipment will allow access to all.
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	
13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity	The provision of this equipment will allow inclusivity.
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	The project directly delivers on this outcome as evidenced by its monitoring and reporting.