

**To: CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**On: 28 OCTOBER 2020**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

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**Heading: Creation of Biodiversity Areas in Communities – Consultation Outcome**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 In August 2020, the Infrastructure Land and Environment Policy Board agreed to engage communities to seek their views on the creation of further biodiversity locations across Renfrewshire and to seek their views on the creation of biodiversity areas in specific locations across Renfrewshire's communities. This report details the outcome of the Biodiversity consultation that took place through August and September 2020.
- 1.2 A climate emergency was declared by Renfrewshire Council on 27 June 2019. The actions required to respond to the climate emergency are complex and multi-faceted, cannot be tackled in isolation and require full collaboration and support by organisations across all of society. The Council has a role in leading and driving change across Renfrewshire. Improved biodiversity was agreed by the Climate Emergency Working Group as one key strand that the Council can promote to support tackling climate change in Renfrewshire and the Council's green space will have a key role in achieving the Council's ambitions.
- 1.3 There were over 1700 responses provided by Renfrewshire residents who gave their time to provide a lot of very detailed input to the consultation. Over 1200 of those responding were supportive of biodiversity areas being created across Renfrewshire with support for these areas being created in parks, road side verges, local neighbourhoods and around community facilities.
- 1.4 There were 111 specific locations which communities were asked their views on. As sets out in the recommendations, it is proposed the locations that received over 75%

support for being created into biodiversity areas are taken forward with communities to develop into biodiversity areas over the next 3 years.

- 1.5 The next stage in the process will be to engage with communities further on the planning for implementation of the biodiversity panels as set out in section 5 of the report.
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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Climate Change Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the outcome of the consultation and support for the development of biodiversity locations in Renfrewshire.
  - 2.2 Endorses the development of biodiversity areas in the locations that received 75% or more positive support from communities over the next 3 years.
  - 2.3 Notes that regular updates on the creation of these biodiversity panels and proposals to develop wider biodiversity areas will be brought before the Climate Change Sub - Committee
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## **3. Consultation Process**

- 3.1 The engagement took place between Wednesday 26 August and closed at midnight on Sunday 13 September. This allowed residents and communities to provide their wider views on the creation of biodiversity panels in Renfrewshire and to vote and comment specifically on the proposed biodiversity locations within their community.
- 3.2 All Community Councils, Local Partnerships, community partners and elected members were notified of the survey and approximately 4,000 residents within 50m of proposed panels received individual letters to advise them of the consultation. The survey was primarily an online survey, but also accepted written and e-mail comments and feedback. These were entered into the online survey by Council officers.
- 3.3 During the survey period, 11 posts were issued across Facebook and Twitter, with a combined reach of 316,000 and an engagement rate of 2.86%. The first post, issued on 26 August had the furthest reach with a reach of 34,600 on Facebook – this would be expected since Facebook tends to reduce reach on posts with the same link, so future posts would not have been so widely promoted by the algorithms.
- 3.4 The biodiversity consultation web page on the Council Website had a total of 24,258 pageviews, and 7,415 unique pageviews during the survey period. Analysis shows that the majority of referrals to the page came from Facebook (13,570 total

pageviews and 4,187 unique pageviews).

#### 4. Consultation Responses

- 4.1 A total of 1,769 responses are recorded on the survey of which 1,213 people responded in support for the creation on biodiversity panels in Renfrewshire. The table below details the communities views on where they would like to see biodiversity areas located in Renfrewshire. This information is helpful for the climate change sub committee to consider in it's strategic planning for increasing the development of biodiversity areas across Renfrewshire.

Locations	Number of Responses
Parks	929
Roadside Verges	757
Roundabouts	757
Local Neighbourhoods	659
Around Community Buildings	616

- 4.2 The consultation looked at 85 areas some with multiple suggested grass panels. This gave the total number of suggested panels being consulted on as 111. As set out in the table below 52 of the 111 locations received support to be developed into a biodiversity locations. 37 locations received more than 75% support for being developed into a biodiversity area.

Percentage Threshold in Favour	Number of Panels that would be created
100%	10
Over 90%	11
Over 80%	25
Over 75%	37
Over 60%	45
Over 50%	52

- 4.3 The 37 locations that are set out to be taken forward are proposed across 10 of the 12 ward areas of Renfrewshire. Appendix 1 of this report sets out the location of each of the 37 panels. Two wards did not have any locations that received over 75% support for the panels proposed in this consultation. Further engagement with communities within these wards, taking account of the suggestions received will be undertaken. The biodiversity proposals per ward are set out in the table below.

Ward	Number of biodiversity areas to be taken
1	1
2	5
3	1
4	4
5	1
6	0

7	0
8	7
9	6
10	5
11	2
12	5

- 4.4 In relation to these 37 locations there were 224 comments provided by communities on how they would like to see the locations taken forward and the type of biodiversity they would like to see developed. Examples included wildflowers, natural species, fruit, vegetables and tree planting.
- 4.5 In addition to the 111 panels where specific views were sought, communities detailed other locations where they would like to see biodiversity areas developed. This information is being worked through at this time and will be brought forward as part of the wider strategic planning for increasing biodiversity areas within Renfrewshire.

## 5. **Next Steps in Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1 All households who live adjacent to the proposed sites (within 50m) were lettered directly to advise of the consultation taking place and encourage them to take part. It is the intention to again letter these specific households to advise of the outcome of the consultation. This will take the form of one of 3 letters:
- Advising that the panel received 75% or more positive feedback and will be converted to a biodiversity area over the next 3 years.
  - Advising that the panel received between 51% and 74% positive feedback and will be converted to a biodiversity area after the initial 37 have been completed.
  - Advising that the panel received 50% or less support and will not be converted to a biodiversity area.
- 5.2 All local elected members, Community Councils and Local Partnerships were advised of the panels being proposed within their areas and will be informed of the outcome of the consultation.
- 5.3 Development of the biodiversity panels in the 37 locations will take place over the next 3 years. Engagement and involvement of local communities, community councils and local partnership groups is essential in the success of developing these areas and engagement will now commence to discuss the various options for creation of biodiversity areas at each of the 37 locations, on a site by site basis.
- 5.4 The Council's website will have a section on biodiversity created which will outline the Council's commitment to Climate Change and the part biodiversity plays in this. It will have details of the areas being developed, including a map clearly outlining each area and its biodiversity assessment report. Progress on the creation of the panels will be provided on this forum, as well as on the Council's social media channels.
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## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – Investment to support the development of the biodiversity panels will be sought from the climate change funding approved in the Council's budget in March 2020. A report will be brought back to the Climate Change Sub Committee following the detailed planning for the development of the biodiversity panels to set out the investment costs for the Committee's consideration.
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** – The Council's green space has a key role to play in supporting the delivery of biodiversity improvements and the Council's ambitious actions to tackle climate change. The introduction of biodiversity areas would assist in this.
14. **Fairer Scotland Duty** - none

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## **List of Background Papers**

None

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**Author:** Gordon McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure

**E-mail:** [Gordon.mcneil@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Gordon.mcneil@renfrewshire.gov.uk)



## Appendix 1

### List of Locations with 75% or more response as suitable

Ward	site	Location	Not Suitable %	Suitable %
ward 4	GMS/42444	REAR OF NEWTON TERRACE	0%	100%
ward 5	GMS/39548	BARSCUBE TERR TO LADYKIRK CRESC	0%	100%
ward 8	GMS/11035	REAR 133/139 WILLOW	0%	100%
ward 9	GMS/19502	FULTON CRES/WELL RD	0%	100%
ward 9	GMS/19552	NEW ST	0%	100%
ward 10	GMS/17012	HOLM PLACE/SEMPLE PLACE	0%	100%
ward 10	GMS/17054	OPP TWEEDIE HALL	0%	100%
ward 10	GMS/17056	MILL LADE	0%	100%
ward 10	GMS/17058	SHAW PLACE	0%	100%
ward 12	GMS/23592	ERSKINEPARK INWARD INV.SITE	0%	100%
ward 2	GMS/32560	MONTGOMERY AVE/ROAD	6%	94%
ward 8	GMS/13545	BYRES RD/EDZELL DR	10%	90%
ward 2	GMS/31515	ARKLESTON RD/SDA	11%	89%
ward 8	GMS/11002	AUCHENLODMENT RD	11%	89%
ward 9	GMS/19518	CUNNINGHAM ROAD	11%	89%
ward 4	GMS/42432	WOODSIDE PARK	13%	88%
ward 12	GMS/24122	CLYDE WALKWAY	13%	88%
ward 10	GMS/16540	LSC PITCH & PUTT	14%	86%
ward 9	GMS/20045	LOCHWINNOCH RECREATION	15%	85%
ward 8	GMS/13535	MAIN RD/BURNBRAE RD	15%	85%
ward 11	GMS/22005	INGLESTON DRIVE	15%	85%
ward 2	GMS/31005	COCKLESHILL PARK	16%	84%
ward 12	GMS/23590	A726 ROAD CORRIDOR	17%	83%
ward 8	GMS/12026	AUCHENGREOCH ROAD	18%	82%
ward 8	GMS/13505	ALTPATRICK GARDENS	19%	81%
ward 3	GMS/42858	NURSERY AREA TO OLDHALL ROAD	20%	80%
ward 2	GMS/30005	KNOCKHILL PARK	21%	79%
ward 12	GMS/23540	NORTH BARR AVENUE	21%	79%
ward 1	GMS/25520-1	BLYTHSWOOD	22%	78%
ward 2	GMS/32590	MONTGOMERY RD TO GALLOWHILL RD	22%	78%
ward 9	GMS/60020	GATES ROAD	22%	78%
ward 11	GMS/21515	STATION ROAD PF	22%	78%
ward 4	GMS/37524	CRAIGIELEA DR / FERGUSLIE PK AVE	25%	75%
ward 4	GMS/37596	GREENHILL ROAD	25%	75%
ward 8	GMS/12039	HALLHILL RD	25%	75%
ward 9	GMS/18005	HILLFOOT DRIVE	25%	75%
ward 12	GMS/24106	ERSKINE POOL PHASE 2	25%	75%