



Notice of Meeting and Agenda Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 02 September 2016	10:30	Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, Cornalees Bridge, Inverkip, Inverclyde, PA16 9LX

KENNETH GRAHAM
Clerk to the Joint Committee

Membership

Councillors D Bibby, J Caldwell, J MacLaren and C Gilmour (Renfrewshire Council);
Councillors I Nelson and D Wilson (Inverclyde Council) and Councillors A Dickson and T Marshall (North Ayrshire Council).

Chair – Councillor Gilmour.

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at www.renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx

For further information, please either email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0141 618 7112.

Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Minute of Joint Committee | 5 - 10 |
| | Minute of meeting of the Joint Committee held on 27 May 2016. | |
| 2 | Minute of Consultative Forum | 11 - 16 |
| | Minute of meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 27 May 2016. | |
| 3 | Audited Annual Accounts 2015/16 | |
| | Report by Treasurer. (available in the meeting documents section below) | |
| 4 | Revenue Budget Monitoring | 17 - 20 |
| | Report by Treasurer. | |
| 5 | Clyde Muirshiel Park Strategy 2016/2021 | 21 - 36 |
| | Report by Head of Planning and Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council. | |
| 6 | Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Annual Report 2015/16 | 37 - 54 |
| | Report by Interim Regional Park Manager. | |
| 7 | Quarterly Absence Statistics | 55 - 58 |
| | Report by Interim Regional Park Manager. | |
| 8 | Quarterly Health and Safety Report | 59 - 66 |
| | Report by Interim Regional Park Manager. | |

- 9 Semple Trail Heritage Project 67 - 96**
- Report by Head of Planning and Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council.
- 10 Development of Accessible Sport 97 - 100**
- Report by Interim Regional Park Manager.
- 11 Castle Semple Conservation Volunteer Group: Tesco Grant Submission 101 - 104**
- Report by Interim Regional Park Manager.
- 12 Planning Appeal - Corlic Hill, Greenock 105 - 106**
- Report by Interim Regional Park Manager.
- 13 Date of Next Meeting**
- Note that the next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held at 10.30 am on Friday 2 December 2016 in Barnbrock Farm.



Minute of Meeting Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 27 May 2016	10:30	Barnbrock Farm, Clyde Muirshiel Park Headquarters, Barnbrock Farm, Kilbarchan, PA10 2PZ

PRESENT

Councillors Bibby, Caldwell, Gilmour and J MacLaren (Renfrewshire Council); Councillors Nelson and Wilson (Inverclyde Council); and Councillors Dickson and Marshall (North Ayrshire Council).

CHAIR

Councillor Gilmour, Chairman, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

D Gatherer, Interim Regional Park Manager; S Jones, Assistant Manager (Regeneration), V Howie, Finance Business Partner (Development & Housing Services), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer and K Brown, Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council); J Arthur (Inverclyde Council); and C Sharp (North Ayrshire Council).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Convener intimated that there was an additional item in relation to the Halkhill/Blairpark and Hydro Electric Schemes which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Convener, being of the opinion that the item, which is dealt with at item 13 of this Minute, was urgent in view of the need to consider the matter timeously authorised its consideration.

1 MINUTE OF JOINT COMMITTEE

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 19 February 2016.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 MINUTE OF CONSULTATIVE FORUM

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 19 February 2016.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

3 UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Treasurer relative to the unaudited annual accounts for the Joint Committee for 2015/16 which were attached to the report. The report intimated that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 had been completed and forwarded to Audit Scotland for audit. The accounts showed a surplus for the year of £47,126 against a budgeted breakeven position.

In accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 the unaudited accounts had only been signed by the Treasurer as proper officer. The audited accounts would be signed by the Convener and the Interim Regional Park Manager in accordance with the new guidelines. An amended page 10 of the unaudited annual accounts was tabled.

DECIDED: That the unaudited annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 be noted and that the accounts be further presented to the Joint Committee on completion of the audit.

4 AUDIT SCOTLAND ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Treasure relative to the annual audit plan 2015/16 for the Joint Committee which outlined Audit Scotland's planned activities in their audit for the 2015/16 financial year.

DECIDED: That Audit Scotland's annual audit plan 2015/16 be noted.

5 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Chief Auditor, Renfrewshire Council, relative to the Internal Audit annual report 2015/16 for the Joint Committee. The report intimated that the public sector internal audit standards required that the Chief Auditor prepare an annual report on the activities of internal audit to demonstrate performance. The report must also provide an audit opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control system of the audited body.

The annual report for the Joint Committee was attached as an appendix to the report and outlined the role of internal audit, the performance of the internal audit team and the main findings from the internal audit work undertaken in 2015/16 and contained an audit assurance statement.

DECIDED: That the Internal Audit annual report for 2015/16 be noted.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN 2015/16 AND HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN 2016/17

There was submitted a report by the Interim Regional Park Manager relative to progress made in implementing the key tasks as set out in the Health and Safety Plan 2015/16, a copy which formed Appendix 1 to the report.

The Health and Safety Plan 2016/17 formed Appendix 2 to the report and continued to provide the framework for further improvements in health and safety within the park.

It was proposed that future Health and Safety Plans contain more detail in relation to missed targets. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress made in implementing the key tasks within the Health and Safety Plan 2015/16 be noted;

(b) That the Health and Safety Plan 2016/17 and the efforts to meet the key tasks as set out in the plan be noted; and

(c) That future Health and Safety Plans contain more detail in relation to missed targets.

7 QUARTERLY HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Interim Regional Park Manager providing information on the quarterly health and safety monitoring for the period January to March 2016 which detailed accident statistics, management action and training.

The report intimated that there had been no RIDDOR reportable accidents this quarter and one accident at Castle Semple. There had been two health and safety related courses held during the period with ten members of staff attending hedge cutting and strimmer training and one health and safety related Toolbox Talk delivered.

The report highlighted that further investigations were required to fully rectify the problem of water ingress at the roof of Muirshiel Visitor Centre.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that there were no RIDDOR reportable accidents or occupational diseases and a low number of other accidents considering the range of activities that took place in the Park; and

(b)That it be noted that the problem of water ingress at Muirshiel Visitor Centre continued to be under investigation and had improved following repairs.

8 QUARTERLY ABSENCE STATISTICS

There was submitted a report by the Interim Regional Park Manager relative to the quarterly absence statistics for the Regional Park Authority for the period 1 January to 20 March 2016. The report provided information relating to the absence statistics and reasons for absence.

DECIDED:

(a)That the quarterly absence statistics for the period 1 January to 20 March 2016 be noted; and

(b)That it be noted that the Interim Regional Park Manager would submit reports relative to absence statistics to future meetings of the Joint Committee.

9 PEDAL THE PARK 2016

There was submitted a report by the Interim Regional Park Manager relative to the success of the 'Pedal the Park' event 2016.

The report intimated that 75km and 100km rides had taken place. A total of 250 cyclists participated in these events with around 80% opting for the longer route. Feed stations were located at Greenock Cut and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers marshalled the route along with members of Ride63 cycle club. A time trial event was also held for para-cyclists with the Scotland West Special Olympics cycling squad participating in the event. It was noted that these events had raised £1,210 for CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

Within the Park ethos of continually looking to develop services and in light of reduced resources within the Park, this service development would be one of the ways the Park celebrated and developed cycling. Cycling participation in Scotland had increased by 142% since 2009 and this was an area which required development within the Park. The Pedal the Park event would be an annual event within the Park and the report detailed the measures of success for future events.

DECIDED:

(a)That the continued development of cycling related services within the Park be supported; and

(b)That the Park's continued efforts to increase income using the existing staff skill base within the Park be recognised.

10 UPLANDS PROJECT

Under reference to item 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Joint Committee held on 12 September 2014 there was submitted a report by the Interim Regional Park Manager relative to the potential Upland Project.

The report intimated that the Upland Project proposal had emerged through discussions with officers.

After review by officers it was considered that many elements of the proposal might have been challenging to deliver.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that following consideration by officers of the Regional Park and relevant council staff the Upland Project referred to the Joint Committee in September 2014 would not be pursued; and

(b) That it be noted that the Interim Regional Park Manager would continue to investigate and pursue opportunities for new and emerging projects that supported the aims of the Regional Park in relation to leisure activity, health, education, outdoor learning and environmental management.

11 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

There was submitted a report by the Clerk relative to the recent audit tender exercise conducted by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission for Scotland (for local government) and the Auditor General for Scotland (for central government, health and further education bodies).

The report intimated that following the completion of the tender and consultation with the firms, the auditor of Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee for financial years 2016/17 to 2020/21 would be Audit Scotland.

DECIDED: That it be noted that Audit Scotland had been appointed as auditor of Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee for financial years 2016/17 to 2020/21.

12 CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEMBERS

Under reference to item of the Minute of the meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 19 February 2016 there was submitted a report by the Clerk relative to Consultative Forum members.

The report intimated that the Minute of Agreement of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee stated that 'The Park Consultative Forum shall consist of up to 35 members including the Chair and two Vice Chairs of the Park Authority who shall be ex officio members of the Park Consultative Forum. The Park Authority shall co-opt up to a further 32 non local authority members who shall be representative of the national interest in the countryside, tourism, recreation and conservation in the Clyde Muirshiel area and of appropriate local interests within that area. Without prejudice to the foregoing generalities the interests to be represented may include: farming, land ownership, enterprise, tourism, rambling, voluntary organisations, outdoor sports, protection of the natural heritage, wildlife and of the coastal strip'.

Membership of the Consultative Forum currently stood at 23 members and these members were detailed in the appendix to the report.

DECIDED: That the current membership of the Consultative Forum be noted.

13 **HALKSHILL/BLAIRPARK AND HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEMES**

The Convener intimated that he had facilitated a recent meeting of interested parties in relation to the proposed Halkshill/Blairpark project and associated Hydro Electric Schemes.

Mr Blair, Largs Community Council updated members in relation to the proposed project and advised that the Forestry Commission would soon publish the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project giving relevant parties 28 days to respond.

The Interim Regional Park Manager advised that the Park Authority had held meetings with HS Limited and had raised concerns regarding the amount of sitka spruce being planted; and a road being established through Scottish Natural Heritage wildland near to a Schedule 1 bird nesting site.

The Convener advised that this matter would be discussed at the meeting of the Consultative Forum being held immediately following this meeting and advised that members should keep a watching brief.

DECIDED:

(a) That the update be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that this matter would be further discussed at the meeting of the Consultative Forum immediately following this meeting.

14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

DECIDED: That it be noted that the next meeting of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee would be held at 10.30 am on 2 September 2016 in the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, Cornalees Bridge, Inverclyde.



Minute of Meeting Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Consultative Forum

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 27 May 2016	11:30	Barnbrock Farm, Clyde Muirshiel Park Headquarters, Barnbrock Farm, Kilbarchan, PA10 2PZ

PRESENT

Councillors Gilmour (Renfrewshire Council), Wilson (Inverclyde Council) and Dickson (North Ayrshire Council); R Anderson (Scottish Rural Property and Business Association); A Armstrong (Visit Scotland); Z Bhatia and G McAuley (both RSPB Scotland); D Blair (Largs Community Council); D Cochrane (Scottish National Farmers Union); K McKendrick (Lochwinnoch Community Council); A MacLeman (Gryffe Valley Rotary Club); S Simpson (Save Your Regional Park); and L Shaw Stewart (Ardgowan Estate).

CHAIR

Councillor Gilmour, Chair, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

D Gatherer, Interim Regional Park Manager; E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer and K Brown, Committee Services Officer (both Renfrewshire Council) and C Sharp (North Ayrshire Council).

APOLOGIES

H Graham (Ramblers Association) and J Kent (Sport Scotland).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, members of the Consultative Forum raised concerns in relation to the accuracy of the Minute of the meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 19 February 2016 and also questioned the procedure that minutes of the Consultative Forum were submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee for approval without first being approved by the Consultative Forum.

The Senior Committee Services Officer advised that the Minute of Agreement stated that (vi) The Park Consultative Forum shall meet not less than twice during each year on such dates and at such times as they shall themselves determine. In determining where and when to meet the Park Consultative Forum shall have regard to the desirability of maximising access to the Park Authority and minimising the expense involved in advising the Park Authority. Minutes of each meeting of the Park Consultative Forum shall be submitted to the next meeting of the Park Authority. The Senior Committee Services Officer further advised that this was the procedure which had been followed.

The Chair proposed that the Clerk to the Joint Committee submit a report to the next meeting of the Consultative Forum to be held on 2 September 2016 relative to approval of the Minutes of meetings of the Consultative Forum. This was agreed.

The Chair further advised that the Minute of Agreement, approved by all three member Councils, had been last updated in 2004. The Chair proposed that the Clerk to the Joint Committee submit a report to a future meeting of the Joint Committee requesting that the three member Councils undertake a review of the Minute of Agreement. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Clerk to the Joint Committee submit a report to the next meeting of the Consultative Forum to be held on 2 September 2016 relative to the procedure for approval of the Minutes of meetings of the Consultative Forum; and

(b) That the Clerk to the Joint Committee submit a report to the next meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on 2 September 2016 relative to a review of the Minute of Agreement.

1 **PROPOSED BLAIRPARK/HALKSHILL FORESTRY PROJECT**

The Consultative Forum were provided with an overview of the proposed Blairpark/Halkshill Forestry project. It was highlighted that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) would be issued shortly and a 28 day consultation period would then follow. Concerns were highlighted regarding the short consultation period and the need for comments from Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority in relation to the EIA and the revised development. The Interim Regional Park Manager committed to assign an officer to assess the revision plan in relation to any impact to the Regional Park Authority.

It was noted that a site visit would take place on 6 June 2016 and that following the publication of the EIA a short meeting would be convened with the relevant parties.

It was highlighted that attempts had been made to engage Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), however, no response had been received. C Sharp, North Ayrshire Council undertook to contact the SNH local officer.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that following the issue of the EIA the Interim Regional Park Manager would assign an officer to assess the revision plan in relation to any impact to the Regional Park Authority;

(b) That it be noted that a site visit would take place on 6 June 2016; and

(c) That it be noted that C Sharp, North Ayrshire Council would contact the SNH local officer.

2 **HYDRO ELECTRIC AND SOLAR PANEL SCHEMES**

The Consultative Forum were provided an update in relation to the hydro electric and solar panel schemes under construction within the Regional Park boundary.

DECIDED: That the updates in relation to hydro electric and solar panel schemes be noted.

3 **BLACKSHAW WINDFARM APPEAL**

The matter of whether the Interim Regional Park Manager or a Regional Park representative would attend the Blackshaw Wind Farm Appeal was raised.

The Interim Regional Park Manager advised that he would not be attending this Appeal and that there were no plans for a Regional Park representative to attend. The Chair proposed that the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report relative to the Blackshaw Wind Farm Appeal to a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the Interim Regional Park Manager would submit a report relative to the Blackshaw Wind Farm Appeal to a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

4 **CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY/RSPB CO-OPERATION**

The matter of closer partnership working arrangements between the Regional Park Authority and RSPB was again raised. It was noted that there had been no contact between the two organisations since the matter was last raised at the meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 4 December 2015.

The Chair advised that this was a matter for management of both organisations and proposed that the Interim Regional Park Manager and G McAuley, RSPB Scotland meet to discuss day-to-day activities and agree a future plan on how the two organisations could work together.

DECIDED: That the Interim Regional Park Manager and G McAuley, RSPB Scotland meet to discuss day-to-day activities and agree a future plan on how the two organisations could work together.

5 **CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY OBJECTIVES**

A discussion took place around the need to update the Regional Park Authority objectives, in particular the need to include landscape and built heritage and the protection and promotion of the Regional Park.

The Chair advised that the aims and objectives of the Regional Park would be considered as part of the upcoming review of the Minute of Agreement.

Concerns were expressed regarding the fact that the matter of the Corlic Hill Wind Farm Appeal had not been discussed by the Joint Committee at its earlier meeting. The Chair advised that the decision in relation to the Corlic Hill Wind Farm Appeal was published on 17 May 2016 and that officers required to consider the implications for the Regional Park prior to a report being submitted to Joint Committee. Councillor Wilson advised that a report was being submitted to a meeting of Inverclyde Council's Planning Board to assess why the Council had lost the appeal and what the Council could do better in the future.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that the aims and objectives of the Regional Park Authority would be considered as part of the upcoming review of the Minute of Agreement;

(b) That the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report in relation to the outcome of the Corlic Hill Wind Farm appeal to a future meeting of the Joint Committee; and

(c) That it be noted that a report was being submitted to a meeting of Inverclyde Council's Planning Board to assess why the Council had lost the appeal and what the Council could do better in the future.

6 **REVIEW OF WIND FARMS**

The Chair proposed that the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report to a future meeting of the Joint Committee relative to the practicalities of operating a Regional Park in the 21st century. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report to a future meeting of the Joint Committee relative to the practicalities of operating a Regional Park in the 21st century.

7 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Chair advised that this matter had been discussed under items 5 and 6 of this Minute.

DECIDED: That it be noted that this matter had been discussed under items 5 and 6 of this Minute.

8 **REVIEW OF CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEMBERS**

The Chair advised that he had sought advice from the Clerk to the Joint Committee regarding his dual role of Chair of both the Joint Committee and the Consultative Forum and that after considering this advice he would be stepping down from his role as Chair of the Consultative Forum at the next meeting to be held on 2 September 2016.

He requested that members of the Consultative Forum consider nomination for the position of Chair.

Both Nigel Willis, Save Your Regional Park and Councillor Nelson (Inverclyde Council), who were in attendance as members of the public, indicated that they would like to become members of the Consultative Forum. The Chair proposed that Nigel Willis and Councillor Nelson be appointed as members of the Consultative Forum. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that Councillor Gilmour had indicated that he would be stepping down from his role as Chair of the Consultative Forum at the next meeting to be held on 2 September 2016;

(b) That members of the Consultative Forum consider nomination for the position of Chair; and

(c) That it be agreed that Nigel Willis, Save Your Regional Park, and Councillor Nelson (Inverclyde Council) be appointed as members of the Consultative Forum.

9 **MANAGEMENT PLAN AND PARK REVIEW**

A discussion took place relative to (i) the report commissioned by Renfrewshire Council to facilitate a review of the current operation of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park; (ii) the 'State of the Park' report; (iii) the withdrawal of the Regional Park's International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category V Protected Area Status; and (iv) management of the Regional Park.

The Chair proposed that Renfrewshire Council's Head of Planning and Housing Services submit a report to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum relative to (i) the report commissioned by Renfrewshire Council to facilitate a review of the current operation of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park; and (ii) the 'State of the Park' report. This was agreed.

The Interim Regional Park Manager advised that the decision to withdraw the Regional Park's IUCN Category V Protected Area Status had been taken by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Chair proposed that the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report relative to this matter to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum. This was agreed.

Reference was made to the work undertaken by the North Pennines AONB Partnership and it was proposed that the Interim Regional Park Manager invite an officer from that organisation to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That Renfrewshire Council's Head of Planning and Housing Services submit a report to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum relative to (i) the report commissioned by Renfrewshire Council to facilitate a review of the current operation of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park; and (ii) the 'State of the Park' report;

(b) That the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum relative to SNH withdrawing the Regional Park's International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category V Protected Area Status; and

(c) That the Interim Regional Park Manager invite an officer from the North Pennines AONB Partnership to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum.

10 LAND STRATEGY PLAN

The Chair advised that this matter had been discussed during item 9 of this Minute.

DECIDED: That it be noted that this matter had been discussed during item 9 of this Minute.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

DECIDED: That it be noted that the next meeting of the Consultative Forum would be held at 11.30 am, or following the meeting of the Joint Committee, whichever was the later on 2 September 2016 in Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, Cornalees Bridge, Inverclyde.

At the close of the meeting the Chair advised that RSPB had launched a report entitled 'The RSPB's 2050 Energy Paper' which outlined three potential long-term energy scenarios that met the UK's climate targets in harmony with nature, as well as ensuring energy security and affordability. The Chair proposed that the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report on this matter to the next meeting of the Consultative Forum to be held on 2 September 2016. This was agreed.

DECIDED: That the Interim Regional Park Manager submit a report relative to the RSPB's 2050 Energy Paper to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum.

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY

To: Joint Committee

On: 2 September 2016

Report by: The Treasurer

Heading: Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to 22 July 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 Gross Expenditure is currently £12,000 overspent and income is £12,000 over recovered resulting in a net breakeven position. This is summarised in point 4. The breakeven position is projected to continue to the year end.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members consider the report.

3 Budget Adjustments Since Last Report

- 3.1 There have been no budget adjustments since the start of the financial year.

4 Budget Performance

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 4.1 | Current Position | Breakeven |
| | <i>Previously Reported</i> | <i>N/A</i> |

The breakeven position reflects the net result of expenditure overspends across several budget headings which have been offset by an over recovery of income.

The overspend in Employee Costs relates to lower turnover than anticipated. It is expected that this will be offset by increased income generation following the completion of the first phase of the park review, which has resulted in a

greater percentage of the staff in post being engaged in income generating activities.

The overspends in Transport Costs relates to lease and insurance payments exceeding budget, with the overspend in Administration Costs also due to increased insurance premiums.

These budget lines will remain under review and steps will be taken to align the Joint Committee budgets over the course of the year to reflect the operational costs.

The over recovery in Other Income is the result of increased income for outdoor activities.

4.2 Projected Year End Position

At this stage in the financial year, the projected year end position is expected to remain as breakeven.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2016/17
1st April 2016 to 22nd July 2016

JOINT COMMITTEE : CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY

Description (1)	£000's	Agreed Annual Budget (2)	Year to Date Budget (3)	Year to Date Actual (4)	Adjustments (5)	Revised Actual (6) = (4 + 5)	Budget Variance		
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%	
Employee Costs		730	189	192	7	199	(10)	-5.3%	overspend
Property Costs		55	17	13	2	15	2	11.8%	underspend
Supplies & Services		148	42	34	2	36	6	14.3%	underspend
Contractors and Others		15	4	2	2	4	0	0.0%	break even
Transport & Plant Costs		42	13	12	5	17	(4)	-30.8%	overspend
Administration Costs		70	13	18	1	19	(6)	-46.2%	overspend
Payments to Other Bodies		1	0	(1)	1	0	0	0.0%	break even
GROSS EXPENDITURE		1,061	278	270	20	290	(12)	-4.3%	overspend
Contributions from Local Authorities		(693)	(346)	(136)	(211)	(347)	1	0.3%	over-recovery
Other Income		(368)	(109)	(193)	73	(120)	11	10.1%	over-recovery
INCOME		(1,061)	(455)	(329)	(138)	(467)	12	2.6%	over-recovery
TRANSFER (TO)/FROM RESERVES		0	(177)	(59)	(118)	(177)	0	0.0%	break even

£000's

Bottom Line Position to 22nd July 2016 is breakeven of
Anticipated Year End Budget Position is breakeven

Opening Reserves
Projected to breakeven
Projected Closing Reserves

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2nd September 2016

Report by
Head of Planning & Housing: Renfrewshire Council

SUBJECT: Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy 2016-2021

1.0 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 The report presents the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy 2016-2021 and seeks approval to use this Strategy as the basis for further activity and development of the Park.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Joint Committee:
- (i) Approve the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy 2016-2021.
 - (ii) Agree that in light of the terms and actions set out in the Park Strategy that Officers carry out a review of the Procedural Standing Orders and Minute of Agreement of the Park Authority and report the outcome of this Review to a future meeting of the Joint Committee

3.0 Background:

- 3.1 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is currently working to a strategy that was first adopted in 2008. Within this context following a Management review of the Park's resources and governance, a new Strategy has been developed to identify key strengths and future aspirations for the Park.
- 3.2 As previously agreed by the Joint Committee the priorities for future Park development are Leisure Activity and Health, Education and Outdoor Learning,

and Environmental Management. These priorities form the basis of the Park Strategy for the next 5 years.

- 3.3 The associated Action Plan incorporated within the Strategy identifies the means by which objectives will be achieved and sets out corresponding timescales. The Action Plan objectives will form the basis of work plans for individual staff members.

4.0 Next steps

- 4.1 Following approval of the Strategy and in order to progress effective change, a programme of consultation and engagement will take place to inform the delivery and implementation of the key objectives and activities as set out in the Action Plan accompanying the Park Strategy.
- 4.2 At the same time, Officers from the constituent authorities will undertake a review of the Procedural Standing Orders and Minute of Agreement that relate to the management and governance of the Park and report the outcome of this to the Park Authority Joint Committee in due course.

Members wishing further information regarding this report should contact:
Fraser Carlin, Renfrewshire Council, 0141 618 7933



Park Strategy 2016—2021





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Introduction

The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy seeks to define the activities that deliver the best outcomes for our park. It sets out how the park can most effectively use its current resources and outlines opportunities for further growth.

The strategy identifies three priorities which focus activity in the Park over the next 5 years. These priorities are:

- Leisure activity and health;
- Education and outdoor learning, and;
- Environmental management

The strategy compliments the wider aspirations of the Joint Committee authorities particularly in relation to community inclusion, health and wellbeing and skills development.

The associated Action Plan sets out the objectives for each priority and a series of realistic actions to be delivered over the next 5 years.

About the Park

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park covers an area of 265 sq km across three local authorities; Renfrewshire Council, Inverclyde Council and North Ayrshire Council.

In 1996 the three authorities established a Joint Committee - referred to as “the Park Authority” – for the purposes of discharging relative functions in relation to tourism, recreation and conservation across the park area. This is formalised in a Minute of Agreement and established in terms of Section 56(5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

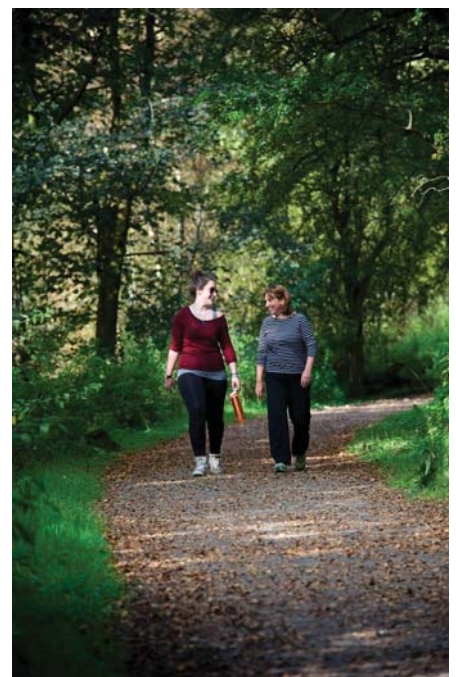
Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority manages sites at Muirshiel, Greenock Cut, Lunderston Bay, Barnbrock and Castle Semple. Two of the sites (Muirshiel and Castle Semple) are designated Country Parks. Visitor numbers across the Regional Park have continued to increase in recent years, with 7% growth between 2012 and 2016 (606,649 to 649,465 annual visits).

Landscape and Character

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park encompasses publicly and privately owned land. A significant amount of the grassland and moorland is productive with managed farms and livestock. There are important semi-natural woodlands and pockets of commercial plantations, both offering habitats for a variety of wildlife. The majority of the Regional Park is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in reflection of the area’s important biodiversity.

The landscape is an important draw for wildlife enthusiasts, hill walkers and other recreational users. Visitors are also drawn to the area’s rich heritage, with the Regional Park housing a number of scheduled monuments and listed features.

The Park Authority recognises landscape and character as unique assets that contribute to the area’s popularity and regional importance. The Park Authority will seek to maintain these assets and where possible work collaboratively to further benefit park visitors.



Key Strengths

The Regional Park is a well utilised, recognisable resource. The Park's outdoor areas, amenities and expertise facilitate leisure and activity which is popular and highly regarded.

The Park hosts a number of water sports clubs providing a range of training and leisure activity for all ages. Large scale annual events such as Pedal in the Park, Castle Semple Rowing Regatta and the Classic Car Show attract high visitor numbers and increase the park's notoriety as a successful event venue.

The Park has forged strong working relationships with national organisations e.g. the Royal Yachting Association, Scottish Disability Sport, Scottish Canoe Association and Spinal Injuries Scotland to support and contribute to a series of specialist events and activities. The Park's expertise in providing accessible and inclusive activity has been recognised at a national level through the Sailability Centre of Excellence accreditation in respect of the work it does with individuals with additional support needs.

The Park has strengthened its role in health activity and works closely with the NHS Board, Forestry Commission Scotland, the Scottish Government and local charities to deliver specialist courses for mental health service users. The award winning Branching Out programme is professionally recognised and the Park has been successful in securing funding to sustain this activity.

Future Aspirations

The Strategy and associated Action Plan seeks to build upon the strengths of the Park to make full use of its assets. In the coming years it will be increasingly important to be receptive to change and embrace opportunities for improved ways of working.

The Park will use innovative methods of consultation to enact positive physical change. The Park will engage with communities, partners and other stakeholders to establish common goals and integrated plans for development. The outputs of this exercise will be implemented via the Strategy Action Plan.

The Strategy also seeks to affirm the Park Authority's commitment to the long term future of the park. The subsequent Action Plan seeks to guide activity with a focus on simplifying work streams, maximising end user benefit and capitalising on income generation opportunities for sustainable financial stability.





Priority: Leisure Activity and Health

Vision

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park provides visitors of all ages and abilities the opportunity for quality recreation. Using its unique assets the Park will facilitate a high quality programme of leisure activities which contribute to the health agenda.

Key Points

People and communities benefit from good quality outdoor facilities and activity. They encourage healthy lifestyle choices and contribute to health and wellbeing outcomes. Engaging with the environment and participating in activity presents opportunities for learning, developing new skills and confidence building.

Outcomes

- Outdoor leisure activities will attract participants from a wide area and the park will be recognised and respected as a high quality provider;
- The Park will be more accessible and enjoyed by more people;
- The Park will become a key resource for those seeking to improve their physical and mental health and well-being, and;
- The Park will continue to be at the forefront of accessible sport development and provide an education hub for clubs and centres all over Scotland.

Objectives

- Outdoor leisure activities will be resourced and developed in line with market demand, where appropriate maximising income generation;
- Increase partnership working with health services to facilitate health improvement activities;
- Develop the Park's assets, infrastructure and resources by capitalising on available opportunities for growth, and;
- Continue to develop accessible sport and provide good practice information

Priority: Education and Outdoor Learning

Vision

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is an increasingly popular and productive venue for formal and informal education and outdoor learning. More people will participate in learning opportunities and will develop a better appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage.

Key Points

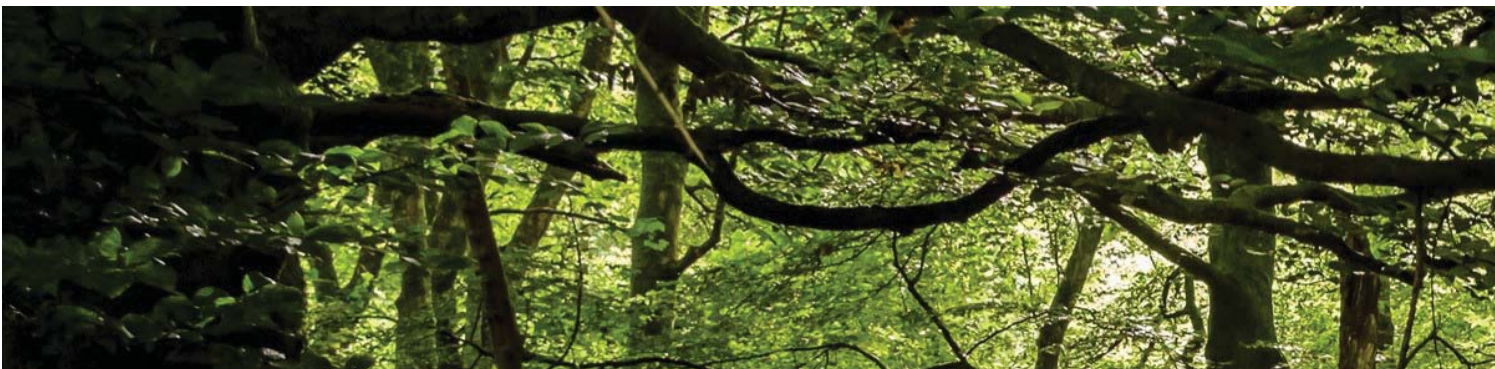
Visitors of all ages use the outdoors as a place to explore and learn. Outdoor learning plays a key role in the delivery of the curriculum and facilitates discovery and deep understanding.

Outcomes

- Delivery of a programme of educational activities for young people in line with the curriculum for schools and further education establishments;
- Increased participation in formal and informal outdoor learning opportunities, and;
- Information and learning tools will be readily available and freely accessible at park locations and online.

Objectives

- Promote the park as a platform for learning;
- Deliver, monitor and review a programme of informative events and activities for visitors of all ages, linking into curriculum outcomes where appropriate, and;
- Maximise the scope for learning through digital resources.



Priority: Environmental Management

Vision

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is an attractive and ecologically important visitor destination with increased biodiversity value. The Park embraces opportunities for positive environmental change.

Key Points

For centuries the park's landscape has been managed for pleasure and for profit. Visitors are encouraged to appreciate the blend of flora and fauna and the distinctive, nationally important habitats they create.

Outcomes

- Woodland, moorland, wetland, loch and coastal areas are effectively managed and where appropriate enhanced;
- Biodiversity is effectively conserved, and;
- Best practice is shared and utilised.

Objectives

- Enhance natural heritage whilst safeguarding key species, habitats and landscape character, and;
- Work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders involved in the provision of outdoor management.



Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Action Plan

<i>Priority Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Timescale for delivering objective (short, medium or long term)</i>
Leisure Activity and Health	Outdoor leisure activities will be resourced and developed in line with market demand	Maintain standards for related governing body accreditation	ST
		Provision of Duke of Edinburgh awards	ST
		Develop accessibility within the park and its activities	MT
		Develop cycling within the park and surrounding area	MT
		Public certified activity courses (RYA, BCU etc)	LT
		Bespoke courses for client organisations	LT
	Continue to work in partnership with health services to facilitate health improvement activities	Development/specialist activity days	LT
		Specialist events (Multiclass Regatta, Pedal in the Park)	LT
		Facilitate volunteering opportunities with community care groups	ST
		Facilitate health walk programmes	ST
		Develop and deliver Eco therapy programmes	MT
	Capitalise on opportunities to improve the park's assets and infrastructure	Carry out a review of assets to ensure they are yielding maximum benefit	ST
		Seek appropriate funding opportunities	MT
		Embrace opportunities for change where there is benefit to the park and its visitors	LT
	Maximise income generation via commercial activity	Ensure commercial activities are competitive and market driven	MT

ST (short term) up to 1 year

MT (medium term): 1-3 years

LT (long term): 3-5 years

<i>Priority Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Timescale for delivering objective(short, medium or long</i>
Education and outdoor learning	Promote the park as a platform for outdoor learning	Facilitate school, college and university visits	Short term
		Raise awareness of the park and its resources through marketing and promotion via professional networks	Medium term
	Deliver, monitor and review a programme of informative events for visitors of all ages, linking into curriculum outcomes where appropriate	Deliver learning activities to groups, including schools, youth organisations and summer groups	Short term
		Establish clear links between educational activity and Curriculum for Excellence	Short term
		Contribute to Eco Schools programme	Long term
	Use the park's digital resources to maximise the scope for learning	Maintain the park's online profile, expanding reach where possible	Short term
		Provide a contemporary suite of accessible digital information	Medium term

ST (short term) up to 1 year	MT (medium term): 1-3 years	LT (long term): 3-5 years
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<i>Priority Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Timescale for delivering objective(short, medium or long term)</i>
Environmental Management	Enhance the park's natural heritage whilst safeguarding key species, habitats and landscape character	Deliver a comprehensive regime of inspections and maintenance whilst undertaking and contributing to environmental surveys and information gathering exercises	Short term
		Manage conservation volunteering activity	Short term
		Undertake local conservation projects and input to regional schemes where appropriate	Short term
		Engage staff in training and CPD opportunities to maintain and improve upon skill level.	Short term
		Seek funding for environmental management projects	Medium term
	Work collaboratively with other stakeholders involved in the provision of outdoor management collaborate	Consider opportunities for cooperative outdoor management where there is benefit to the park and its visitors	Long term

ST (short term) up to 1 year MT (medium term): 1-3 years LT (long term): 3-5 years

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2 September 2016

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Draft Annual Report 2015 to 2016

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to update Member of the Joint Committee on the activities delivered by the Park Staff and Management during 2015 to 2016.

2.0 Recommendation

- (i) That the Joint Committee notes the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Annual report 2015/16) Appendix 1.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Park Manager and staff provide a report to the Joint Committee on an annual basis outlining activities and output in the preceding year. This allows the Park Authority to comment on what has been achieved and also discuss pertinent items about the future development of the park.
- 3.2 The Report attached includes summary information on visitors, events held and general activity in the Park up to April 2016.
- 3.3 The Park Manager will continue to report outcomes for each financial year thus allowing stakeholders to recognise what is being delivered in the Park and to guide future activity.

Annual Report 2015/16

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park



Presented to the Park Authority Joint Committee
September 2016

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1.0	Introduction
2.0	Recreation and Access
3.0	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
4.0	Landscape and Built Heritage
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7.0	Management
8.0	Financial Performance Summary

1.0 Introduction

Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority is a Joint Committee of Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and North Ayrshire Councils.

The aims of Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority are:-

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.
- To encourage and enable learning, understanding and enjoyment of Clyde Muirshiel regional Park.
- To promote and foster environmentally sustainable development for the social and economic well being of the people and communities within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park area.

The benefits delivered by the Park Authority are recognised as making a positive contribution to wider national and local agendas in the areas of health improvement, active lifestyles, community engagement, volunteering and employability.

This report will present the work of the Park Authority and its staff in the year April 2015 to March 2016.

2 Recreation and Access

A key function of the Park is to actively promote Responsible Access to recreational visitors and education groups and liaise closely with the local landowners and managers.

The Park is represented on the Renfrewshire Access Forum and Inverclyde Local Access Forum and works closely with the Police Scotland encouraging and implementing responsible access throughout the Regional Park.

2.2 Regional Park Visitor Numbers

From April 2012 visitor numbers reported to Visit Scotland have increased. Figures based on car counter data and observational records are:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Castle Semple	339,903	346,464	344,694	320,184
Muirshiel	35,721	34,444	34,221	36,419
Greenock Cut	45,547	60,926	67,560	77,437
Lunderston Bay	185,478	173,652	198,695	215,425
Total	606,649	615,486	645,170	649,465
change (2012-13 base)	0%	+1.5%	+6.4%	+7.1%

2.3 Access Initiatives

The Locherwood Community Woodland and Ladymuir link path are still popular dog walking areas despite the waterlogged ground conditions over the winter months. The route is also well used by Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) groups navigating to and from Muirshiel Centre.

More Geocache sites have been added to the growing number situated throughout the Regional Park with staff providing advice on their co-ordinates and liaising with relevant landowners to contact for permission, as required.

A linking route between Shielhill Glen Nature Trail and Leapmoor forest continues to be promoted and has seen increased usage by D of E groups camping at Everton Scout Camp in Inverkip.

Park staff has continued to develop access for participants with additional support needs to a wide range of activities. This has been achieved by increasing our equipment fleet including our new wheelieboat and bellboats.

Our constituted cycling club, Ride 63 continues to flourish and in conjunction with the Park is spearheading the new cycling consortium looking into developing off road cycling within the Park. Additional hand cycles have been purchased this year.

2.4 Semple Trail Heritage Project (STHP)

The Semple Trail Heritage Project has been successfully delivered since 2012 and will finish in the summer of 2016. The £860,000 project has delivered a number of improvements along a 15km trail route which runs through Castle Semple Country Park and the surrounding area.

The key deliverables of the project are:

- The highly successful Windows on Wildlife project.
- Around 2km on new and improved path network and associated signage and waymarking.
- Installation of high quality, uniquely designed interpretation including 7 'lookoوترies', carved chainsaw benches, seats and 20 rubbing posts.
- Repair and conservation work to the historic estate's category B – listed cascade complex structures.
- A successful activity and volunteer programme, with the latter achieving close to 300 hours of volunteer time.

Access has been substantially improved making key routes easier to use for a wider range of abilities. In addition, the Semple Trail has been made more conspicuous both locally and regionally through successful branding and targeted publicity.

The project was funded and supported by Renfrewshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Environment Scotland, Renfrewshire LEADER, Forestry Commission Scotland, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and South Renfrewshire Access Network Initiative (SRANI).

Park staff has contributed to the interpretation aspects for this project and the production of a brochure on the history of the area, a Kid's passport and a leaflet.

2.5 Recreation Events

The Park develops and delivers a range of recreational events. The Park is also a resource utilised by outside agencies i.e. Local Authority Outdoor Education units, Sports Development units, Colleges, Schools and Youth groups.

Walking events this year included the annual 'Pound and Pace' charity walk of the Greenock Cut in June and the Renfrewshire Active Weekend Walk to Castle Semple in August with 47 participants raising over £400 for a local kidney dialysis charity.

Greenock Cut Centre again hosted the Scottish Western Thoroughbred Vehicle Club meeting with 50 plus vintage cars parked onsite. The event was advertised via press releases and social media and attracted over 300 people to come and take a look at the pre 1930s cars.

The Renfrewshire Feeling Fitter Walk programme benefited from funding from Awards for All (A4A) this year allowing several additional walk leaders to be trained. A4A also funded the Park staff led walk programme at various levels throughout the year. Staff led over 68 walks with 720 participants across the Park.

The Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Award Scheme is now included in the school curriculum. Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park has developed provision of this award as part of the service it provides. Park staff provided D of E experiences directly to 377 clients.

The Park hosts a number of active water sports clubs who run regattas, training sessions and provide social as well as sporting opportunities to all ages. Castle Semple Rowing Regatta on 14 May was once again the largest club regatta in Scotland. Park staff worked alongside the regatta organisers to facilitate a successful event.

In partnership with Paisley's Coats Observatory, we once again ran four star gazing nights at Muirshiel Centre. One event was covered by the Astronomical Society for Glasgow and 99 participants took part in a varied programme which we aim to continue with next year.

2.6 'Branching Out'; Mental Health Programme

20 popular 'Branching Out' programmes in total. This course is a treatment model for referred clients with mental health problems developed by NHS Boards in Scotland in partnership with the Forestry Commission and financially supported by the Scottish Government.

During the year the Park delivered four 'Branching Out' programmes with financial support from the Forestry Commission and two with support from the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) Inverclyde branch. These programmes have been very successful based on retention rates, feedback from participants and the views of the health professionals who accompany them.

In February 2016, CMRP was successful in acquiring funding through the Awards for All part of the Big Lottery Fund, forming the development of a new partnership with Recovery Across Mental Health (RAMH). This will provide 2 independently funded programmes for 2016/17.

A number of Park staff undertook Branching Out Leader training at the start of 2016 thus increasing the pool of staff able to deliver the programme.

3. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

3.1 Biodiversity Projects and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP's)

Eight sites were monitored for peregrines and there were two successful breeding pairs. The records were passed to SNH and RSPB. Seabirds and wetland birds were counted as part of national initiatives and details entered to the British Trust for Ornithology WeBS site.

In the Renfrewshire Heights Special Protection Area there were no breeding hen harriers with few sightings recorded.

Work experience students from the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) Paisley were involved in general conservation work producing Reports on water quality at Castle Semple Loch and Woodland Survey at Muirshiel.

Work has continued for the Cample Burn juniper restoration project with weeding and propagation of cuttings and UWS students planting out juniper at the site.

Volunteers and work experience students from UWS Paisley campus have contributed a variety of reports including surveys for reptiles at Muirshiel and Greenock Cut.

UK studies are showing a decline in house martin numbers. To help research the reasons for this decline, Park staff and volunteers aim to contribute to BTO house martin surveys which are to be undertaken in 2016 once the nesting season starts.

3.2 Woodland Plans

A felling license has been submitted to the Forestry Commission for part of the woodland at Muirshiel with removal planned to commence in autumn 2016. In conjunction with Renfrewshire Council a Draft Management Plan has been prepared and will be submitted to the Forestry Commission for approval in 2016.

Work has continued with the herbicide treatment of rhododendron regrowth and the removal of wind blow. Volunteers have removed self-sown sitka saplings at Muirshiel and two hectares of rhododendrons were cleared at Parkhill Woods.

The plantation near the Greenock Cut Visitor centre has been replanted with native broad leaf by Ardgowan Estate.

3.3 Water Quality at Castle Semple Loch

At Castle Semple Loch, the Park Authority has monitored water quality since 1997. Levels of chlorophyll (a measure of algal amounts) have not increased and are around one quarter of their value (9.3 µg/l) since recording began in 2012.

The Loch does have occasional algal blooms but management protocols are in place to ensure public safety. Monitoring of water quality is required to assist the safe operation of water based activities and is also an important determinant of biodiversity. A full report on water quality parameters is presented to the Park Authority annually.

3.4 Volunteers

Volunteers continue to make a major contribution to biodiversity and nature conservation in the Park. Many of the tasks they achieve e.g. control of invasive species, establishment of native species and development of habitats are identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plans. Volunteers are discussed further in Education and Understanding (section 7.02).

1267 volunteers provided 3768 hours worth of work across the Park (equivalent to 2 full time people). Volunteer work programmes are planned 3 months in advance and advertised so people can pick and choose which sessions they wish to attend.

4. Commercial Activity and Marketing

4.1 Retail and Catering

Retail and Catering has been an area of concern for the past number of years as the income figures were disappointing and showed a year on year loss. However during 2015/16 performance has improved significantly and for the first time for a number of years a surplus of over £3,000 has been achieved.

The figures below show the significant turnaround in this financial year:

Income Year	Salaries	Spend	Income	Deficit (+)/ Surplus (-)
2010/11	103438	80184	177813	5809
2011/12	107655	81643	171922	17376
2012/13	103498	82499	173871	12076
2013/14	101448	80763	170287	11924
2014/15	97553	91297	171916	16934
2015/16	93615	78967	175855	-3273

4.2 Marketing and Promotional Activity

The Windows on Wildlife Project Officer continued as the 'Wildlife Expert' on STV Glasgow's evening programme 'Live at Five' as well as 'Scotland's City Safari' – a 26 week-long one night a week wildlife show. This has provided the Park with a regular television profile focusing primarily on wildlife and conservation activities both within the Regional Park but equally at other wildlife locations in West Central Scotland. The Park has provided content for BBC Radio Scotland 'Out-of-Doors'.

The legacy of 'Race 2 the Games' continued with accessible activity days taking place, press coverage for the 'Spring' and Multi-Class' Regatta, the launch of the new wheely boat by Olympic Double Gold Medallist Shirley Robertson plus various magazines included articles on the accessible activities available at Castle Semple Centre over the year.

Pedal the Park was a brand new event in April 2015. It had its own marketing plan creating partnership working opportunities and resulted in new audience awareness for the Regional Park.

The Park produced a quality seasonal "What's on" for both summer and winter. The summer edition had a print run of 20,000. The winter publication had a new format and a print run of 10 000, it is a timely reminder that the countryside is open throughout the year. This full colour publication was supported with web listings, posters and social media activities.

Social media channels: Facebook, Twitter and You Tube continue and are used to communicate with Park users and promote Park activities. By March 2016 there were 1660 'likes' on Facebook and 1300 'followers' on Twitter. The videos on You Tube have been viewed over 25,000 times.

There has also been the creation of a new Instagram account featuring images of the Park. After just one month the followers are already at 100 individuals.

4.3 Events

The events programme runs throughout the year offering a diverse mix of activities aimed at all age groups and sectors of society. Over 128 events took place this year in the Park, either run or facilitated by Park staff with a total of 7397 participants.

Park staff also presented to a range of interest groups over the year, with the Green Wood working events continuing to be a popular draw with an opportunity for the general public to “have a go” themselves.

Doors Open Day enabled visitors to access the tower at Castle Semple Visitor Centre and learn a little local history. At the Greenock Cut the park hosted a ‘bus tour’ organised for Doors Open Day by Inverclyde Tourism Group.

4.4 Online Activities

Park Website

In addition to Social Media activities in 2015 there were 158,929 visits to the website by 82,000 unique visitors; this compared to 145,691 visits by 73,088 visitors respectively in 2015. Trends in visits increase with the seasons, culminating in 15,976 visits in July 2015.

The three most viewed pages were: ‘Castle Semple’, ‘Park sites’ and ‘Things to do’. The 3 most downloaded files are ‘price list’, ‘Castle Semple Loch Management Plan’ and ‘History of Castle Semple Estate’.

4.5 Campsite

During 2015/16 the booking for the campsite was amended and resulted in a slight decrease in income but this is more than compensated for by the decrease in expenditure on this sector of the business.

User numbers are presented below:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Camping Bed nights	177	162	291	371	214
Shieling Bed nights	363	74	37	65	154
Youth Group Bed nights	1465	755	633	586	592
Youth Groups	32	29	20	21	18
Income £	9,303	11,551	6,780	8,803	7060

5 Education and Understanding

5.1 Education / Conservation Events

All events are advertised in the new format bi-annual “What’s On” guide as well as making use of social media, the Park website and individual posters targeted to specific events.

Events included rock pooling at Largs and Seamill, a summer series of children’s events, swan chat events and several survey walks to study butterflies, bees and bats.

In partnership with Scottish Orienteering, the Greenock Cut Centre (GCVC) hosted a training event with participants visiting from across Central Scotland. Over the weekend participants and instructors were out, making their way around the hills surrounding the Greenock Cut Centre.

The IOM model boat club events and their championships took place at Castle Semple again this year with the overall Scottish championship booked for next year too.

We facilitated an Outdoor Access Event at Castle Semple run in association with the Renfrewshire Access Officer and various other countryside groups (Police, Gleniffer Rangers, British Horse Society, Sustrans cyclists and a local dog trainer). This event was designed to promote and encourage responsible access with over 340 people attending.

86 people took the opportunity to take part in the GCVC summer events. These events were tried and tested popular events from previous years. They included rockets, mask making, pond dipping, GPS treasure hunt and rock pooling. A pilot event for woodcarving was held at the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, it was fully booked by paying visitors and there has been demand for another.

5.2 Volunteers

Once again in 2015/16 there was an increase in the number of volunteer groups and individuals giving up their time to volunteer at Castle Semple, Muirshiel and Greenock Cut Centres.

Several corporate groups volunteered (including Rolls Royce, New Caledonian Woodlands and Ordnance Survey & Insight Vacations). They contributed towards their local community working mainly on alien species control (rhododendron, sitka spruce and Himalayan balsam). Other activities included path maintenance and drain construction, pond clearance, tree planting and maintenance, hedge laying, painting, dry stone walling, wildlife surveys and litter picking.

The Thursday adult group is increasing steadily in numbers as is our Duke of Edinburgh youth group with those attending working their way from bronze, through silver to their gold awards.

Our regular Assisted Needs Groups are continuing to help landscape around the centre areas and Community Networks will be applying to do their second John Muir Award Explorer Level at Muirshiel Centre. The group did the first Discovery Level award in 2014.

Whilst the Park Authority is committed to the principle that the primary beneficiary of volunteering should be the volunteer, the Park Authority is also extremely grateful to all our volunteers for their help in conserving the natural beauty of the Regional Park.

5.3 Work with Education Groups

Providing outdoor learning opportunities for all ages and abilities is still one of the main outputs for Park staff with 5495 participants taking advantage of this service in 2015/16.

Educational experiences are directly linked to the Curriculum for Excellence for school pupils of all ages. Subjects cover a range of activities from building bug hotels and bat boxes to willow weaving and map skills.

The formal education programme also includes Eco School visits where staff are involved with practical conservation tasks within the school grounds such as establishing wild flower meadows or giving advice to the schools eco committees.

The majority of the visits to Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park are by local pre-school and primary school children learning about the natural environment.

This year saw:

	Number of visits	Number of pupils
Assisted needs	26	164
College/University	10	177
Nursery	17	218
Primary	130	4236
Secondary	24	700
TOTALS	207	5495

5.4 Activities

The Park has worked hard to provide an extensive programme of courses, including kayaking, sailing, canoeing, powerboating, cycling, and multi-activity courses, principally at Castle Semple for people of all abilities.

As shown in the table below we have continued to build on the legacy work of Race2thegames by increasing Addition Support Needs (ASN) provision.

The new Wheely boat “Discovery” has been doing fantastic work allowing us an increase of more than 50% in accessible powerboating. It should be noted

that Discovery is also used in the multi activity sessions that make up the numbers in the junior and adult ASN numbers.

The launch event of the boat combined with the press coverage has encouraged new groups to get in touch and book to use the boat.

Places used in various categories:

	2014/15	2015/16
Mainstream Taster/multi activity course places	1948	1120
Additional Support Needs (ASN) Junior taster/multi activity places	2085	2545
ASN Adult taster/multi activity places	274	956
Mainstream school multi activity places	829	1238
Places on the accessible powerboat	201	470
Duke of Edinburgh provision	0	377
Coaching course places across all disciplines	571	295
Total places provided	5908	7001

We have delivered a number of large events during the year to showcase the range of accessible sports on offer within the Park, these include:

- Spinal Injuries Scotland para sport day with 90 people taking part in various sports at Castle Semple.
- Scottish Multiclass Sailability Regatta at Castle Semple.
- Supporting the Scottish Disability Sport Para Festival at Strathclyde Park, with approx. 55 people taking part in accessible sport. The 2016 venue is Castle Semple.

6 Management & Resources

6.1 Financial Management

The Management team have continued to develop the systems for grant management and have assisted the Park Treasurer by further refining payroll phasing and other aspects of expenditure profiles. The use of a Corporate Purchasing Card and the online purchasing system 'Pecos' continue to assist in streamlining the Park's procurement process.

6.2 Health and Safety

The Park management continues to work to align Health and Safety policy and practices more closely with those of Renfrewshire Council, the servicing authority. Five Health and Safety training courses were attended by 36 members of staff.

Accident rates in the Park remain low with only minor injuries, although one incident with an archery group could have resulted in a serious injury. This incident was investigated and recommendations made were included in the operating procedures for this activity to prevent a recurrence.

13 injuries to visitors were recorded and these were mainly from falls when cycling in the Park and illness. There were no RIDDOR reportable incidents or illnesses. These figures are very low given the 1.23 million visits annually to the Park and the range of activities taking place.

6.3 Incident Reports

Staff routinely monitor incidents using a system developed many years ago, although care should be taken when reading trends over time into the tables. A summary of the incidents are as follows:-

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Vandalism	17	22	14	12	5
Theft	6	5	4	2	4
Abandoned Vehicles	3	2	1	0	3
Fire/Alarm Call Out	4	5	5	0	3
Health & Safety	36	29	38	57	16
Law & Country Code	24	25	22	16	11
Maintenance	27	12	12	12	1
Accident Assistance	8	4	2	4	4
Other	6	23	25	17	5
Total	131	127	123	120	52

6.4 Feedback and Complaints

Formal written complaints by form, letter or email for the period related to:

Castle Semple:

Lack of Boat Hire	1
Toilet Opening Hours	1
Semple Trail – Cows on Trail	1
Responsible Access Issues	2
Japanese Knotweed	1
Vandalism to memorial bench	1

Muirshiel

Closure of Cafe over Winter	1
Responsible Access Issues	1

Greenock Cut

Customer Service Issues	2
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6.5 Park Authority

Cllr Christopher Gilmour is the Chair of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee. The Park Authority members are:

Cllr Christopher Gilmour	Renfrewshire Council
Cllr Andy Doig	Renfrewshire Council
Cllr Derek Bibby	Renfrewshire Council
Cllr J MacLaren	Renfrewshire Council – replaced Cllr Doig
Cllr John Caldwell	Renfrewshire Council
Cllr Anthea Dickson	North Ayrshire Council
Cllr Tom Marshall	North Ayrshire Council
Cllr David Wilson	Inverclyde Council
Cllr Innes Nelson	Inverclyde Council

6.6 Financial Performance Summary

The extracts below exclude accounting adjustments relating to pensions, short term accumulating absences and accrued employee costs. With the exception of 2015/16, all extracts are from the Audited Annual Accounts for the year to 31 March, the extract from 2015/16 is from the unaudited Annual Accounts for the year to 31 March 2015.

Expenditure

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Employee Costs	1,002,025	1,030,524	864,549	809,781
Property Costs	49,836	47,890	49,940	45,807
Supplies and Services	304,877	215,585	207,780	137,213
Contractors	21,155	12,368	17,590	17,201
Transport and Plant	73,325	74,540	63,855	49,566
Admin Costs	96,929	93,850	90,231	85,954
Payments to other Bodies	1,412	1,433	1,400	1,600
Total	1,549,559	1,476,190	1,295,345	1,147,122

Income

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Grants	(24,628)	(39,458)	(89,507)	0
Sales Fees & Charges	(152,671)	(138,093)	(133,088)	(197,921)
Retail & Catering	(173,887)	(171,685)	(175,916)	(175,855)
Miscellaneous	(153,610)	(85,622)	(21,693)	(12,374)
Requisition from member authorities	(1,039,900)	(1,022,200)	(857,500)	(808,100)
Total	(1,544,696)	(1,457,058)	(1,273,704)	(1,194,250)
(Surplus)/ Deficit	4,868	19,132	21,641	(47,126)

These figures show a reduction in cost per visitor to the unitary authorities from £1.60 in 2013/2014 to £1.24 in 2015/2016.

The final accounts for 2015/16 show a surplus of £47,126 against a targeted break even position. This allows an increase in reserves following an agreed budgeted deficit in 2014/15 to assist Park Management in meeting the Park Authority's service obligations.

6.5 Grant Income

Grant funding has been important to the many projects managed by the Park Authority. The schedule below illustrates some of the projects funded by Grant Awards during 2015/16 as follows:

Grant	£	Project
Sportscotland – legacy active places	42,000	Installation of new pontoon
Wheelyboat Trust and partners	35,000	Purchase of new wheelyboat
Awards for all - paracycling	10,000	Purchase of handcycles
Tesco local community scheme	10,000	Castle Semple conservation group pond project
Awards for All - RAMH	7,300	2 x Branching Out programmes
Forestry Commission	8,800	2 x Branching Out programmes
Awards for All – Erskine Hospital	10,000	Activity programme

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2 September 2016

Report By Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY ABSENCE STATISTICS

1 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To inform members of the Joint Committee of the quarterly absence statistics for the most recently completed quarter, from 21 March to 19 June 2016.

2 Recommendation:

- 2.1 That members of the Joint Committee:-

(i) Note the quarterly absence statistics for 21 March to 19 June 2016.

3 Background:

- 3.1 The Park Authority was informed in Jan 2011 of a change in the reporting of absence statistics. With effect from the start of the 2011/12 year the statistics are to be presented to the Park Authority Joint Committee for its consideration.
- 3.2 The timing of the Joint Committee meetings will enable the following pattern of absence reporting:

Joint Committee meeting	Absence quarter reported
September	April, May & June
December	July, Aug & Sept.
February	Oct, Nov & Dec.
June	Jan, Feb & March

3.3 The quarterly absence statistics for the Park Authority 21 March to 19 June 2016, with the previous quarter's statistics in brackets, are:-

	APT&C Office based		APT&C outdoor		Manual		TOTAL	
Type of absence	Lost work days	% loss	Lost work days	% loss	Lost work days	% loss	Lost work days	% loss
Self certificated	2 (14)	0.38 (2.85)	1 (0)	0.11 (0)	1 (0)	0.38 (0.00)	4 (14)	0.24 (1.20)
Medically certificated	53 (44)	10.04 (8.94)	32 (30)	3.65 (6.27)	0 (0)	0 (0)	85 (74)	5.09 (6.32)
Industrial injury	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (0)	1.03 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (0)	0.54 (0)
Total	55 (58)	10.42 (11.79)	42 (30)	4.79 (6.27)	1 (0)	0.38 (0)	98 (88)	5.87 (7.51)
Work days available	528 (492)		876 (478.5)		266 (201)		1670 (970.5)	
No. of employees	12 (12)		16 (13)		5 (4)		33 (25)	
Absence rate (days per employee per quarter)	4.58 (4.83)		2.62 (2.30)		0.2 (0.0)		2.97 (3.52)	

3.4 The following table demonstrates the key statistics for the past year, figures for the same periods of the previous rolling year are provided for comparison:-

Quarter ending	September 2015	December 2015	March 2016	June 2016 (current)
Days lost per employee	0.5	3.0	3.52	2.97
Absence rate %	1.2	6.0	7.5	5.8

Quarter ending	September 2014	December 2014	March 2015	June 2015
Days lost per employee	0.8	0.7	1.36	1.5
Absence rate %	1.5	1.4	2.8	3.1

- 3.5 The absence rate for this current quarter is lower than the previous quarter, although significantly higher than for the same period in the last year. This figure is disappointing but is principally due to two members of staff being on long term sickness.
- 3.6 Comparative statistics for Local Government and Industry Sector shown below have been taken from The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), the most recent report made is for the calendar year to 2014 (January – December).

Annual Absence 2015	Number of respondents	% loss	Days per employee per year
Agriculture. & Forestry	0	0	0
Hotel, Catering & Leisure	3	1.1	2.6
Local government (CIPD)	20	3.5	7.9
National Rate	n/a	n/a	6.9
In comparison CMRP Jan – Dec 2014	n/a	2.0	3.8

- 3.7 It should be noted that this is the third time absence rates have been high within the Regional Park, in the last two years, although it still remains under the local government rate. It is no longer possible to provide comparison information from Audit Scotland for the 3 constituent Local Authorities.
- 3.8 Since 2014 comparative performance information for Local Government has been reported through the Improvement Service's Local Government Benchmarking Framework. However this report only gives a flat rate average of 10 days per employee per year across all Scottish Local Government Sectors and does not detail absence rates for individual local authorities. The figure for 2015/16 is not available and has therefore not been included in the comparison table above.

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2 September 2016

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

1.0 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To inform members of the Joint Committee of the Park Authority's Quarterly Health and Safety monitoring report for April - June 2016.

2.0 Recommendation:

That members of the Joint Committee:-

- 2.1 Note that there was one RIDDOR reportable accident in the Park during this period but no occupational diseases and six other accidents/ incidents. A total of three involving staff and four involving visitors.
- 2.2 Note that the problem of water ingress at Muirshiel Visitor Centre continues to be under investigation but has improved following repairs.

Members wishing further information regarding this report should contact Mr David Gatherer, Regional Park Manager, Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority, 01505 842 882.

3.0 Background:

- 3.1 The Park Authority is a member of Renfrewshire Council's Corporate Health and Safety Committee. This meets quarterly and is attended by representatives of the council's departments and the joint boards and joint committees.

4.0 Quarterly Health and Safety Monitoring Report:

- 4.1 The Quarterly Health and Safety monitoring report is normally presented to the Park Authority as part of the regular meetings cycle:

Joint Committee meeting	H & S quarter reported
February	Oct, Nov & Dec.
June	Jan, Feb & March
September	April, May & June
December	July, Aug & Sept.

- 4.2 The summary monitoring report to Renfrewshire Corporate H&S Committee is presented as Appendix 1 for the consideration of the Joint Committee. The report details accident statistics, management action and training.
- 4.3 During the period of April to June 2016 there was one RIDDOR reportable accident and two other accidents to Park staff and four incidents involving visitors. The RIDDOR reportable incident involved equipment failure at Greenock Cut Visitor Centre when a handrail gave way causing a member of staff to trip and fall resulting in injury to back, elbow, wrist and leg with absence from work for 10 working days. This rail has been replaced by Inverclyde Council.

Other equipment failures included a glass coffee jug cracking (replaced with stainless steel) and a crank for pulling the wheelie boat onto the trailer failing to lock into place resulting in it kicking back onto the forearm of a member of staff. This equipment was then tested and was found to be working but was replaced as a precautionary measure.

Two clients fell off their bikes as a result of not following instructions and one member of the public had her finger tip bitten off by a dog while trying to stop it fighting with her dog. Further information on responsible access and dog control has been circulated.

One client was advised to go to hospital after first aid was administered for a nose bleed but the bleeding failed to stop after 20 mins.

- 4.4 Water ingress at the roof of Muirshiel Visitor Centre is still occurring. Further investigations are required to fully rectify the problem.
- 4.5 During the period January – April to June 2016 two Health & Safety related courses were attended. In total 4 members of staff took part. One Health & Safety related Toolbox Talk was delivered.
- 4.6 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park continues to work with Renfrewshire Council Health & Safety Officers to align its Health & Safety policies, plans and accident prevention programs with those currently in use within Renfrewshire Council. The Park produces a Health and Safety Plan annually to provide focus and direction for continuous improvement.
- 5.0 Conclusion:
- 5.1 This quarterly report shows a continued low accident rate in the Park, and the implementation of the 2015/16 Health & Safety plan should ensure that this trend continues.

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

April - June 2016

This report is prepared by Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park in accordance with the terms of reference for the Corporate Health and Safety Committee, the purpose of which is to evaluate ongoing health and safety performance.

1. Accident Statistical Information including violence and aggression reports

Clyde Muirshiel does not have access to Renfrewshire Council's electronic reporting, so accidents/incidents are recorded on a paper based system.

As can be seen in the table below, during the period of April to June 2016 there was one RIDDOR reportable incident to Park staff and two other incidents and four incidents involving visitors. The RIDDOR reportable incident involved equipment failure at Greenock Cut Visitor Centre when a handrail gave way causing a member of staff to trip and fall resulting in injury to back, elbow, wrist and leg with absence from work for 10 working days. This rail has been replaced by Inverclyde council. Other equipment failures included a glass coffee jug cracking (replaced with stainless steel) and a crank for pulling the wheelie boat onto the trailer failing to lock into place resulting in it kicking back onto the forearm of a member of staff. This equipment was then tested and was found to be working but was replaced as a precautionary measure. Two clients fell off their bikes as a result of not following instructions and one member of the public had her finger tip bitten off by a dog while trying to stop it fighting with her dog. Further information responsible access and dog control has been circulated. One client was advised to go to hospital after first aid was administered for a nose bleed but the bleeding failed to stop after 20 mins.

Type of Accident	Number of Accidents (Staff)	Number of Accidents (Visitors/Volunteers)	% of Total Accidents
Slip/Trip/Fall	1	2	43
Equipment failure	2		29
Animal incident		1	14
Health incident		1	14
TOTALS	3	4	100%

2. Accident Prevention Programs

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park continues to work with Renfrewshire Council Health & Safety Officers to align its Health & Safety policies, plans and accident prevention programs with those currently in use within Renfrewshire Council.

3. Training

During the period April to June 2016 two Health & Safety related courses were attended, with 4 members of staff attending. One Health & Safety related Toolbox Talk was delivered.

4. Occupational Health

Clyde Muirshiel Park uses the Occupational Health Service where appropriate. There were no referrals and no 'Did-Not-Attend' incidences during the period. No HSE reportable occupational diseases were recorded during in this quarter.

5. Update on CMRP Health & Safety Management

During periods of heavy rainfall, water has continued to penetrate the roof at Muirshiel Visitor Centre. The water ingress would however appear to have lessened after some repairs.

Appendix A: Provision of Training - July 2015 to June 2016

<u>Section 1</u> Health and safety training courses	2 nd ¼ July – Sept	3 rd ¼ Oct- Dec	4 th ¼ Jan – Mar	1 st ¼ Apr – June
Accident investigation				
Display screen equipment assessment				
Fire risk assessment				
Fire wardens training				
Risk assessment				
Manual handling - (objects) risk assessment				
<u>Section 2</u> Health and safety training courses				
Managing safely accredited by IOSH				
Construction safety awareness				
Manual handling risk assessment (people)				
COSHH awareness				
Quality of working life (stress) risk assessment				
Corporate policy on alcohol and substance misuse				
Manual handling (objects) practical training				
<u>Section 3</u> Any other appropriate health and safety training courses, or bespoke courses				
Risk Assessment (refresher on new format)				
Hedge cutter training			5	
Strimmer training			5	
British Canoe Union Orientation				
Chainsaw - Felling Medium Size Trees		1		
Ladder Awareness		16		
PA1 and PA6 / Stem injection and ecoplugs pesticide use		4		
Elementary Food Hygiene (outdoor)				
Food Hygiene Certificate		11		
First Aid at Work – 2 Day Refresher				1
First Aid at Work – 3 Day		1		3
Induction (inc Health & Safety)				
Kayak/Canoe 4 star instructor training				

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2nd September 2016

Report by
Head of Planning & Housing : Renfrewshire Council

SUBJECT: Semple Trail Heritage Project

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report seeks to inform Members of the success of the recently concluded Semple Trail Heritage Project.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Joint Committee:
- Note the achievements of the Semple Trail Heritage Project as outlined in the Heritage Lottery Fund evaluation report.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Over the period 2012-2016, the Semple Trail Heritage Project was successfully delivered through a funding package of £860,000 secured from Heritage Lottery Fund, Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire LEADER, Historic Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, RSPB and Legacy 2014.
- 3.2 The main aims of the project were:
- Encourage people to explore the area by creating 'heritage destinations'
 - Enhance biodiversity
 - Improve access and interpretation
 - Restore key heritage features (Cascades, ice house, cave and grotto) and
 - Deliver a programme of engaging activity for local communities and visitors.

4.0 Key Achievements

- 4.1 The key achievements of the project include:
- Over 2km of new or upgraded paths
 - Two new footbridges and a new fishing/viewing platform

- Creation of visitor destinations along the trail route
- Restoration of key listed structures, and
- Delivery of activities involving over 2500 participants, particularly through the Windows on Wildlife project.

4.2 The project has been delivered on budget and has benefitted significantly from added volunteer value. In total more than 300 hours of volunteer time have been recorded. Further detail of the project achievements are detailed in the attached evaluation report prepared for Heritage Lottery Fund.

5.0 Launch Event

5.1 A successful event was hosted at Castle Semple Visitor Centre on Sunday 7th August 2016 to celebrate the end of the project. The event was well attended by project partners and stakeholders and included:

- Young people's quiz;
- Archaeological presentation, and;
- Guided walk around the Semple Trail with input from historical storyteller.

5.2 Feedback from key project stakeholders was extremely positive and further publicity will be arranged in the coming weeks.

6.0 Next steps

6.1 Renfrewshire Council and CMRP will continue to promote and monitor the online visitor survey which is open until December 2016. The information gathered will inform the second evaluation report due for submission to HLF before July 2017.

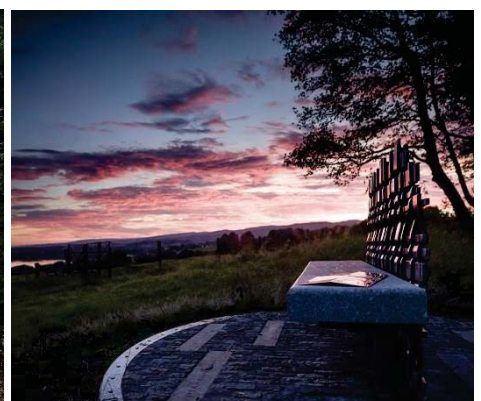
Members wishing further information regarding this report should contact:
Susan Jones, Renfrewshire Council, 0141 618 7836



Heritage Lottery Fund

Semple Trail Heritage Evaluation Report

Project Reference: HG-09-07848





Castle Sempole Loch

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Project Overview

Summary

The Semple Trail Heritage Project has been a resounding success. The newly defined 15km trail route has improved links between the area's important heritage assets, including the recently-restored category B-listed cascade complex. Visitors of all ages can develop a deeper understanding of heritage thanks to new interpretation and accessible information, making for a more enjoyable and fulfilling experience.

Project Aims

- Encourage people to learn about and enjoy the diverse heritage within the Castle Semple area;
- Increase access to heritage for a wide range of people;
- Encourage people to get involved in caring for our diverse heritage;
- Conserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage within the area for future generations to experience and enjoy, and;
- Protect the rich built heritage of the area.

Key Facts

- Project started in May 2012 and concluded in July 2016;
- The total funding package amounted to £860,000;
- In addition to Heritage Lottery Fund, funders included Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire LEADER, Historic Environment Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, RSPB and Legacy 2014;
- The project was managed by Renfrewshire Council in collaboration with South Renfrewshire Access Network Initiative (SRANI).



Lochshore Lookouterie

Increasing Access to Heritage

During the project's development it became clear that very few of the area's visitors explored anything beyond the Castle Semple visitor centre; as few as 20% of people explored beyond the car park.

The Semple Trail Heritage Project sought to encourage exploration by creating 'heritage destinations'; areas around the trail that are inviting and provide an insight into the area's rich past. With the help of specialist consultants Ironside Farrar and skilled architectural metalworkers Chris Brammall Ltd, a series of 7 'lookootheries' were installed at points along the trail route. Each individually designed piece takes inspiration from the area's natural, industrial or cultural heritage. The shape, size and material used varies from location to location to ensure each is striking yet sympathetic to its surroundings.

Access to the heritage destinations and other heritage features has been made much easier by a comprehensive package of pathworks improvements. Approximately 2 kilometres of path network has been created or consolidated, with the most significant being the newly created path which links the top of Lochwinnoch to the Johnshill area of the park. Since being completed in 2012, visitor numbers in this area have increased by 135% from a monthly average of around 1200 to 2500 visitors. Elsewhere in the park, a new path at the historic cascade complex has opened up this previously inaccessible area and made it much more inviting and conspicuous to visitors.

"The pathworks for the STHP have encouraged people to walk new routes in the countryside and opened up places of historic interest"

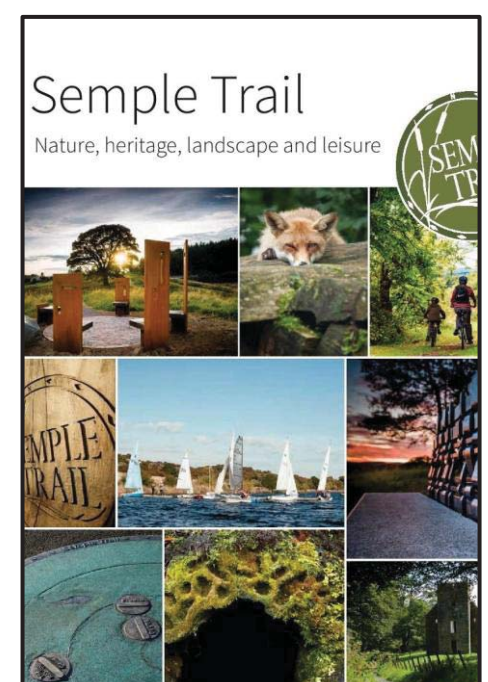
CMRP Countryside Officer

Many of the trail's existing routes are now more accessible, especially for visitors with assisted mobility needs. Paths at Aird Meadow (RSPB) and Terry's Bridge Path (Parkhill Wood) have been widened and resurfaced making them more user friendly. In addition, two footbridges have been substantially upgraded and at another two locations new bridges have been installed.

It (Semple Trail Heritage Project) has made the whole area more accessible and with more people in the area feel safer when going runs/ walks etc. myself.

Survey Respondent

For those who want more information prior to visiting, or for those who aren't physically able to navigate the route, it will soon be possible to access the key features of the trail online via an interactive story map. The map will include pictures and information about the trail's key heritage features and provide links to other sources of relevant information.



Encouraging Learning and Enjoyment

Early research revealed that regular visitors were often unaware of the area's heritage; however, there was a strong appetite for formal and informal learning opportunities.

An impressive programme of activities was delivered in partnership with Renfrewshire Leisure and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park to help people of all backgrounds and abilities connect with the area's heritage.

The immensely successful Windows on Wildlife (WoW) project, delivered by a dedicated officer at Castle Semple Country Park, engaged with 1000 school pupils over two years. The workshops covered wildlife photography, species identification and biological recording. By the time the project concluded, more than 1500 pupils had participated in workshops, exceeding the original target by more than 50%.

"The children were fully engaged. It was educational, interactive and fun. Watching the video footage of the animals in their natural habitats was something we do not normally get to see. A great worthwhile programme which helped the children take a closer look at nature".

Teacher, St Anthony's Primary,

The wildlife footage gathered by the project proved to be extremely popular. In total, 1049 people attended a series of WoW presentations across Renfrewshire, with many thousands more taking time to enjoy the highlights on the dedicated Windows on Wildlife YouTube channel. This significant online presence resulted in the WoW officer being invited to deliver a segment on BBC Radio Scotland's 'Out of Doors' programme as well as a regular segment of STV Glasgow's 'The Riverside Show' extending the reach of the project to the show's 20,000 regular viewers.

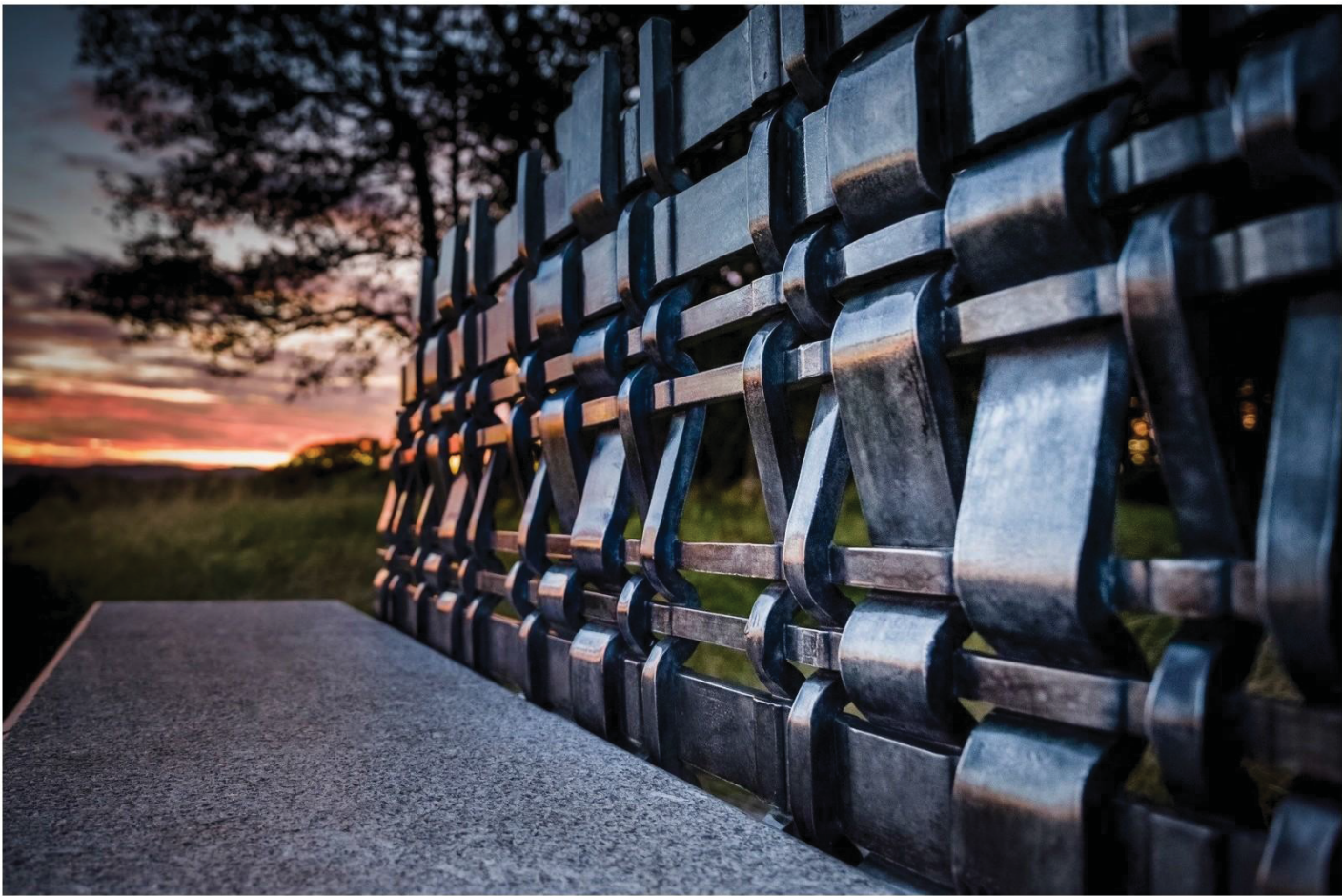
The WoW officer also delivered a successful programme of public engagement activities to inform visitors about the trail's natural heritage. In total, over 750 people participated in events which ranged from badger watching, otter spotting, bird ringing, small mammal surveying and after dark guided walks.

Renfrewshire's Museums and Libraries service contributed to a programme of formal learning via their photography, video and soundscaping workshops. Work was also undertaken with four local schools to create a video and installation based on the theme "Human Impact on the Landscape" relating to the Semple Estate as a designed landscape.

Content from both the WoW project and museums activities are in the process of being uploaded onto mounted i-pads to be housed within Castle Semple and RSPB visitor centres. These features – which will also contain information about the estate's history and work of the Semple Trail Heritage Project—will offer a sustainable and accessible learning resource for the tens of thousands of visitors at these sites each year.

Many of the interpretative trail features have been designed to inspire further learning. The "lookooteries", interpretation panels, rubbing posts and carved benches are visually impactful and tactile allowing visitors to interact with them on many levels. Learning experiences are further enhanced by the high quality Semple Trail booklet and children's passport, creating opportunities for deep understanding through hands-on tasks and activities.





Spotlight on Interpretation

Seven “lookootheries” were installed in 2014 and were immediately successful in creating specific destination points along the trail route .Each feature is unique and takes inspiration from the area’s natural, cultural or industrial heritage. They include a flight of birds, a giant map, a curling rink, a giant woven seat, a globe, a set of individual ‘chairs’ and a large folded guide book.

The “lookootheries” are situated in both obvious and less conspicuous locations, with the idea being that visitors would stumble upon the easily accessible and use on site orientation tools to actively seek out the rest. The process of uncovering a “lookootherie” becomes a reward for exploration.

The differences in size and style help each feature sit well within its immediate environment; each adds value to an already important vista without being overbearing. Visitor feedback has been extremely positive, with many having ‘favourites’ along the trail route to which they feel particularly connected.

The idea of emotionally connecting people to place was a key aim for the interpretative works at Blackditch Bay, located approximately one kilometre from Castle Semple Visitor Centre. The area is an important gateway from the conspicuous loch shore area to the less frequented Parkhill Wood and adjacent National Cycle Route but prior to the works being implemented this area lacked any real draw for visitors. Consultation with park staff suggested the area could be used as a learning hub for visiting groups, with seats for group story telling and improved access to the loch for pond dipping and wildlife surveying.

Inspired by the area’s biodiversity, a Scottish based chainsaw artist was commissioned to create three story telling benches, connected visually via a food chain theme; bugs and beasties, fish and amphibians and birds and mammals. In addition, the artist was asked to create two imposing story telling ‘thrones’ to take centre stage, each incorporating the Semple family crest.

The benches proved to be exceptionally popular, so much so that additional landscaping was required a short time after their installation to cope with the added footfall. A new path to the loch and pond dipping platform were also created. Park staff expect popularity of the area to grow as word spreads and are already benefitting greatly from the creation of this new ‘outdoor classroom’.

Caring for Our Heritage

The Semple Trail offers a diverse range of heritage assets that are important locally, regionally and nationally. It's important that visitors understand their significance and feel connected to them.

The local community has been at the heart of the Semple Trail project from the outset and has maintained a key role during its delivery. Regular meetings between Renfrewshire Council, community representatives and stakeholder groups have ensured the project has been effectively targeted in line with local expectations. The meetings provided a useful forum to present ideas to the community obtain feedback on progress to date.

The strong sense of community involvement and buy in has been further assisted by the work of staff at Castle Semple and RSPB Lochwinnoch; they helped keep visitors informed by answering questions, giving background on what had already been delivered and raising awareness of what had yet to come. The community has also contributed to promoting the work of the trail, particularly on social media.

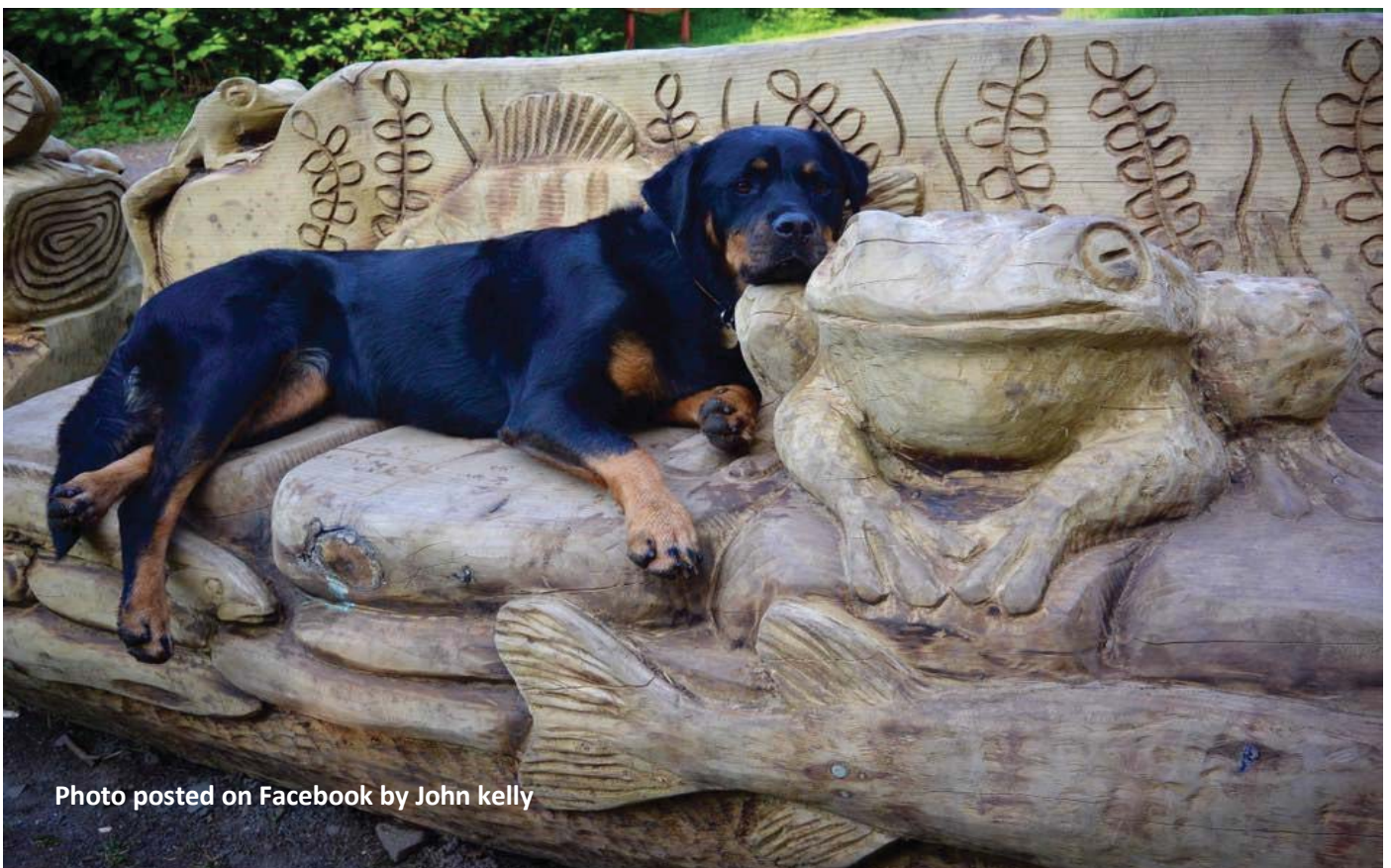


Photo posted on Facebook by John Kelly

The online response to the various interpretative features was particularly positive, with images being shared and commented on through personal and professional networks. This has helped extend the reach of the Semple Trail project and foster enthusiasm for its accomplishments.

The Clyde Muirshiel Park rangers successfully delivered a programme of events which have helped reinforce the importance of the area’s heritage assets. These have included:

- **Guided walks** encompassing tours and information about the area’s historic features (cascade complex, Collegiate Church, grotto)
- **Citizen Science events** where participants have contributed to bird and wildflower surveys
- **Green wood working** where the public find out about the ancient craft of cleaving green wood with hand tools;
- **Natural Heritage events** such as specialist presentations from the South West Scotland Butterfly Conservation Society, and;
- **Targeted volunteering events** to help fabricate materials in support of the trail’s interpretation masterplan.

The activities of the Windows on Wildlife project reinforced the importance of the environmental heritage. The project was especially successful in bringing the natural heritage to the fore, in particular species which are not commonly seen by the public (otters and badgers). Participants learned about these and other species supported by the area’s habitats and the influence people have in determining how well they thrive.

“These [carved benches] are really beautiful! Well done!”

Facebook Comment

The children’s passport is an important and engaging resource which helps facilitate discovery and active learning amongst younger visitors and their parents/carers. The passport directs young people to specific areas of the trail encouraging them to find, think and identify important features of the area’s heritage.

Conserving Our Natural Heritage

The landscape of Castle Semple has been managed for pleasure and for profit for over 500 years.

Castle Semple Loch has been a focal point of the estate for centuries. Over time, the loch has been used to support agriculture and industry as well as sport and leisure. In recent times, the loch's importance as a natural resource has taken precedence, supported by its national designation as a special site of scientific interest (SSSI) and home to scarce and nationally protected species.

A study was undertaken in 2014 as part of the project's conservation activity to gauge the feasibility of environmental improvement works at Blackditch Bay, a small area of wetland located a short distance from Castle Semple Visitor Centre. One of the desired outputs of the study was a costed design which would set out how to best achieve ecological improvements through habitat creation. A further function required of the design was to help reduce the number of pollutants in the burn which were felt to be contributing to the degradation of the SSSI.

The study revealed that that wetland enhancement could not be easily achieved within the financial and physical constraints of the project. As such, it was decided that one major element of the project—the treatment of invasive Japanese Knotweed—would be singled out as a priority action.

The project funded six staff from Clyde Muirshiel Country Park and RSPB Lochwinnoch to attend pesticide training in the Autumn of 2015. Funds were also used to purchase specialist equipment to enable staff to self-treat problem invasive species, in particular Japanese Knotweed. Given that the spread of knotweed at Castle Semple is severe, this sustainable approach will be the most effective means to deal with the problem, with the park having made a long term commitment to resource this activity until it's under control.



In other areas the park and RSPB Lochwinnoch have successfully integrated volunteer activities to deliver positive environmental improvements. Regular volunteer groups have made significant contributions to trail maintenance including the removal of Himalayan Balsam, another problem non-native species. Regular groups have also assisted with biodiversity recording through bird box surveys and fresh water invertebrate sampling.

A much celebrated output of the volunteer activity has been the creation of a well used artificial otter holt with corresponding footage recorded via the Windows on Wildlife project. The success of this holt—constructed in 2014—resulted in another volunteer exercise in 2015 to create a second. This ‘satellite holt’ is designed to serve the otters when their existing one is flooded, minimising their risk of displacement into less safe environments.

Protecting Our Built Heritage

Castle Semple Country Park houses the earliest surviving example of cascade features in Scotland. In 2015, work began to conserve these and neighbouring historic structures to safeguard them for the future.

The category B-listed cascade complex is situated in a relatively secluded part of the park. Prior to the conservation works, very few visitors explored them with many—including those who visited the park every day—not even being aware of their existence. Since their restoration, the features have become a much better known and understood destination point along the wider trail route.

The restoration process began in the summer of 2015 and was completed in July 2016. The works were carried out by CBC Stone Ltd under the direction of conservation architect Pollock Hammond Ltd.



Middle cascade

The team faced several challenges during the works with the most severe being poor weather; a particularly wet period from October 2015—March 2016 resulted in significant delay to the work programme. When the weather improved, the team were able to make good progress and works to improve the structure and aesthetic value of the features went ahead.

During the restoration process discoveries were made which helped develop our understanding of the site and how it may have been previously used. These were carefully recorded and documented by GUARD Archaeology, who were commissioned to carry out a watching brief. Discussions with Historic Environment Scotland indicate these discoveries have added to the heritage value of the features, resulting in a more informed, complete story presented to visitors.

A study in 2012 showed only 8% of park visitors were aware of the cascades; this figure has now increased to 51%

Visitors to site are now supported in their learning with the installation of a new interpretation board. This will help visitors better understand the features' form and function and encourage respect for their part in the estate's legacy. Physical measures like dedicated viewing points, handrails and gates will ensure visitors are directed to appropriate areas of the site and discouraged from action that could cause harm to them or the features themselves.



Carved stone above cave





Middle Cascade Before



Middle Cascade After

Spotlight on Built Heritage

Conservation

The cascades we created at a time when it was fashionable to have water features in designed gardens. When they were created nearly 300 years ago along with the ice house and cave they would have made a clear statement about the landowner's wealth and status. Unfortunately the features were showing signs of failure. In the case of the top cascade, constant exposure to running water (and in winter months, ice) had caused significant damage to the structure's stone facing. The middle cascade appeared to be more affected by vegetation growth with tree roots having displaced much of the stonework leaving it structurally unstable. By comparison, the lower cascade was in the worst state of all, with much of the structure completely demolished.

Early in the conservation process the conservation architect—Pollock Hammond Ltd—consulted with Historic Environment Scotland and identified that works to the upper and middle cascades were to be prioritised over works to the lower. This was deemed to represent best value from both a financial and heritage perspective. In addition, it was felt that the middle cascade—which was largely obscured by vegetation growth—had the potential to require more rebuilding once the extent of the tree root damage had been fully uncovered.

The task of clearing all vegetation and debris off the structures was indeed a delicate one. The contractor was able to remove the vegetation and debris on the upper cascade whilst minimising any further damage. The same was true for the middle cascade, which was so enveloped in

“Members of the public are asking how long they’ve [the cascades] been here for. They can’t believe they’ve been walking past them for years”

CBC Stone Mason

vegetation growth that many of the roots were providing structural support. It was at this point the sheer scale of the features was fully appreciated, especially in the case of the middle cascade. Interest was also starting to grow amongst locals and regular visitors who noted the previously overlooked area now busy with activity.

One of the key discoveries during this process was evidence of the middle cascade's evolution over time; the feature appeared to have a core structure which was later added to in order to create a formal bridge.

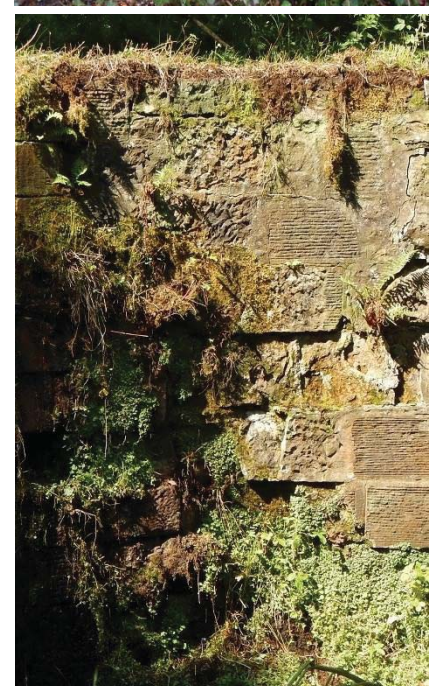
remnants of these additions such as rubbing stones, balusters and retrofitted cope stones added further interest to the feature, and according to Historic Environment Scotland, further rarity.

Another discovery was made in the vicinity of the top cascade, where evidence of a possible water feature was uncovered during excavations. The cast-iron pipe and copper head was deemed to be similar in design to that used in formal gardens in 17th Century France, giving real possibility to the idea that the feature was created at the same time as the cascade structure for further ornamental effect.

The conservation team made a concerted effort to salvage and re-use as much original stone as possible. At times this was challenging because much of the original stone (revealed to have been quarried locally) was quite poor quality. The variance in stone type, dressing and laying technique also suggested that the structure had originally been worked on by a team of experienced and apprentice stone masons, probably using stone left over from the demolition on the original Castle Semple.

Although the poor weather over the winter of 2015/early 2016 caused significant delay it did not contribute to any increased decay of the structures. When conditions improved in the spring of 2016 great progress was made to carry out the main structural repairs and replace failed stone.

The poor weather did not effect the conservation works to the ice house and cave to the same extent. Both these structures were in relatively good condition, although the ice house did require a lot of work to remove potentially damaging cementitious mortar that has been used to patch repair in recent years. Again, the excavations provided an opportunity to investigate the nature of these features quite closely. The discovery of a functioning drain running from the cave into the cascade pond affirmed a previously uncertain conjecture that the cave was an early precursor to the more contemporary ice house. A copy of the detailed archaeological report can be found in Appendix 1.



Key Challenges, Lessons Learned and Conclusion

The Semple Trail project was overwhelmingly successful with all of its original objectives being met and in some instances exceeded. There were however some challenges along the way which required more consideration, resource and at times compromise.

Funding and its Conditions

The project evolved over time as priorities were re-evaluated and agreed with stakeholders. This was especially true for the wetland habitat enhancement and scope of built heritage conservation works. Heritage Lottery Fund was understanding and supportive of these changes and allowed grant to be re-allocated where necessary in light of new circumstances. From the Project Officer's perspective, this highlighted the need to maintain a 'what if' attitude to the project and ensure a balance was constantly struck between resource and expectation.

The project had a complex funding structure with some grants only pertaining to certain aspects of the project and constrained by individual conditions. Unfortunately it took longer than expected to agree the conditions of Historic Environment Scotland's grant which meant a delay in starting the built heritage works contract. This has emphasised the fact that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to securing grant and that this process in itself can require a substantial amount of resource.

Weather and programming

Unfortunately the weather over the winter of 2015/2016 was exceptionally poor and resulted in at least a 5 month delay to the built heritage works. During this time, the Project Officer liaised closely with the consultant and contractor to ensure the features were protected as much as possible against further damage. By the time the weather improved, there appeared to have been no further degradation of the structures, nor had there been any issues with site safety.

It may have been beneficial to have programmed these works at an earlier stage in the project, and to have started the process on enlisting a consultant/contractor early on to provide more opportunity to work through challenges more likely to arise with complex works.

Activity Plan

Responsibility for the delivery of the Activity Plan was divided between Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Renfrewshire Leisure (museums). Due to organisational re-structure and increasing workload, museums staff encountered difficulties in reporting the activities in the format/timescales agreed at the start of the project. More recently the installation of the digital resource within Castle Semple Visitor Centre and RSPB Lochwinnoch reserve, was delayed until late summer 2016. The main lesson learned is to take a realistic view of capacity and expectations for subsequent projects.

Nature of Built Heritage Conservation

The heritage features in Castle Semple are relatively mysterious; they appear in historic estate maps and are referenced sporadically in older estate documents but not much is known about them in reality. It therefore came as no surprise that during the restoration works many things were uncovered that did not meet with initial expectations, such as the poor quality of original stone and the unusual structure of the middle cascade.

Although these discoveries changed the scope of works and required new thinking they provided rare and exciting opportunities to evidence of the feature's evolution over time and deduce how the cascades, ice house and cave may have functioned in the context of the wider estate. The findings have been officially recorded and have been submitted to Historic Environment Scotland and will form a key legacy component of the project.

Staff Resource and Turnover

Due to a variety of circumstances outwith the control of the project, a number of staff changes occurred during the lifetime of the project. For a short period between April and August 2014 the project had no dedicated project officer. In spite of this, negative impacts on the project were mitigated by the efforts of the project manager who oversaw the project throughout the delivery phase. The original Project Officer post was part-time, which proved to be insufficient in terms of the workload. For the short period the second Project Officer was contracted to work 28 hours a week, an increase from the original 17.5 hour a week post. This increase was essential to accommodate the growing project activity as individual elements became operational.

“The project has had immense support from the funders, fellow officers and more importantly the local communities. I’m extremely proud of what’s been achieved”.

Jamie Gardyne, STHP Project Officer

Although grant funding for the project officer expired in October 2015 Renfrewshire Council agreed to fund 100% of project officer costs to ensure the successful delivery of the project, highlighting the council's commitment to the project and its outcomes.

Conclusion

The Semple Trail Heritage Project has made real, measurable change and improvements to the visitor experience. The area is more attractive, more informative and easier to navigate. The project has also helped the park make the most of its existing assets to offer a unique and regionally significant heritage destination that many will enjoy for years to come.

The ongoing WoW project will further extend the project's legacy, helping to inform young people about the importance of the Semple Trail as a valuable habitat which has to be respected and cared for.

The project stakeholders are incredibly proud of what the project has accomplished. Visitor feedback will be monitored over the coming months to gather a full picture of what has worked well and what could be improved further. This will be done via an online survey which will stay live until the end of 2016. These findings will act as a basis for any future developments, driven forward by the continuing enthusiasm of the project group.

Thanks to project funders a more attractive and informative destination has been created for the 340,000 annual visitors to Castle Semple Country Park. Recent surveys show more than 90% believe the Semple Trail is more accessible and enjoyable, with new paths showing an increase of up to 135% in visitor use. Visitors better appreciate the area's cultural, natural and built heritage and actively participate in meaningful learning experiences.

Ongoing enhancements and improvements will continue to benefit all who visit Castle Semple.
Survey Respondent



"The Semple Trail Heritage Project, as part of the overall SRANI project, has led to increased access to the countryside and natural and man made heritage, provided greater physical and health benefits, greater learning about heritage, created additional educational opportunities and has provided environmental improvements. This has been of great benefit to the local community and visitors alike"

Member of Lochwinnoch Community Council

Survey Report 2021

Over 1500 young people participated in WoW workshops

Three interpretative benches and two story telling thrones

A project Story Map

Landscaping works to Blackditch Bay

51% of visitors are now aware of cascade complex, up from 8% in 2012

Repair works to estate boundary wall



Over 2km of paths created or upgraded



A new pond dipping platform

Comprehensive scheme of waymarking

**Over 92% of visitors
believe the trail is now
more accessible and
enjoyable**

*B-listed structures
successfully
conserved*

Installation of 7 “lookooteries”

Close to 300 hours of recorded volunteer time

**50,000 leaflets produced
alongside 10,000 booklets and
2,000 children’s passports**

**Two new footbridges and
another substantially upgraded**

**Installation of interpretation
panels and rubbing posts**

**A pool of staff certified and resourced
to treat invasive, non-native species**

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2 September 2016

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: Development of Accessible Sport

1.0 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To advise members of the Joint Committee of the success of joint working with Renfrewshire Access Panel to fund Bell Boats and Side by Side Bicycle's.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 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 by partnership working and fundraising to provide equipment to achieve this.

3.0 Background:

The Park Authority has been at the forefront of accessible sport and development for a number of years now resulting in a big increase in the number of visitors to the Park with a disability. We are continuously looking at new ways to improve the service that we can provide to our disabled clients and as such have been working with Renfrewshire Access Panel (RAP) to look at funding new equipment.

RAP has the advantage of being a registered charity and as such can access funding streams that are not available to the Park.

Following consultation with a number of our large groups we worked with RAP to apply for funding to purchase 2 bell boats and 3 side by side trikes to further increase capacity for our disabled clients. Both applications were successful and we have now got the new equipment in daily use. The value of this partnership to the park is £25,000 in capital equipment and has already

attracted new clients who can see the benefits of having this facility available at the Park.

One growth area is going to be bell boat Duke of Edinburgh expeditions as the boats provide an excellent platform for this type of activity and can travel to other venues to facilitate this.

3.1 Measures of success will include:

- Attracting more visitors to the Park to take part in sport
- Running more accessible DofE expeditions using the bell boats
- Increase the membership of the Ride 63 cycle club
- Feedback from the large numbers of support services and groups that make use of this equipment.

4.0 Conclusion:

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

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.

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.

CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 2 September 2016

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: PLANNING APPEAL - CORLIC HILL, GREENOCK

1 Purpose of Report:

1.1 This report seeks to inform Members of the Park Authority on the decision issued by the Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government's Department of Planning & Environmental Appeals in relation to an Appeal submitted by Inverclyde Renewables against the decision of Inverclyde Council to refuse Planning Permission for an application for 8 Wind Turbines and ancillary equipment at land to north and east of Corlic Hill, Greenock.

1.2 Full details of the Reporters Decision are available at:

<https://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=115647>

2 Recommendation:

2.1 That members of the Joint Committee:

- (i) Note that following a Public Inquiry the Department of Planning & Environmental Appeals have upheld the Appeal submitted by Inverclyde Renewables in relation to a proposal for 8 Wind Turbines and ancillary equipment at Corlic Hill, Greenock.

3 Background:

3.1 Members will be aware that a Planning Application was Refused on 4th December 2014 by Inverclyde Council for the "Erection of eight wind turbines, construction of access tracks and ancillary development (including crane hard standings, cabling, transformers, culverts), formation of borrow pit, erection of sub-station and control building, formation of car park and temporary construction compounds."

- 3.2 The Applicant; Inverclyde Renewables submitted an Appeal to the Scottish Government's Department of Planning & Environmental Appeals against the decision by Inverclyde Council and following a Public Inquiry and Site Visits in 2015, the Appeal was upheld and Planning Permission was granted subject to 32 conditions.
- 3.3 Amongst the Conditions imposed there is a requirement that the Development must be started within three years of the date of permission, the applicant is obliged to submit a Pollution Prevention Plan, Water Supply Impact Study and, a Programme of Archaeological Investigation Work.
- 3.4 The Reporter also requested that a Traffic Management Plan, Radar Mitigation Scheme and a Television and Radio Reception Survey be undertaken.
- 3.5 There are also ongoing obligations on the Applicant relating to noise control and site conditions and an obligation requiring the lodging of a Bond with Inverclyde Council to cover the costs of decommissioning and site restoration given that the consent is limited to 25 years.
- 3.6 Monitoring and enforcement of the Conditions will be undertaken by Inverclyde Council as Local planning Authority in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.