
To: Joint Committee

On: 21st June 2019

Report by: Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Park Coordinator

Heading: Barnbrock Farm

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks the Joint Committee's agreement that Barnbrock Farm, the Park's former Headquarters, is surplus to the Park's operational requirements.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:
- (i) Agree that Barnbrock Farm and the 1.73ha of adjoining land is surplus to the Park's operational requirements, and;
 - (ii) Agree that Renfrewshire Council should carry out the necessary processes to dispose of the site in line with the relevant legal, financial and procedural regulations.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Barnbrock Farm is located approximately 5km north of Lochwinnoch. The rural site sits adjacent to agricultural land and consists of a farmhouse, offices, storage facilities and a former campsite. The site previously served as the Headquarters of CMRP until 2016 when staff and services were relocated to Castle Semple Visitor Centre.

- 3.2 On the 20th February 2015 the Joint Committee agreed to review the assets and resources within the Park. A key outcome of this was to focus service accommodation and provision at Castle Semple Visitor Centre, providing a more accessible hub for staff and visitors. The Joint Committee also agreed to restrict the use of the campsite at Barnbrock Farm to organised groups only following a sustained period of operating at a loss. The campsite was subsequently closed to all visitors in 2016.
- 3.3 Barnbrock Farm's remote location isolates it from other Park sites. A lack of public transport links creates accessibility issues for Park staff and visitors. The farm buildings are currently used for storage of equipment and are accessed intermittently by Park staff. The site is not promoted as a place of leisure activity.
- 3.4 The agricultural nature of the site and its buildings offers little scope for modernisation in line with evolving Park services. The aging properties are in poor condition with repair and maintenance responsibilities being met by Renfrewshire Council as the owner.
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4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to agree that Barnbrock Farm is now surplus to CMRP's operational requirements, taking cognisance of the site's under-performance as both a visitor destination and staff resource.
- 4.2 Once Barnbrock Farm is declared surplus to the Park's operational requirements, Renfrewshire Council will carry out the necessary processes to dispose of the site in line with the relevant legal, financial and procedural regulations, pending the subsequent approval of relevant Council Boards and in accordance with the Park's Minute of Agreement.
- 4.3 Measures will be taken to relocate equipment currently stored in Barnbrock to other Park sites.
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8. Conclusion

- 8.1 Barnbrock Farm is inaccessible and unsuitable as an operational centre for the Park. The administrative service operates more efficiently from more accessible and popular Park sites, particularly Castle Semple Visitor Centre, ensuring maximum community benefits.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – tbc
 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
 3. **Legal** – none
 4. **Property/Assets** – Barnbrock Farm is owned by Renfrewshire Council. The necessary processes to dispose of the site will be carried out by Renfrewshire Council in line with the relevant legal, financial and procedural regulations
 5. **Information Technology** – none
 6. **Equality & Human Rights** –
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
 7. **Health & Safety** – none
 8. **Procurement** – none
 9. **Risk** – none
 10. **Privacy Impact** – none
 11. **Cosla Policy Position** – none
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