

**To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board**

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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**Report by: Director of Environment & Infrastructure**

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**Heading: Community Engagement on Biodiversity Areas**

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## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on the Council's grass cutting service and undertaking of a community engagement to ask communities their views on creation of biodiversity panels across Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 The Council's green spaces have a key role to play in supporting the increase in biodiversity, enhancing environments and in the delivery of the Council's ambitions to tackle climate change.
- 1.3 On 27 June 2019, Renfrewshire Council declared a climate emergency. The actions required to respond to the climate emergency are complex and multi-faceted, cannot be tackled in isolation and require full collaboration and support by organisations across all of society. A specific focus on the Council's current and planned activities, and the subsequent actions that the Council can take to lead and drive change across all of Renfrewshire, was agreed by the Climate Emergency Working Group. The Council's green space has a key role to play in supporting delivery of biodiversity improvements and the Council's ambitious actions to tackle climate change.
- 1.4 The Council's grass cutting service was suspended as the country entered lockdown in March 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic and was only able to restart under the Government's "Routemap" on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. The Council's Emergency Board of May, June and July was advised on the programme of activities to restart cutting grass within communities, with 97% of grass panels now being maintained and being reinstated into their normal grass cutting frequency.

- 1.5 The unique circumstances of the pandemic have provided the Council with an opportunity to undertake a biodiversity and wildflower assessment of the grass panels to note what the natural biodiversity is and whether any additional sowing of wildflower seeds to increase biodiversity would be beneficial, as a number of the panels are dominated by common grass species.
  - 1.6 An important part of this assessment will be the input of local communities to have their view on the panels that have been left as potential biodiversity panels, and to also make suggestions of other panels and areas that they think would merit consideration as a biodiversity area.
  - 1.7 Community engagement will be taken forward with communities through an online survey and will also seek the views of local partnerships, elected members and community councils, supported by the Council's communications team. The community engagement survey will start on the 26th August and will ask communities to comment on potential biodiversity panels within their local community. Appendix 1 to this report sets out by area the panels included within the survey, with between 3 and 10 potential biodiversity areas being identified per electoral ward.
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## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board:

- 2.1 Notes the biodiversity community engagement survey that will be undertaken as set out in section 5 of this report and that the outcomes of the survey will be brought back to the next cycle of the ILE policy board for consideration.
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## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Emergencies Board over the last few months has detailed the recovery programmes for cutting the Council's parks, open spaces and grass panels.
- 3.2 The report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July set out that positive feedback was being received through its social media channels, the public directly and from Elected Members on seeing the increased biodiversity and natural flowers that had been developing in the grass panels that had not been cut when grass cutting services were suspended during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.3 The Council sets out its biodiversity ambitions through its Biodiversity Action Plan, and as key theme of the Council's key climate change ambitions as set by the Climate Emergency Working group. The Council also has a wider role to link in with the development work by the Central Scotland Green Network and Strategy and Place Standards.

#### **4. Biodiversity Assessments**

- 4.1 The grass panels that were selected for consideration as biodiversity panels sought to exclude those impacting sight lines, to take account of known ground conditions, to link or add to the more natural environment and wherever possible not be immediately adjacent to large numbers of properties.
- 4.2 Panels that have been left for consideration have had some management undertaken to cut a 1-2 metre border where the panel adjoins the footway to clearly define the area.
- 4.3 A full biodiversity assessment has been carried out on each potential area, with a detailed report on the biodiversity of each panel being compiled. These will be included as part of the community engagement.
- 4.4 Any newly created biodiversity areas will not be left unmaintained. Each area will have a management plan. Areas will be managed having their edges and destination lines cut throughout the growing season on the same frequency as other cut panels. In addition, the selected grass areas will be cut at the end of the growing season (mid-September/October) in order to increase the number and variety of insects and plants. These locations will be signposted explaining why this biodiversity area has been created and the benefits of doing so.

#### **5. Community Engagement**

- 5.1 The biodiversity assessments are now complete, and this will enable the community engagement to commence.
- 5.2 The survey will start on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August and will close at midnight on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. This will allow residents and community forums to vote and comment on the areas within their community, on whether they want the proposed areas maintained as biodiversity areas or whether they want them maintained as regular grass panels. There will also be a section of the survey for making suggestions of additional biodiversity areas and where communities would like to see panels located e.g. parks, roadside verges and other open spaces.
- 5.3 The survey will be available online, posted through the Council's social media channels. Communities and residents will be able to insert their post code which will take them directly to a map, which will show the exact location(s) and the extent of the grass panel(s) being considered within the community in which they reside. Communities will click on the potential biodiversity panel and be able to select the full biodiversity report, to understand what the natural biodiversity is on a particular panel. The panel will also detail any proposed additional biodiversity that would be added to increase the diversity and look of the panel. Communities will then be able to enter comments about the potential for this panel to be managed differently, as a biodiversity panel or to return to scheduled grass maintenance. The survey also will provide the opportunity for wider comments on the location of biodiversity areas across Renfrewshire.

- 5.4 Following the completion of the community engagement all the grass panels detailed in appendix 1 will be cut between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September.
- 5.5 The results of the biodiversity community engagement process will then be evaluated and brought to the November cycle of the ILE policy board for consideration.
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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – None
  2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
  3. **Community Planning** – None
  4. **Legal** - None
  5. **Property/Assets** - None
  6. **Information Technology** - None
  7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
  8. **Health & Safety** – None
  9. **Procurement** – None
  10. **Risk** – None
  11. **Privacy Impact** – None
  12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None
  13. **Climate risk** – This report impacts positively on the Council's ambitions to tackle climate change.
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### **List of Background Papers - none**

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**Biodiversity – Areas for Assessment and Consideration**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
BISHOPTON	QUEENS DRIVE LOCKUPS	STRIP AREA FROM FERRY ROAD TO OLD GREENOCK ROAD TO THE REAR OF BUCHANAN AVENUE, QUEENS DRIVE, LAMONT AVENUE AND CHISHOLM AVENUE - EXCLUDING PANELS AT CAMERON AVENUE.
BISHOPTON	QUEENS DRIVE /OLD GREENOCK ROAD	STRIP AREA FROM FERRY ROAD TO OLD GREENOCK ROAD TO THE REAR OF BUCHANAN AVENUE, QUEENS DRIVE, LAMONT AVENUE AND CHISHOLM AVENUE - EXCLUDING PANELS AT CAMERON AVENUE.
BISHOPTON	QUEENS DRIVE	STRIP AREA FROM FERRY ROAD TO OLD GREENOCK ROAD TO THE REAR OF BUCHANAN AVENUE, QUEENS DRIVE, LAMONT AVENUE AND CHISHOLM AVENUE - EXCLUDING PANELS AT CAMERON AVENUE.
BISHOPTON	INGLESTON DRIVE	PANEL TO THE RIGHT OF THE ROAD. HOUSES ON ONE SIDE ONLY LOOKING ACROSS TO THIS. SURROUNDED BY AGRICULTURAL LAND.
BRIDGE OF WEIR	38-56 PARK ROAD	BANKED AREA
BRIDGE OF WEIR	HOUSTON ROAD	TO THE REARS OF HOUSES ON WOODSIDE AVENUE
BRIDGE OF WEIR	MOSS ROAD PARK	SECTION TO THE REARS OF GORSE CRESCENT
BRIDGE OF WEIR	WOODSIDE AVENUE/KILALLAN	TO THE REAR OF 1 / 11
ELDERSLIE	BYRES ROAD/EDZELL DRIVE	AREA SURROUNDING EMPTY EX COMMUNITY BUILDING
ELDERSLIE	2-30 WALLACE AVE	TRIANGLE OF GROUND OUTSIDE MULTIPLE HOUSES. AREA REQUESTED BY RESIDENT.
ELDERSLIE	MALLOCH CRESCENT /BARCLAY AVENUE /WALKER DRIVE	AREA ON AN INCLINE
ELDERSLIE	ALTPATRICK GARDENS	STRIP TO THE REAR OF THORNDENE
ELDERSLIE	MAIN ROAD	SECTION ADJACENT TO 82 MAIN ROAD IN FRONT OF SUBSTATION
ELDERSLIE	STODDARD SQUARE	FORMER SWIMMING POOL AREA
ERSKINE	A726 ROAD CORRIDOR	FROM BARHOLM ROUNDABOUT ON RIGHTHAND SIDE OF ROAD INTO HOTEL
ERSKINE	ERSKINE PARK INWARD INV.SITE	AREA BETWEEN LEFT PART OF KILPATRICK AVENUE AND RIVERSIDE WALKWAY
ERSKINE	CLYDE WALKWAY	AREA LEFT WHEN ENTERING KILPATRICK AVENUE
ERSKINE	RASHIELEE PLAY AREA	REAR OF 7 TO 26 WHITEHILLS
ERSKINE	NORTH BARR AVENUE	SECTION IN FRONT OF TREE AREA - PATHWAYS WOULD BE EDGED
ERSKINE	ERSKINE POOL PHASE 2	BANKING AREA TO TOP LEFT OF CAR PARK
FERGUSLIE	GREENHILL ROAD	TO REAR OF HOUSES ON TANNAHILL ROAD BACKING ONTO CRAIGIELEA DRIVE
FERGUSLIE	FERGUSLIE PARK AVENUE	ADJACENT TO CAR PARK ENTRANCE TO ST MIRREN PARK
FERGUSLIE	CANDREN ROAD	FULL LENGTH OF CANDREN ROAD FROM BLACKSTOUN ROAD - PATHWAY TO BE EDGED
FERGUSLIE	NEWTON TERRACE / FERGUSLIE	CUT 3M FROM FERGUSLIE PAVEMENT

Area	Location	Description
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	ROWANLEA AVENUE BORDERED BY FOXBAR ROAD	REAR OF HOUSES 2 TO 32 BACKING ONTO FOXBAR ROAD
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	SPENCER DRIVE / LEITCHLAND ROAD AND CORUIK WAY / SPENCER DRIVE	CORUIK PANEL - ONLY CENTRE PART
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	REAR OF SPEY AVE	PANEL THAT BACKS ONTO GOLF COURSE
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	BREDILAND ROAD / LOUNSDALE DRIVE	CUT 1 METRE EDGE ALL ROUND
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	CANDREN BURN (MOORHOUSE AVE)	TO THE REAR OF NUMBERS 1 TO 27
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	MEIKLERIGGS DR / ROSEWOOD AVE	FRONT OF 2 TO 82
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	BREDILAND ROAD / AMOCHRIE ROAD	HILLSIDE AREA - CUT DESIRE LINE AND EDGE. AREA OPPOSITE HOUSES 2 TO ST COLUMBA'S WILL BE CUT.
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	HERIOT AVENUE/ HERIOT AVENUE / MONTROSE WAY	CUT DIAGONAL ACROSS PANEL SO AREAS IN FRONT HOUSES DONE AND SLOPED DOWN AREA LEFT
FOXBAR AND BREDILAND	MANNERING WAY / IVANHOE ROAD	EX DEMOLITION SITE ON MANNERING ROAD TO REAR OF JARVIE WAY AND WOODSTOCK AVENUE
GALLOWHILL	MONTGOMERY ROAD TO KNOWE ROAD / GALLOWHILL ROAD	BEHIND 101 TO 141 MONTGOMERY ROAD - STRIP AREA AT THE REAR OF HOUSES ON ARKLESTON CRESCENT
GALLOWHILL	MONTGOMERY AVENUE / ROAD	DEMOLITION SITE SURROUNDING HIGH FLATS - PLAYGROUND AND PATHWAY WILL BE CUT, WITH DESIRE LINE FROM OLD ENTRANCE TO HIGH FATS
GLENBURN	GLENFIELD ROAD GARAGE SITE	TO REAR OF HOUSES BARDRAIN ROAD - 25 TO 37
GLENBURN	FERENEZE DRIVE / GLENBURN ROAD	FROM LINN CRESCENT TO ST PETERS CHURCH
GLENBURN	PARK ROAD - FALSIDE TO DONALDSWOOD	PANEL ON BEND OPPOSITE STANELY DRIVE, PARK AVENUE AND PARK ROAD
GLENBURN	GLENBURN ROAD- HIGHFIELD TO COLONSAY	BANKING VERGES BETWEEN GLENBURN ROAD AND KNOCKSIDE AVENUE
HAWKHEAD AND LOCHFIELD	GLENSHIEL AVENUE/ LOCHFIELD ROAD	BANKING AREA - TO BE EDGED AND FIRST AREA BETWEEN STEPS AND GLENAPP ROAD WILL BE CUT. PANEL AT ENTRANCE TO GLENARKLET DRIVE WILL BE CUT.
HAWKHEAD AND LOCHFIELD	LOCHFIELD ROAD - GLENARKLET DRIVE TO GLENBRITTLE	EDGES WILL BE CUT AND AREAS AT THE TWO JUNCTIONS WILL BE CUT
HAWKHEAD AND LOCHFIELD	HARTFIELD TERRACE / ST NINIAN'S ROAD	BANKING BETWEEN HARTFIELD TERRACE AND WENLOCK ROAD
HAWKHEAD AND LOCHFIELD	BEN NEVIS ROAD	OPPOSITE SIDE OF ROAD FROM HOUSES FROM BEN ALDER TO BEN LAWYERS. TRESS AND BULBS ALREADY ON THIS AREA.
HAWKHEAD AND LOCHFIELD	BEN NEVIS ROAD	ADJACENT TO NUMBER 10 BEN NEVIS ROAD - SLOPED AREA. REST OF AREA ALREADY NOT CUT.
HAWKHEAD AND LOCHFIELD	BARRHEAD ROAD / HURLET ROAD	STEEP BANKING TO REAR OF AFFRIC DRIVE / GLENAPP AVENUE
HOUSTON	MAGNUS ROAD/LEMAN DRIVE	AREA TO REAR OF ALWYN AVENUE NOS 1 TO 33
HOUSTON	MAGNUS ROAD/LEMAN DRIVE	AREA TO SIDE OF 4 LEMAN AVENUE AND REAR OF 2-4 LEMAN GROVE

Area	Location	Description
HOUSTON	MAGNUS ROAD	AREA BETWEEN FORTIES ROAD AND CORMORANT AVENUE - FRONT PART ONLY. PATHWAY WILL BE EDGED
HOUSTON	BERL AVENUE	AREA BETWEEN FORTIES ROAD AND BERL AVENUE. PATHWAY WILL BE EDGED.
HOUSTON	ARDGRYFFE CRESCENT	AREAS TO REAR OF 5-7 CRAIGHOLME AND SIDE OF 9-10 CROSSWAYS
HOWWOOD	HILLFOOT DRIVE	RIGHT HAND SIDE GRASS VERGE
HOWWOOD	STATION ROAD	GRASS VERGES ON BOTH SIDES OF ROAD FROM STATION TO RURAL AREA
HOWWOOD	MIDTON ROAD/KILNKNOWE COTTAGES	AREA TO THE REAR OF 1 TO11 KILNKNOWE COTTAGES
HUNTERHILL	TODHOLM ROAD/TERRACE/CRESCENT	LARGE AREA BETWEEN TODHOLM TERRACE AND TODHOLM ROAD - EXCLUDING AREA AT PATHWAY FROM TODHOLM CRESCENT
HUNTERHILL	TODHOLM TERR/DYKEBAR CRES/CLYDE VIEW	BARRHEAD ROAD / TODHOLM TERRACE FROM BENVIEW TERRACE TO MARNOCK JUNCTION
HUNTERHILL	BARSCUBE TERRACE TO LADYKIRK CRESCENT	BANKING BETWEEN BARSCUBE TERRACE AND BARRHEAD ROAD
HUNTERHILL	MARNOCK TERRACE	BANKING BETWEEN MARNOCK TERRACE AND BARRHEAD ROAD
INCHINNAN	BRAEMAR ROAD	TREE AREA BETWEEN BRAEMAR ROAD AND OLD GREENOCK ROAD
INCHINNAN	PARK ROAD/CRES/BOURNE CT	BANKING AREA TO SIDE AND REAR OF 15 PARK CRESCENT WITH 1 METRE EDGE ALL ROUND
JOHNSTONE	AUCHENLODMENT ROAD	AREA TO THE REAR OF 24 TO 34 KINGS ROAD AND SIDE OF 25 AND 27 WILLIAMSON PLACE
JOHNSTONE	WILLOW DRIVE / YEW PLACE / ELM DRIVE / HAWTHORN AVENUE	RECTANGULAR AREA BETWEEN FOUR STREETS TO THE REAR OF THE HOUSES
JOHNSTONE	AUCHENGREOCH ROAD	LARGE OPEN SPACE ON AUCHENGREOCH ROAD BETWEEN BETH ROAD AND GLADSTONE AVENUE
JOHNSTONE	HALLHILL ROAD	PANEL ADJACENT TO BURN. PATHWAY WILL BE EDGED ON THAT SIDE. LARGER PANEL ON CORNER OF HALLHILL ROAD AND SPATESTON ROAD WILL BE CUT
KILBARCHAN	FULTON CRES/WELL ROAD	AREA TO THE REAR OF ROSEHILL
KILBARCHAN	CUNNINGHAM ROAD	OPPOSITE NUMBERS 19 TO 23
KILBARCHAN	NEW ST	AREA AT THE REAR OF MARY BARBOUR MONUMENT UNDER TREES. FRONT AREA WILL BE CUT.
KILBARCHAN	EAST ROAD/MEADSIDE AVE	CORNER PANEL ADJACENT TO 44 MEADSIDE AVENUE AND 9/11 EAST ROAD - DIAGONAL FRONT AREA CUT
LANGBANK	STATION ROAD PF	WILL CUT PITCH AREA. ONLY PORTION TO BE LEFT WHICH WATERLOGS.
LINWOOD	MILL LADE AT KASHMIR AVENUE	WOODED AREA OPPOSITE BELMAR COURT
LINWOOD	OPP TWEEDIE HALL ON KASHMIR AVENUE	PITCH AREA CUT AND PATHS EDGED.
LINWOOD	KASHMIR AVENUE	LARGE OPEN SPACE OPPOSITE KINTYRE PARK
LINWOOD	HOLM PLACE/SEMPLE PLACE	WOODED AREA TO SIDE AND REAR
LINWOOD	LINWOOD SPORTS CENTRE PITCH & PUTT	DISUSED PITCH AND PUTT AREA.
LOCHWINNOCH	LOCHWINNOCH RECREATION	30 METERS ALONG RIVER CALDER WITHIN PARK

<u>Area</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
LOCHWINNOCH	GATES ROAD	IN SHRUBBED AREA OPPOSITE 1 TO 23. WILL BE EDGED
PAISLEY EAST AND WHITEHAUGH	LINSIDE AVE	TO THE REAR OF 40 TO 54 LINSIDE AND THE REAR OF 3 TO 37 ANCHOR CRESCENT
PAISLEY EAST AND WHITEHAUGH	BARSHAW PARK NURSERY AREA TO OLDHALL ROAD	WITHIN BARSHAW PARK - RIGHT HAND SIDE OF SERVICE AREA
PAISLEY EAST AND WHITEHAUGH	BARSHAW PARK PAVILION TO OLDHALL ROAD	WOODED HILL AREA FROM CAFÉ TOWARDS BARSHAW HOUSE
PAISLEY WEST AND CENTRAL	HIGH CALSIDE/SPIERSFIELD CT/CAMPBILL COURT	ALL OPEN SPACE AREAS EXCEPT LARGE TOP FLAT AREA ADJACENT TO CAR PART ON HIGH CALSIDE
PAISLEY WEST AND CENTRAL	WOODSIDE CRESCENT - PARK AREA	ALL OPEN SPACE AREA TO THE REAR OF THE HOUSEHOLDS ADJACENT TO GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE
RALSTON	PENILEE ROAD / SCHOOL ROAD	VERGE ON RIGHT HAND SIDE AFTER SCHOOL ROAD - ROAD JUNCTION SIGHT LINES WILL BE KEPT CLEAR
RENFREW	COCKLESHILL PARK	COCKELSLOAN - ADJACENT TO M8 FROM NEW M8 FOOTBRIDGE TOWARDS DAVID LLOYD CENTRE
RENFREW	KNOCKHILL PARK	COMMUNITY TREES PLANTING AREA
RENFREW	ARKLESTON ROAD/SDA	BETWEEN ARKLESTON ROAD AND M8 OPPOSITE DAVID LLOYD CENTRE
RENFREW	BLYTHSWOOD	AREA BEHIND 1 TO 15 NORTH LODGE ROAD
RENFREW	BLYTHSWOOD	TREE AREA BEHIND 59-71 ROWAN AVENUE. PATH WILL EDGED
RENFREW	ALEXANDRA DRIVE	AREA AROUND RED BLAES PITCH