

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Consultative Forum

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 19 June 2020	10:00	Remotely by Skype,

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Clerk

### Membership

Councillor Audrey Doig (Renfrewshire Council); Councillors Innes Nelson and David Wilson (Inverclyde Council); vacant position (North Ayrshire Council); Ross Anderson (Scottish Rural Property and Business Association); Gordon Smith (Visit Scotland); Tabby Lamont (RSPB Scotland); Gordon Brown (Bell Ingram Limited); Donald Cochrane (Scottish National Farmers Union); Sandra Garner (The Conservation Volunteers); Lord Glasgow (Kelburn Country Centre); Kerry MacKendrick (Lochwinnoch Community Council); Hilary Graham (Ramblers Association); (Sustrans); Barry Fleeting and Graeme Randall (Sport Scotland); Patricia Perman (Largs Community Council); Andrew McLeman (Gryffe Valley Rotary Club); Andrew McWilliam (Parkdean Holidays); Alison Clark (Inverkip/Wemyss Bay Community Council); Sybil Simpson and Nigel Willis (both Save Your Regional Park); Guilia Canata (Inverclyde Local Access Forum); Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart (Ardgowan Estates); Roger Hissett (Scottish Wildlife Trust – Ayrshire Branch); Steve Banks (Angling Interests) and (Scottish Water); Rita Holmes (Fairlie Community Council) and Ian Dippie (both Save the Gretas and Largs Community Council).

Councillor Innes Nelson (Chair): Councillor Audrey Doig (Vice Chair)

### Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing information in relation to this meeting should contact Elaine Currie, [elaine.currie@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.currie@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## 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** **3 - 6**  
Minute of meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 14 February 2020.
- 2 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park - Lockdown Activity** **7 - 10**  
Report by Interim Park Co-ordinator.
- 3 Rigghill Windfarm**  
Discuss.
- 4 Halkshill / Blairpark Developments**  
Discuss.
- 5 Burnfoot Road Development Proposals**  
Discuss.
- 6 Date of Next Meeting**  
Note that the next meeting of the Consultative Forum will be held at 10.00 am on 4 September 2020.



## Minute of Meeting Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Consultative Forum

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 14 February 2020	10:00	Corporate Meeting Room 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

### Present

Councillor Innes Nelson and Councillor David Wilson (both Inverclyde Council); Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Tom Begg and Councillor Andy Doig (all Renfrewshire Council); Ross Anderson (Scottish Rural Property and Business Association); Donald Cochrane (Scottish National Farmers Union); Ian Dippie (Save The Gretas); Tabby Lamont and Scott Shanks (both RSPB Scotland); Kerry MacKendrick (Lochwinnoch Community Council); Graeme Randall (Sport Scotland); Sybil Simpson and Nigel Willis (both Save Your Regional Park); and Gordon Smith (Visit Scotland).

### Chair

Councillor Nelson, Chair, presided.

### In Attendance

F Carswell, Interim Park Co-ordinator (Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park); and F Carlin, Head of Planning and Housing Services, Susan Jones, Assistant Regeneration Manager and Elaine Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council).

### Apology

Roger Hissett (Scottish Wildlife Trust – Ayrshire Branch).

### Declarations of Interest

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

## **Additional Item**

The Chair intimated that there was an additional item of business in relation to North Ayrshire Council which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Chair, being of the opinion that the item which is dealt with at item 2 below, was urgent in view of the need to advise members of the position, authorised its consideration.

### **1 Minute**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 6 September 2019.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

### **2 North Ayrshire Council**

The Lead Officer advised that at a meeting held on 12 February 2020 North Ayrshire Council considered a report which sought approval to withdraw from Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

At the meeting it had been agreed that North Ayrshire Council would serve notice to withdraw from Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Joint Committee and that officers would agree the date of North Ayrshire's withdrawal from the Joint Committee with Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils.

**DECIDED:** That the decision taken by North Ayrshire Council be noted.

### **3 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park**

Forum members discussed the following matters in relation to Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park:

(i) Proposal to Establish Report by Park Manger at all Consultative Forum Meetings and Regular Updates from Development Projects within the Regional Park

**DECIDED:** That the Interim Park Co-ordinator provide an update report to all meetings of the Consultative Forum.

(ii) Possible Upgrading of New Path from Greeto Bridge to Blair Park to Core Path Status and Development of a Link at the Blair Park end of the Kelburn Windfarm track

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that this was a matter for North Ayrshire Council.

(iii) New Projects since last Meeting and Rewilding Proposals

**DECIDED:** That Joe Greenlees and Liz Parsons be advised to make contact with the Interim Park Co-ordinator.

(iv) Resignations and Replacements of Chair and Vice Chair

**DECIDED:**

(a) That it be noted that Renfrewshire Council would make a nomination for the position of Chair of the Joint Committee at a Council meeting scheduled to be held on 27 February 2020; and

(b) That it be noted that the nomination to the vacant position of Vice Chair of the Joint Committee was a matter for North Ayrshire Council.

(v) Funding by Partner Councils in this Financial Year and the relationship to the Regional Park

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that the decisions regarding funding of partner councils rested with each individual Council.

(vi) Planning Approval of Large Wind Turbine in the Wild Land Designated Area of the Regional Park

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that, on behalf of the Consultative Forum, the Chair of the Consultative Forum would submit an objection to this planning application to North Ayrshire Council.

(vii) Friends of Clyde Muirshiel

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that members of the Consultative Forum had drafted a constitution and development plan and that to date there were no office bearers identified.

(vii) Consultative Forum Meetings

**DECIDED:** That, in future, meetings of the Consultative Forum be rescheduled and not cancelled.

(viii) Green Belt Areas Adjoining the Regional Park and Burnfoot application in Regional Park

**DECIDED:** That the update provided be noted.

#### **4 Outstanding Matters**

(i) Roller Skiing

**DECIDED:** That contact be made with Susan Jones, Renfrewshire Council regarding this matter.

(ii) Minute of Agreement

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that this matter was being progressed.

(viii) Revision of Boundary of Regional Park

**DECIDED:** That the matter be noted.

(iii) Conference on Regional Parks by SCNP

**DECIDED:** That Ross Anderson circulate this information to members of the Consultative Forum.

(iv) Damage to Upland area of Regional Park by Fires

**DECIDED:** That the position be noted.

## **5 Date of Next Meeting**

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that the next meeting of the Consultative Forum would be held at 10.00 am on 19 June 2020 within the offices of North Ayrshire Council and that members would be advised of any venue change.

# Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority



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**To: Consultative Forum**

**On: 19 June 2020**

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**Report by: Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Park Coordinator**

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**Heading: CMRP – Lockdown Activity**

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 This report seeks to provide The Forum with an update on activity during the current lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that The Forum notes this report.

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## **3. Background**

3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has delivered unusual environmental benefits: cleaner air, lower carbon emissions and a respite for wildlife. This report highlights the effects of lockdown on the Park community and the natural environment.

3.2 Park staff have adapted to working from home or working remotely and continue to operate within current Government guidance on social distancing and good hygiene.

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## **4. Activity during lockdown**

4.1 All Regional Park facilities were closed to the public on 23 March 2020 and all education and leisure activity suspended. However, the open

spaces of the Regional Park remained a valuable outdoor resource for all those able to access these spaces on foot or by bike during lockdown.

- 4.2 There are many stories of how people have had time to reflect and appreciate the benefits of accessing green spaces and engaging with wildlife through online platforms. Many people are taking a new interest in walking and cycling and appreciating the outdoors.
- 4.3 Wildlife is flourishing with highlights including ospreys fishing in the lochs, sightings of brown hares and otters, starlings nesting in the swift boxes and many bird species more clearly seen and heard. Roe deer are being seen more often in Parkhill Wood and at Muirshiel as there is less wildlife disturbance. There have also been new sites identified for butterflies including reported sightings of rare species which have not been officially sighted for 15 years.
- 4.4 Plant life is also flourishing and a change in management from strimming to scything will continue to benefit species diversity. More relaxed grass cutting regimes in parks and green spaces have resulted in impressive displays of wildflowers which are an important aspect of our biodiversity.
- 4.5 4000 native trees species are now planted at Muirshiel to replace the sitka spruce. This includes Scots pine, silver birch, downy birch, common alder, hazel, rowan and oak. The aspen, planted two years ago, are growing well. Close to Muirshiel, maintenance of the 850 planted juniper, aspen and eared willow has been completed. All these trees, along with blueberry and heather – create a ‘local’ wild upland. The work at Muirshiel is part of a 25 year woodland management plan.
- 4.6 Muirshiel Country Park is officially 50 years old this month, the oldest Country Park in Scotland. During lockdown Ranger staff are developing an online display of historical images and memories of the Park to celebrate 50 years of people working in and visiting Muirshiel.

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## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 During the lockdown the number of people and vehicles in the Park have reduced considerably, resulting in nature thriving. With the closure of the visitor centre and suspension of all activity, there has been no income during this period. As we move into a phased road to recovery process the importance of our green spaces for our physical and mental wellbeing, outdoor learning and leisure activities are more



important than ever. In line with Government guidance, when appropriate, the services provided by the Park, including education and leisure activities will be delivered to meet the demand for outdoor activity.

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**Author:** Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Park Coordinator

**Date** 19 June 2020

