

## Minute of Meeting Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Consultative Forum

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 06 September 2019	10:00	Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Clyde Square, GREENOCK, PA15 1LZ

### Present

Councillor Innes Nelson and Councillor David Wilson (both Inverclyde Council); Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Andy Doig and Councillor Andy Steel (all Renfrewshire Council); Donald Cochrane (Scottish National Farmers Union); Ian Dippie (Save The Gretas); Roger Hissett (Scottish Wildlife Trust – Ayrshire Branch); Tabby Lamont (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); F Carlin, Head of Planning and Housing Services and P Shiach Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council); and L Forsyth, Cultural Development Manager and A Hunter, Engagement and Participation Officer (both North Ayrshire Council).

### Declarations of Interest

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

## 1 Minute

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 21 June 2019.

In relation to item 3 of the Minute, Community Engagement Opportunities, K MacKendrick requested clarification on when the findings of the workshop as part of community engagement around the work of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park would be available.

F Carlin advised that this meeting would inform the workshop discussion.

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

## 2 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Discussion took place on the future of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

The Interim Park Co-ordinator referred to feedback from a previous workshop in relation to the commitment from the Consultative Forum and the establishment of a “Friends of the Park” group; and exploring new methods of engagement and good practice undertaken by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park from which lessons could be learned. She indicated that the Park had a solid foundation on which to build and expressed her intention to visit Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and any other relevant bodies.

S Simpson indicated that the public perception of the Park was negative and this hindered progress.

There followed discussion in terms of local newspapers which regularly carried positive articles regarding Park activities.

In terms of the formation of a Friends of the Park Group, the Chair indicated that any such group should be independent of the Council. S Simpson intimated that work was ongoing in terms of forming a Friends of the Park group.

Discussion followed in relation to the Park not being seen as a priority for the local authorities as a result of budget decisions. It was suggested that the governance arrangements for the Park should be reviewed and it was suggested that examples from other Regional Parks should be investigated. It was noted that governance arrangements were currently being discussed by the three Councils’ within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

It was noted that the current Park Plan, which was due to be reviewed in 2021, contained an Action Plan Monitoring Statement and that this would be submitted to a future meeting of the Joint Committee

**DECIDED:**

(a) That it be noted that the Interim Park Co-ordinator intended to visit Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and other relevant bodies;

(b) That it be noted that work was ongoing in terms of forming a Friends of the Park group; and

(c) That it be noted that an update on the current action plan for the Regional Park would be submitted to a future meeting of the Consultative Forum.

### **3 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 13 December 2019 within the offices of Renfrewshire Council, Cotton Street, Paisley.