

DUNOON AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION.

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives Members information regarding the potential provision of a site for use by the Dunoon and District Allotment Association.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the request made by the Dunoon and District Allotment Association, and to recommend that the Estates service enter into discussions with the Association to progress potential development of a lease for the site to them.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Members will recall that for a considerable period of time the Council has been working with the Dunoon and District Allotment Association to facilitate the development of an area of ground suitable for the provision of allotments. The Association has a number of members in the area who are awaiting this provision and who have expressed an interest in having an allotment.
- 3.2 Since the Council has been working with the Association, a total of 29 sites have been investigated for potential use, but none has been able to be progressed to completion, either because the landowner has not been willing to sell or lease the ground, or the Association have deemed the ground unsuitable for their purposes.
- 3.3 Despite the difficulties which have been experienced, it remains the wish of the Area Committee that the provision of ground for allotments be progressed.
- 3.4 Recently, an area of ground comprising 1.71 hectares, which lies to the rear of Innellan Primary School and is in the ownership of the Council, has come to light. This ground was discussed with the Association

on 10th March 2009, following which members of the Association visited the area and inspected the ground. Though there will be some drainage issues in the area, the Association have agreed that the ground would be suitable for their member's use, and have requested that the Council proceed to have discussions with them to potentially develop a lease for the ground.

- 3.5 It would appear that this ground is held on the Education Department account, and it will be essential to ensure that the Department has no current or future plans for the ground in terms of developing sporting etc facilities. The Association have commented positively on the proximity of the ground to the school, and see opportunities for linking allotment provision to the school curriculum in terms of Eco Schools, sustainability and healthy living.
- 3.6 Initial discussions with the Planning service indicate that planning permission for the ground to be used for allotments will not be required, since allotment provision is deemed to be agricultural use. It may well be the case that parking provision will require to be developed on site. As with any site which is developed for allotment purpose, potential allotment holders would need to clarify with the Planning service what buildings, structures or other works they would require at the site, and what, if any, planning consents might be required for these.
- 3.7 If the site is progressed, the expectation would be that the Association would be provided with funding advice from the Council's Corporate Funding Officer to enable them to access funds to deliver any capital works, including parking provision, fencing etc which may be required on site.
- 3.8 Given the extent of the work which has gone on to date in relation to provision of a site for allotments, this opportunity to develop a site which is in the Council's ownership and which the Association feel is fit for their purpose is significant, and it is proposed that the Estates service be requested to enter into discussions with the Association regarding the potential development of a lease for the ground.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Members are asked to agree the recommendation in order to progress the Council's long standing commitment to working with the Dunoon and District Allotment Association.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	None
Financial:	Potential income to the Council from agreed rental of

the site
Personnel: None
Equal Opportunities: None

For further information contact: Shirley MacLeod, Area Corporate Services Manager
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