

DUNOON AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION.

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives Members updated 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 all of the information now available in regard to considering the request made by the Dunoon and District Allotment Association to progress the potential lease of land to the rear of Innellan Primary School for the purpose of developing Allotments.

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 33 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 Members were made aware of the Association's enthusiasm for this site at the April Area Committee meeting, at which time it was agreed that a sub group with representation from Local Members, Education, Forestry Commission Scotland and other potentially interested bodies should meet to discuss the matter, with a further report to come to the Area Committee prior to any progression to develop a lease of the site. This meeting was held on 26th May 2009, and was attended by staff from Education, by the Head Teacher of Innellan Primary School, by representatives from Forestry Commission Scotland and by a member of South Cowal Community Council. An update report was subsequently presented to the June Business meeting.
- 3.6 At the June Business meeting Members noted the points which were raised at the May meeting, which can be summarised as follows:
 - A) The school has made use of a significant part of the ground in question for a number of years, developing a wooded area, and recently a community orchard. There are a number of trees of significance within the area, including commemorative trees for the Dunblane tragedy and for a much respected music teacher who passed away a number of years ago.
 - B) There are concerns about access issues for the ground, most particularly the need to ensure that access is NOT made through the school grounds, due to multiple child safety and protection issues.
 - C) The ground has never been declared surplus to requirements by either the school or the Education service.
 - D) Although not all of the ground has currently been utilised by the school, the Head Teacher does have plans for it to be brought into use in future years for educational purposes.
- 3.7 On consideration of the points raised at 3.6 above, and in light of the knowledge that this is a preferred site for the Allotments Association, Members found that the ground was more valuable to the school than it would be to the Allotments Association, and asked that an updated report to this effect be brought to the Area Committee.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Members are asked to consider the request made by the Allotments Association in regard to the land at the rear of Innellan Primary School by way of progressing 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

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