

**West Bay Beach, Dunoon.**

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## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides an update regarding the West Bay Beach, Dunoon.

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**2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report provides an update regarding the future upkeep of the shingle beach area at West Bay, Dunoon.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members note this is an interim report only.

**4.0 DETAILS**

- 4.1 Bute and Cowal members at its Business Day meeting held on 2 Sep 2014 considered the verbal report by Amenity Services Officer.

- 4.2 The decision of the Area Committee was:

**Decision:** Members agreed the need for this area of the town to be maintained to a high standard and a focus to be made on keeping the beach clear of weeds etc., and the shingle level to an acceptable standard.

- 4.3 As previously reported, a number of issues relating to the management of this area are to be considered. It has been identified that the shingle beach area is the responsibility of Crown Estates and managed on their behalf by a company named "Bidwells". Council officers are in discussions with both parties to discuss options for improving the appearance of the beach area.
- 4.4 In tandem with the above, Officers have been in contact with Marine Scotland to discuss the potential of removing 700 – 1000 tons of shingle from the beach and exploring options for disposing of the materials in a cost-effective manner.
- 4.5 Table 1 below summarises the three options that are being pursued.

Option Number	Description	Comment	Current Position
1	<p>General tidy up beach area each spring to remove debris and weeds such as dockens etc. Interpretation display boards and information about the role of these plants and the shingle which protects our coast line, identifying plant and insect life could be considered to advise the public.</p>	<p>This would leave shingle beach at current levels and require minimal weed eradication. Leaving plant life to flourish in its present form.</p>	<p>Options to have volunteer tidy-up campaigns and support from Keep Scotland Beautiful / GRAB can be explored. Criminal Justice “Pay Back” personnel may support spring clean-up.</p> <p>Discussing all options with Clyde Marine Forum who can offer advice on beach management.</p> <p>Initial cost estimate - £750.00</p>
2	<p>General redistribution of plant life and shingle in spring of each year to create a clean beach area before summer season.</p> <p>Possible biodiversity project here to soften the hard edge</p>	<p>This would require machine removal of shingle to the lower/ outer parts of the beach and would in turn, remove plant life from top section of beach. Flood prevention engineers would be required to carry out an impact assessment on removal of shingle from the promenade wall if this option is to be considered. (See current damage to wall by coastal impact; Appendix 1 photograph)</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions with Crown Estates, Planning, Marine Scotland, SEPA and Council’s Engineers / Bio-Diversity officer.</p> <p>Clyde Marine Forum will be involved in all discussions.</p> <p>Initial cost Estimate – £2000.00 per occasion.</p> <p>Project- funding to be calculated once design known.</p>
3	<p>Remove 700-1000 tons annually to reduce shingle levels and create a plant free beach environment.</p>	<p>This would again require machine plant to remove materials from site and relocate to storage facility. (possible use on forestry roads can be explored) As above - Tidal Impact assessments would be required.</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions with all parties as above.</p> <p>Initial cost Estimates – £10,000.00 - £15,000.00 dependant on machinery plant use and disposal costs.</p>

4.7 A further report will be brought back to the Area Committee once discussions / action plans have been agreed with all parties on best management practice of the area prior to spring 2015.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 This is an interim report setting out the current activities taking place in relation to the West Bay Beach, Dunoon.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1	Policy	None
6.2	Financial	No budget identified
6.3	Legal	Duty of care to the public
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	None Known
6.6	Risk	Flooding / Tidal Impact.
6.7	Customer Services	None Known

### **Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**Policy Lead** Councillor Ellen Morton

Oct 2014

**For further information contact:** Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Photograph of area at present