

**DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE**

12 August 2014

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the **DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE** will be held in the **BRAEHOLM, 31E MONTROSE STREET, HELENSBURGH** on **TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2014** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

**BUSINESS**

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTE OF DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE - 20/05/2014** (Pages 1 - 6)
3. **EVENTS**
4. (a) **Events Procedures - To follow**  
(b) **Themed Trail Running Event - Saturday 25th October 2014**  
Request by Tri-Events Convenor Gary Collins (Pages 7 - 8)
4. **ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS/COMMUNITY**
5. **FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOOD REPORT** (Pages 9 - 10)
6. **DUCHESS WOOD GREEN GYM**  
Verbal Update by Charlie Cairns
7. **LIAISON WITH EMPLOYABILITY TEAM**
8. **ROUTINE MAINTENANCE** (Pages 11 - 12)
9. **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**
10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
The next meeting of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 10.00am within Braeholm, 31E Montrose Street,

Helensburgh.

Councillor Aileen Morton, Chair of Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve.

Contact: Lynsey Innis, Senior Area Committee Assistant - Tel 01546 604338

**MINUTES of MEETING of DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE held in  
the BRAEHOLM, 31E MONTROSE STREET, HELENSBURGH  
on TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2014**

**Present:** Councillor Aileen Morton (Chair)

Stewart Campbell, Chairman of Friends of Duchess Woods  
Alastair Macbeth, Secretary of Friends of Duchess Woods  
Charlie Cairns, Lower Clyde Green Space  
Stuart McCracken, Argyll and Bute Council  
Charlie McIvor, Argyll and Bute Council  
Morevain Martin, AVA  
Simon Mills, Lomond School  
Gemma Peace, Lomond School

**1. APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-

Audrey Martin

**2. MINUTE OF DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE -  
18/02/2014**

The minute of the previous meeting which was held on 18 February 2014, was approved as a true record.

**3. EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE**

The Committee considered a report outlining the benefit of appointing a representative from the Education Service to the Committee. Members discussed areas which they thought worthy of exploration for potential partnerships.

The Committee noted the report and agreed that Eileen Kay become a member of the Committee. It was further agreed that Charlie Cairns and the Friends of Duchess Wood would contact Eileen Kay for a discussion prior to the next meeting in August.

**4. EVENTS POLICY UPDATE**

The Committee considered the revised Events Policy following suggested "tweaks" at the previous meeting.

The Committee agreed that there would be an exemption in place for small Community-led and Educational events, which would require notification only, rather than an application.

The Committee agreed to approve the revised Events Policy, with the addition of the afore-mentioned exemption and procedures for taking forward the policy – particularly a single point of contact - would be agreed at the next meeting.

If the Committee had any further comments, they would notify Lynsey Innis directly.

## **5. WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT**

### **(a) GREEN GYM UPDATE**

The Committee were provided with an update by Charlie Cairns in regards to the green gym. Mr Cairns advised that there had been 8 green gym days run to date with the majority of the work undertaken around the 2 identified coupes which were cleared of smaller trees through the use of both chainsaw and hand tools.

Further discussion was given to the need for more correlation, more effective marketing and the need to engage with local GPs. Charlie Cairns highlighted that the previous funding in 2008/2009 was primarily for health referrals. However, he advised that the new funding was not solely for this purpose and the ethos was to target other groups.

Having noted the popularity of the green gym the Committee agreed that they would like to see the green gym programme continued. Charlie Cairns will prepare a brief for the next green gym and will circulate to the Committee for review and further feedback.

The Committee unanimously commended the previous work undertaken by John Johnstone at the green gym.

### **(b) LIAISON WITH EMPLOYABILITY TEAM**

Charlie Cairns provided the Committee with a verbal update in regard to the liaison with the Employability Team. Charlie will arrange a meeting with Danny Harking, Audrey Baird and representatives of the Friends of Duchess Wood to determine the future allocation/management of tasks.

The Committee commended the work which had been undertaken by the Employability Team.

### **(c) NOTICE BOARD/WAY MARKING UPDATE**

Stewart Campbell, Chair of the Friends of Duchess Wood provided members with an update in regard to the notice boards. The Committee noted the information, which had been disseminated by Lynsey Innis, following the previous meeting. He highlighted issues in regards planning legislation and advised that he was still awaiting

a response to a letter he had written to the Planning Department. The Chair agreed that she would raise this issue with the Planning Department

Mr Campbell provided an update in regards to the application from the John Muir Fund for funding for the Flower Walk Leaflet. Mr Campbell advised of the progress of the way markings which were now in place around the red route. The Flower Walk will be launched on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May with a guided walk taking place..

**6. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE**

The Committee considered a report by the Council's Service Development Officer providing the up-to-date position in regard to the routine maintenance of Duchess Woods. Stuart McCracken advised the Committee of new legislation recently implemented for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed.

Stuart advised that no new litter bins had been purchase, as yet and introduced Charlie McIver, Technical Officer. He asked that any issues in regards litter/litter bins be notified to Charlie.

Charlie's contact number is:-

07776753 463

Stewart Campbell drew attention to several tree issues and it was agreed that Stuart McCracken and Stewart Campbell would review the Eastern boundary of the Wood later in the year.

The Committee agreed to note the update.

**7. FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOOD REPORT**

The Committee considered a report which outlined the work undertaken by Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW), such as monthly work parties, fencing repairs and litter control. Members were advised of recent activity such as the memorial plaque to Councillor Al Reay being installed, the planting of 30 native trees and the waymarking posts for the flower walk and main paths received ready for siting. Further discussion was had in relation to the planned future events and grant funding applications.

The Committee noted the report.

**8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES RAISED**

**(a) DOG CONTROL**

The Committee considered a report from Friends of Duchess Woods outlining the failure of dog control and the possible effects of the problems. The Committee agreed the five points suggested by the Friends of Duchess Wood.

The Committee also agreed that this item would come back for further discussion in 6 months time. However, if the Committee had

any issues in the meantime they should be relayed to Lynsey Innis.

(b) **FLY-POSTING**

Alistair Macbeth tabled an extract of the Minute from the meeting held on 10 February 2012. This agreed that temporary notices could be put up by DWLNRC, LCG, FODW. However any other person or organisation would need to obtain advance permission from DWLNRC or the Chairperson.

The Committee agreed that Friends of Duchess Wood could remove any fly posting in Duchess Wood.

**9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

Simon Mills of Lomond School spoke of the possible use of Duchess Woods as an outdoor nursery.

He introduced Gemma Peace, Head of Under-5s to the Committee and Gemma outlined her proposal to hold an Open Air Nursery in Duchess Wood. She envisaged a daily class in the Wood lasting approximately from 0930-1130. Equipment would be brought on a daily basis and no permanent structure would be erected.

Discussion followed, these included - Health and Safety, nurturing issues and the need for Care Commission approval.

The Committee agreed to support the proposal, in principle. It was further agreed that a model would need to be developed which would come back for review and approval to a future Duchess Wood meeting.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve will take place at 10.00am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014 within the Braeholm, 31E Montrose Street, Helensburgh.



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Dear Councillor Morton

Following the success of our inaugural themed trail run last year on the 19th October, the Trievents Team would like to formally apply again to run a similar event this year. The provisional date is 25th October 2014, although this is still to be finalised with the Rugby Club.

As per last year the details of the event are as follows:

Event arena location - Helensburgh Rugby Club. Saturday October 25th 2014.

The trail run will take place in the hills and woods in the surrounding area. Participants will have access to the facilities at the club during the event including parking, toilets, washing and changing facilities. The event is anticipated to attract over 100 participants with a maximum limit set at 300 as per last year.

The route is approximately 5 miles in length and will start at the Rugby Club at approx. 17:30 (sunset) and finish at the same location. Participants would be anticipated to be on the course for between 45mins - 2 hours.

The map below shows the route in more detail.

We will engage with all the stakeholders and landowners to seek permission, as we did last year. The route will be marked and marshalled throughout the duration of the event, with some pre event set-up and a thorough post event clear up.

Much of the route follows established well made pathways, but some sections will be on informal rough tracks.

It is our intention to minimise both disruption and inconvenience to any landowners or stakeholders.

Route: Route description and map attached.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Gary Collins  
Event Convenor,

Tri Events, 07873174857.

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**Report from the Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW)**  
to the  
**Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC)**  
meeting on 19th August 2014

### 1. Routine

FODW have continued to carry out routine actions since the last meeting of the DWLNRC, such as **monthly work parties, repairs, and litter control**. Continued cutting and clearing work.

### 2. Additions to the Wood

(a) Memorial plaque to Cllr. Al Reay has now been erected beside the rowan tree planted by his widow.



(b) New fence erected beside the car park, (see photo left) thanks to the Community Payback team, who also trimmed the Pony Field.

(c) Waymarking posts for flower walk put in. See photo right for one example. Our appreciation, again, to Bill Freeland and the CP team and its supervisor John (pictured by the gate above).



### 3. Removal from the Wood



The old railway carriage by the Pony Field has been removed with FODW funds. Appreciation to Creative Ironwork who were commissioned to do the work.

**Before  
and  
after**



4. **Events** since last DWLNRC meeting

- (a) Launch of the self-guided flower walk based on Alison Rutherford's walk last year. There was a guided walk led by Alison and by Plantlife Scotland.
- (b) Visit by Buglife (The Invertebrate Conservation Trust). There were separate visits by three local schools (Cardross Primary, Rhu Primary and Lomond School).

5. **Grants**

- (a) ***CSV Action Earth Grant.***
- (b) ***Babcock.*** A letter had been sent to the A&BC planners questioning the need for a planning application for the two information boards which Babcock have agreed to supply. A response has now been received from A&BC Planning on the need for a planning application and this is now being followed up by FODW.

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**ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL****DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE****DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES****COMMITTEE  
19 August 2014**

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**Duchess Wood Routine Maintenance**

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**1. SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the up-to-date position in regards to the routine maintenance of Duchess Woods.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members note this report.

**3. DETAIL**

- 1) Litter Bins. These bins have been getting collected as per works schedule.
- 2) Winter General Works. The trees at adjacent to the end of Duchess Park will be cut down as early as possible over the winter period. Inspection over the summer months on these trees did not result in any further problems. Over the next four weeks a full tree inspection will be carried out along the eastern boundary of the wood to identify any further works for winter 2014/2015.
- 3) Knotweed. A further treatment of the two main areas will be carried out prior to the end of September. The last treatment of the area at Rhu Road High has had a major effect therefore there is not been much regrowth over summer months. Duchess Wood car park area was also very effective are regrowth has been minimal. Area next to Strathclyde Court a further inspection was carried out and no Knotweed was found, therefore this area will be taken of the list for treatment. Rear of Duchess Park this was not treated earlier this year however it will be treated in this time

For further information, please contact Stuart McCracken, Senior Development Officer. Telephone: 01631 569184

