



**Argyll and Bute Council**  
**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid**

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*13 November 2017*

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the **DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE** will be held in the **THE HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND CIVIC CENTRE, HELENSBURGH** on **TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director of Customer Services

**BUSINESS**

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. MINUTE** (Pages 3 - 8)  
The Minute of the previous Duchess Wood Committee meeting held on 22 August 2017.
- 3. FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOOD REPORT**  
Report by Friends of Duchess Wood
- 4. ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY**
  - (a) Dog Event - 2017
  - (b) Request for Canicross Training (Pages 9 - 10)
- 5. DUCHESS WOOD WIAT APPLICATION**  
Report by Mhairi Gardner
- 6. ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE**  
Report by Amenity Performance Manager
- 7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**
  - (a) Repairs to the bridge above the Duchess Wood car park

(b) Psimon Development - wild life corridor

(c) Grass cutting Pony Field

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE**

Councillor Lorna Douglas (Chair)

Contact: Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager - 01436657605

**MINUTES of MEETING of DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE held  
in the LOMOND SCHOOL, STAFFORD STREET, HELENSBURGH  
on TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2017**

**Present:**

(Chair)  
Councillor Lorna Douglas

**Attending:**

Johanna Urquhart – Principal, Lomond School  
Alastair Macbeth – Secretary, Friends of Duchess Wood  
Stewart Campbell – Chair, Friends of Duchess ~Wood  
Shona Barton – Area Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council  
Mhairi Gardiner, Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council  
Ailsa Cunningham, Technical Officer, Argyll and Bute Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-

Morevain Martin  
Stuart McCracken

**2. MINUTE**

The Minute of the previous meeting which was held on 22 November 2016 was approved as a true record subject to an amendment at the item relating to the Friends of Duchess Wood report which should read “to note and endorse the report”.

**3. FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOOD REPORTS**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update and outlined the recent work undertaken by Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW).

Discussion followed with the issue of vandalism at the bridge being highlighted. Stewart Campbell advised that works to repair the bridge had now been completed. Robert Mackenzie had replaced the culvert which now provided a better crossing which is also suitable for vehicle use. The road scrapings from the Strathclyde Court refurbishment were used as fill for the bridge.

The proposed housing development by Persimmon Homes was also highlighted, with it being noted that there were some concerns over the provision of a wildlife corridor and in particular the depth of the corridor.

Stewart Campbell advised that this would be the last meeting which Alastair Macbeth would be in attendance as he was standing down as Secretary to the Friends of Duchess Wood. It was noted that Martin Grafton would be taking over as Secretary on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Stewart also advised that David Lewyn would be taking over as interim Chair for a period of 3 months.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note and endorse the report, and
2. To note the changes to the Office Bearers for Friends of Duchess Wood.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, paid tribute to Alastair Macbeth and thanked him for his dedication to the Friends of Duchess Wood and the Local Nature Reserve Committee and wished him well for the future.

(Reference: Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW) by Stewart Campbell, Chair FODW, dated February 2017).

## **4. ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY**

### **(a) Branching Out**

The Committee considered a report provided by Sara McLean of Branching Out. The report provided a summary of the project and highlighted the success of this particular initiative in the Duchess Wood. Branching Out also indicated that they would be keen to continue with the project.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note the success of the Branching Out initiative;
2. That there would be no objection in principle to hosting similar events in the wood along similar lines, and
3. That in the first instance contact should be made via the Area Governance Team of the Argyll and Bute Council.

(b) **Dog Event - 2017**

The Committee discussed the possible dog event scheduled to take place in September 2017.

It was noted that the dog trainer was confirmed for the event.

**Decision:**

The Committee agreed that the Area Committee Manager would make contact with Morevain Martin to ascertain the date for the event.

The Area Committee Manager advised of a question received from Wendy Brownlie, Argyll and Bute Education Services.

“In response to increasing pre 5 hours one action in the Helensburgh and Lomond Catchment area could be to establish an outdoor nursery. For this to be an option toilets (probably composting) would need to be built along with a small kitchen. Is that something that would be considered?”

The Committee discussed the idea and expressed their views in relation to building anything in the wood, and highlighted the following:-

Portaloos and portable canvas areas are an option  
Thought should be given to alternative venues in case of inclement weather  
Staff training requirements  
Respect for the Wood  
Staff/pupil ratios

**Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

1. That they were not opposed to the idea in principle, and
2. That the Area Committee Manager would pass on details for Lomond School to Wendy Brownlie, to allow for information to be shared in relation to the running of an outdoor nursery.

**5. WIAT FUNDING APPLICATION - UPDATE**

Mhairi Gardner updated the Committee on the progress of the Woodlands In Around Town funding application. It was noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> stage application had been approved and the contract was now with Legal Services for approval. The management plan will then be submitted to the Forestry Commission. The sum of £1299.75 would be coming to the Council so support the preparation of the Management Plan.

In regard to the Management Agreement with Luss Estates, it was noted that the offer of a letter of comfort has been made if this is required by the Forestry Commission.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note the progress of the WIAT application; and
2. That the sub-group would continue to meet to progress the application.

### **6. ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

The Committee gave consideration to a report from the Amenity Performance Manager.

The Technical Officer provided an update on the work which is planned and ongoing in the Wood.

Discussion took place on the repairs at the Victorian Bridge. It was noted that the bridge had now been made safe and that the metal gate would be moved to the other side of the bridge to prevent unauthorised vehicle access. Work had also been undertaken to remove debris from the burn.

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the report;
2. that Stuart McCracken would be asked to provide further information on the work at Strathclyde Court Garages, and
3. that a site meeting would be arranged with Stuart McCracken, Friends of Duchess Wood and the Strathclyde Court residents.

(Reference :Report by Amenity Performance Manager dated 22 February 2017, tabled).

### **7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

The Chair opened the meeting for Any Other Business and the following issues were raised:-

### **Community Orienteering**

Johanna Urquhart advised that Lomond School hoped to run their community orienteering project in the Spring and asked if the Committee were happy for this to continue. Stewart Campbell asked if information on the orienteering can be provided to the Friends for permanent display in the Wood.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to endorse the use of the wood for the community orienteering project.

### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee meeting was agreed for Tuesday, 21 November 2017 in the Seabank Room, Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

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**From:** Joanne Cochrane  
**Sent:** 20 September 2017 20:52  
**To:** Johnson, Sybil  
**Subject:** RE: Greenspace Manager [OFFICIAL]

Sybil, thanks for your response, sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you.

Please can you advise then who I would be best to contact with regards to holding a one-off free running class in Duchess Woods in Helensburgh? I hold a Cani-fit (canicross running attached to your dog) class in Balloch Park on a Tuesday evening (with the permission of the Greenspace Officer for WDC), and would like to hold a free taster session for those in the Helensburgh area.

Cani-fit is an exercise class for people with their dogs and the class numbers are limited to between 5-10 persons per class usually.

We promote responsible dog ownership and insist that all class members pick up after their dogs. We respect the other users of the area, and give them the space they need. The classes are usually held at 10am or 10.30am on the weekends, or 7pm on a week day. Cani-fit classes are currently held in parks all over central Scotland, including Eglington, Strathclyde, Chaterauhault, Mugdock, Dean Park and Callander Park to name a few. I really want to bring this class to our local area, as I think there is an appetite for a class that people can enjoy getting fit with their dog. To this end, I would like to give a free session in the Duchess Woods, one of very few locations in Helensburgh which have ideal terrain for such an activity.

Please see the Cani-fit website for information on the classes we provide. If there are any questions please don't hesitate to ask me by return of email. I really would appreciate if you could pass this query along to the most appropriate person.

Regards, Joanne

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