

Lower Clyde Greenspace

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee with an update on the working relationship between Argyll and Bute Council and Lower Clyde Greenspace in respect to Duchess Wood.
- 1.2 As of 31 March 2017 there will no longer be an agreement in place between the council and Lower Clyde Greenspace. This is related to a management and operational decision taken by Council as part of budget saving measures.
- 1.3 As arrangements with Lower Clyde Greenspace are due to cease, support for activity related to Duchess Wood will instead be picked up by the Helensburgh and Lomond Economic Development Officer.
- 1.4 A handover to this effect has taken place, with all relevant background material having been passed to the Development Officer, who will regularly attend Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee meetings from 1st April 2017 onwards.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are invited to note the content of this report.

Lower Clyde Greenspace

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee with an update on the working relationship between Argyll and Bute Council and Lower Clyde Greenspace, in respect to Duchess Wood and the proposed changes as of 31 March 2017.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are invited to note the content of this report.

5.0 DETAIL

- 5.1 A management agreement is in place between Argyll and Bute Council and Luss Estates, as owner of Duchess Wood, which seeks to support the careful management of what is Argyll and Bute's only statutorily designated local nature reserve.
- 5.2 The current Duchess Wood Management Plan will run until 2021 and outlines measures for the effective management and monitoring of this important area of woodland.
- 5.3 The Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee meets on a regular basis in order that a collective approach is taken to the appropriate management of the woodland. To date, the council has been represented on the committee by an Elected Member, an Amenity Services Officer and through officer support via what was previously referred to as the Lower Clyde Greenspace Partnership.
- 5.4 Due to a management and operational saving decision taken by Council, the agreement with Inverclyde Council, formally through the Lower Clyde Greenspace Partnership will cease on 31 March 2017. It is therefore intended for the Helensburgh and Lomond Economic Development Officer to attend Committee in place of the Lower Clyde Greenspace officer from 1 April 2017, and a handover has been undertaken to this effect.

- 5.5 The Helensburgh and Lomond Development Officer has been in post since September 2016 and sits within the Transformation Projects and Regeneration Team. The Development Officer is tasked with delivery of physical regeneration components listed within the Helensburgh and Lomond Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP). Current projects include joint working with the Ministry of Defence to explore principal areas of focus and related actions as an initial step to ensuring the successful and sustainable integration of new service personnel and their families, as part of the Maritime Change Programme. The post holder is also responsible for the administration of the shopfront repair grant programme in Helensburgh town centre and for the development and delivery of the expansion of the Helensburgh Outdoor Museum.
- 5.6 In addition, the post holder offers support to community groups across the area. Current projects include feasibility analysis to inform a potential viewing platform in Arrochar, and support is being provided to Rosneath Peninsula West Community Development Trust with a view to prioritising their ambitions and identifying areas where additional support might be best placed.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Development Officer will continue to work across the area to support communities in their ambitions to deliver regeneration projects and as such will pick up the work currently undertaken by Lower Clyde Greenspace in respect to Duchess Wood.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 7.1 | Policy | Duchess Wood is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. |
| 7.2 | Financial | Officer resource. |
| 7.3 | Legal | None |
| 7.4 | HR | None |
| 7.5 | Equalities | No equal opportunities implications. |
| 7.6 | Risk | None at present. |
| 7.7 | Customer Services | Working with local people |

**Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure
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