

Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee Highlight/Exception Report

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this Paper is to update the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group (ACPG) regarding the recent activities of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Group Members:

- 2.1 Note the highlight report provided below
- 2.2 Consider whether there are any specific areas of work which the ACPG wishes the DWLNRC to consider developing further at this time

3. DETAIL

3.1 The Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve (DWLNR) was created as under the original 15-year Management plan drawn up by Luss Estates, the landowners, and Dumbarton District council, of which A&BC is the successor authority. A&BC discharge this responsibility through the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC). The Committee is working to a management plan covering the period between 2012 and 2016 which incorporates both maintenance and development of the Woodland, and is seeking to further strengthen the current partnership arrangements regarding the responsible usage of the Duchess Woods.

3.2 One strand of strengthening the partnership arrangements is the reporting now being undertaken to the ACPG.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 **Policy** Adoption of the proposal will assist in delivery and reporting

of aspects of the SOA and the Community Plan

- 4.2 **Financial** None,
- 4.3 **Personnel** Some member time implications for co-opted members
- 4.4 **Equalities Impact Assessment** None.
- 4.5 **Legal** None

For further information, please contact Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
tel 01369 707134

Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee Highlight/Exception report

Theme	Issue and Actions	Comment
Volunteers	<p>In addition to the work undertaken by the Friends of Duchess Wood the Committee is keen to encourage new volunteers</p> <p>The Conservation Trust Volunteers attended the May meeting and gave a presentation regarding Green Gyms. The Committee agreed that a Green Gym programme would be a good fit for taking forward some of the agreed actions within the Management Plan.</p>	<p>Potential to tie into Opportunities for All group which David Chandler agreed to investigate further.</p> <p>Volunteering can eventually lead to various awards e.g. saltire</p>
Maintenance	<p>General ongoing maintenance carrying on as usual, however contractors may need to be brought in for some more specialist work.</p> <p>Discussion around the possibility of replacing one of the smaller bridges with a culvert, however the costs look to be higher than expected and funding is still being investigated.</p>	<p>The Committee acknowledged the substantial assistance given by the Employability team – it is much appreciated/</p>
Green Gym	<p>Duchess Wood is seen as an ideal location for a Green Gym which can become self-sustaining over the longer term. The creation of this type of facility can also potentially lead to access to various strands of funding</p>	<p>As a new initiative this can be used as a vehicle to attract greater numbers of volunteers to work in the Wood.</p> <p>Initially this will be a community gym, with the potential to expand once established.</p>
Education	<p>There have been delays in arranging an event for all local schools, however this is still planned to take place – more likely at the start of next term rather than then end of this term.</p> <p>The Committee had previously agreed to contact Stramash regarding an outdoor nursery and Stramash's response was very positive. The Committee agreed to invite Stramash's Chief Executive to meet them at the Wood.</p>	
Future Development	<p>Rhu Road Higher –Signage options being investigated</p> <p>Proposed Storage facility - requires clarification over whether planning permission is needed</p>	<p>Implementation/Funding group meeting on 21st May to identify suitable funders.</p>

