

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this Paper is to update the Helensburgh and Lomond Community Planning Group regarding activity undertaken by the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Area Community Planning Group:-

- 2.1 Note that the Duchess Woods Local Nature Reserve is a contributing Partner of the Community Planning Group and that the Friends of Duchess Wood voluntary group undertakes a substantial amount of the actual day to day work in the wood;
- 2.2 Note the report provided below: If further detail is desired the full minutes of meetings of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee are published on the Council website, and;
- 2.3 Consider whether there are any specific tasks or issues which it wishes the Committee to undertake or review.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve (DWLNR) was created under the original 15-year Management plan drawn up by Luss Estates, the landowners, and Dumbarton District Council, of which Argyll and Bute Council is the successor authority. The Council discharges its responsibility to the partnership 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 CPG.

4. IMPLICATIONS

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| 4.1 | Policy | Reporting by the DWLNRC to the Community Planning Group assists in delivery, reporting and monitoring of aspects of the SOA and the Community Plan |
| 4.2 | Financial | None. |
| 4.3 | Personnel | None. |
| 4.4 | Equalities | None. |
| 4.5 | Legal | None. |
| 4.6 | Risk | None |
| 4.7 | Customer Service | None |

For further information, please contact Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer
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Theme	Issue and Actions	Comment
Education, skills and training	<p>Education – Eileen Kay now attends the DWLNRC as the Education Service representative. It was agreed that Eileen would become the initial contact for A&B Schools and that she would smaller scale projects with the schools and report back to the Committee by providing updates to Governance and Law.</p> <p>Green Gym - The Committee are being encouraged to submit a new application because of the previous successes of this project- this could lead to an expansion of the project and a volunteer coordinator will be sought (Project Start date Oct 2014 .</p> <p>Gemma Peace Nursery Manager from Lomond School attended the meeting</p>	<p>Eileen has responsibility for the upper end of Primary schools in the area, and for pupils transitioning between primary and secondary. This often involves outdoor activities and family days so she is very much an appropriate nomination</p> <p>The Education Event pack is to be updated by a subgroup Eileen Charlie Cairns and Gemma Peace agreed to undertaken this with FODW.</p> <p>FODW run regular weekend work parties, these are advertised locally, and Eileen will liaise with the friends to see if there is any way to “link up” activities</p>
Events and awareness raising	<p>A number of events have taken place in the last few months, and the need for a further revision of the events policy and procedure was recognised</p> <p>Themed running event 25th Oct.</p> <p>Tri-Events have asked to run an event this year, similar to last year’s successful run. The committee were happy for this to happen given the good feedback from last year’s arrangements</p> <p>Helensburgh Athletic club are also seeking to run some cross country events and also have had good feedback.</p>	<p>It was noted that a single Point of Contact for events might be of assistance that there would require to be exemptions for small community and educational events which would require notification rather than permission, and that some project work with schools could be reported back to the Committee. Issues about people not returning packs timeously were also noted and will be looked at.</p> <p>The Friends of Duchess Wood co-ordinated a number of events including the launch of a Flower Walk, with a John Muir-themed Walking Theatre Company play and a Bug life event.</p> <p>The first proposal os for the 18th Oct., there is a minor query re entrance fees to races/events and these will be resolved before final permission is granted.</p>
Maintenance and infrastructure	<p>Japanese Knotweed - This is an ongoing issue, however the benefits from recent treatments are now showing and the knotweed is much less dense in the treated areas -</p>	<p>An Action Plan for the remaining areas of Japanese Knotweed is being considered. More work is needed in some areas notably Duchess Drive, Weather permitting this will be done</p>

	<p>this will be continued.</p> <p>Trees inspection – A tree inspection will be conducted at the end of the summer in order to identify winter works required.</p> <p>There is continued liaison with the Employability team as to work which may be undertaken. There are a number of options which can be presented and these are currently being defined.</p>	<p>It is noted that this may be a reducing resource due to works being undertaken for housing associations by the team A future meeting will be held between the Employability team and Committee members to determine what can be done re-funding issues.</p>
Other Issues	<p>Gemma Peace provided a presentation on the forthcoming training for Forest Schools and indicated areas within the woods which would be suitable.</p>	<p>The committee were generally happy with discussions thus far, but a formal written proposal is still needed as well as discussions both with Luss estates and the Council legal services department.</p>