

West Bay Beach, Dunoon.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

West Bay Beach, Dunoon has the benefit of a 'formal' paved promenade which is well used by locals and visitors. The beach area below the promenade is subject to varying levels of shingle due to tidal action. Weed growth can also be an issue and has resulted in complaints/enquiries being made to the Council.

On 19 February 2015 a workshop for Members was held with experts from Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA and the Council on hand to discuss with members the management of the beach. From the meeting a number of actions were agreed which are detailed in the report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members note the actions summarised in the report.

West Bay Beach, Dunoon

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides an update regarding the future management of the shingle beach area at West Bay, Dunoon.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members note the actions summarised in the report.

4.0 DETAILS

- 4.1 Bute and Cowal members attended a workshop in Feb 2015 at Castle House meeting room to hear from Council Officers and representatives from SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- 4.2 As previously reported, a number of issues relating to the management of this area were being considered with options for improving the appearance of the beach. The discussions were around historical removal of shingle and weed and the need to look at future options for the area. The Area Manager for Amenity Services gave a brief history on removal of shingle and cost implications on this type of operation within Roads and Amenity Services.
- 4.3 Marina Curran-Colthart the council's Bio-Diversity Officer presented information to show the need for providing clear information through informative displays. This would provide information on how best to manage the area and to allow an understanding of the ecology of the area to be better appreciated and understood the reasons for leaving areas in a natural state.
- 4.4 In tandem with the above, SEPA Officer Kat Ball gave in insight into the changes in sea levels and tidal movement in the area from previous years until now and the likely changes in years to come with the effect of global warming and natural impact on coast lines of Scotland. The message from SEPA was clearly around conserving the shingle beach and managing the area by protecting this coastal cove in Dunoon.

- 4.5 A detailed report was provided by Dr Nick Everett of Scottish Natural Heritage on coastal erosion and susceptibility of towns such as Dunoon in the years to come and need to protect areas such as West Bay.
- 4.6 Members asked a number of questions of the speakers and stated they were grateful for their clear and concise reports and very informative presentations.
- 4.7 Members agreed the need for this area of the town to be maintained to a standard that was in accordance with the information and discussions that had taken place at the workshop. It was agreed that the following actions be progressed:-
- Areas that require weed eradication (Japanese Knotweed) or dead heading (Dockens) would be managed to ensure a tidier appearance as part of a beach management plan to be created by Marina- Curran Colthart.
 - Litter picking will be carried out in conjunction with GRAB / Criminal Justice etc.
 - Schools involvement to be explored with support from GRAB officers under the Beach Schools educational initiative to look at planting part of beach with suitable grasses etc.
 - A Policy for A&B beaches should be developed to allow clear information for their future management.
 - Look at options to raise the publicity of the shingle beach - possible Skimming Competition as this area lends itself to this type of event – the PA23 BID Manager to be contacted to take forward this idea.
 - Create bright and informative interpretation displays that depict the history of the area and provide detail on the wildlife and ecology within the beach area as existing, to give the public a clearer understanding of the areas appearance.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This is an interim report setting out the recent workshop with members, SEPA, SNH and Council Officers. The report also summarises the current activities taking place in relation to the West Bay Beach, Dunoon. A future Business Day report will update members on progress on the plan outlined above.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 6.1 | Policy | None |
| 6.2 | Financial | No budget identified – interpretation boards to be funded through existing budget provision. |
| 6.3 | Legal | Duty of care to the public and Biodiversity Duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 |
| 6.4 | HR | None |

6.5	Equalities	None Known
6.6	Risk	Flooding / Tidal Impact.
6.7	Customer Services	None Known

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure

For further information contact: Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Copy of presentations given to members in Feb 2015