



Cunninghame House,
Irvine.

7 January 2015

Kilwinning Area Committee

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the above mentioned Committee of North Ayrshire Council to be held in Three Towns Committee Room, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2016** at **3.30 p.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE TO THE TIME AND VENUE ON THIS OCCASION.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 December 2015 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

3. Community Planning

3.1 Police Scotland

Police Scotland will report on activity within the Kilwinning area.

3.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submit report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on activity within the Kilwinning area during the period 21 November to 28 December (copy enclosed).

4. Eglinton Country Park

4.1 Scottish Water Presentation

Receive a presentation from Scottish Water on the forthcoming works at Eglinton Country Park.

4.2 Update Report

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on Eglinton Country Park Operations in 2015 (copy enclosed).

5. Ayrshire College - Smoke Free Campus

Receive a verbal update by Donna Vallance, Vice Principal College Estate and New Campus Development, Ayrshire College.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme Award and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance 2015/16

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme (copy enclosed).

7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee will be held on 25 February 2016 in Kilwinning Library.

8. Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Kilwinning Area Committee

Sederunt:

John Ferguson (Chair)
Joe Cullinane
Donald Reid
Robert Steel

Chair:

Attending:

Apologies:

Meeting Ended:

Kilwinning Area Committee
10 December 2015

KILWINNING, 10 December 2015 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

John Ferguson, Joe Cullinane, Donald Reid and Robert Steel.

In Attendance

T. Reaney, Senior Manager (Streetscene); C. Haining, Streetscene Officer Three Towns and Kilwinning, S. Walker, Technician (Place); J. McHarg, Senior Manager (Participation and Empowerment) (Education and Youth Employment); H. Clancy, Committee Services Support Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Inspector J. McMillan (Police Scotland); and Station Manager L. Elliot (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Ferguson in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 October 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Community Planning

3.1 Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland on activity within the Kilwinning area. Inspector McMillan also provided up-to-date information on crimes reported and detected in the Committee's area, comparisons in relation to the same period last year and on the ongoing action to tackle youth disorder in and around Main Street and at Kilwinning Abbey.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- the difference in the trends for October compared to other months of the year being attributed to the school holiday period;
- whether there is any improvement in relation to the antisocial behaviour in the Town Centre area and if this is attributable to the recent weather;
- youths hanging about outside premises in order to gain access to wifi connections; and
- public awareness raising methods to highlight doorstep crime and bogus callers, including social media, leaflet drops, the Police Scotland website, and the local and national press.

Inspector McMillan advised Members that the Crime Prevention Officer would be happy to talk to community/church groups and that Members should highlight such groups or vulnerable people to Police Scotland to allow arrangement to be made for proactive visits.

Noted.

3.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on activity within the Kilwinning area during the period 16 October to 21 November 2015, including fires of note, special services, the Pennyburn Action Plan and community safety.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- the SFRS position in relation to overflowing mixed waste bins being left out on the streets;
- the establishment of an action plan or problem solving group as the best route to address the issue of overflowing bins; and
- the need for public awareness raising around the hazards of leaving bins out on the street.

Noted.

4. Ayrshire College - Smoke Free Campus

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the estimated impact on the surrounding area of the implementation of a smoke free campus at Ayrshire College, Kilwinning.

Since the implementation of the smoke free environment at the College Campus a number of people continue to smoke in the vicinity. To counter this two litter bins have been placed in the area immediately outside the Campus boundary, ensuring that they can be easily accessed by smokers and litter collectors alike and to prevent any Health and Safety issues. Ayrshire College have agreed to clean the streetscape around the bins and Streetscene will continue to monitor the situation.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- litter and cigarette butts being thrown over the wall at the Woodburn Avenue area;
- the detrimental impact having spread further than the immediate area surrounding the College; and
- possible enforcement action through the issue of fixed penalty notices in relation to littering.

The Committee agreed to (a) note (i) the estimated impact of the policy on the Kilwinning and wider North Ayrshire area; and (ii) the measures being taken by Streetscene to help improve the environment; and (b) invite a representative from Ayrshire College to the next meeting to give a verbal update on the move to a smoke free environment.

5. Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2015, in support of the Council's statutory duties under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- the treatment for priority 1, 2 and 3 routes and paths, including school routes;
- brine spraying of the Kilwinning and Irvine Town Centre public realms;
- the temperature being a determining factor in whether to use brine spraying or white salting treatment methods;
- measures in place to address local flooding issues; and
- that regular monitoring of the Fergushill Road/Redstone Avenue area is still being carried out in relation to flooding.

The Committee noted (a) the Roads Winter Services and Weather Emergencies Plan 2015; and (b) the continued development and improvement in the winter service.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme Award and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance 2015/16

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme Award and Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to (a) make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants

Organisation

Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development
Enterprise (PRYDE)
Model X Media

Award

£1,492
£1,530, and that
the Group be
encouraged to
display their
artwork to the
local community

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation

Model X Media

Award

£1,250

(b) defer consideration of the Local Youth Action Fund application from Ayrshire Communities Education and Sport (ACES) to a future meeting; and (c) note that the Local Youth Action Fund budget had been fully expended for financial year 2015/16.

7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee is scheduled be held on 14 January 2016 in Kilwinning Library. Members were advised that an Elected Member Development session had been arranged at the same time as the scheduled Area Committee meeting.

The Committee agreed (a) to reschedule the start time of the Area Committee on 14 January 2016 to 3.30pm; and (b) that the meeting be held in Cunninghame House, Irvine on this occasion.

8. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that a representative from Scottish Water be invited to provide a presentation to the next meeting on the forthcoming works within Eglinton Country Park.

The meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

Kilwinning Committee Meeting: 22 November 2015 – 28 December 2015.

1. Incidents Overview :

- **22** - Incidents over the reporting period.

- **6** - Incidents involving Unwanted Automatic Fire Alarm (UFAS) – New SFRS Policy implemented 1st December to identify root causes and reduce UFAS in the future. UFAS split into Domestic and relevant premises. Domestic premises will receive a Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR). Relevant premises will receive SFRS intervention to prevent reoccurrence.
- **2** - Fires attended.
- **7** - Special Services attended.
- **7** - Refuse fires attended / 3 in Nov & 4 in Dec / Action Plan now in place with Police Scotland to address the high occurrence of anti-social fire setting.
- **0** - Grass fires attended.
- **0** - Malicious calls.

- **0 x** Fire Fatalities or Casualties in the ward area during this reporting period.
- **6** - RTC casualties in the ward area during this reporting period.

Analysis:

2. Fires of note as follows:

- Kilwinning – Dwelling / Toaster on fire / Code 4 / PDIR.
- Kilwinning – Dwelling / Kitchen on fire due to food left unattended / PDIR.

3. Special Services:

- RTC A78 – 1 Private vehicle / 1 person trapped / casualty removed to Hospital.
- RTC A78 – 1 Private vehicle on roof / no persons trapped / casualty removed to Hospital.
- RTC at Kilwinning Train Station – 1 Private vehicle collided with wall / no persons trapped / 3 casualties removed to Hospital.
- RTC Eglinton Country Park – 1 Motorbike collided with tree. 1 casualty removed by Air Ambulance to Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
- Dwelling – Open door for elderly person fallen over.
- Dwelling – Open door for elderly person fallen over.
- Dwelling – Flooding.

4. Pennyburn Action Plan:

- 8 incidents of anti-social fire setting reported in October.
- 7 incidents of anti-social fire setting reported in November.
- 4 incidents of anti-social fire setting reported in December.

5. Community Safety:

- PDIR – During this reporting period a total of 13 PDIR have been carried out which has resulted in a further 11 HFSV being carried out.
- HFSV - During this reporting period a total of 63 HFSV have been carried out.
- Winter Season Thematic Action Plan (TAP) will run from 7th December 2015 – 17th January 2016. An action plan will be developed to deal with Primary Fires within our local communities working with partner agencies to reduce particularly kitchen fires. An action plan will be developed to deal with grass, woodland, moorland, derelict buildings and rubbish fires.
- Prevention First Meeting takes place at Irvine Police Office every 2 weeks to discuss anti-social events within the Community with our Partners.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4.2

14 January 2016

Kilwinning Area Committee

Title: **Eglinton Country Park**

Purpose: To provide a update on Eglinton Country Park Operations in 2015.

Recommendation: That the Committee notes the contents of report and in particular the implications for Country Park Operations regarding Scottish Water works in 2016.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The report will highlight Country Parks' main inputs to the current Council Plan and Core Values focusing on:

- Eglinton Masterplan Process;
- Scottish Water Bradan Dreghorn High Speed Pipe;
- Infrastructure; and
- Country Park contributions to the Council Plan.

2. Background

2.1 This report is provided in line with previous reports to update the Kilwinning Area Committee in relation to Eglinton Country Park and related activity.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Committee notes the report.

4. Implications

Financial:	There are no financial implications.
Human Resources:	There are no Human Resource Implications
Legal:	There are no legal implications.
Equality:	There are no Equality implications.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The report highlights implications in relation to the environmental impact of the Scottish Water proposals.
Key Priorities:	
Community Benefits:	

5. Consultation

5.1 Not applicable.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference :

For further information please contact Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager on (01294) 551776.

Background Papers

None

Kilwinning Area Committee – Eglinton Report 2015

Content:

Eglinton Masterplan Process

Ensuring people have the right skills for learning, life and work.

- CPD Ranger Training Programme - *Passion*
- Skills Development (6 month) Training Posts – *Passion*
- Natural Networks Trainee – *Passion*
- Junior Ranger Programme - *Passion*

Supporting all our people to stay safe, healthy and active.

- Grow and Learn Awards - *Passion*
- 'Scotland's Outdoors – our natural health service' – *Focus*
- Medal Routes – *Passion*
- Ranger Service Events Programme - *Focus*

Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.

- Eglinton Woodland Management Plan – *Inspiration*
- Education Programme - *Focus*
- Friends of Eglinton – *Inspiration*
- Ayrshire Rivers Trust – Garden Weir proposal to improve fish passage - *Focus*

Scottish Water Bradan Dreghorn High Speed Pipe

- Disruption to Country Park Services and Events
- Scottish Water – Benefits to be gained – *Focus*

Infrastructure

- New Car Park
- Fire
- Stable Block Ongoing Development Works - Developer Owned Lesser Access Road
- Repairs/Savings – *Inspiration*
- Chapelholmes Foot Bridge - *Focus*

Eglinton Masterplan Process

See Advisory Committee 20th August. Various aspects of the masterplan are currently being actioned and/or researched/developed. Much of the existing work programme including Medal Routes, The Woodland Management Plan and the programme of savings re: infrastructure are all linked to the master planning process and in turn, the Country Park Management Plan, the Conservation Management Plan etc. A detailed update will be provided at the next Kilwinning Area Committee.

Ensuring people have the right skills for learning, life and work.

CPD Ranger Training Programme – *Passion*

Countryside Rangers Trainee Programme 2014/2015

The programme – a joint project between North Ayrshire Council Countryside Ranger Service and SCRA -started in December 2014 and saw four local young people embark on an intensive Countryside Ranger skills development programme. We had four starts last year:

- James Hek left after three months due to gaining a full time post with Police Scotland.
- Ashley Wathan left in September to attend a Certificated Horticultural Course.
- Stuart English completed the CPD Ranger Programme and is now attending Certificated HND course in Countryside Management.
- Charlotte Alston completed the CPD Ranger Programme and has found temporary employment in the hospitality sector prior to starting a course in Dramatic Arts.



CPD Trainee Rangers

Although the pilot has been a success re: Positive Destinations for Young People, our staff time was stretched due to the amount of time needed to properly mentor and assess the work carried out,

combined with a much larger budget requirement than first anticipated. We will not be taking on any new starts in 2015/16 until we can do so through the proposed SVQ.

This will determine any future inputs to the process for 2016/17. The process of converting the CPD programme into a SVQ is underway but is taking time. The Ranger Service is working closely with the Scottish Rural University College (SRUC) and Scottish Countryside Ranger's Association (SCRA) to achieve this aim and when successful, the new SVQ will provide a country wide access for young people into the first career step re: conservation management and environmental education.

Skills Development (6 month) Training Posts – *Passion*

Two adults have been employed at Eglinton in 2015 and on into 2016 through the Economic Development led 6 month Employability Programme. Employed as Facility Support Staff, both individuals have assisted in running events (janitorial/maintenance) with the first trainee going on to support staff in front line events and activities working alongside Rangers and Children's Services Officers. The first trainee has gone on to become a member of the Children's Services Bank Support Staff and has also gained employment out with the authority. The second trainee is now seeking full time employment. Both trainees completed additional course work whilst at Eglinton including First Aid at Work, LANTRA Tractor and Gator training, Fire Warden, Manual Handling and Risk Assessment training.

Natural Networks Trainee - *Passion*

A TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) Natural Networks Apprentice was appointed to assist in developing community conservation groups in North Ayrshire covering a range of sites including Eglinton. The jointly funded post holder reported to TCV, the RSPB, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Council Ranger Service. The catalyst for this was SNH adding the development of conservation groups to the NAC physical activity action plan and needing a means to deliver on this. The post also helped to deliver on Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives too. The post holder gained full time employment with TCV at the end of his period of employment.

Junior Ranger Programme - *Passion*

Over the last few years SCRA has been developing a Junior Ranger programme for Scotland. Run by the Countryside Rangers and working with local partners, the programme is open to all young people aged between 11 and 18. Focussing on environmental awareness, skills development and citizenship the first five months have been slow re: uptake but numbers have been static but poor weather rather than lack of interest is considered the main issue and we expect an increase post new year.

The aim is to offer enjoyable, inspirational and relevant outdoor learning experiences and also to provide opportunities to develop transferable understanding and experience that also benefits the local natural and cultural heritage of Eglinton and wider district.

Supporting all our people to stay safe, healthy and active.

Grow and Learn Awards – Passion

On 19th June, HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, attended a Garden Party Awards Ceremony at the Norton House Hotel to recognise and celebrate the achievements of Grow and Learn Project participants from across Scotland.

A major focus of the Society's charitable work is education and in particular the Grow and Learn Awards. Eleven participants, of the 'Breaking Ground' project – a horticultural group led by North Ayrshire Council Countryside Ranger Service, had been working towards achieving their award over the past year and joined other horticultural groups from all over Scotland to attend the Garden Party. Each of them received their award and thoroughly enjoyed the day. They had the opportunity to talk to Princess Anne, meet with Jim McColl and George Anderson from the Beechgrove Garden.

Grow and Learn is a unique horticultural award that recognises individual personal achievement and progress. The award offers the learner a structured framework, but is also flexible enough to ensure a person centred approach at all times. Learners choose which additional horticultural related activities they wish to undertake as well as setting themselves personal goals. In order to achieve the Award, learners undertake a minimum of 7 core activities, 13 additional activities, achieve 3 personal goals and develop a personal portfolio that evidences achievement and progress made. The Breaking Ground members were informed that their work was excellent and that they were to be duly proud of their achievements.



BG team leaving for Edinburgh. New Minibus rushed through by Transport for the day.

'Scotland's Outdoors – our natural health service' – Focus

On the 12th November Country Park staff attended a reception at the Scottish Parliament to promote and explain the 'Breaking Ground' Health Referral project based at Eglinton to invited guests as part of the 'Scotland's Outdoors – our natural health service' reception hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage with NHS Scotland. The event celebrated the contribution our natural heritage makes to health and well-being. Ten noted and valued projects from all over Scotland were asked to attend and provide a display demonstrating how people's health and well-being benefits from spending time in the outdoors and engaging in nature.

Speakers:

- Dr Aileen McLeod, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
- Ian Ross, Chairman SNH
- Gerald McLaughlin, Chief Executive, NHS Scotland

Medal Routes – Passion

As part of the Country Park's master planning process and in conjunction Ramblers Scotland and funding partners SNH and NHS Scotland, Eglinton is creating three new Medal Routes utilising the existing path system within the Country Park. This approach to building fitness levels through short walking routes mainly on flat terrain includes Bronze (easy 15mins), Silver (moderate 30mins) and Gold (more strenuous 60mins) routes. Three routes have been agreed with our partners and will provide a good way for health care staff and patients to get more physically active. There are over 400 Medal Routes across Scotland and each has been created to incorporate local greenspace and landmarks for walkers to enjoy. With Ayrshire Central Hospital situated next to Eglinton providing Young Disabled/Rehabilitation services and a new Rehabilitation Centre being constructed it makes sense to further strengthen the links already crated. Carrying out this project now means that the new Community Hospital planned for the area, as well as the state-of-the-art mental health adult inpatient facility will be able to 'tap into' the resource of Eglinton with greater ease. Visit www.medalroutes.org for more information and download the Apple or Android application.

Ranger Service Events Programme - Focus

All ongoing events including Ranger Work Parties (introducing conservation to individuals and groups as a health benefit whilst benefitting the Country Park), 'Ranger Watch' (guided natural history walks), Wild Wednesdays (fun children's activity days) and the Acorn (young naturalists) Club have proven successful again in 2015 but have been very much weather dependent. The **Wild Toddlers** activity programme for parents and carers aims at 'getting rid of the fear' of the outdoors requires a special mention. The programme has been developing year on year due to demand and will be developed further yet again in 2016 with ...events planned. The programme supports families by:

Encouraging parental participation in outdoor experiences with their very young children helping promote:

- Better relationships within the family unit.
- A more natural relaxed environment to grow up in due to reduced stress levels.
- A healthier family attitude.

Removing the fear associated with outdoor play and encouraging adventure.

- Children learn valuable lessons by taking risks
- Protecting children from every risk puts them in harm's way and robs them of valuable memories.

Encouraging adventure and investigation in the outdoors at an early stage of development helping promote:

- Concentration and focus.
- Promotes problem solving and leadership skills
- Physical fitness and flexibility.
- Confidence and independence.
- Stronger immune system.
- Promotes an understanding, appreciation and respect for living things and the natural world.
- Future stewards of our natural world.

See Appendix 1, 2015 Direct Service Users

Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.

Eglinton Woodland Management Plan – Inspiration

A public consultation programme is underway as part of the Country Park Conservation Plan to enhance biodiversity and improve access into the woodlands within the Country Park boundary. Carefully managed woodlands offer plenty of safe opportunities for a wide range of recreational and educational activities to be undertaken and are a very important part of the local landscape.

Most of the Eglinton woodlands have been planted over the last 30 years and there now exists a short window of opportunity to actively manage the woodlands to significantly improve them for a wide range of public, environmental and economic benefits.

These benefits include:-

1. More types of tree species
2. A variety of tree sizes and ages
2. Creating different age classes of trees, (young, middle aged/ old)
3. More wildlife
4. More dead wood
5. More and healthier veteran trees
6. Better maintenance of existing and the creation of new access routes
7. Safer and nicer looking woodlands that allow for better recreation and education activities
8. Creating woodland more able to withstand damaging winds/ disease
9. Creating a training resource for volunteers/ students/ community groups
10. The production of fire wood/ rustic timber sleepers and ultimately small scale medium to high value timber.
11. Improved condition of non-woodland habitats, e.g. streams, meadows and hedgerows

This process requires a long term plan for the woodlands to be drawn up. Key to achieving these benefits is the requirement to thin a proportion of the trees every year. The process will involve a gradual intervention throughout an initial ten year timeframe so that the trees are removed in a way that only a small number of the total number of trees are removed each year.

This cutting down of small number of trees each year provides the following benefits:-

- Space for new trees/shrubs/flowers to be planted or grow naturally
- Space for existing trees to grow healthier and bigger
- Provide a regular supply of deadwood, crucial to a wide range of woodland wildlife
- Provide a supply of firewood that can be sold to help pay for woodland access improvements
- Provide a safer, more accessible outdoor classroom for a wide range of educational activities and training courses

Small gaps will be created in the existing canopy. This is similar to what would happen naturally in wild woodlands through the action of the wind or a tree naturally dying of old age or disease. These gaps will increase the amount of light reaching to the woodland floor encouraging trees and wildflowers to grow which in turn will attract butterflies, birds and other wildlife to the woods.

The gaps will be kept small to reduce both the amount of tree felling that is required and the risk of wind-blow that could occur if more trees were felled than the woodlands could cope with.

The long term plan will be drawn up over the next 3-6 months and park users, visitors and residents are being consulted on widely to provide opportunities for people with an interest in the woodlands and their future management to have a say.

Education Programme - Focus

The ongoing programme of school based events and activities continued throughout the year utilising the Ranger Service designed Curriculum for Excellence sheets supporting HMle targets. The Ranger Service continues to provide support for the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce school placement programme.

See Appendix 2 Curriculum for Excellence Provision

Friends of Eglinton – Inspiration

The Ranger Service has supported a constituted Friends Group within Eglinton for four years. Volunteer task days take place on two Wednesdays and two Saturdays every month, working towards improving the our local environment. The aim is to ensure that the local community has opportunities to get involved in projects beneficial to the Park and its users. The Ranger Service has long since recognised the value of volunteering in increasing awareness, interest, commitment and stewardship towards Eglinton Country Park, as well as assisting the Parks team in delivering site improvements for both people and wildlife. Task days and events are listed on notice boards in the Country Park, on our Facebook page, website or can be obtained at the Visitor Centre.

Activities such as clearing vegetation, installing bat and bird boxes, tree planting or thinning, pond clearance, carrying out habitat management techniques such as coppicing, meadow mowing and raking, building fences, boardwalks and steps, creating and maintaining paths along with helping out with wildlife surveys and monitoring are all options available to volunteers. We have found that the programme has not been as highly attended as hoped in 2015 and are now seeking assistance from The Ayrshire Communities Trust in developing the Friends Group in a way that improves numbers.

Total Volunteer Hours							
(not counting with Breaking Ground)				(counting with Breaking Ground)			
Q1	870			Q1	2229		
Q2	352			Q2	670		
Q3	1118			Q3	1118		
Q4	1253			Q4	1253		
Total	3593			Total	5270		

Ayrshire Rivers Trust – Garden Weir proposal to improve fish passage – Focus

Ayrshire Rivers Trust carried out a habitat survey of the River Garnock and tributaries in 2005 and the historic Garden Weir was identified as a serious obstruction to migratory fish. The downstream ramp is an obstacle in itself but combined with the crest and trough at the top the weir it is a particularly bad design regarding fish passage. Ayrshire Rivers Trust electrofished a number of sites to investigate issues arising from the habitat survey. They found good numbers of salmon fry and parr in the Lugton Water downstream of the weir but none in two sites upstream.

Under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003 there is an obligation on North Ayrshire Council to ensure that migratory fish are able to pass weirs, etc. at all appropriate times. The Garden Weir is in breach of this legislation. There is also a requirement to register any weir over 0.9m in height and without a fish pass, with SEPA (Controlled Activities Regulations, 2005).

Ayrshire Rivers Trust and SEPA's Water Environment Fund have commissioned EnviroCentre to undertake a study to improve fish passage at the Garden Weir, including identifying possible artwork that could be incorporated into a fish pass design and potentially provide a valuable local attraction.

A workshop took place on the 24th November aimed at engaging with key stakeholders with a keen interest or could have a greater interest in both the direct and wider benefits of providing improved fish passage within the setting of Eglinton Country Park. The evening consisted of a short introduction and background to the project, followed by a summary of the conditions at the Garden Weir and options for improving fish passage. A workshop session then took place to identify preferences in fish pass design and importantly, to examine the potential wider benefits this project could achieve on the surrounding area and park use. We now await updated designs following the workshop discussion. SEPA have grant funding in place to carry out any proposed works when approved.

Scottish Water Bradan Dreghorn High Speed Pipe

Disruption to Country Park Services and Events

All events organisers and groups who utilise the Park have been contacted and advised of the disruption in 2016. Some events such as Race for Life and the Ayrshire Hospice Colour Run have been offered an alternative venue whilst others have found other venues or cancelled for one year in expectation of a return to Eglinton in 2017. There has been a delay in moving forward with the impending works. It is now expected that Scottish Water will begin the test bores in the early part of 2016 with full scale works commencing prior to Easter. A land agent has been appointed to ensure that the local authority's interests are met and all communications are now being directed through this company. The first of a series of site visits with the land agent, Scottish Water contractors and the Country Park manager took place on the 27/10/2015 which clarified several points re: the more sensitive habitat sites / historic areas and how these will be protected during the project works. Belvedere Hill and Old Wood are the core areas for protection although a sympathetic approach is expected in all areas.

Points for consideration:

- Clarification required on the additional works pertaining to the new housing development across from the Park via Long Drive and how this will connect with the new pipe.
- Once feedback from SEPA has come through re: Old Wood and the minimum proximity of the proposed pipe to the Lugton Water is confirmed, we need to confirm where any test bore is positioned in this area.
- Belvedere Hill has been discussed extensively and apart from sympathetic trimming of the rides, the works should not cause any issues to the Country Park or NAC subject to correct removal and relaying of soils.
- Though the time frame has been delayed, an Easter start for the main areas of work should still allow for the full range of events and activities taking place in 2017.

Scottish Water – Benefits to be gained - Focus

The main events field and the auxiliary parking fields have been in great need of some deep level programmed maintenance. This has been postponed for many years due to the historical loss of the IDC 'hand-over budget' (which would have been used for this purpose) to other NAC many years ago and the continuous high usage of the field combined with previous management requirements. Without this essential work, further events are likely to be cancelled due to more frequent flooding issues and we are not likely to get an opportunity to address this again soon. A deep sub-soiling is planned and requires considerably longer time for the soil to recover properly. We can effectively carry out the deep sub soiling in April, May and (at a push), June allowing for the field to be ready for Easter 2017.

The soil in these areas is sandy and was quite free draining, but constant compaction over the last thirty years combined with increasingly higher levels of rain has exacerbated the problems. Until now these fields have been used all year round with only the occasional light spiking every few years, however a planned reduction in the number of events will reduce the damage allowing consistent grass recovery between events combined with annual spiking (already agreed through Streetscene) which will take place from 2017 onwards. These annual 'spikings' work best when the soil is drier and it cracks more fully, in spring and early summer, when the grass is ready for a peak growth phase and is actively growing beneath the surface as well as above it. The grass roots are then better able to seek out spaces created by the soil fracturing helping the roots seek out more water during the summer and creating improved access to nutrients. This means that we would be looking at taking out the field use for a couple of weeks in late April or early June in 2017, but following the deep sub-soiling in 2016 and the alterations to field use in 2017 I believe that this is achievable with minimal affect to events.

As part of the Eglinton master planning process, once we move forward on an alternative maintenance regime, one objective will be (through grant funding opportunities) to invest in Park based equipment that can be relied on to alleviate compaction effectively but with minimal complexity, something that gives lift to the soil through the full working depth, with minimal surface disturbance.

Infrastructure

New Car Park - Inspiration

New car park completed with space created for 66 cars. This has alleviated the major congestion issues caused by the loss of the two car parks within the housing development zone.

Fire

Fire broke out in the main storage nissen shed on the Tuesday 23/06/2015 at 3.05pm. All buildings, play areas and adjacent facilities were evacuated swiftly by staff to the muster point within 6 minutes. The Country Park staff were commended by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and NAC management for their quick and effective reaction to the emergency with high numbers of visitors present. Work is currently underway to restore the building back to a usable condition. No confirmed cause for the fire was identified although a suspected electrical fault was considered most likely.

Stable Block Ongoing Development Works - Developer Owned Lesser Access Road

Local residents and Country Park users have raised concerns with regard to the removal of the safety bumps on this road by the developer in the process of relaying a new tarmac surface. In the early 1990s, after numerous accidents on this road, which included collisions and the fatal knocking down of a dog, the then Cunninghame District Council, Irvine Development Corporation and Wilson's factory agreed to put in speed humps. The private access road into the park from Irvine Road (not open to general vehicle traffic) is still one of the main entrances into the park for pedestrians and cyclists and since the removal of the bumps, several near incidents have occurred, some witnessed by Ranger staff. The expected increased traffic when the dwellings are completed will predictably increase the risk further.

NAC has purchased and installed advisory signage on the 'S' bend into the Park (the one section of road that is owned by the local authority) indicating that this is a 'no through road' with 'local access only' and 'no vehicular access to Eglinton'. Apart from one small 15mph sign at the entrance to the Park there are no further signs indicating the speed limit (which is not enforceable but has been agreed mutually agreed with Country Parks manager and the developer). To date the developer has been made aware of these concerns and has indicated that he will install speed limit signs, but has not so far carried out this work. NAC Roads have indicated to concerned residents and park users that the road is a private road and the owner's responsibility to repair and maintain. Any resident or park user with concerns who take access from this road needs to take up any concern with the developer. Going forward; the developer is required to submit a road construction consent in respect to the new development and the Roads Officer involved will keep the situation under review to ensure that any necessary traffic calming required is implemented before the road is adopted to the list of public roads.

Repairs/Savings - Inspiration

In order to prioritise infrastructure repairs to suit current budget thresholds, the Section has identified areas of potential spend that can now be removed from the work plan allowing the funding to be used on essential infrastructure repairs including field fencing, gates, DDA compatible access and in income generation (lease fields) and H&S (bridle and public path links) areas of need. Following on from initial works in 2014/15 to assess and remove redundant structures, the Section has carried on with this work in 2015/16. In the early days of the country park many of the fences acted as animal enclosures to reduce the damage to young trees, segregate recreational users etc. We have noted that since the access legislation was introduced some years ago, that the need to segregate users has decreased. With the reduced need in some areas for enclosures and the ongoing cost of replacing these (most are now nearing thirty years old) we have been systematically removing redundant fencing, gates etc. with help from volunteers, allowing us to use the fencing budget to replace/repair only the essential infrastructure. The initial area for review was the 'Countryside Walk' route which also includes a fenced bridle way and several heavily deteriorating field gates.

Avoided Expense on Fence Repairs 2014/15, 759 meters and 2 x metal field gates, 1 x wooden field gate and 3 x pedestrian/horse gates - This is the fence behind the old LeTourneau Router.
270 meters with no field gates - This fence is from the entrance to Old wood and the field entrance near to Millburn crossroads on the Countryside walk.

With field gates averaging £170 each to replace and the rylock fencing itself averaging £5 per metre, we are set to avoid the expense of replacing these by removing these redundant lines enabling saving roughly £5,825 to be used for other essential maintenance.

Avoided Expense on Fence Repairs 2015/16, 710 meters of fencing has been removed during October 2015 - Countryside Walk and pathways near to the New Town Trail /settling pond, aoi expenditure to the value of £3550 was avoided.

The new approach has allowed approx. £9375 over the last two years to be used for maintenance elsewhere in the Park. A further 1204 meters of fencing is still to be removed in the next phase (early 2016) with a projected saving of an additional £6,020 to the local authority in reduced renewal costs.

Old chicane gate access points systematically being removed as these do not conform to latest DDA needs and are being replaced with standard field gates plus pedestrian openings of 1200mm to comply with the latest mobility scooters.

Chapelholmes Foot Bridge - Focus

The footbridge at the entrance to Chapelholmes Wood was removed in mid-2015 following health and safety concerns. The river bank which the bridge was built on thirty years ago has suffered severe erosion and the bridge was deemed unsafe. NAC Roads have indicated that it may be some time before this bridge is reinstated. Discussions will take place to discuss with both the Access Officer and our Senior Ranger whether this path should remain 'active'. The path (with bridge) is currently a linear route from the B785 into Eglinton and joins the Core Path IK24 on the woodlands western perimeter. However an opportunity exists to create a low impact, low usage zone within this woodland. This too would be accessible from IK24 (where E and F join) but would no longer be promoted as a specific path.

We have previously been in touch with SNH with a view to having the site declared a Local Nature Reserve as part of the Conservation Management Plan. The benefits of having an LNR within the actual Country Park are not inconsiderable and would support our objectives re: community involvement. The site is remote from the main public areas of Eglinton and has a more diverse habitat than some other areas. In the context of the Country Park, it could be zoned as a low-impact-public access area, therefore protecting the woodland's rich ground flora. The area has very little evidence of being very used heavily or frequently in recent years, given the lack of trampling and the rate of vegetation encroachment along the path.

Appendix 1 2015 Direct Service Users

	FoE				Breaking Ground				Acorn Club				Schools				Events			
Month	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Vol hours	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Vol Hours	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours
Jan	15	3	9	135	23	3	9	207	16	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	3
Feb	30	4	12	360	47	4	12	564	16	4	1	2	44	11	4	5.5	5	10	1	4
Mar	15	4	12	180	49	4	12	588	13	3	1	6	288	42	9	13	0	5	2	4.5
Q1	60	11	33	675	119	11	33	1359	45	11	3	10	332	53	13	18.5	5	19	4	11.5
Apr	11	4	15	40	35	3	9	105					27	4	1	1.5	430	386	6	14.5
May	13	4	14	46	44	4	12	132					410	41	9	18.5	0	5	2	5
Jun	4	2	8.5	12	27	3	9	81					180	55	5	7.5	45	20	1	2
Q2	28	10	37.5	98	106	10	30	318					617	100	15	27.5	475	411	9	21.5
Jul	11	4	12	132									0	0	0	0	42	44	6	16
Aug	12	5	15	180									12	2	1	5	125	184	5	11
Sep	22	4	12	264					8	2	1	2	95	7	3	4	46	42	4	8.5
Q3	45	13	39	576					8	2	1	2	107	9	4	9	213	270	15	35.5
Oct	14	4	12	168					5	2	1	2	75	11	5	9	0	3	1	3
Nov	15	4	14	210					6	0	1	2	107	112	8	26.5	0	4	1	3
Dec				0									56	6	1	2	0	0	0	0
Q4	29	8	26	378					11	2	2	4	238	129	14	37.5	0	7	2	6
Total	102	31	102.5	1052	225	21	63	1677	64	15	6	16	1294	291	46	92.5	693	707	30	74.5
	Junior Rangers				Interlink				John Muir Award				Groups				Work Experience			
Month	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Adults	Carers	Sessions	Hours	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Number	Sessions	Hours	Vol hours
Jan													0	0	0	0				
Feb													0	0	0	0				
Mar													6	3	1	2.5				
Q1					0	0	0	0					6	3	1	2.5				
Apr					25	6	3	3					64	33	2	3.5				
May					28	8	4	4					33	8	2	2	1	5	35	35
Jun					7	4	2	2					57	102	8	10.5				
Q2					60	18	9	9					154	143	12	16	1	5	35	35
Jul													23	22	3	5				
Aug													0	0	0	0				
Sep	4	1	1	3	32	8	4	4					0	0	0	0				
Q3	4	1	1	3	32	8	4	4					23	22	3	5				
Oct	6	1	1	3	38	8	4	6					0	0	0	0				
Nov	4	1	1	3									0	0	0	0	2	10	70	70
Dec	6	1	1	3									0	0	0	0				
Q4	16	3	3	9	38	8	4	6					0	0	0	0	2	10	70	70
Total	20	4	4	12	130	34	17	19					183	168	16	23.5	3	15	105	105
	Volunteers				Work Placement				Wild Toddlers				Wild Wednesdays							
Month	Number	Sessions	Hours	Vol hours	Number	Sessions	Hours	Vol hours	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours	Children	Adults	Sessions	Hours				
Jan	0	0	0	0	1	4	28	28												
Feb	7	2	15	15	1	4	28	28	16	14	2	2.5								
Mar	14	6	15	96	1	4	28	28	28	24	0	2.5								
Q1	21	8	30	111	1	12	84	84	44	38	2	5								
Apr	9	4	15	24	1	4	28	28	26	23	2	2								
May	21	4	12	63	1	4	28	28	16	14	2	2								
Jun	16	3	12	48	1	4	28	28	18	17	2	2								
Q2	46	11	39	135	1	12	84	84	60	54	6	6								
Jul	4	4	44	19	2	7	49	49	21	19	2	2	94	14	5	10				
Aug	23	20	98	98	1	4	28	28	29	29	2	2								
Sep	51	21	247	247	1	4	28	28	29	26	2	2								
Q3	78	45	389	364	2	15	105	105	79	74	6	6	94	14	5	10				
Oct	46	28	202	202	1	4	28	28	30	28	2	2								
Nov	116	27	531	531	1	3	21	21	20	26	2	2								
Dec					2	12	84	84												
Q4	162	55	733	733	3	19	133	133	50	54	4	4								
Total	572	222	2322	2464	6	58	406	406	233	220	18	21	94	14	5	10				

Appendix 2 Schools - Curriculum for Excellence Provision

CfE sheets																	
Month	Sessions	Level	Topic			Month	Sessions	Level	Topic			Month	Sessions	Level	Topic		
January	1	First Level	Birds			May	1	Early Level	Habitats			September	2	Early Level	Flowering Plants		
	3	Third Level	Immediate Environment				2	Early Level	Immediate Environment				3	First Level	Habitats		
February	1	Early Level	Flowering Plants				6	First Level	Habitats				1	First Level	Flowering Plants		
	2	Early Level	The Senses				1	First Level	Birds				1	First Level	Immediate Environment		
	1	First Level	Flowering Plants				2	First Level	Immediate Environment				2	First Level	Minibeasts		
	1	First Level	Life Cycles				1	First Level	Minibeasts				1	First Level	Pollution		
	1	Second	Immediate Environment				1	First Level	Life Cycles				1	Second Le	Immediate Environment		
	1	Second Le	Habitats				1	First Level	Minibeasts			October	2	Early Level	Immediate Environment		
	3	Third Level	Immediate Environment				1	Second Le	Flowering Plants				3	First	Immediate Environment		
	1	Third Level	Introduction to Plants				4	Second Le	Habitats				1	First	Seasons - Autumn		
March	2	Early Level	Minibeasts			June	1	Early Level	Immediate Environment				1	First Level	Sorting Living Things		
	3	Early Level	Immediate Environment				2	Early Level	The Senses				1	First Level	Birds		
	2	First Level	Life Cycles				2	Early Level	Minibeasts				1	First Level	Hibernation		
	2	First Level	Habitats				8	First Level	Immediate Environment				1	Second	Hibernation		
	1	Second Le	Habitats				1	First Level	Minibeasts				1	Second Le	Water Cycle		
	1	Second Le	Competition for resources				2	First Level	life cycles				1	Third Level	Sorting Living Things		
	3	Third Level	Introduction to Plants				1	Second Le	Immediate Environment				1	Third Level	Habitats		
	2	Third Level	Immediate Environment			July	2	Early Level	Water Cycle			November	2	Early Level	Immediate Environment		
April	1	Early Level	Immediate Environment				1	First	Minibeasts				2	Early Level	Seasons - Autumn		
	2	Early Level	Food Chains and Webs				1	First	Flowering Plants				1	Second Le	Nocturnal animals		
	2	Early Level	Birds				1	First	Sorting Living Things				1	Second Le	Habitats		
	1	First Level	Immediate Environment				1	First	Birds				2	Second Le	Water Cycle		
	1	First Level	Minibeasts				1	First	Immediate Environment				3	Third Level	Immediate Environment		
	1	First Level	Water cycle				1	First Level	Water Cycle			1	Third Level	Habitats			
	1	Third Level	Introduction to Plants				2	Second Le	Flowering Plants			December					
	1	Third Level	Immediate Environment				1	Third Level	Habitats								
					1		Third Level	Flowering Plants									
					August	2	Early Level	Food Chains and Webs									
						1	First Level	Minibeasts									
						1	Third Level	Habitats									
Total		Sessions	Children	Adults													
		209	2307	2488													

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6

14 January 2016

Kilwinning Area Committee

Title: **Community Development Grant Scheme Award and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance 2015/16**

Purpose: To advise the Committee of an application received in respect of the Community Development Grant Scheme Award.

Recommendation: Agree that the Committee considers and determines the application as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Community Development Grant Scheme Award for the Kilwinning Area Committee has a balance of £3,971.47 available for disbursement.
- 1.2 The Local Youth Action Fund is fully expended for this financial year.

2. Background

- 2.1 An application has been received within a number of categories of the Community Development Grant Scheme Award.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers the application as outlined in Appendix 3 of this report.

4. Implications

Financial:	Award will be met form the available balance.
Human Resources:	There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
Legal:	There are no legal issues arising from this report.
Equality:	There are no equality issues arising from this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no environmental and sustainability issues arising from this report.
Key Priorities:	By supporting the applications listed in Appendix 3 of this report will assist in achieving outcomes: Children's health and wellbeing is improved through breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Children and young people are safe, healthy, active, aspiring and achieving.
Community Benefits:	

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place between the applicant bodies and the appropriate officers of the Council.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : JMCH/BA

For further information please contact Jim McHarg, Senior Manager, Participation and Empowerment Team on 01294 324424.

Background Papers

None

Community Development Grant Scheme Award 2015/16

Kilwinning

Amount Allocated 2013/14: £12,764

Amount Allocated 2014/15: £12,582

Amount Allocated 2015/16: £12,764

[illegible]

Local Youth Action Fund 2015/16

Kilwinning

Amount Allocated 2013/14: £7,146

Amount Allocated 2014/15: £7,146

Amount Allocated 2015/16: £6,550

[illegible]

Appendix 2

Community Development Grants Scheme 2015/16				
Applications from Organisations seeking Financial Assistance - Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee - 14 January 2016				
Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Comments
<p>Open Ayrshire</p> <p>Meeting place: Ayrshire College, Kilwinning</p> <p>Numbers attending: 49</p> <p>Balance in bank: £8,213.17 (restricted funds for various youth groups throughout Kilwinning and Irvine).</p> <p>Past awards: 0</p>	<p>Costs towards an open event in North Ayrshire to promote transgender and non-binary community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire of hall - £1,200 • Binders for information - £800 <p>Total cost of project - £9,000 (£1,000 secured from the Youth Bank).</p>	£2,000	£1,840 (£780 from this Area Committee)	<p>The recommended amount is based on 39% of young people coming from the Kilwinning area.</p> <p>The Open Event has come from the young people who want to create a North Ayrshire wide event that will promote the transgender and non-binary community and reduce and prevent the stigma towards them. The young people are also opening up the event to people from all over Ayrshire, inviting them and promoting it in the Ayrshire College Campuses.</p> <p>The recommended amount of £780 is based on £2,000 of which 8% of the young people come from out with North Ayrshire and do not meet the criteria for funding.</p>



Community Development Grant Scheme Assessment Form

1. Reporting Officer: Bernadette Anderson
2. Department: Participation and Empowerment Team
Telephone No.: 01294 604612

SECTION 1 - Details of Group/Organisation

3. Name of Group/Organisation: Open Ayrshire
4. Date of Officer's Visit: 18 December 2015 (telephone)
5. Are you satisfied that the details contained in the Grant Application are accurate? - Yes

If NO give reasons

6. Is the proposal a realistic undertaking of the group? - Yes

If NO explain why

7. Does the group carry appropriate insurance for the project? - Yes
8. Does group attendance concur with the application? - Yes
9. Does your organisation cater for children under the age of 16 years for more than 2 hours and more than 6 times per year? - No

If YES, is it registered with the Care Commission under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001? -

If NO explain why

10. Does the expenditure meet the Community Development Grant Funding Criteria? - Yes

SECTION 2 - Criteria for Assessment

11. In which way does this application address Council priorities?

Children's health and wellbeing is improved through breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes:

- Children and young people are safe, healthy, active, aspiring and achieving.

12. How will the expenditure develop the group/organisation and benefit the local community?

The expenditure will develop the group by promoting transgender and non-binary community and reduce and prevent the stigma towards them.

The young people are also offering this open event to people from all over Ayrshire by inviting them along to the event. The group are advertising the event in all the Ayrshire College Campuses.

13. How does the application show innovation or development?

This application shows innovation and development with the young people coming up with a Fashion Show event as part of LGBTBI History Month. With the support of the youth workers, the young people will put on the event and be satisfied that they have achieved what they wanted to achieve.

The young people will also be sustained in the involvement as they can also be involved with the promotion and marketing of the event, the production of the event and the catwalk itself.

14. Overall assessment?

By promoting transgender and non-binary community with a view of reducing the stigma towards them that the young people feel very strongly about and feel that this event will educate the community, promote equality and reduce and prevent this stigma against transgenders and non-binary people.

The event will be part of LGBTBI History Month in February 2016 in the Menzies Hotel, Irvine. The event will take the theme of a fashion show where the young people design their own outfits and will not have their face showing, to show their individuality and to emphasise that gender is not important.

SECTION 3 - Details of Proposed Expenditure

15. Amount Requested: £2,000

Group Contribution: £6,000

16.

SECTION 4 - Recommendation

17. Support Application: Yes

18. Defer Application?

19. Amount recommended: **£1,840 (£780 from this Area Committee)**

Give reasons

The recommended amount will enable the young people to go ahead and book the venue and purchase the information binders for the fashion show event.

This will enable the group to promote and celebrate the transgender and non-binary community throughout the whole of Ayrshire and to promote the Open Ayrshire group within the community.

The recommended amount is pro-rata to those residing in the Kilwinning area and taking out the 8% of young people who reside outwith North Ayrshire.

Signature: Bernadette Anderson

Date: 18 December 2015