

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Planning Committee: 5 June 2013

**Subject: West Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan – Amendment of Core Path
98, Cochnohill, Clydebank**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To seek approval of an amendment to Core Path 98, in the West Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Committee agree to the diversion of Core Path 98 and the subsequent amendment of the Core Paths Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 places a duty on all Local Authorities to produce a Core Path Plan.
- 3.2** The West Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan was compiled in accordance with the terms of the Act and the Guidance produced by the Scottish Government. It was adopted by the Council on 5 May 2009.
- 3.3** The West Dunbartonshire Local Access Forum and local community groups were involved in the selection of the Core Paths for the Plan in accordance with the Guidance.
- 3.4** The designation of a path or track as a Core Path will involve the path or track being promoted via signage on site, and being highlighted on Ordnance Survey maps as a Core Path.
- 3.5** Core Path 98 follows the line of the track between Cochno Road and Greenside Reservoir in the Kilpatrick Hills. The path provides an excellent route for recreational walking and cycling and is well used by the local community.
- 3.6** The track is also recorded by the Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society as a Claimed Right of Way.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** While the track has been used by local people and visitors as a recreational route into the Kilpatrick Hills for many years, it is also used to access locations around Greenside Reservoir for the consumption of alcohol.
- 4.2** This has increased the level of anti-social behaviour being experienced by the residents in the properties alongside the track and reported to the Police – especially at Wester Cochno Farm and Cochnohill. Several meetings have been held with the Police to try and address the anti-social behaviour. However this has proved to be unsuccessful due to the remote nature of the site which has many small areas of woodland and hidden areas. As a result the affected residents submitted a formal request to West Dunbartonshire Council to have the Core Path diverted.
- 4.3** The adjacent land is owned by Forestry Commission Scotland which is currently developing the area by planting woodland and installing a new path network. One of the new paths provides an alternative route which by-passes Wester Cochno Farm and Cochnohill. This path has been recently upgraded to a high standard suitable for walkers and cyclists. The alternative route is approximately 75m longer than the existing route but is of a higher standard, links to the wider path network being constructed by Forestry Commission Scotland at Cochnohill, and has superb views across the Clyde and Glasgow.
- 4.4** The request from the residents is that the Core Path designation is changed from the existing route to the alternative route which is located well away from any houses. This will result in the Core Path maps available on the Council's web site being amended to show the change, and all sign posting on site being relevant to the amended route. This should encourage use of the alternative route and reduce the levels of anti-social behaviour currently being experienced by local residents.
- 4.5** The Claimed Right of Way status on the existing track will not be changed by the amended route of the Core Path, thus still allowing access for those wishing to use the existing route, but signage on site will strongly encourage the use of the alternative route. Public notice will be given of the amendment of the Core Paths Plan.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 There are no known risks associated with this report.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 No issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this measure.

9. Consultation

9.1 A full consultation has been carried out by the Council's Access Officer with the following local organisations and user groups who use the existing route.

- Bearsden & Milngavie Ramblers
- British Horse Society Scotland
- Clydebelt
- Faifley Community Council
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Glasgow Mountain Bike Club
- Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire Ramblers
- Ramblers Scotland
- Scottish Cycling
- Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society
- Police Scotland
- West Dunbartonshire Access Forum

9.2 All were in favour of the proposed change given the nature of the request from the residents and the proximity of a suitable alternative route. The Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society did comment that the existing track is a Claimed Right of Way which must be preserved.

9.3 Consultation was also held with relevant sections of the Council and no concerns were raised.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** An assessment has been carried out on the proposal in respect of the Council's five main strategic priorities for 2012 – 2017. It is likely that it will improve the well-being of the local residents in the area who will experience a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

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Date: 13 May 2013

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Map showing current route of Core Path 98
and proposed amended route

Background Papers: West Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan, 5 May 2009.

Wards Affected: Ward 4 - Kilpatrick