

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Infrastructure & Regeneration

Planning Committee: 25 June 2014

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan – Amendment of Core Path 56, Lang Craig’s Wood, Dumbarton

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To seek approval of an amendment to Core Path 56 in the West Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Committee agree to the amendment of the Core Paths Plan to show the route of the completed path.

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 and was adopted on 5 May 2009 by the Council.
- 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 56 was originally planned to lead from Garshake Road, Dumbarton, past the Garshake Water Works, follow the access track to Maryland Farm, then follow the line of a proposed farm access track round the perimeter of a field and end at the edge of Auchenreoch Muir. The path provides an excellent route for recreational walking and cycling for recreation and is well used by the local community.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** A section of Core Path 56 was to follow a proposed farm access track round the perimeter of a field near Maryland Farm. However before the construction of the track was completed the land was purchased from the previous owner by the Woodland Trust Scotland. The Woodland Trust Scotland has changed the use of the land from agricultural use to amenity woodland. They have planted large areas of woodland and created a path network. The area is now well-used by the local community who are also involved with the planting works.
- 4.2** The path created by the Woodland Trust Scotland in this location follows a slightly different route to the proposed agricultural track. The completed path is engineered to provide a pleasant walking experience through the newly planted woodland.
- 4.3** In order to keep the Core Paths Plan accurate and reflect what has been constructed on site, an amendment is proposed to the plan to show the correct route of the Core Path (see Appendix 1).

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** The West Dunbartonshire Access Forum and the Woodland Trust Scotland have both been consulted. Both were supportive of the proposed change.

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 through an increase in the use of the path for recreation.

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Date: 5 June 2014

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

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

Wards Affected: Ward 2 - Leven