

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

### Report by Chief Officer – Shared Services Roads & Neighbourhood

Council: 9 February 2022

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**Subject: Update on Traffic/Parking Controls at Kilpatrick Hills**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on actions taken in relation to vehicular access and the use of the Kilpatrick Hills.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** Council is asked to:

- i. note the update on actions contained within the report; and
- ii. approve that monitoring will continue during the summer season 2022.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1** Council approved the undernoted motion at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021;

*This Council is concerned with the ongoing traffic congestion and associated parking issues created by the increase of people seeking access to the Old Kilpatrick Hills.*

*Council recognises that members of the public are choosing to access this area as a means of permitted daily exercise and social activity during these difficult times.*

*Council is not seeking to limit public access to our local hills and countryside but Council seeks to mitigate the effects of the increase in activity, not least the traffic and parking issues created as a result.*

*In particular, Council recognises and is concerned by the particular issues raised by residents of Old Kilpatrick and Hardgate who are greatly inconvenienced by this.*

*Council will consult with Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and the Forestry Commission and thereafter prepare a report to come back to the next meeting of Council exploring all options open to each public body to tackle these issues, and in particular, the report should highlight where each*

*organisation has responsibility and associated powers to take the necessary action to alleviate matters.*

- 3.2** A report was considered by Council on the 26 May 2021 which set out a number of actions to be progressed by the Council and partners to address the impact from increased visitor numbers to the Kilpatrick Hills. The actions to be implemented and monitored were as follows:
- i. Appointment of two additional rangers by Forestry Land Scotland for patrolling seven days a week over the summer season providing positive visitor engagement,
  - ii. Provision and servicing of large bins at the entrance to Cochno Hill to deal with the increased levels of littering at this location,
  - iii. Fast tracking planning permission for a temporary car park at Gavinburn in Old Kilpatrick at the main access point to the Kilpatrick Hills,
  - iv. Additional litter patrols around all of the access points and car parks that service the Kilpatrick Hills,
  - v. New signage at strategic access points advising visitors of the key points of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and
  - vi. Implementation of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) at key vehicular access points.

#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** The easing of the COVID-19 lockdown in conjunction with an increase in staycations resulted in an increase of visitors to countryside locations including the Kilpatrick Hills. The increased visitor numbers adversely impacted the Kilpatrick Hills and the local area with increased vehicle movement, litter and antisocial behaviour.
- 4.2** Officers met with partners including Police Scotland and Forestry Land Scotland to determine what measures could be progressed to improve the experience for visitors and residents.
- 4.3** A number of key actions were identified to address issues being experienced within the local area and to improve access to those that wish to visit and experience the Kilpatrick Hills.
- 4.4** The update on the delivery of the actions is as follows:
- i) The appointment of two additional Rangers was implemented by Forestry Land Scotland who carried out engagement with visitors. This

resulted in a reduction in complaints and instances of antisocial behaviour over the summer season,

- ii) The provision and servicing of the large bins at the entrance to Cochno Hill has reduced the extent of litter being left in the park,
- iii) The planning permission for a temporary car park at Gavinburn, Old Kilpatrick, was fast tracked. This facilitated Forestry Land Scotland to agree a lease of the site with the landowner. The car park became operational early summer and greatly reduced the parking issues in the surrounding roads,
- iv) Additional litter patrols were carried out in the vicinity of the access points and car parks. This service has continued to be provided following the summer season. There has been very few complaints in relation to litter since these patrols commenced,
- v) Signage has been installed setting out information in relation to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The locations, messaging and number of signs will continue to be monitored and additional signs installed if required, and
- vi) The temporary traffic orders (TROs) have been implemented on a number of the key access roads including Cochno Road, Mount Pleasant Drive and Station Road. The parking restrictions have largely been adhered to and there have no issues reported to the Roads Service in relation to obstructive or inconsiderate parking following their implementation.

**4.5** It is proposed to continue monitoring the measures implemented and to review following the summer season 2022.

## **5. People Implications**

**5.1** There are no direct people implications resulting from this report.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Implications**

**6.1** There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

**7.1** Failure to address the issues identified as a result of increased visitor numbers at the Kilpatrick Hills and surrounding access points could lead to reputational damage to the Council and other partner Organisations.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**8.1** An initial screening confirms there is no adverse impact.

## **9. Consultation**

**9.1** As detailed in the main issues section of this report engagement has taken place with user groups and other interested parties. This informed the actions made in the paper.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

**10.1** This report supports the Councils Strategic objective of efficient and effective public services that improve the lives of residents.

**Gail MacFarlane**

**Chief Officer – Shared Services Roads & Neighbourhood**

Date: 21 January 2022

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**Person to Contact:** Ian Bain, Greenspace Manager

**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** Response to motion to Council – 3 March 2021:  
Kilpatrick Hills

**Wards Affected:** All