

# Washing Bay Wetlands Park

“A centre for recreation, healthy living & heritage interpretation”

Presentation to Mid Ulster Council’s Development Committee

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Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



LOUGH NEAGH  
Landscape Partnership



- a. Provide an overall strategic focus for the development of the site as an environmental and recreational hub that would complement proposed developments for Coalisland, Blackwater catchment & SW L. Neagh Peatlands

- i. Community planning process
- ii. Rural development engagement
- iii. Lough Neagh Heritage review

- i. MUDC Community Plan
- ii. MUDC Tourism Strategy
- iii. Washing Bay Village Plan
- iv. LNP's Landscape Conservation Plan

d. Maximise opportunities for securing externally sourced capital funding from Sports Council, RDP, HLF and others





# What are the opportunities?

- New “wild campsite” and shore land infrastructure that will complement L. Neagh Canoe Trail
- Improved access opportunities for recreation, healthy living & heritage interpretation
- Improved children’s play facilities
- Extended Healthy Living Centre that will facilitate greater community use
- Management plan to improve conservation value of Nature Reserve
- Improved site access from main roads
- New interpretative and information signage throughout the site





# What are the opportunities?

New and improved access opportunities for healthy living, tourism, public recreation and environmental education & interpretation.

- Upgrade work in nature reserve
- New shoreline access
- New long distance circular walk
- Link to new peatland walk connecting to Canal and activities linked to the newly secured HLF Great Places programme
- New access links to the Blackwater



# Development considerations/Summary

- **Current potential projects:**
- Project 1) Walkway with park lighting (100k)
- Project 2) Lough Neagh access project (100k)
- Legal issues:
  - Main development site owned by MUDC with current gatekeeper SLA with Muintir na Mointeach
- Financial issues:
  - Project 1 - Stage 2 business case application with Sport NI “Everybody active, Outdoor spaces” - £75,000 secured on business case and match funding in place . Match fund required 25k.
  - Project 2 - Secured funding of £23,650.00 from the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. Potential RDP Cooperation Programme being investigated by LNP and MURDP (£75k)
- Technical issues:
  - Need to bring both proposals to technical design stage (RIBA Stage 4). Project 1 can be delivered by Council or Community if match funding of £25k were available. Project 2 has been costed at £2,600.00. LNLP can cover up to £1,600.00 leaving a shortfall of £1,000.00. LNLP would manage the Developmental stage.
- Partnership
  - Need to Identify lead partner in delivery of each project

# Next Steps

- We would request that:
  - a. Council give consideration to endorsing the Washingbay Masterplan
  - b. Council give consideration to providing a £25,000.00 contribution to Project 1
  - c. Council approve relevant permissions for Muintir na Mointeach working in partnership with LNLP and MUDC Officers to progress Project 1 as Lead partner
  - d. Council give consideration to providing a £1,000.00 contribution to LNLP who will take Project 2 to Technical Design Stage (RIBA Stage 4) for submission to MURDP Lough Neagh Cooperation programme