

Report on	Pilgrimage Trail between Ardboe Cross and Battery Harbour
Date of Meeting	Thursday 10 th May 2018
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the development of a new 2 km way-marked trail between Ardboe Cross and Battery Harbour.
2.0	Background
2.1	Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver the Lough Neagh Partnership Programme. The programme aims to address the heritage needs of the Lough and its shoreline on a holistic integrated landscape basis. The programme will deliver 27 projects that relate directly to the conservation of the Lough's cultural, built and natural heritage.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The 2km way-marked trail between Ardboe Cross and Battery Harbour is one of 27 projects. At this stage it is proposed that the 2 km trail will follow the edge of the ASSI and comprise of directional signage, stiles and kissing gates. All landowners along the route have been identified and contacted, by the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership staff, with regards to the proposal.</p> <p>The trail is designed so that no path construction is required, the trail will follow the existing field boundaries currently on the ground. No grass cutting or surface maintenance will be necessary as a natural desire line will develop reducing vegetation. Where required stiles, information panels and foot bridges will be installed for which MUDC will be responsible. MUDC will, subject to Council approval, be expected to cover the public liability insurance for the trail similar to other community trials at Dunamore and Augher.</p> <p>Council will progress the project on the ground to establish Permissive Path Agreements with landowners. Members will be kept informed of project developments and time scales.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

	<p>Financial: No capital cost to council. On completion of project Council will, subject to Council approval, be required to cover annual inspection, insurance and maintenance costs from Parks revenue budget.</p>
	<p>Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver project</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Project will be managed in compliance with council policies and normal operating procedures.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Increasing access in the rural community and contributing to rural economy opportunities</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	This report is for the purpose of members information.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A