

D065/21

Master Plan/Business Case – Maghera Walkways

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to seek Council approval to appoint a suitably qualified consultancy team to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road/Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.

Councillor Corry said that she like to propose the item as it was very welcome news for Maghera as the Walled Garden has been a huge success and a well-loved and well used feature in Maghera and had also increased the appetite for further development of outdoor recreational greenspace for the village. She said that getting outdoors has been a great importance for people, especially during the past year for physical and mental health and this addition to increase greenspace would be a great asset with community input to the masterplan and the creation of habitat, biodiversity and conservation, natural play and a network of community trails in the area. She stated that this would add to enhance the Walled Garden and the Largentogher Walkway and looked forward to seeing the development of the project.

Councillor Black seconded the recommendation and concurred with Councillor Corry's comments regarding the appetite within the local community for some time for further greenspace to be provided and was no doubt that these calls would be strengthened due to the importance that has been placed on greenspace over this last year since the 12 – Development Committee (15.04.21) onset of the pandemic. He said that he believed on the progress on securing this land and the commissioning of a consultancy team to put together a masterplan for the provision of greenspace and an outdoor recreation area in Maghera has shown that the Council had been listening to the requests coming from the community and trusts that this would be the next step in delivering what would be a great amenity for the people of Maghera and its surroundings areas.

Councillor Kearney wished to place on record his thanks to Council officials who had negotiated the purchase and transfer of the significant 37 acres. The physical development and action plan with the key message for Maghera at time which was devised as a vibrant welcoming place where people work in referred to the five opportunity sites which were heralded in the 2017-2030 action plan. He said that it was great to add another project to the list alongside another recent development the Trim Trail at the former PSNI station and felt that the greenspace identified would go a long way to satisfy the interests and needs of the people and looked forward to the next phase of this development and the involvement of the consultancy team to develop a master plan and business case as these were exciting times.

Proposed by Councillor Corry

Seconded by Councillor Black

And

Resolved That it be recommended to Council be granted to progress procurement of a suitably qualified Consultancy Teams to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road/Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.