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| Report on | Greenlough Greenway Path Creation |
| Date of Meeting | Thursday 11 November 2021 |
| Reporting Officer | N Hill Head of Parks |
| Contact Officer | A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | Council approval to enter into nine Permissive Path Agreements with nine different landowners in relation to lands in and around Clady River, Inishrush and Greenlough for the creation of a path network, known as Greenlough Greenways. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | In 2016 Mid Ulster District Council granted were approached by Bann Valley Community Group to support the Community Group in the creation of a network of pathways along the Clady River. At this time approvals were granted, (Appendix Minute Ref D221/6). |
| 2.2 | Since 2016, 5 kilometres of circular walking trails along the Clady River, Inishrush and Greenlough have been created by the Community Group. |
| 2.3 | The Community Group wish to extend this by a further 2 kilometres and are continually working with the landowners to secure access (Appendix Map). |
| 2.4 | There is a data counter located on the walkway and approx 2,440 people use this pathway monthly according to records presented by the community group. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | The 5 kilometre path network has been developed through the determined and dedicated efforts of the Bann Valley Community Group and the local landowners. In order to secure the longevity of the project the landowners have requested to enter into Public Path Agreements (PPA) with the Council. Thereby securing access to the pathway network should the community group for whatever reason cease to operate in the future. |
| 3.2 | Under a Permissive Path Agreement the landowner still owns the land however the Council is responsible for the maintenance and insurance of the pathway. Early discussions with the Community Group have indicated that they may be willing to |

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| 3.3 | <p>enter into a Service Level Agreement with Council regarding future maintenance and inspection pathway network.</p> <p>There are nine landowners along the length of pathway. The next stage of the project is to secure landowner agreements through Council's Countryside Development Officer and legal team.</p> |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | <p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: There are no financial costs associated with the creation of the nine Permissive Path Agreement's.</p> <p>Estimated path maintenance costs of £4,000 requires to be budgeted within annual maintenance allocations.</p> <p>Human: Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.</p> <p>Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p> |
| 4.2 | <p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p> |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | <p>Members approval is sought to enter into nine Permissive Path Agreements with nine landowners in relation to the development of the path network along the Clady River, Inishrush and Greenlough, known as Greenlough Greenways.</p> |
| 5.2 | <p>Members approval is sought to investigate the potential of establishing a service level agreement with Bann Valley Community Group. A future detailed report to be submitted to committee for consideration/ approval in due course.</p> |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | <p>Appendix – Minute Ref D221/6 Appendix – Map of path network</p> |