

Report on	Solar Walk, Davagh, Landowner Lease Agreements
Date of Meeting	October 2019
Reporting Officer	Nigel Hill, Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Anne Reid

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To formalise a lease agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and two individual landowners in respect of the Solar Walk at Davagh Forest.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Solar Walk is proposed as part of the Davagh Forest Dark Skies development, subject to funding. The new public access trail will connect both the natural heritage of Davagh with the built heritage of Beaghmore, creating a significant asset for the wider engagement of the public with landscape in the area.
2.2	The walk will start in Davagh Forest and follow an existing forest path heading south. From here the walk will traverse the slope to the flood plain of the Broughderg River, crossing the river using a bridge, from the river the walk continues south. The route then splits with one section heading west to connect with the glamping pods. The other section continues south to meet with an existing farm laneway and out onto the Blackrock Road, continuing to a destination at the carpark and entrance to Beaghmore Stone Circles.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Council Officers have been working with the relevant landowners south of Davagh Forest in order to establish agreed routes for the creation of public paths. Designated routes have been agreed. Council will be required to formalise these agreements through Lease Agreements with the individual landowners. Land and Property Services will be required to value the land take and provide an annual rental valuation for Council consideration. Council's legal services will be engaged to establish the Lease Agreements.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

	<p>Financial: Annual rent for the associated land take will be determined by Land and Property Services</p>
	<p>Human: Council staff time</p>
	<p>Risk Management: In line with council policy and procedures</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In line with council policy and procedures</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In line with council policy and procedures</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval is sought to seek the establishment of two individual Lease Agreements with the relevant landowners in respect of lands crossed by the Solar Walk as part of the Davagh Forest Dark Skies development project.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix Solar Walk route map.