

Report on	Path and Angling Stands at Glenone and Newferry
Date of Meeting	Thursday 4 th April 2019
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 seek members approval for the council to allocate capital budget resources in relation to the development of public path access and extension of public angling amenity at Glenone to Newferry.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council are seeking to continue with public path/trail and angling development opportunities on the Bann in conjunction with Water Ways Ireland strategic plan with a clear objective to seek an off-road link from Portglenone Town to Newferry, approximately 7 kilometres of trail. The project forms a key element of the draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy which will be presented to Committee for approval shortly.
2.2	Council have completed phase 1 works at Portglenone Bridge with the link to Glenone angling amenity supported through 100% funding package of £106,000 from Water Ways Ireland. Works on this phase are now complete.
2.3	In December 2018 the council approved a proposal to accept £70,000 funding from LNP and HLF to establish new public access opportunities and create additional angling facilities along a section of river bank from Ballymacombs to Newferry and to establish private landowner lease agreements to facilitate the proposed development.
2.4	The identification of further necessary development works to facilitate the upcoming FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019 angling requires council to extend the scope of works at Glenone Wood and Newferry to accommodate additional angling stands. This requires refurbishment of existing stands and establishment of new stands/pegs. It also requires the provision of an upgrade to current public path and vehicular access roads. This necessitates additional stands to be provided at stage 2 of the project if the event is to go ahead.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019 is an annual event scheduled for 27 th -30 th June, which affiliated national angling associations countries from across Europe bid to host, in a format not unlike how countries bid for the hosting of the Olympic games. This year's European Championships is brought to Ireland by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland the only body representing coarse & predator angling in Ireland, North and South and the only body representing the World Sport Fishing Federation, CIPS. The achievement of scooping this event has been the culmination of two years lobbying by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI) and Water Ways Ireland (WWI).
3.2	The event planners anticipate 25 nations will take part in the event scheduled for the third week in June 2019 and have based their estimates on data collected from previous similar events.
3.3	In addition, the federation must supply a significant number of stewards (125) to facilitate the event, some of whom along with the organisers will choose to stay in the local area adding to the overall economic benefits this event will bring to the area.
3.4	Spectator numbers are difficult to gauge and dependant on promotion but are estimated to be in excess of 5,000 based on previous events hosted by The National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI).
3.5	Economic forecast estimations provided by NCFFI based on similar events hosted in Ireland based on a profile of 25 attending nations suggests that up to 2,000 bed nights for the region will be generated over the period in advance of the competition and during the actual event weekend. With additional visits for training outside of the championships and an increase in the number of events on the venue, NCFFI believe the event has the ability to deliver a direct economic benefit of up to £2m and will leave a legacy for angling in the region
3.4	In December 2018 members approved to accept Lough Neagh Partnership and Heritage Lottery Fund financial contributions of £70,000 towards the project. Currently other funding opportunities are limited. Mid Ulster District Council is seeking potential additional funding opportunities for 2019-20 with Waterways Ireland, SportNI and DAERA under Tackling Rural poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) programmes, however at this stage there is no confirmation.
3.5	Nevertheless the short and longer-term net benefits associated to the development of the venue in managed phases coupled with the hosting of the prestigious EURO 25 will have an instant and lasting impact on the region and provide a basis for a continued programme of development that will underpin the importance of the River Bann and Mid Ulster to an audience across the countries of Europe and further afield as a result of this initiative and the infrastructure provided under the scope of the scheme.

3.6	Portglenone Angling and Blueway Project has the capacity to deliver a world class angling venue fit to compete on any comparable stage. The quality of the River Bann and accessible green/open space is an instant attraction to visitors and anglers alike. The project will open the countryside for members of the community of all abilities as well as visiting tourists, increasing economic opportunities and developing cross community cohesion and increased social inclusion seamlessly.
3.7	In order to advance the necessary elements of the stage 2 development proposal an estimated capital resource contribution of £315,883 from council is requested (projections are based on actual tendered costs associated to phase one, similar programme of works). The figure does not include 10% contingency or professional fees).
3.8	Officers are currently working with the design team to identify potential savings in the contract. This could include reducing the number of passing bays on the path, reducing the number of existing stands repaired, reducing the area of path to be resurfaced and reducing ancillary equipment installed e.g. seating, pedestrian counter etc. Further estimated savings of up to £40k could be realised (needs to be confirmed at tender stage).
3.9	<p>The extension to the scope of works will require additional land take. Landowner agreements will be required on the basis of a lease to council of identified strips of land totalling approximately 1500 - 2000 metres long and 10-15 metres wide to create a development corridor to permit public access and the creation of additional angling stands. The main terms of the Lease will follow the current draft template and include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 year term with option to renew; • 5 yearly rent reviews linked to market rent; • The Council will provide and maintain all agreed accommodation works associated to boundary stock proof fencing, gates or styles; • The Council will bear the initial cost of a water supply to the lands for the purposes of watering stock; • The Council will inspect and maintain the public car park area, public access pathways, angling stands and all furniture and signage associated to the amenity; and • The Council will provide public liability insurance.
3.10	Land & Property Services will be required to provide a valuation on the measured land take to facilitate the development proposal.
3.11	The tender was uploaded onto the Council E-Tenders website inviting experienced and competent contractors to carry out construction works as per the supplied tender documentation. A two stage process will be used for the contract PQQ and ITT stages. The procurement timeline is as follows:

	<table> <tr> <td>Release of PQQ documents</td><td>7th March 2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>Release of ITT documents</td><td>4th April 2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>Return of ITT documents</td><td>18th April 2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>1 week mobilisation for contract</td><td>19th April</td></tr> <tr> <td>Completion of project (following 6 week of construction)</td><td>7th June 2019</td></tr> </table>	Release of PQQ documents	7 th March 2019	Release of ITT documents	4 th April 2019	Return of ITT documents	18 th April 2019	1 week mobilisation for contract	19 th April	Completion of project (following 6 week of construction)	7 th June 2019
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4.0	Other Considerations										
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications										
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Council Capital Fund Allocation to project of £315,883. Further savings are currently being identified by reducing certain elements of the project (estimated at £40k.)</p> <p>Council will be responsible for the payment of the Lessor's reasonable legal fees and Agent fees in respect to a Lease.</p> <p>Council is also responsible for LPS valuation costs and the annual rent agreed between the parties.</p> <p>Council will be responsible for annual insurance, inspection and maintenance costs associated to operational management.</p>										
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Council Officers time.</p>										
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>In accordance with current Council risk management procedures</p>										
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments										
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>In accordance with council policies and procedures.</p>										
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>In accordance with council policies and procedures.</p>										

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Members note the level of external funding secured to date and the strategic importance of continued public access and angling developments on the River Bann in conjunction with MUDC's objective to establish a continuous trail link from Portglenone to Newferry.
5.2	Members approval is sought for the recommendation from Development Committee for the allocation of £315,883 funding from 2019-20 Council Capital Programme Fund. The figure does not include 10% contingency or professional fees).
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Plan map Appendix 2 Business Plan Appendix 3 Event summary Appendix 4 Letter from NCFFI