



**Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council**

CLIENT: MID ULSTER COUNCIL  
80 BURN ROAD  
COOKSTOWN  
BT80 8DT

PROJECT: Iniscarn Forest

PROJECT ADDRESS: Iniscarn Road, Co. Derry

DRAWING NAME: Iniscarn Forest Proposal

SCALE: 1:500 @ A1

DATE: May 2021

DWG No	REV
MUDC/TB/C/2021001	A

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## C133/21 Iniscarn Forest, (TRPSI) Development Project

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval from Members for the:

- Development of Iniscarn forest and to update on the application made to DAERA for TRPSI funding to assist in the development of Iniscarn Forest.
- Outdoor Recreation capital budget and to enter into a lease agreement with Forest Service NI (FSNI) to allow for the creation of a carpark and play area within the forest.

Councillor Clarke welcomed the progress stating that it was a jewel in the crown of Mid Ulster with the outstanding views. He stated that he had been glad to be involved in the project which has been in progress over a number of years and had been in talks with local farmers regarding various issues. Councillor Clarke stated whilst he welcomed the project's progress he said that there had been no consultation or contact with Members involved on what was being worked up or planned. He said as local councillors they should have been kept on board but for some time had not been aware of any progress and stressed the importance of keeping Members in the loop.

Councillor Elattar concurred with comments especially with regard to communication and stated she was happy to second the proposal which would be welcomed by the local community. In response to her query regarding all ability play equipment and accessible picnic benches the Head of Parks agreed that the project would be inclusive. He further clarified that the 12 picnic benches highlighted in the access and inclusion programme were new and it would be the desire to equip all new facilities with the accessible equipment and furniture and in the fullness of time replace existing.

Councillor Kerr welcomed accessible picnic benches and highlighted that in Drumcairn Forest the area was overgrown with grass and asked if Council officers could make contact with the forestry service to tidy up the area. In response the Head of Parks said he would pass the request to the Forestry service.

Councillor Burton welcomed the project stating that forestry areas had come to the fore during lock down and asked for an update on progress with regard to Lumford's Glen as it had been a long time on the agenda and she was aware of recent meetings between Forestry Service and officers.

In relation to President Grants play park which was recently re-opened Councillor Burton asked if more monies become available if more play equipment could be added as for older children the removal of the slide had been a disappointment.

Councillor Burton also sought an update in relation to White Lough and the request for Council to work with Rivers Agency to provide bins in the area. She highlighted that people from Benburb and Aughnacloy were being encouraged to utilise the facility but the litter problem needed to be dealt with.

Councillor Cuddy sought clarification in relation to the cost of the project in response the Head of Parks clarified that the total cost is £275k 75% funding with Council contribution of £68k which would be allocated from the Outdoor Recreation Strategy capital allocation approve by Council which totals £250k annually.

Councillor Wilson sought clarification in relation to what poses as a conflict of interest stating that a Member said he had been involved with negotiations in the early stages, with local farmers, but had not declared an interest then have proposed the project.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said the Members had been involved in the project initially but it had then been progressed by Council officers.

Councillor Wilson drew attention to comments by a Member in relation to discussing issues with farmers.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation said the project is with the Forestry Service and lands are owned by them thus there was no conflict.

Councillor Wilson stated he had to accept what they were told but negotiations had been mentioned.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Elattar

Resolved

That it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under Section 3.3 of the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to approve –

- (i) The development proposal for Inisclairn project as described in the report.
- (ii) To present the Inisclairn Forest development proposal to the Policy and Resources committee for approval of the Council match funding subject to funding being approved from DEARA as part of the TRPSI funding allocation.
- (iii) The request to enter into a lease agreement with FSNI to allow for the development of a carpark & play area within Iniscarn Forest.