

<b>Report on</b>	Visitor Signage at Lough Fea
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Wednesday 4th July 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Anne Reid

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Upgrade of current visitor information signage and user data collection methods at Lough Fea.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Council have been contacted by a members of the public regarding whether or not cycling around Lough Fea is permitted. Cyclists have been using the paths without any conflict issues.
2.2	There are several signs positioned around the Lough stating ' <i>No bikes or quads along the path</i> ' however it is very unclear as to whether this refers to motorised bikes or a bicycle, (Appendix 1). In order to address this identified area of confusion for current and potential visitors to the local beauty spot, clarification is required.
2.3	It is proposed that motorised cycles, motor bikes and quads will remain prohibited from the pathways at Lough Fea, and that pedal cyclists will be permitted.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Lough Fea is a very popular destination within MUDC, attracting just over 51,000 visitors in 2017. A Public Path Agreement was set up in 2004 between the then Cookstown District Council, Department of Regional Development and Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to dedicate a public path around the Lough. This agreement allows for members of the public to pass and repass on foot and the right to ride a pedal cycle.
3.2	An audit was carried out on site to establish the feasibility of a dual use path, for walkers and cyclists. The majority of the path is between 2 – 3 metres wide, however there are a few pinch points at 1.2 m wide. It is recommended that the path around Lough Fea be established as a dual use path with appropriate signage erected for users to show respect to each other, cyclists ring bell or dismount where necessary to do so.
3.3	Forest Service NI have been made aware of this proposal and have no issues with it as it complies with regulations they have for other sites.
3.4	Current visitor information collection methods to be reviewed to facilitate the accurate capture of cyclist data on site.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:  Additional signage required (Share with care signs) estimated cost £350.00  Upgrade of current data collection equipment £1500.00</p> <p>Above expenditure available in Parks Services annual budget for 2018/19.</p>
	<p>Human:  Existing staff resource sufficient to deliver on project.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:  Appropriate signage erected to reduce risk at pinch points and areas with reduced sight lines.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:  N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:  N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Approval is sought for the erection of appropriate signage for clarification of the dual use trail options for both walkers and cyclists to Lough Fea.
5.2	Approval is sought to review and upgrade current data collection methods were necessary to accurately capture visitor usage figures.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Current visitor signage at Lough Fea (Appendix 1).