

Report on	Newmills Path Creation
Date of Meeting	12th May 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Anne Reid, Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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 seek Council approval to enter into one Permissive Path Agreement (PPA) with one landowner in relation to lands adjacent to the Torrent River for the creation of a path network, known as Newmills Community River Trail.
2.0	Background
2.1	Newmills Community River Trail has been funded by the CatchmentCARE CIS (Community Incentive Scheme). In 2020, Torrent River Enhancement Group applied for the funding and were successful in attracting a grant of £20,000. This grant is for development of river trail, delivering an education programme with local schools, purchasing equipment, interpretive panels and delivering community engagement events.
2.2	The River trail will extend from the existing Newmills Community Garden, connecting this area with a vacant piece of ground close to the Newmills Orange Hall. The trail will use the existing roadside pavement for approx 160m until this ends opposite the Quintinmanus Road. The trail will then proceed into a small field, currently in private ownership, following the Torrent River. The trail will exit the field via a newly installed gate before proceeding up the path adjacent to the Newmills Aqueduct. This is Phase One of the project. The trail will consist of a compacted gravel path with adjacent stock-proof fencing. Further details are enclosed within Appendix A..
2.3	The paths in and around the Newmills Aqueduct have recently been cut back and tidied up by the Community Group - they will continue to do this to ensure that the path remains open and enjoyable for all.
2.4	The Community Group have further aspirations to further link the Newmills Aqueduct to the Brackaville Road, via Brackaville Ridge and create a circular community trail around the village, approx 1.2km. This is Phase Two of the Project.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members resolved to approve the MUDC Five Year Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan in March 2020 (minute reference: D052/20). Part of this strategy action plan is for officers to pursue ongoing future community trail development opportunities along with development of service level agreements where appropriate.
3.2	The Newmills Community River Trail is approx 550m of a path network linking the village of Newmills with the Newmills Aqueduct.

3.3	The existing path improvement works and network has been developed through the efforts of the Torrent River Enhancement Group and the local landowners. In order to secure the longevity of the project, the landowner has requested to enter into a PPA with Council - thereby securing access to the pathway network should the community group for whatever reason cease to operate in the future.
3.4	Under a PPA, 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 enter into a Service Level Agreement with Council regarding future maintenance and inspection pathway network.
3.5	Currently there is one landowner along the length of pathway. However, as funding becomes available the Community Group would like to extend this path network to create a circular community trail, Phase Two.
3.6	The next stage of the project is to secure landowner agreements through Council's Parks & Countryside Development Officer and Legal team.
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 Permissive Path Agreement.</p> <p>Estimated annual path maintenance costs of £1,000 requires to be budgeted within annual maintenance allocations - subject to agreement in the rates estimates process for April 23 – March 24.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and to seek Members approval to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enter into one Permissive Path Agreements with one landowner in relation to the development of the path network along the Torrent River, Newmills known as the Newmills Community River Trail. Estimated annual path maintenance costs of £1,000 requires to be budgeted within annual maintenance allocations - subject to agreement in the rates estimates process for April 23 – March 24. • investigate the potential of establishing a service level agreement with Torrent River Enhancement Group. A future detailed report to be submitted to development committee for Members consideration at the appropriate time.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A – Map of path network