

Report on	Update on Capital Projects – DAERA Funding
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary McKeown, Charmain Bell, Genevieve Bell

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 update on the progress of the Capital Projects funded by DAERA at Davagh Forest and Ballyronan Marina
2.0	Background
2.1	<p><u>Davagh Observatory and Visitor Centre</u> Construction of the new Observatory and Visitor Centre began in March 2019. The design is based on the uniqueness of the wider Davagh landscape, an area with naturally dark skies and low levels of light pollution.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Outdoor Visitor Experience at Davagh Forest Dark Sky Observatory</u> A unique outdoor visitor experience to enhance the visitor experience at the new Centre. Using high-powered projection mapping as series of audio-visual shows will be projected onto the east side of the building. These are being created for night-time events educating visitors on, dark skies, the vastness of the universe, the local heritage and landscapes.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Solar Walk</u> To further link the natural, archaeological and astronomical heritage of the area, the creation of the Solar Walk will connect Davagh Forest and Beaghmore Stone Circles. The walk will embrace the magnitude of the sky and actually show just how big space is, by creating a scale model of the planets along a 3-4km scenic walk.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Davagh Forest Archaeology Trail</u> The creation of the new Archaeology trail will allow public access to three key Bronze Age sites located within Davagh Forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Remains of a stone circle comparable to the Beaghmore Stone Circles; (ii) A well preserved ring cairn with two stone aliments; and (iii) A Wedge Tomb, known locally as “The Big Man’s Grave”. <p>This is a circular walk starting and finishing at the new Observatory and Visitor Centre.</p>

2.5	<p><u>Ballyronan Marina/Fivemiletown Round Lake Water Sports/Activities Project</u></p> <p>Initially the Council were considering developing on water glamping and on-water activities at the Roundlake in Fivemiletown. Council officers have been advised that the site is not available to develop such a proposition and have been considering other potential sites for this project within the District.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Davagh Observatory and Visitor Centre</u></p> <p>To date the building is progressing as planned with all statutory approvals in place. The main timber frame has been formed with external membrane installed. Progress has begun on the internal stud walls.</p> <p>Digital content for the internal interactive exhibition has been approved with Tandem, with final artwork to be released in November 2019.</p> <p>Branding for the new centre is currently underway with first draft proposals available in October 2019.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Outdoor Visitor Experience at Davagh Forest Dark Sky Observatory</u></p> <p>Tandem have commenced work on the content for the new outdoor experience. The landscape design of the purpose build outdoor viewing platform and play area in the forest were approved by planning in July 2019.</p> <p>Michael Browne and Mary McKeown attended a site meeting with Tandem on Thursday 8th August discussing the content of the audio-visual shows. Tandem are presenting to the board on the 18th September with proposed content for the AV show and landscape element.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Solar Walk</u></p> <p>Council officers met with the landowners on Tuesday 16th July and walked the proposed route from Beaghmore Stone Circles to Davagh Forest. The identified route has been issued to the landowners and is currently going through the legal process for the required lease agreements.</p> <p>MUDC Parks department are liaising with the Forest Service Licence Agreement to include the new trail developments.</p> <p>Procurement for the ICT design team is currently underway, and due for completion in December 2019.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Davagh Forest Archaeology Trail</u></p> <p>A proposed route has been identified using part of the existing green Mountain Bike trail, along with the construction of a new path to access the three archaeological sites.</p> <p>MUDC Parks department are liaising with the Forest Service Licence Agreement to include the new trail developments.</p>

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3.5	<p><u>Ballyronan Marina</u></p> <p>Proposal is to develop a combination of 4 x high end on water glamping pods and on water activities. This unique experience will have an international appeal. The proposal is to develop 4 x on water glamping pods with on water activities.</p>
3.6	A Green Book Economic Appraisal is required to be completed for the Ballyronan Marina on Water Glamping and Activities Project prior to the full application being submitted to DAERA on 31 st December 2019.
3.7	The recommendation is move the project concept from Fivemiletown to to Ballyronan Marina. DAERA have been consulted with regards to the change of location for this project and are happy the Council works up the application for the Ballyronan site.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Within budget
	Human:
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p><u>Ballyronan On Water Glamping Pods</u></p> <p>Seek approval to relocate the on water glamping pods project from The Round Lake in Fivemiletown to Ballyronan Marina. To work up the full application to be submitted to DAERA on or before 31st December, for the Ballyronan Marina site.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References