

Report on	Tree Planting Scheme at Tullyvar Landfill Site
Date of Meeting	5 th July 2021
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Waste Disposal & Contracts Manager

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 inform members of the recent planting of a new native broadleaf woodland at Tullyvar Landfill Site with grant funding from the DAERA Forest Expansion Scheme.		
2.0	Background		
2.1	Tullyvar landfill site stopped accepting waste in October 2018 and was subsequently capped in 2019/20. The capped area along with other unused areas of the site provided over 4 hectares of available space suitable for tree planting.		
2.2	The Forest Expansion Scheme, which is operated by the Forest Service, provides up to 100% of approved woodland creation costs in addition to a further 2 years of maintenance costs. The scheme is open to all landowners with a minimum of 3 hectares of available space. A successful application was made for Tullyvar landfill.		
3.0	Main Report		
3.1	Under the scheme/application a new native broadleaf woodland was established at site in May using locally sown and grown trees. The woodland comprises approx. 4.4 Hectares of woodland as shown (in areas 1 to 9) of the attached map. The area adds to existing areas of forest already on-site (area 10) and the existing wetlands.		
3.2	The trees were specifically chosen to have shallow roots so as to prevent damage to the capping membranes; 12 different native species were planted as follows:		
	Downy Birch	Wild Cherry	Guelder Rose
	Silver Birch	Aspen	Willow
	Alder	Hazel	Scots Pine
	Rowan	Crab Apple	Small Leaved Lime
3.3	The trees were planted in single species circular clusters (2,000 stems per ha) with varied spacing to make the woodland look as natural as possible, with meandering paths throughout and perimeter access retained. Trees are protected with recycled clear plastic spiral guards and a cane and the Scots Pine protected using mesh guards with two canes. There is approx. 20% open space within the woodland that will incorporate access tracks and open glades throughout.		

3.4	Now that the planting has been completed there will be an ongoing maintenance programme for the next 3 years including replacement of dead or dying trees and hand weeding as necessary.																
3.5	<p>The Council partnered with the consultants Indiwoods who prepared the application for funding and are also responsible for the planting and maintenance of the woodland for the first 3 years. Indiwoods had previously been involved with the establishment of similar woodlands at Ballymacombs and Magheraglass landfill sites. A summary of the planting across all three sites is detailed in the table below:</p> <table><tr><td>Landfill Site</td><td>No. Trees Planted</td><td>Area Covered (ha)</td><td>Cost/Funding (£)</td></tr><tr><td>Ballymacombs</td><td>13,200</td><td>6.1</td><td>26,432</td></tr><tr><td>Magheraglass</td><td>11,200</td><td>5.6</td><td>23,980</td></tr><tr><td>Tullyvar</td><td>8,800</td><td>4.4</td><td>20,232</td></tr></table>	Landfill Site	No. Trees Planted	Area Covered (ha)	Cost/Funding (£)	Ballymacombs	13,200	6.1	26,432	Magheraglass	11,200	5.6	23,980	Tullyvar	8,800	4.4	20,232
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3.6	The use of capped landfill sites to establish new woodlands in the Mid Ulster area has been of great benefit to the local environment and biodiversity and will also enable the Council to offset over 5,000 tonnes of carbon per annum. This will help the Councils towards meeting its new Corporate Improvement Objective <i>“to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action”</i> .																
3.7	An opportunity to work with the Woodland Trust on carbon credits was also proposed by Indiwoods. This would have involved the Council selling the carbon credits accrued from its woodlands to the Woodland Trust. In order to be eligible, the woodland would have to be considered as a long term woodland project and although it can be managed and thinned during its lifetime, it needs to be thought of as woodland for perpetuity. A payment of approx. £10,000 may have been possible, however it was felt that more appropriate to retain the carbon credits so as to assist the Council in meeting its own its Corporate Improvement Objectives.																
4.0	Other Considerations																
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications																
	<p>Financial: The total capital costs for the Tullyvar woodland are: Tree Planting - £15,834.60 Year 2 Maintenance - £2,298 Year 3 Maintenance - £2,100 Total - £20,232.60 This was 100% funded by Forest Service under the Forest Expansion Scheme.</p>																
	<p>Human: Some officer time on the Council side was required for project management duties e.g. liaising with consultants, attending site meetings, authorising payments etc.</p>																
	<p>Risk Management: None</p>																

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Tullyvar Forest Expansion Scheme Woodland Areas Drawing
6.2	Tullyvar Tree Planting Pictures