

Title of Report:	Development of Walking Trails Permissive Path Agreements
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	19th November 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Resilient, Healthy and Engaging Communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to our natural environments to help develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation Coast & Countryside Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£500
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: N/A
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: N/A
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: N/A
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: N/A
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: N/A
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date: N/A

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed with the renewal of a Permissive Path Agreement with Andrew McAlister and the creation of a new Permissive Path Agreement with John and Charlie McAlister at Cushendall Riverside Path.

2.0 Background

Provision, development and access to quality walking opportunities throughout the Borough is an important objective for the Council's Tourism & Recreation Service. The Council manages and maintains many miles of coastal, rural and urban pathways which provide our citizens and visitors with access to our natural outdoor assets and promotes physical exercise and engagement with nature.

Whilst the majority of the Council managed walking experience is on Council owned land, some is jointly maintained with bodies such as the National Trust, Forest Service and Transport NI and in some cases through licence and management agreements with private land owners.

The Cushendall Riverside Path has been in existence since 1998 however the current agreement with the landowner has expired. In addition, part of the land has been transferred to a new owner which necessitates an updated agreement to recognise the new landowner. All landowners have confirmed that they are content to enter into new agreements.

The provisions of The Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 allow Council to make use of Permissive Path Agreements as a means to secure quality recreational access to private land. This has been used to great effect with respect to certain sections of the Causeway Coast Way and a number of other trails and sites of interest. A permissive path is not a public right of way and can be provided with terms and conditions, can operate under limitations and can endure for whatever period of time the council and landowner are willing to agree. Most agreements are for a period of 10/20 years. As part of a Permissive Path Agreements, Council undertake regular inspection of the trails and provide insurance cover to indemnify the landowner.

3.0 Proposals

The renewal of this permissive path will permit the continued existence of a trail at Cushendall Riverside Path along the River Dall and will secure a valuable, quality route which will contribute to the concept of a community path network in Cushendall. The path starts on the southern side of the River Dall and follows the wooded bank for approximately 500 metres to a footbridge linking to a local church and a lane linking to the Ballyeamon Road.



The renewal of the expired agreement is with Mr Andrew McAlister.

The creation of a new permissive path agreement is with John & Charlie McAlister due to land transfer.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council to approve the renewal of the Permissive Path Agreement between Council and Andrew McAlister and a new Permissive Path Agreement between Council and John & Charlie McAlister for Cushendall Riverside Path for a period of twenty years. This agreement will be administered and managed by the Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Unit.