



Title of Report:	Carrick Dhu Holiday and Leisure Park Touring Pitches
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15th December 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Accelerating Our Economy and Contributing to Prosperity
Outcome	Development of visitor economy. Continuously examine and introduce ways to provide services in more accessible and efficient ways.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	To be Determined
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	HALP
Staffing Costs	Routine Business

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to scope / plan infrastructure improvements for the touring caravan pitches at Carrick Dhu Holiday and Leisure Park, Portrush and to complete Stage 1 of the Capital Works (outline design, feasibility and cost estimate).

2.0 Background

Council operates 6 Holiday and Leisure Parks (HALP's) with one of the largest Parks, Carrick Dhu, being sited on the outskirts of Portrush. The site has 392 static pitches, touring sites and 20 camping sites. The touring pitches are located at the eastern side of the Park and are served by a modern utility/toilet block and each of the pitches are supplied with electrical power, water and individual drainage facilities. These pitches have the requirement to accommodate touring caravans, motorhomes and awnings, and to facilitate this mixture there is a requirement to peg into the ground (primarily for awnings). To allow this, each pitch was originally made up of a form of gridded matting that allowed coverage with top soil and is sown with grass.

Over the last few years the touring pitches have suffered from degradation of the surface, the compacting of soil and the loss of turf. Water ponding has occurred in localised areas and has led to management issues particularly after poor weather.

3.0 Interim Measures

In 2018 after complaints from users, attempts were made to repair the grass areas that were badly affected. Despite efforts to repair the pitches they continued to deteriorate and the decision was taken to remove the grass areas at each of the designated pitches and replace it with a hardcore type gravel and dust surface. This has provided a temporary, albeit unattractive solution for the Park and has been in place since the start of the 2019 season.

4.0 Proposals

Council Officers intend to investigate and assess potential solutions to provide a long term, hardwearing surface to allow touring vans with awnings to use the touring pitches at Carrick Dhu. To achieve this Officers will work with the Infrastructure team through Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process, identifying the issues and scoping proposals for interventions, develop solutions and detail costings.

After completion of Stage 1, Officers will report back to Elected Members and advise on options regarding a long-term solution for the pitches at Carrick Dhu.

5.0 Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the advancement of Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process, to assess a long term solution for the touring pitches at Carrick Dhu Holiday and Leisure Park (scoping options, preferred solution, feasibility and cost estimates).