



Title of Report:	Development of Causeway Coast Way Walking Trails
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 August 2021
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

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Maximum of £100 per annum for duration 25 agreement
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/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:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

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 at the Causeway Coast Way, Benbane Head (coastal walking trail).

2.0 Background

Provision, development and access to quality walking opportunities throughout the Borough are 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 TransportNI, and in some cases through licence and management agreements with private landowners.

The Causeway Coast Way has been in existence since 1960's and most of the existing agreements remain in place, but occasionally due to land transfer or land passed on through inheritance, there is a need to revisit and renew some of the agreements

Council and the MacNaghten Farms Limited Permissive Path Agreement expired in February 2020. Officers have been in discussion with the new landowners, Dundarave Properties Ltd, to renew the Public Path Agreement in the form of a Permissive Path Agreement. The path is 2.3 km in length and 5 metre in width. (Map attached at **Annex A**).

The renewal of the Permissive Path Agreement helps consolidate Council's efforts to realise the aims and objectives of the Causeway Way Coast Blueprint, a strategic document for the development of the Causeway Coast Way which includes the renewal of existing Permissive Path Agreements were necessary.

3.0 Proposals

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 agreed by parties. It 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 years or more.

The renewal of this Permissive Path Agreement with Dundarave Properties Ltd will permit trail development at the Causeway Coast Way, Benbane Head and will secure continued quality access to one of the most iconic landscapes in the area. Officers are recommending that the agreement with Council is for a period of 25 years, a term agreed with the landowner. As with similar agreements, Council will agree to undertake regular inspection of the trails and provide insurance cover to indemnify the landowner. If approved this will be advanced by the Tourism and Recreation team with assistance from Council's legal services.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of a new Permissive Path Agreement between Council and Dundarave Properties Ltd, in relation to the agreed lands on the Causeway Coast Way, for the period of 25 years.

Dundarave Properties Limited of Ardmore



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- National Trust - Leasehold
- National Trust Ownership

