

Rural Development Programme Village Renewal Boyd's Riverside Walk, Burnfoot	16th April 2019
To: Council For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting & enhancing our environment and our assets. Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Generating economic and social returns without compromising the sustainability of our natural assets. Citizens will have access to our natural environments to help develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation
Cost: (If applicable)	Maximum estimated cost of £500 per annum for a period of 10 years

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to renew and extend the Permissive Path Agreements with landowners to facilitate a walking route along part of the River Roe adjacent to the village of Burnfoot.

Background

The development of walking product in the Borough is a key objective for Tourism and Recreation to deliver on a quality outdoor recreation experience and to provide opportunities to improve physical and mental well-being for local residents.

The provisions of The Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 allow Council to make use of Permissive Path Agreements as means to secure quality recreational access to land. A permissive path is not a public right of way and can be provided on whatever terms and conditions, can operate under whatever limitations and can last for whatever period of time the council and landowner are willing to agree. Most agreements are for a period of 10 years. As part of the Permissive Path Agreement Council will undertake regular inspection, adhoc maintenance when required for the trail and provide public liability cover for trail users.

A circular riverside walk along the banks of the River Roe was developed by Burnfoot Community Association and Limavady Borough Council in 1999. This trail provides an important off road walking resource adjacent to the River Roe and existing sports grounds. It provides a safe space to permit local people to participate in outdoor recreation adjacent to their homes in a rural area.

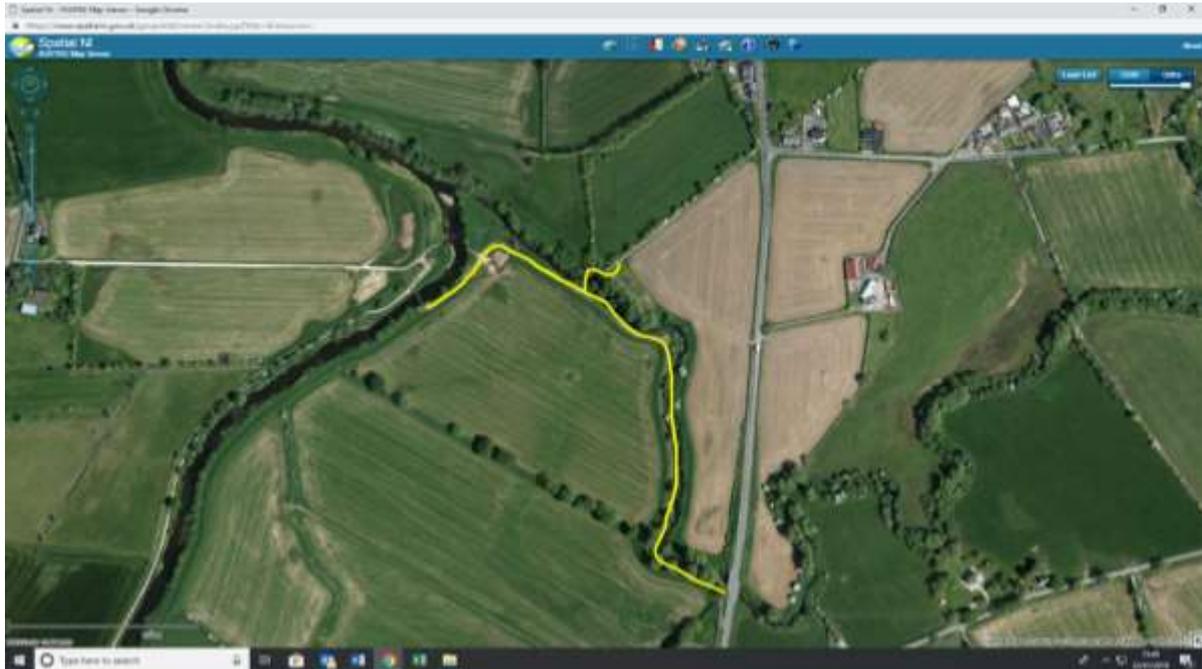
A partnership between local landowners and Burnfoot Community Association has allowed this route to be extended to the east bank of the river with appropriate surfacing in place to sustain use.

An opportunity has arisen through the Rural Development Programme Village Renewal Scheme to undertake further works to improve and extend the walking route which is marked in yellow on the image below. This extension will cover a distance of approximately 550 metres linking the footbridge to the Ballyquin Road.

Cost Implications

Council Officers have allocated a budget of £500 per annum to cover periodic inspections and maintenance when required for this section of the trail and provide public liability cover for trail users.

The £500 costs include an estimation of likely maintenance costs taking place for 1km stretches of public path every 5 years. This will be for very basic maintenance such as patching, bitmac where appropriate, or dusting quarry screed. It also allows a small increase to the Council's Public Liability Insurance Schedule for adding each of the walks and an amount for inclusion in the public path maintenance inspection regime carried out by the Estates Team.



Next Steps

Staff from the Tourism and Recreation Service have been working with the Rural Development Programme (RDP) team to facilitate this development. In order to progress this opportunity the existing Permissive Path Agreement requires an extension and new agreements are required with 2 other landowners which will be for a period of 10 years. This will not only secure access for an off road trail but will also present the opportunity to develop further walking trails along the bank of the River Roe towards Limavady and Dungiven.

Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the extension of the existing Permissive Path Agreement and the development of two new agreements for a period of 10 years. These agreements will be administered and managed by the Tourism and Recreation Service Coast and Countryside Unit.