

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**NORTH KILMARNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE**

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2006**

**Dean Park Path Improvement Proposals**

**Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on future developments proposed for Dean Park, Kilmarnock

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In 2005 an assessment was carried out on the bridges that cross the Beans Burn in the Dean Park to determine whether or not they comply with current Health and Safety legislation. Following advice from Health and Safety and the Roads and Transportation Division, it was noted that these bridges were severely eroded and needed to be replaced.
- 2.2 A second assessment was carried out by the Outdoor Amenities and Outdoor Access Services on the paths throughout the park where it was concluded that the erosion to the path system was also fairly extensive and works were required to maximise the utilisation of the park by the public.
- 2.3 Following these assessments, a plan was drawn up to ensure that improvements were carried out to meet all requirements under current Health and Safety legislation and also to encourage people of all ages and abilities to use the park. This plan has been costed at over £120,000. An allocation of £80,000 has been made from Council budgets and the remainder is being sought from external sources.
- 2.4 In December 2005 this plan was put out to community consultation with a closing date of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2006.
- 2.5 Tenders have been sought for all proposed works.

**3. PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 The aim of the proposals is to maximise the opportunities for people of all ages and abilities using the park.
- 3.2 The proposals include upgrading the paths throughout the park, improving the gradient where possible. It also includes removing all sections of path that currently have steep and eroded steps. The path system within the park is sufficient in providing through routes from Beansburn to Dean Road and in

providing circular routes for regular walkers, allowing the sections with steps to be closed and planted. These sections are currently hazardous.

- 3.3 The main bridge crossing the Beans Burn would be removed and replaced. The smaller bridge with steep steps will be removed.
- 3.4 To encourage greater use of the park it is hoped to promote it as a doorstep walk as part of the Community Activity to Community Health project, including a marked 2km route and signage.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Currently Dean Park does not meet the requirements of current health and safety legislation. Proposals have been developed and the community has been asked to participate in improving the park for all.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) Note the content of this report.

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16 January 2006

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