

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 11 MARCH 2004

CUNNINGHAM WATT PARK

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the future of Cunningham Watt Park

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2002, an assessment of the bridges in Cunningham Watt Park was carried out. Two of the bridges were deemed to be unsafe and were subsequently closed.
- 2.2 A second assessment was carried out in 2003 and following the advice of health and safety and buildings and work, the park was closed due to the risk to the public's safety.
- 2.3 In December 2003, the bridge at the North West side of the park was repaired and reopened. This allowed safe passage from the Bowes Rigg housing estate to the train station. The bridge at the entrance to the park is currently being replaced and is due for completion in March 2004.

3. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1 The East Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum is currently working up proposals for a Local Path Network for the Stewarton area. This includes Action Plans for Lainshaw Woods and Cunningham Watt Park. The proposals are based on a community participation exercise that was carried out in Stewarton in 2001.
- 3.2 The action plan for Cunningham Watt Park proposes two options. The first of these options is to upgrade the path system within the park as it is. This will include replacement of all the existing bridges and steps and upgrading the surface of the paths. The second option proposes to remove the steps throughout the park from the path system, replace the existing bridges and install an additional bridge. The paths would also be upgraded. The second option would allow access for bicycles, disabled access and prams. Both of these options will cost over £100,000.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Currently Cunningham Watt Park is closed on health and safety grounds. Limited access will soon be given by the opening of the first and last bridge. Proposals are being developed to bring the park back to a quality environment for the people of Stewarton. However, funding for these proposals will need to be sought.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) Note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services
24 February 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS – Nil

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Anneke Freel, Project Manager, Coalfield Access Project on Tel. No. 01563 554748