

Permissive Path Agreement - Development of walking Trails Ulster Way Glenariff	13th March 2018
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
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 Coast & Countryside Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	Maximum of £100 per annum for duration of 10 year agreement

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed with the renewal of a Permissive Path Agreement at Ulster Way, Glenariff.

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 land owners.

The Glenariff River Walk / Ulster Way has been in existence since 1991 and most of the existing agreements remain in place. A number of exceptions have occurred where there has been a land transfer or where land has passed on through inheritance creating the need to revisit and renew some of the agreements.

Permissive Path Agreements

The provisions of 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, 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. As part of Permissive Path Agreements, Council undertake regular inspection of the trails and provide Insurance cover to indemnify the landowner.

Renewal of Permissive Path Agreement through land transfer inheritance.

Glenariff River/Ulster Way

The renewal of this permissive path will permit trail development at Glenariff and will secure quality access to one of the most iconic landscapes in the area at Glenariff and the Garron Plateau. The renewal of this Permissive Path Agreement is required with Mr Eddie Haughey as he inherited the land from his father and will secure access at this location. Officers are recommending that the agreement with Council is for a period of 10 years.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approve the renewal of the Permissive Path Agreement between Council and Eddie Haughey at Glenariff and the Garron Plateau for a period of ten years. This agreement will be administered and managed by the Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Unit.