

# Community and Recreation

## PLAY AREAS



### AIM

The aim of this project is the creation of two children's play areas.

### OUTPUTS

By the end of the project the output that could be achieved is:

- Local children are able to benefit from a local and high quality play areas

### OUTCOMES

The associated outcomes would be:

- More activities for children in the local area
- Increased interaction between children and parents
- Children will be healthier with more opportunities for outdoor play

### NEED FOR PROJECT

#### STATISTICAL EVIDENCE OF NEED

While there is a lower proportion of under 16 year olds in the Peninsula West area than in both Argyll and Bute and Scotland, 29.7% of all households in the Peninsula West area contain dependent children. This is slightly higher than the 26.8% and 28.2% rate of household with dependent children in Argyll and Bute and Scotland respectively.

#### CURRENT PROVISION IN AREA

There is currently only one play area for local children situated in the park adjacent to the tennis courts and bowling green in Cove/Kilcreggan.

## COMMUNITY DEMAND FOR PROJECT

### COMMUNITY SURVEY

60% of respondents indicated that play areas were one of their top three environment priorities. Seven comments were also provided expressing a desire for the development or improvement of play areas in the local villages.

### COMMUNITY PRIORITISATION EVENT

Almost a fifth of participants at the community day who completed the relevant board selected play areas as the most important improvement to the villages in the Peninsula West area. This option was selected more than any other option except community woodland. The majority of participants that completed the relevant question indicated that community spaces should be suitable for all ages and comments suggested combining community woodland and play areas.

## RELEVANT POLICIES

The Scottish Government's Early Years Framework recognises the right of all young children to high quality relationships, environments and services which offer a holistic approach to meeting their needs. This holistic approach encompasses play, learning, social relationships and emotional and physical wellbeing. The development of a play area in the Peninsula West area could contribute towards the achievement of the following aims of the framework:

- Ensuring all children have the same outcomes and the same opportunities
- Improving outcomes and children's quality of life through play
- Improving play opportunities and addressing barriers to play
- Engagement and empowerment of children, families and communities
- Helping children, families and communities to secure outcomes for themselves

A play area development could contribute to the Scottish Government's National Outcome and Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement of 'our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed'.

The development of a play area in the Peninsula West area could also contribute towards the objectives of the Argyll and Bute Community Plan 2009-2013 by creating 'high quality leisure/community facilities that attract people to settle in Argyll and Bute'. It could also support the aim of the Argyll and Bute Local Plan 'to reduce and ameliorate the effects of peripherality – by encouraging the expansion of local facilities throughout Argyll and Bute'.

## POTENTIAL PROJECT

The Trust would work towards the creation of two play areas, one adjacent to the pier in Kilcreggan to be used by visitors and local residents and the other at the site of the existing play area which would be part of the community campus.

## POTENTIAL LOCATION

Within the existing play area park complex which includes the tennis courts and bowling green and at the shoreside in Kilcreggan to the east of the pier.

### CURRENT OWNERSHIP OF SITE

Part of the site surrounding Kilcreggan pier is owned by Scottish Water, while Pier Cottage is owned by the occupier. The remaining area surrounding the pier appears to be until recently owned by McKellar's Slipway Limited when all or some of the site was disposed to Donald Robert McIndewar Bruce. This potentially includes the site of the old boat yard.



## COST OF PROJECT

**£60,000** (adjacent to old tennis courts/new indoor sports centre & youth centre)

**£280,000** (at the site of the old boat yard, with beach access including perimeter railings)

## POTENTIAL FUNDERS

If the play area is incorporated at least in part in a woodland setting then funding can be secured through **Forestry Challenge Fund Forestry for People** strand.

In addition, **Score Environment Landfill Tax** is able to contribute on average up to £20,000 with play areas as a priority theme.

A further option could be **Argyll and the Isles LEADER** with recent play area awards covering 50% of costs for a new project in Arrochar 2011.

There are advantages to improving existing play areas which are currently owned by **Argyll and Bute Council** rather than developing new sites. The local community council, for example, could secure funding for new play equipment with the ongoing management, maintenance and public liability being taken forward by the local authority.

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

**Argyll and Bute Council Community Services (Play Areas)** – The Trust could arrange a partnership with the relevant Council department for maintenance of any play areas developed.

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

### MUIRKIRK ENTERPRISE GROUP

The group developed two adventure playgrounds for the village of Muirkirk in East Ayrshire.

### PETERSBURN DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Trust was set up to develop Petersburn Park and secured £367,000 worth of funding to create a unique outdoor play facility. The aim was to transform an area of derelict land into a safe environment for young children and families.

## CONTACTS

**Argyll and Bute Council**  
Community Services (Play Areas)  
Kilmory  
Lochgilphead  
PA31 8RT  
01546 602127

**Muirkirk Enterprise Group**  
Garan House  
28 Main Street  
Muirkirk  
KA18 3RA  
01290 661324

**Petersburn Development Trust**  
11 Lismore Place  
Airdrie  
ML6 8FZ