



# Lochore Meadows Country Park Development Plan

## Consultation Report

**October 2008**



**Consultation Report**

Fife Council

**Lochore Meadows Country Park: Development Plan  
Consultation Report**

**October 2008**



**Natural Capital**  
13 Coates Crescent  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7AF  
Telephone 0131 220 6121  
Facsimile 0131 220 6131  
Email [info@naturalcapital.co.uk](mailto:info@naturalcapital.co.uk)



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1	PREAMBLE	5
1.2	THE CONSULTATIONS	5
1.2.1	Workshops	5
1.2.2	Workshop Process	6
1.2.3	'Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback	6
1.2.4	Additional Stakeholders	6
1.3	LAYOUT OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT	7
<b>2</b>	<b>OUTPUTS FROM THE CONSULTATIONS</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	WORKSHOPS	9
2.2	'HAVE YOUR SAY' COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK	10
2.3	ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS	10
<b>3</b>	<b>THE WAY FORWARD</b>	<b>11</b>

**APPENDIX A: LIST OF WORKSHOP ATTENDEES**

**APPENDIX B: 'HAVE YOUR SAY' COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK FORM**

**APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION LOG**

**APPENDIX D: GROUP WORKSHOP OUTPUTS**



# 1 PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS

## 1.1 PREAMBLE

Effective management of stakeholder and community expectations and of the consultation process is of importance to the successful progression and delivery of the Lochore Meadows Country Park (LMCP) Development Plan.

The importance of successful community consultation is outlined in the Scottish Government best practice guidance set out in PAN 81: Community Engagement<sup>1</sup>, where the following ten standards are recommended:

- Involvement;
- Support;
- Planning;
- Methods;
- Working Together;
- Sharing Information;
- Working with Others ;
- Improvement;
- Feedback; and
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

The consultations undertaken for the LMCP Development Plan followed these standards and sought to obtain the views, opinions and ideas from the consultees to inform the Development Plan.

## 1.2 THE CONSULTATIONS

Consultations for the Development Plan included:

- a series of workshops with landowners, LMCP employees, user groups, key stakeholders, local community (see details in Table 1.1);
- feedback via 'Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback sheet; and
- meetings and conversations with individuals and stakeholders in Fife Council.

Consultees were also encouraged to comment by email, telephone or letter with details provided on all correspondence and the posters and leaflets which advertised the workshops.

### 1.2.1 Workshops

**Table 1.1 Workshop Details**

Date	Details
14 August 2008	930am to 1130am - Land Managers
	100pm to 300pm – LMCP Employees
18 August 2008	1000am to 1200noon – Stakeholders and User Groups
	700pm to 900pm - Lochgelly Public Meeting

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government (2007) Planning Advice Note (PAN) 81: Community Engagement: Planning with People. Crown Copyright

Date	Details
19 August 2008	700pm to 900pm - Ballingry Public Meeting
28 August 2008	400pm to 600pm - Lochore Meadows Advisory Group Meeting
01 September 2008	700pm to 900pm - Kelty Public Meeting

The workshops were held in various locations in and around LMCP with most being held at LMCP visitor centre and each community workshop being held in the three local community areas of Kelty, Lochgelly and Ballingry.

### 1.2.2 Workshop Process

A wide range of individuals and organisations were invited via email, letter and through extensive advertisement in local communities and at LMCP with posters and leaflets. Overall some 73 people attended the seven workshops. A list of attendees is included in Appendix A.

The workshop was designed to be interactive and to provide all participants with opportunities to share ideas, in groups and also in plenary sessions. The aim of the workshop was to gather information about the views of people on what they liked about the Park, i.e. what they thought were its strengths, and on what they disliked, i.e. what they thought were its weaknesses, with regard to future development. Workshop participants were also asked to consider what they thought the main development opportunities and priorities for the Park together with the key threats. The outputs from all workshop exercises were collated on flipcharts during the workshop (participants' contributions in their own words and those from plenary sessions). Table 2.1 outlines the top ten (in no particular order) strengths and weaknesses and Table 2.2 outlines the top ten threats and opportunities that emerged from the seven workshops.

The ideas expressed at the workshop were those of individuals and whilst they may be representative of some organisations they were not necessarily the views of all those present.

### 1.2.3 'Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback

These forms (example form provided in Appendix B) were provided to enable those who could not attend a workshop event to comment on the LMCP. These forms were provided in the LMCP visitor centre reception, emailed to those people who could not attend workshops and provided at each workshop for those who wanted to comment further. Approximately 6 'Have Your Say' forms were returned. A record of these responses is included in Appendix C.

### 1.2.4 Additional Stakeholders

A series of additional meetings and phone conversations were held with

- Amanda Drummond, Trust Manager, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust;
- Grant Ward, Senior Manager, Sport, Parks & Countryside, Fife Council;
- Robin Presswood, Development Manager (Business & Strategy), Fife Council;
- James, John and Anne Thomson, Local Landowners; and
- Matt Mulderrig, Lomond Homes.



### **1.3 LAYOUT OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT**

The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 presents the outputs from the consultations;
- Section 3 summarises the key information gathered at the workshop to be considered further in the Development Plan;
- Appendix A is a list of the people who attended the workshop;
- Appendix B is an example comments and feedback form;
- Appendix C features a table logging consultation; and
- Appendix D details the feedback from workshop exercises made during group work activity.



## 2 OUTPUTS FROM THE CONSULTATIONS

### 2.1 WORKSHOPS

This section of the report presents a summary of the outputs from all the workshops (see Table 2.1). Prioritised group outputs (not attributed) from the workshop exercises are included in Appendix D.

**Table 2.1 Strengths and Weaknesses of the Park as Determined from Consultation (the top ten concerns in each case)**

Strengths (Likes)	Weaknesses (Dislikes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its location (strategically accessible)</li> <li>• A strong local community relationship and enthusiasm for the Park – it is a 'people's park'</li> <li>• It caters for all of the family – young and old</li> <li>• Free access for all</li> <li>• The range of outdoor activities (golf, fishing, water sports, walking, cycling and mountain bikes, children's play areas etc)</li> <li>• Good management and Rangers service</li> <li>• Clean, tidy and well maintained</li> <li>• The beautiful landscape, natural environment and wildlife interests</li> <li>• The outdoor education and learning opportunities</li> <li>• Cultural heritage (bronze age, medieval, mining etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor access from Kelty end</li> <li>• Poor signage, promotion, public relations, advertising (Park needs a higher public profile)</li> <li>• Underdeveloped café/restaurant</li> <li>• Poor visitor centre and interpretation (missed opportunities for mining, biodiversity, cultural history)</li> <li>• No retail (crafts, local produce etc)</li> <li>• Lack of facilities for young people (teenagers)</li> <li>• No indoor facilities (to cater for changes in weather)</li> <li>• Poor communication (especially with local communities)</li> <li>• Lack of investment – Park is stagnating</li> <li>• Lack of overnight accommodation (for schools/educational visits and overnight tourist visitors)</li> </ul>

**Table 2.2 Opportunities and Threats for the Park as Determined from Consultation (the top ten in each case but not necessarily in order of importance)**

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the visitor centre (possibly with a unique selling point<sup>2</sup> as a new eco-centre/zero carbon centre) with better heritage interpretation (e.g. mining) and improved natural history interpretation, and in particular a re-vamped café (consider a restaurant facility as well) and local craft shops</li> <li>• Improve the café and the quality and range of food, source it locally (promote local produce), consider a farm shop</li> <li>• Create an indoor activity centre that contributes to the educational offering, provides a resource for school trips (e.g. a climbing wall)</li> <li>• Improve transport links and especially access into the Country Park from the west end</li> <li>• Improve security and provide some sort of overnight accommodation with visitor facilities – wet weather, school trips, camping, bunkhouse or hotel</li> <li>• Encourage greater community involvement/ownership/ a 'Friends of Lochore'</li> <li>• Improve marketing, publicity and signage into and around the Park</li> <li>• Build on the outdoor (including fishing and golf) and adventure sports theme and develop further activities such as mountain biking, BMX biking, canoeing, equestrian sports golf etc (particularly catering for teenagers)</li> <li>• Improve and develop wildlife viewing</li> <li>• Improve the interpretation of the historic environment and cultural heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lack of funding and investment that accelerates the slow decline of the Country Park</li> <li>• Over development that could impact on the natural heritage, cultural heritage and current farming and land management practices</li> <li>• Staff cuts and under resourcing</li> <li>• A lack of imagination in taking the Park forward</li> <li>• Not addressing the access problems</li> <li>• Potential conflicts of interest between activities</li> <li>• Lack of effective marketing and promotion</li> <li>• Setting the goals too high and not achieving them</li> <li>• Losing the interest and commitment of the community</li> <li>• Poor security in the evenings – people can feel unsafe when it is dark</li> </ul>

## 2.2 'HAVE YOUR SAY' COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

Information gained from the comments and feedback forms have been incorporated in the information displayed in Table 2.1 and 2.2 and throughout the process of compiling the Development Plan. The full set of responses is included in the Consultation Log in Appendix C.

## 2.3 ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

The information gained from the communications with additional stakeholders have been incorporated in the information displayed in Table 2.1 and 2.2 and throughout the process of compiling the Development Plan.

<sup>2</sup> A unique selling point (USP) is a specific feature that would make Lochore Meadows Country Park stand out as different to other country parks

### **3 THE WAY FORWARD**

These views on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the future development of LMCP have been fed into the emerging Development Plan.

It is appreciated that in the case of the community workshops and for some of the other consultations held, that the issues raised reflect only the views of the attendees and those who have responded to the consultation exercise, and that these may not be fully representative of the wider community. However our approach has been to evaluate each of the issues, and in particular the opportunities identified, and to make a judgement about taking them forward drawing on:

- our own professional knowledge;
- feedback from the workshops with professional stakeholders, the Advisory Group, Council Officers and the staff of the Country Park;
- feedback from the interviews with Council Officers and Parks and Countryside staff.

In screening the opportunity and priority topic ideas that were suggested during consultation (as shown in Table 2.2) into the top ten suggestions we considered that none of these ideas should be rejected, and that all should be taken forward for consideration in the development plan. It was also considered that appraising the options through the strategic environmental assessment process should also provide an opportunity for further screening and sifting of the ideas.

Following the workshop events a Consultation Note which summarised the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats was issued to all those who consulted on the project. Feedback on the Consultation Note is included in Appendix C.



## Appendix A

### List of Workshop Attendees





**Appendix A: Workshop Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Land Managers, 14 August 2008, 930am to 1130am</b>	
Anne Thomson	Hilton of Beath Farm
B.Briggs Constable	Benarty House
Ian Gauld	Lochore Meadows Equestrian Centre, Tillywhally Farm
James B Thomson	Hilton of Beath Farm
Jim Brownlie	Inchgall Farm
John Thomson	Hilton of Beath Farm
Matt Mulderrig	Lomond Homes
Nick Brown	Lochore Meadows Equestrian Centre
Pat Stevenson	Ballingry Farm
William Stevenson	Ballingry Farm
<b>Lochore Meadows Country Park - Employees, 14 August 2008, 100pm to 300pm</b>	
C Smith	Estate Team
D Abbott	Fife Coast and Countryside Trust
D Glencross	Estate Team
G Salmond	Estate Team
G Whyte	Estate Team
Gail Cunningham	Caretaker
Lynne Bramall	Outdoor Education Natural Connections
R Paterson	Estate Team
Susan Easter	Bums off Seats Project Administrator
<b>Stakeholders, 18 August 2008, 1000am to 1200noon</b>	
Dave Shepherd	Scottish Natural Heritage
Alison Irvine	Fife Council Access Officer
Campbell Gerrard	Sport Scotland
Liz Evans	Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre
Ian Gallacher	Fife Council
Theresa Hughes	Fife Council
Jim Hooton	Fife Council
Ali Dreyer	Fife Council Outdoor Education

Name	Organisation
Steve McHardy	Fife Council
Geoff Moy	Fife Council Development Services
Julie Horsburgh	Fife Coast and Countryside Trust
Allan W Brown	Fife Council Development Services
Alison Wood Scott McInroy (area contact)	Fife Council development Services (Local and Community Policies)
<b>Lochgelly Public Meeting, 18 August 2008, 700pm to 900pm</b>	
Mr Adams	Local Resident
Mr Dave Adams	Local Resident
John Pratt	Local Resident
<b>Ballingry Public Meeting, 19 August 2008, 700pm to 900pm</b>	
J Drennan	Ballingry Golf Club
Ti Ironside	Ballingry Golf Club
Peter Clark	Local Resident
Willie Clarke	Fife Councillor
James Payne	Local Resident
Michael Payne	Benarty Forum
Valerie Tweedie	Local Resident
Kevin Payne	Local Resident
Allan Shields	Local Resident
J Mackie	Ballingry Golf Club
D Queen	Ballingry Golf Club
K Adams	Local Resident
J Burnside	Ballingry Golf Club
S Pratt	Ballingry Golf Club
D Adams	Local Resident
J Pratt	Local Resident
Karen Hunter	Local Resident
Ashah Hunter	Local Resident

Name	Organisation
<b>Lochore Meadows Advisory Group Meeting, 28 August 2008, 400pm to 600pm</b>	
Jean Hogg	Kelty Community Council
Martin Kingham	Fife Canoeing Activities Group
Ian Scott	Fife Constabulary
Ken Stickings	Community Inspector, Fife Constabulary
Willie Clarke	Fife Councillor
Joe Paterson	Benarty Community Council
<b>Kelty Public Meeting, 01 September 2008, 700pm to 900pm</b>	
George Hogg	Local Resident
Jean Hogg	Kelty Community Council
Jane Young	Kelty Community Council
Betty Cargill	Kelty Heritage Trails
Doreen Horstman	Kelty Heritage Trails
Mary Edie	Kelty Community Council Kelty Heritage Trails Social and Economic Forum
Andy Stark	Kelty Social and Economic Forum
Marion Barr Leslie Barr	Local Resident
Robert Ness	Local Resident
John Getley	Kelty Heritage Trail
Simon Madder	Triple B Skate Park Group
Jason Gilmour	Triple B Skate Park Group
Carol Gilmour	Local Resident

**Total Workshop Attendees: 73**



## Appendix B

### 'Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback Form



# Have Your Say!

## Lochore Meadows Country Park Development Plan (2008 – 2018)



The purpose of this form is to provide you with an opportunity to feed back comments on issues and ideas relating to the development of Lochore Meadows Country Park.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age(circle one):** 0-16, 17-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, 66+

**Where do you live?:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of User (circle one or more):** walking, horseriding, fishing, visitor centre, play park, watersports, dog walker, other (please specify) .....

**How often do you visit Lochore Meadows? (circle one):** weekly, fortnightly, monthly, twice in a year, annually

1. What are the **strengths** of Lochore Meadows Country Park?

2. What are the **weaknesses** of Lochore Meadows Country Park?

3. What **developments or changes** would you like to see at Lochore Meadows Country Park?

Please can you pass your completed form to one of the Project Team representatives. Alternatively you can return this form to: **Megan Richardson, Natural Capital Ltd, 13 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF, Tel: 0131 220 6121, Email: [megan.richardson@naturalcapital.co.uk](mailto:megan.richardson@naturalcapital.co.uk)**





## Appendix C

### Consultation Log



Consultee	Date	Comments	Response/ Comments
Clare Hill Parks Development Officer Fife Council	04.08.08	<b>'Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback</b> <b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location , visitor centre and facilities</li> </ul> <b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't like car park layout (feels dangerous)</li> <li>Play area is old and poor compared to Craigtoun or Beveridge Park</li> <li>Main entrance layout and signage is bland and uninviting</li> <li>Its a wild area at night full of neds and boy racers. Golf course is a bit rough. I wouldn't let my children go out of sight here , the locals on the play area are wild. I live in Kinross but few people there know about the park , those that do often think it's a rough area( rather go to Pittencreiff Park)</li> <li>It looks a bit stuck in a time warp with the interpretation and signage all bits and pieces , try directing some one there from Kelty direction or anywhere outside west Fife ! , it feels like a local park for the Balingry area rather than one of Fife's country parks.( just look at Craigtoun or Vogrie at Midlothian for some inspiration)</li> </ul> <b>Developments / Changes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New play area , bicycle hire, better access from Kinross end linking in with development of Loch Leven footpath for cyclists. More round the clock staffing or maybe a caravan/ camping park on part of the site . Get rid of ice cream vans and introduce some good catering</li> <li>In the summer there seem to be kids dumped here for the day unsupervised and wild maybe there is a need for a subsidised summer camp facility?</li> <li>Market the facility and courses available outside Fife. More biodiversity stuff , less of the cropped grass desert feel around the mineshaft and pond areas</li> <li>Generally make it more upmarket and market it as a tourist destination</li> </ul>	All information, comments and feedback received on 'Have Your Say' forms incorporated into consultation outputs which in turn inform the development plan
Phil Clarke Fife Council	04.08.08	<b>'Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback</b> <b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great local resource well used by people from all of the surrounding communities</li> <li>Has contributed substantially to the amenity and value of the local area</li> <li>Well used and valued by people from other parts of Fife and neighbouring areas</li> <li>Good accessibility from all of Fife and surrounding areas.</li> <li>Free resource makes it more accessible</li> <li>Inclusive facilities suitable for all people</li> </ul>	

Consultee	Date	Comments	Response/ Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good demonstration of managing recreation and conservation</li> <li>• Well maintained site</li> <li>• Generally has been kept up to date over the years</li> </ul> <p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value of park to local area has not been appreciated by some people – has lead to promotion of inappropriate developments.</li> <li>• Vulnerable to further inappropriate development due to being a valuable land asset</li> <li>• Lack of resources put in I recent years has limited its potential despite the best efforts of park management staff.</li> <li>• Conflict between fishing interests and other uses / conservation has not been resolved</li> <li>• Still some inappropriate signage within the park – particularly around the car parking and play areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Developments / Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revamp play area</li> <li>• Remove old / out of date signage</li> <li>• Remove access barriers</li> <li>• Provide bound surface on link path between Kelty and park centre</li> <li>• Designate nature reserve as SSSI to protect it from development.</li> <li>• Ensure park land is protected from any housing or other development in local plan</li> <li>• Expand café and expand menu</li> <li>• Update centre and site interpretation</li> <li>• Promote more community involvement, bypassing the local elected members, to increase local value of the park to residents of the surrounding community.</li> <li>• Promote more non motorised water access to the loch and remove zoning.</li> <li>• Improve path networks around park.</li> <li>• Improve path network links to surrounding communities</li> </ul>	

Consultee	Date	Comments	Response/ Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide high quality traffic free link path from station</li> <li>Keep park access free</li> </ul>	
Jayne Baxter Local Support Co-ordinator Fife Council	04.08.08	<p><b>Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback</b></p> <p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The outdoor education staff who are just amazing</li> <li>The space for kids to run about</li> <li>The beauty of the water and the hills around</li> <li>The fact that you can walk around it and get away from people.</li> <li>Good car parking</li> <li>The peace and quiet</li> <li>It doesn't cost anything!</li> <li>The wildlife</li> </ul> <p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Its a long walk in for old folk if they come on the bus</li> </ul> <p><b>Developments / Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better access from the Kelty end</li> <li>A low key campsite so that people can stay overnight</li> <li>A redesigned visitor centre with a bit more about mining heritage, perhaps a tie in with the Miners Archive at Kinglassie?</li> </ul>	
Keith Dalgleish Area Officer West and Central Fife Scottish Natural Heritage	06.08.08	<p><b>Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback</b></p> <p><b>Developments / Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For local authorities, visitor monitoring in Country Parks and as part of their Access Strategies will be of particular importance to identify trends in recreational activity and demand for future provision. Country Parks should be recognised within the local development plan to ensure that their rural character and recreational value are safeguarded through the planning system.</li> <li>Country Parks require ongoing financial commitment from the managing authorities to meet capital and staffing costs. These funding requirements are, however, relatively small given the popularity of many Country Parks and the wider benefits they confer. They are also relatively modest alongside the cost of other types of formal recreation provision.</li> <li>The leisure market has changed significantly since Country Parks were established, with a much wider range of alternative destinations and greater demand for more adventurous activities. This breadth of choice has been facilitated by increased car ownership and improved transport connections. Some Country Parks have responded to these pressures by providing more formal recreation facilities or introducing more commercial initiatives. It will be important to ensure that this trend does not undermine the predominantly countryside character that has underpinned their success.</li> </ul>	

Consultee	Date	Comments	Response/ Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Parks provide accessible destinations of rural character that are of growing importance to a wide range of other policy agendas, and many Parks are already working to enhance these benefits. The realisation of these objectives will require the involvement of local communities and other relevant interests, and the continuing commitment of the managing authorities.</li> <li>Continued effort is particularly needed to realise the health benefits of enjoying the outdoors and to involve socially excluded groups. Wider participation should be encouraged by the continued piloting of new projects encompassing outdoor recreation, education and volunteering. The Parks should also develop stronger links to wider transport networks including core paths, cycle routes and public transport. There may be scope for joint initiatives with other local recreational destinations such as Regional Parks and Local Nature Reserves.</li> </ul> <p>SNH would wish to see the following points considered in any development plan for the park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage and enable use of the Park by a broad cross-section of the community;</li> <li>promote responsible access, environmental education and volunteering;</li> <li>maintain and enhance the Park's biodiversity and other environmental resources, ensuring that any formal facilities, organised events or commercial developments do not undermine its countryside character;</li> <li>where necessary, develop and promote improved public transport links and connections with local path networks to and from the Park;</li> <li>make links between activities taking place within the Park and wider initiatives, for example in relation to health, education and social inclusion, and;</li> <li>assess progress and identify future investment needs.</li> </ul>	
Darren Grieve Fife Council	26.08.08	<p><b>Have Your Say' Comments and Feedback</b></p> <p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great play area for children</li> <li>Good fishing location including free fishing for children</li> <li>Wide variety of water sports and facilities</li> <li>Suitable café for tea and snacks</li> <li>Good parking</li> <li>Well sign posted and good access for all abilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access from Kelty and the west of the park</li> </ul> <p><b>Developments / Changes</b></p>	

Consultee	Date	Comments	Response/ Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better access from other routes is a must !</li> <li>Possible caravan or holiday home complex</li> <li>Possible location for new housing developments</li> </ul>	
Terry Ironside Ballingry Golf Club	30.09.08	<b>Comments on Consultation Note</b> <b>Phone Call</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very little mention of development of Golf Course/ Club house</li> <li>He feels this is one of the bigger factors</li> <li>Golf Course is one of the major selling points of Lochore</li> <li>Land already purchased for the extension of the golf course</li> <li>Without the golf course Lochore Meadows would not survive</li> <li>What the park needs is a marketing/ business manager</li> </ul>	All information, comments and feedback received after issuing the Consultation Note to consultees who attended the workshops have been taken into account whilst writing the Development Plan.
Kevin Payne	30.09.08	<b>Comments on Consultation Note</b> <b>Email</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the biggest discussions was about an indoor activity centre</li> <li>As the Benarty centre has now been condemned and a new modern centre is to be built in Ballingry – It should be build at Lochore Meadows with most of the funding now in place surely this would solve a lot of headache and can be brought forward more quicker.</li> </ul>	
Mike Payne	30.09.08	<b>Comments on Consultation Note</b> <b>Email</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the consultation he attended he mentioned that there was no local input into the management of the park and that he felt there must be places made available for local representatives to be part of the park management. No where in the document does he see this mention.</li> </ul>	
Phil Clarke Engineer / Planner Fife Council Transportation Services	01.10.08	<b>Comments on Consultation Note</b> <b>Email</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works for Fife Council Transportation Services in the Transport Planning team.</li> <li>Notes in the Key Development Opportunities table there is mention of creating an access to the park centre from Kelty. Such an access is of concern to our service as this could have a significant impact on the traffic in the Kelty area and its surrounding roads. Such a proposal would require careful consideration and an assessment of the Traffic impacts on the surrounding roads and communities. Compliance with Fife Councils' 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges' would be required to ensure new access roads are adopted and maintained by Fife Council.</li> <li>It would also be crucial not to provide a through route for motorised vehicle traffic as this would inevitably lead to 'rat running' and further increase traffic flows in the area as well as detracting from the amenity of the park.</li> <li>In keeping with Fifes Local Transport Strategy and also Government transport policy, transport</li> </ul>	

Consultee	Date	Comments	Response/ Comments
		<p>measures should focus on improving access to public transport and providing good walking and cycling links. Measures which encourage or increase car usage should be avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He would be happy to provide guidance and advice on matters in the park development plan relating to roads and transportation.</li> </ul>	
James Payne	01.10.08	<p><b>Comments on Consultation Note</b> <b>Phone Call</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fife Council needs money to implement the development of Lochore Meadows – why not use the money already got for the Benarty Community Centre and build it at Lochore</li> </ul>	
Keith Breasley Hospitality Services Officer Catering & Cleaning Service	02.10.08	<p><b>Comments on Consultation Note</b> <b>Email</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agrees that should a new visitor centre evolve then the catering facilities would have to also. A more developed park and increased usage would possibly make the changes mentioned appropriate, although the term 'restaurant' does conjure up something that is not appropriate for the location currently.</li> <li>• As for short term aims to enhance the cafe, I am all for them. It has always seemed bizarre that the wonderful views and location of the cafe are not utilised by way of a terrace. Selling locally produced food etc may come but radical changes to the menu should be introduced gradually and must take into account the current kitchen facility (and staff).</li> </ul>	
Alison Irvine Access Officer – Fife Council	04.10.08	<p><b>Comments on Consultation Note</b> <b>Email</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sees no money making schemes to fund all this</li> <li>• There are a large number of farm shops and cafes around so it is a very competitive market</li> <li>• Agrees with vision and objectives</li> <li>• Worried about finding sources of funding</li> </ul>	



## Appendix D

### Workshop - Group Outputs



## **Appendix D: Workshop - Group Outputs**

### **D1 Priorities**

#### **D1.1 Land Managers**

##### *Strengths*

- People's Park
- Location
- Good balance of populated/busy east side and countryside/quiet west side of Park
- Free access

##### *Weaknesses*

- Signage/public relations etc non-existent
- Underdeveloped restaurant
- Access (with caution)
- Communication – all – newsletter
- Facilities not utilised by council – e.g. educational/disabled users
- Financial/funding

##### *Opportunities*

- Café
- Access – west end
- Improved security
- Protect wildlife area
- Subsidised funding from development outwith the Park
- Accommodation / visitor facilities
- Develop educational resources
- Create long term strategic planning
- Promote local food perhaps farm shop
- Equestrian centre

##### *Threats*

- Wildlife and 'park ethos'
- Funding (lack of) – external
- Over development – impact on farming practice
- Security
- Doing nothing
- Animal fouling
- Quad bikes / motor bikes / cars

#### **D1.2 Lochore Meadows Country Park – Employees**

##### *Strengths*

- Location
- Activities
- Popularity
- Area clean / tidy
- Skilled staff

##### *Weaknesses*

- parking – not enough space (in summer)
- state of building
- play area
- accesses (Kelty end)

- staff/management (shake up/low morale)
- lack of investment

#### *Opportunities*

- revamped visitor centre/café/interpretation
- play area upgrade
- woodland bike trail – linking up two other areas

#### *Threats*

- selling land to developers
- staff cuts/budget
- management

### **D1.3 Stakeholders**

#### *Strengths*

- Location
- Community involvement
- Education/learning
- Environment/conservation
- Accessibility and facilities
- Central location and high quality

#### *Weaknesses*

- Anti social behaviour
- Marketing
- Investment
- Council management
- Value as conservation resource and conflict
- Catering for needs in life

#### *Opportunities*

- Increase number of visitors – involve locals, tourists/visitors
- By: Centre of Excellence in:
  - Outdoor learning
  - Environmental education and interpretation
  - Improved transport links (road and off road)
  - Zero carbon/sustainability
- Through: commercial business opportunities and local opportunities
- But: maintain conservation interest and balance

#### *Threats*

- Funding
- Housing development
- Conflict of interests of activities
- Accessibility – to park and user range
- To the environment (over use, under use/managed)
- Marketing and promotional

### **D1.4 Lochgelly Community**

#### *Strengths*

- Families – community resource
- Popularity
- Beautiful landscape/environment

- Location
- Disable access and facilities
- Involvement of schools
- Outdoor education facilities, e.g. watersports
- Fishing
- Events
- Golf course
- Castle
- Accessible for walks from Lochgelly
- Osprey
- Setting/landscape

### *Weaknesses*

- Signage to the park from surrounding roads and communities is very limited
- There is no direct access to the park from the Kelty road
- There is no publicity for the park
- The park needs a higher public profile
- Paths are used by horses as well as wheelchairs and families and there is a conflict of interest.
- No proper facility for coarse fishing
- Fishing fee is too expensive
- Events put on in the park are not widely publicised
- There is no path from Lochgelly to the park
- There are less free facilities for less well-off people than there could be
- The castle is run-down
- Anti-social behaviour is a problem within the park

### *Opportunities*

- bridal path separate to footpath
- needs higher profile
- path from south side of Lochgelly and into the park
- expansion of golf course
- renovation of castle / historic monuments (symbol of the Park?)
- community ownership/involvement
- angling – encourage fishing
- signposting for paths
- facilities, e.g. trim trail
- caravan park / residential facility
- access from Kelty end
- visitor centre upgrade and café
- youth section/coaching at Ballingry
- bird watching
- blackboard outside to give/provide information
- profile raising
- better access
- improved communications – comments box
- 'Friends of Lochore' Group
- little investment leads to better resources
- coarse fishing
- renovate the "trim track" course to promote physical activity.

## **D1.5 Ballingry Community**

### *Strengths*

- Facilities
- Free access at entry

- Golf course
- Location
- Watersports
- Maintenance
- Good for walking (new path excellent)
- Children's play area – well used
- Accessibility; wheelchairs, bikes, pushchairs
- Rangers service
- Good venue for community gatherings

#### *Weaknesses*

- Poor access from Kelty
- No good eating/refreshments
- No new initiatives in last 15 years
- Poor wet weather facilities
- Under used by school children
- Poor promotion of park
- Poor local involvement with management
- Fishing too expensive
- Golf course has poor facilities
- Poorly policed (anti-social behaviour)
- Poor opportunities for retail/revenue generation
- No mining heritage education/information centre

#### *Opportunities*

- Improve golf facilities (18 holes, club house, advertising)
- Indoor activity centre – school trips – education (similar to Landmark Centre)
- Outdoor education improvement
- Better advertisement
- Better food/restaurant facilities (good quality, in keeping with surroundings, local produce e.g. Loch Leven Larder)
- Provision of accommodation: camping, youth groups, chalets
- Different management set up; local trust or one individual to lead (from commercial world)
- Better facilities for children
- Longer opening (more staffing)

### **D1.6 Lochore Meadows Advisory Group**

#### *Strengths*

- Outdoor activities and associated facilities and education
- Strong local community relationship/ enthusiasm
- Caters for all ages and family orientated
- Location/ access
- Existing infrastructure, e.g. café
- Existing partnerships
- Available land for development
- Good quality estate management

#### *Weaknesses*

- Lack of facilities
  - For children/ teenagers
  - Eating/ changing
- Security
  - After hours warden needed in a monitoring and reporting role

- CCTV (for problem hot spots – car park and building)
- Access
  - Only one road in and out of Park
  - Kelty end
- Maintenance

### *Opportunities*

- Outdoor activity development
  - Mountain bikes
  - Climbing wall etc
- Outdoor leisure development
  - Caravan/ log cabin
  - Fishing
- Improve access
- Improve security
- Indoor facilities
- Invest in marketing/ promotion
- Promote better community engagement
- Promote events, e.g. mini Highland Games
- Improve café facilities
- Unique Selling Point (USP) – nature centre / eco centre
- Invest in more estate management

### *Threats*

- Setting goals too high and not achieving them
- Lowering of standards and expectations
- Losing community
- Funding for the future
  - Entry costs may drive families away due to expense
- Threat to environment
  - From traffic, over development etc
- Anti-social behaviour/ increased crime

## **D1.7 Kelty Community**

### *Strengths*

- No entry fees
- Access for all
- Parking facilities
- Children's facilities
- Dogs and horses welcome
- Unrestricted, safe cycling
- New mountain bike area
- Peaceful environment, attracts a variety of wildlife
- Clean and tidy and well maintained
- Range of activities
- Good management

### *Weaknesses*

- Access
  - From Kelty
  - Quality
  - Gates
  - Manure/ fouling
- Café opening hours and facility
- No mining heritage centre
- Lack of facilities

- No shuttle bus
- Poor advertising

### *Opportunities*

- Better car access from M90 and Kelty
- Signposting through Kelty village
- Improved advertising in Kelty and other local communities
- Catering facilities/shop upgraded/opening
- Upgrade existing facilities – e.g. paths
- Build limited caravan, camping, bunkhouse facility
- Further development of adventure activities (eco-friendly)
- Local visitor centre/mining museum
- Learn from other places, e.g. Landmark, Igan, Glentress
- Another bird hide accessible to people with disabilities – improve present hide





Natural Capital Ltd  
13 Coates Crescent  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7AF  
Tel: 0131 220 6121  
Fax: 0131 220 6131  
Email: xxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xx.uk