
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA
COMMITTEE**

DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

12th September 2023

**HERMITAGE PARK REGENERATION - END OF PROJECT REPORT AND
EVALUATION REPORT**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee with the End of Project Report and bfrt

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee are invited to:

- 2.1 Note that the Parks for People NLHF project is now complete and the project officer post has come to an end.
- 2.2 Note the End of Project Report and the Evaluation Report and all that has been achieved through the project.
- 2.3 Note the Council's continuing legal obligations.
- 2.4 Note the risk to the Council in relation to the final drawdown of £100,000 grant from NLHF.

recreational activities. Improvements were carried out to the **grade 1 listed war memorial and walled gardens** items of significant **heritage interest** have been preserved, improved and interpreted. Lighting and CCTV were installed, a new drainage system introduced and the horticulture in the park redesigned. In total the landscaping contract cost £1,871,839 and further details can be found within the appended End of Project Report.

5.3 A second capital contract was let to demolish the former park pavilion and replace it with a **new pavilion**, built to passivhaus standards and housing a community room (available for rent), a café facility (leased to an external operator) and public toilets. The passivhaus standard is met by including triple glazed windows, a PV array on the roof, an air source heat pump, extensive insulation, and a heat recovery system which captures heat generated within the building (including the café) and then filters and recirculates the heat through the building. The cost of the pavilion, as per the final certificate, was £958,041.

5.4 **Community support** has been integral to the project and indeed the initial impetus for the regeneration came from the Friends of Hermitage Park. We are grateful for their constant and continuing support. In addition a wide range of local individuals, organisations, societies and organisations have helped deliver the park. At the outset the strapline for the park

figures for 2021 are 149,661, representing an increase of 92% beyond the set target.

- 5.10 Hermitage Park has been awarded Green Flag status for four consecutive years. Green Flag is an accepted mark of excellence for parks and greenspaces.
- 5.11 With the end of NLHF funding, the Hermitage Park Manager post came to an end on 30th June 2023 and a range of tasks and responsibilities were subject to handover arrangements to colleagues in Roads and Infrastructure Services and Property Services as detailed in the next section.

6.0 HANDOVER ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 The Pavilion

The new Pavilion building was completed in 2020. Day to day running of the Pavilion is the responsibility of Roads and Infrastructure Services, with appropriate support relating to maintenance, statutory testing and repairs being given by Property Services. Issues specific to the agreed lease with the café tenant are handled by Estates.

6.2 Park maintenance

The NLHF supported park improvements and activities have helped make Hermitage Park a valued space for the community. With the NLHF grant now almost complete, it is important to have a newly established mechanism in place to allow for the continuing delivery of quality activities and to maintain a quality environment. This will help the park to remain as a valuable community asset.

A condition of the NLHF grant is that the approved 10 year Management and Maintenance Plan is adhered to for a 10 year period after NLHF funding ends. Additionally the park should achieve the Green Flag Award for six years. As the Management and Maintenance Plan is the foundation for the quality demanded by Green Flag, the two things are closely linked. Maintenance in the park is currently carried out by the Park Supervisor supplemented by an agreed programme of additional input, including (but not restricted to) annual regimes for cutting grass, spraying weeds and cutting hedges. The budget annually for employing the Park Supervisor and carrying out

	£3,932,134
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7.5 The balance of costs against income therefore currently shows a project underspend of circa **£9k**. This underspend is due to an outstanding item of

Skate park is located in a suitable spot in Helensburgh. If

NLHF final drawn
down of £100k is not
permitted due to
breach of purposes of
grant

Council	High	High
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the concerns expressed

10.5.2	Socio-economic Duty	Provides opportunities for communities and business to access quality spaces.
10.5.3	Islands	n/a
10.6	Climate Change	Climate change benefits are delivered by the new passivhaus pavilion and the sustainable drainage system.
10.7	Risk	It is a condition of NLHF grant that Green Flag status is maintained. NLHF funding of £100k remaining to be draw down is at risk.
10.8	Customer Service	Improved facilities for customers.

Kirsty Flanagan

Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth

Policy Lead Robin Currie

4th August 2023

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Hermitage Park End of Project Report

Appendix 2 Hermitage Park Evaluation Report