

## **Friends of Milngavie Reservoir (FoMR)**

### Position Paper –Reservoirs’ Paths network

#### **Background:**

The Reservoirs have a continuous path running round the perimeter and linked via the causeway between the two reservoirs totalling approximately three miles. The paths are well used by the thousands of visitors to the area who walk, run and cycle in safety around the car-free environment.

The surfaces vary from whin dust to hardcore, gravel and tarmac. There are other informal paths around the woodland often used by mountain bikers and this has led to deterioration of their condition making it muddy for walkers and joggers. Each of the formal paths have suffered in different ways from a lack of maintenance over many years but share a common problem of poor drainage and resulting flooding.

The whin surfaces, along the western and southern sides of Mugdock Reservoir and the eastern and southern sides of Craigmaddie, are generally smooth but have several sunken areas where substantial amounts of rainwater gather in large puddles. Where the path runs parallel to Mugdock Road near the Drumclog Car Park, the condition has been so bad at times that walkers and runners have been forced onto the adjoining grassy area which itself has then become very muddy.

The condition of the hardcore path along the northern side of Mugdock, known as Lovers’ Walk, has been particularly bad in recent years and at its worst has been virtually impassable at its northern end with deep mud and puddles creating an obstacle course for walkers and runners and blocked to those in wheelchairs or pushing prams. Repair work has been carried out on several occasions with fresh re-surfacing and replacement of drainage pipes but this has been of a poor standard (the contractor had to return to make good previous work) and the problem continues in bad weather.

At the northern end near the house called Craigholm, there is a set of steps, and although there is a rough basic ramp nearby, it is difficult for prams and wheelchairs to get through to complete a round trip of the Reservoir. There is also a small step on the path leading to the settling ponds.

The tarmac surface on the northern and western part of Craigmaddie is generally good but again there are drainage problems in specific areas, especially below the new treatment plant where there has been evidence of water seeping from the grass bank and settling in a dip in the path. In other areas, there are potholes which gather water and freeze over winter, causing further damage.

The road on the northern part of the site that links Strathblane road to Mugdock road is used by Scottish Water vehicles for accessing the watercourses for

undertaking sampling and there are increasing number of cyclists and walkers using this route. This access route is in a poor state of repair with many potholes.

**Conclusion:**

FoMR is of the view that SW should progress with a programme of work to improve the paths network to enhance the visitor experience which includes the following actions:

- Scottish Water to carry out a full survey of the entire path network to establish the cause of the flooding problem in specific areas, which is likely to be poor drainage.
- Improved and efficient drainage should be installed in the problem areas. Pipes and gulleys should be regularly checked and cleared as necessary to maintain efficiency.
- Following the installation of proper drainage, potholes and eroded areas should be reinstated with suitable base and re-surfaced.
- Paths should be passable without puddles.
- Path surfaces should be suitable to withstand foot traffic.
- The steps at the northern end of Lovers' Walk should be replaced with a smooth ramp to match the one on the opposite side of the Reservoir beside Mugdock Road to allow free access for wheelchairs and pushchairs.
- Damaged area of grass should be reinstated with ground preparation, grass seeding and protection from people traffic during establishment.

**Prepared: September 2020**

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