

Friends of Milngavie Reservoir (FoMR)

Position Paper – Car parking

Background:

Milngavie Reservoir's Conservation and Recreation Plan (MRCaRP) was drawn up in 2006; this plan engaged both national bodies and community groups in reaching a consensus in setting out future actions in securing its longer-term future. When considering and assessing car parking options it was agreed for the old treatment plant area it was important "...to maintain the character and tranquillity of Milngavie Reservoirs, vehicular access to the core of the site should be strictly limited to disabled visitors, residents of the reservoir site, special parties by arrangements and Scottish Water operatives". (MRCaRP paragraph 6.131)

It was also noted that the access ramp leading to the old treatment plant "...is narrow and only allows a single line of traffic at one time. The presence of walls prevents the creation of 'passing places' and, therefore, vehicles entering and exiting the site must currently give way. This arrangement would not be workable with larger volumes of traffic." (paragraph 6.28).

In 2006, a number of car parking spaces for disabled badge holders were introduced. This action was not intended to replace the new car park required by the legal agreement for the Katrine Water Project. Unfortunately, over the past 14 years, unauthorised traffic entering the reservoir area has increased significantly creating a serious Health and Safety issue and apart from the resulting congestion, manoeuvring vehicles also puts at risk the increased number of walkers and cyclists sharing the same limited space. The issue has been raised by FoMR on many occasions with Scottish Water.

FoMR is supportive of MRCaRP's recommendation in retaining a number of car parking spaces for disabled badge holders while putting measures in place to prevent general car parking and maintain Milngavie Reservoir as a safe, pollution-free and tranquil environment for the benefit of everyone. FoMR considers this approach is in keeping with EDC and the town's BID (Business Improvement District) in promoting Milngavie as a "Walking Town" and encourages more sustainable routes of travel in and around the town.

Conclusions:

FoMR considers there is an urgent need to control car parking occurring at the old treatment plant site to ensure Milngavie Reservoir is a safe haven for all abilities and is a tranquil, pollution free destination for all to enjoy.

FoMR supports taking action to prevent unauthorised car parking at the old treatment works by adopting short- and longer-term actions that support Milngavie becoming a walking town destination.

Short-term actions:

1. SW to prevent unauthorised car parking at the old treatment plant area by either:

- Closing the existing barrier and using the 3 existing spaces. This would need to indicate that the tarmac area at the entrance to the chlorine building is kept free for turning around, with the southern part of the entrance adapted to accommodate a mini-bus type vehicle which may have large ramps.

Or

- Providing a keypad barrier at Mugdock Rd. entrance.

Or

-Implementing Scottish Water's suggestion and putting a security guard at the entrance gates at Mugdock road to prevent entry by unauthorised vehicles.

2. SW to simplify signage and erect no entry signage at the gates at Mugdock road making it clear no unauthorised vehicles are allowed in this area.

3. SW to work with EDC to create additional car parking spaces for disabled badge holders at Drumclog Muir car park.

Longer-term actions:

1. SW to restore or redesign the landscape at the old treatment works. This should include a safer and less obtrusive location for the blue badge spaces.

2.SW to work with EDC to provide a raised "tabletop" pedestrian crossing to the reservoir as recommended by MRCaRP and to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph for Mugdock road. This will also encourage more sustainable routes of travel to/from the reservoir area.

3.SW and EDC to promote better public transport to the reservoir area.

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