

## Playspace inspiration

A strong theme emerging from our consultation process is your desire to weave the heritage of the place into the design of the park addressing the ironage presence of a Crannog, the legacy of the Kilbirnie Fair and your memories of the mines, mills, steelworks, trains and factories that have made the landscape at Lochshore look the way it does today. You really want to see the industrial and cultural heritages of the Garnock Valley expressed and made visible in the design of the park.

We've used this approach to design two destination playspaces in the park, to be located at the northern and southern ends of the park. The northern playspace is themed on a lookout or towerhouse overlooking the loch from the hill. The southern playspace south of the Hub building develops on the theme of an ironworks to represent and recall the Garnock Valley's industrial heritage. Inclusive design or 'play for all ages and abilities' is a key design principle and a changing places facility is planned as part of the Hub development.

The curving shapes of the 'Ironworks' playspace will be inspired by the old rail terminuses of the steelworks; with bump tracks and accessible paths around the edges for balance bikes and wheelchair 'parkour'. Young children's imaginative play needs will be stimulated at a small play 'crannóg'; on wooden animals symbolising the Kilbirnie Livestock Fair and Robert Burns's horse; on wooden trains to echo the train lines along either shore; and in and on wooden barrels to recall the whisky bonders. Older children can engage in dynamic adventurous play on pyramid towers to link to the Auld Kirk and the distinctive spires of the Beith churches; wooden climbing forests and structures symbolise the forests that used to clad the shores of the Loch and were felled for shipbuilding. Ropes and rope nests in play structures recall the fishing net, weaving and rope-making industries.

## Woodland Design

Green Action Trust is leading on work to create an area of new woodland at the north of the site. They are proposing to plant around 10ha of new native woodland which will also greatly enhance the biodiversity found here providing food and shelter for a huge variety of wildlife. The woodland will be a native, with species including Oak, Birch and Rowan dominating, however it will also include a range of other native species like Hazel, Wild Cherry and Hawthorn to add interest and colour and even foraging opportunities in time.

The young woodland will be surrounded by deer fencing, to protect it from grazing pressure and to allow the woodland to establish. Public access will continue to be possible in and around the woodland and there will be paths and glades designed within it. For more information and an opportunity to comment on the draft proposals please follow the link here: <https://greenactiontrust.org/lochshore-woodland-creation/>

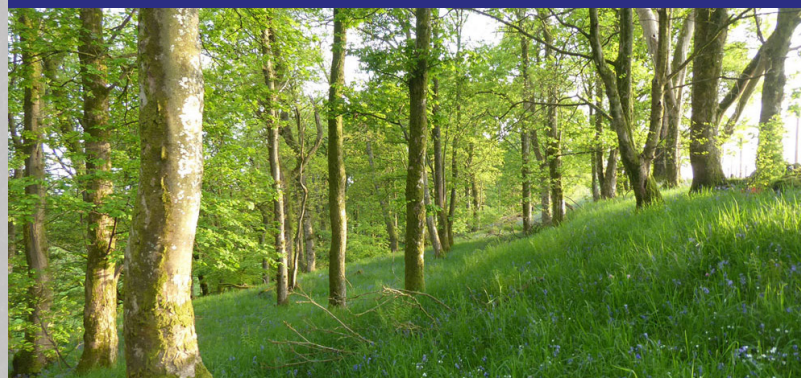


## How to give further feedback

There are several ways in which you can provide further feedback on the proposed design. For those with online access you can submit your comments via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/lochshore>

- You can send your comments by email to: [lochshore@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:lochshore@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)
- For those who do not have online access you can request a paper copy of the project survey to be mailed to you for completion by contacting North Ayrshire Council on 01294 310000.
- You can also mail your written comments to us at Lochshore Park 2021, Regeneration, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8E.
- Comments on the draft plan should be submitted by Friday 14th of January 2022.

All comments will be reviewed, and a final park masterplan will be presented to the Council for approval in January. We will then publish a final newsletter (No.3) in the new year to let everyone know what has been decided. At this stage a planning application will be prepared for the first phase of construction.



## Lochshore Park Masterplan - Newsletter 2 November 2021



**Welcome** to the second edition of our newsletter on the Lochshore Park development and thank you to everyone who responded to our first edition and participated in the consultation events over the summer.

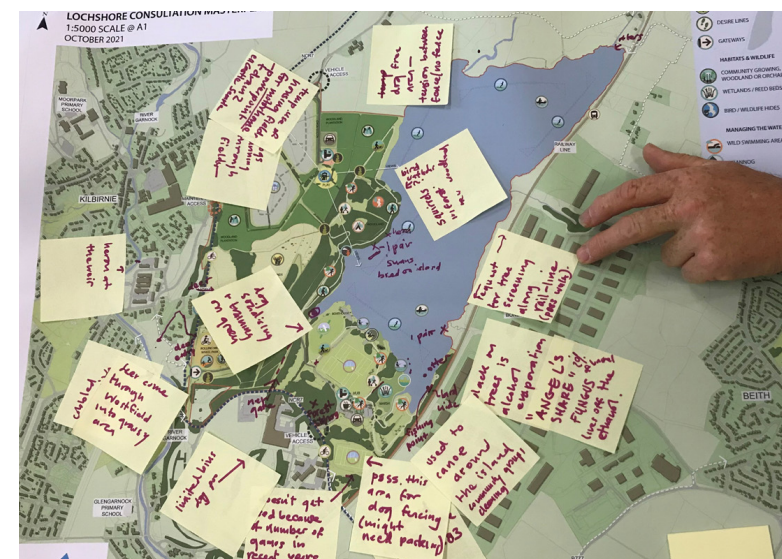
In the first edition of the newsletter, we invited you to submit your ideas and suggestions for the new park we are designing at Lochshore. We got an excellent response with over 150 written responses to our online survey, over 50 submissions from local school children and from the hundreds of people who attended our drop-in exhibitions in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie in August, our youth day at Lochshore in June and our open day exhibition at Lochshore in September. Many of you also participated in online meetings and discussions with the design team over the summer and most recently in the codesign workshop at the Garnock campus in October.

Phase 1 projects including the Garnock Visitor and Community Hub and associated play area, 5km leisure route and a new active travel route are already underway at the site and are due to be completed within the next year. This newsletter allows us to share a first draft plan for the wider Lochshore Park which is based on what you told us. This edition of the newsletter allows us to share a first draft plan for Lochshore Park based on what you told us.

This draft plan, set out in the centre pages, develops your ideas and suggestions, and reveals a vision of what we could build at Lochshore. This 'draft plan' is presented for further debate and validation before we move to a finalised version for the Council to approve early in the new year. The delivery of these proposals will then take place over a number of phases as funding opportunities arise.

As before we have a short survey which you can use to provide feedback on the proposals. The deadline for comments on this second stage of consultation is Friday 14th of January 2022. We hope you find the plans exciting and representative of your vision for the park.

We are pleased to present the new logo for the site which has been developed by representatives of the Lochshore Development Group and pupils from the Garnock Community Campus. The icon represents the shape of the loch which was selected due to it being the constant feature of the site over time. The design process also saw the addition of the word park to give the site a clearer identity to visitors.



Please register your comments at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/lochshore>  
See back page for more details



# What you told us...

The feedback can be summarised under four key questions:

## What facilities would you like to see there?

- Dog walking facilities
- Café and outdoor catering
- Heritage interpretation - Crannog, Steelworks & Whithorn Way
- Play areas and event spaces
- Outdoor gym & access to the water for swimming
- Woodland walks, habitats, and nesting areas
- Fishing jetties and restoration of the boardwalk.
- Controlled access to certain areas of park
- Toilets, and changing facilities
- Improved site security

## What links and connections are important to you to make it accessible?

- Access for all abilities including the elderly.
- Footpaths and cycle paths linking to Kilbirnie, Beith and the Garnock Campus
- Connections to the Sustrans national cycle network route 7
- Rail station link
- Public transport- bus access
- Ample parking
- Good signage

## What does Lochshore mean to you in terms of its history & storytelling?

- History of the steelworks
- The ancient crannog
- The pilgrim route of the Whithorn Way
- Beith furniture making
- Family events at the Loch

## How would you want to use the spaces within the park to play and exercise?

- Walking/dog walking
- Nature trails and biodiversity
- Sports use & fitness
- Play installations for children and youth
- Easier access to the water
- Camping & caravanning

We received detailed comments on the heritage stories of Lochshore which we have used to help design parts of the park. For example, the route of the ancient Whithorn Way that wound through Lochshore Park, where medieval pilgrims walking to Paisley Abbey would use the tree stands as shelter and pick berries by the road. The story of the Kilbirnie Fair, the largest in the region, where Robert Burns famously bought his horse. The theme of 'iron age to ironworks' that captures the age of the Crannóg to the more recent presence of the Glengarnock steelworks that employed so many locally. Other submissions provided really helpful information on the biodiversity and natural habitats in the area and on the safety issues affecting the use of the Loch.

# Concept Masterplan

