

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A GARDEN CENTRE AND COFFEE SHOP STRATHCLYDE COUNTRY PARK
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Date: 26 JULY 2000	Ref: MMcM/JT/LP	

1. INTRODUCTION.

- 1.1 Members will recall at the last Community Services Committee a Development Strategy for Strathclyde Country Park was approved.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Report is to advise members of an approach which has now been received from an external Caterer to establish a Garden Centre and Coffee Shop within Strathclyde Country Park.

2. BACKGROUND.

- 2.1 Over the years there have been a number of tentative approaches along the lines of establishing a Garden Centre within Strathclyde Country Park, none of which have progressed beyond the initial enquiry stage.
- 2.2 Recent discussions with staff from Planning & Environment and Housing & Property agree that such a development could be seen to compliment the existing leisure and recreational facilities within the Park, given that gardening is such a popular leisure time activity. It would also improve services to an age-group of the community not currently well-favoured within the Park.
- 2.3 The concept of a Garden Centre linked with a quality coffee shop is well proven in the Clyde Valley and locating such a development within Strathclyde Country Park would seem to merit further investigation.
- 2.4 Two sites would appear to lend themselves favourably to the possibility of such a development namely :-
 - a) The ex funfair site located centrally in the Park adjacent to the lochside and close to the mouth of the South Calder Water, or
 - b) The previous site of the Clyde Park Sewage Treatment Works (now demolished) close to the Hamilton Road, Motherwell, entrance to the Park.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Should members agree to the principle of establishing this type of development within Strathclyde Country Park, it would be necessary to identify preferred locations, prepare an outline brief of the development required and advertise for interested developers on the open market. Ultimately, it would be necessary to seek the submission of competitive tender offers for the lease of the site.
- 3.2 Equally discussions will take place between the appropriate Department to determine the desired approach i.e. PPP approach, capital receipt or planning gain. However, before we move forward the general principle requires approval.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS.

- 4.1 That the Committee agree in principle to further investigation of the proposal to establish a Garden Centre and associated Coffee Shop within the boundaries of Strathclyde Country Park.

Paul Jones