Dear Mrs Shankland,

Further to the letter dated 02.04.07 from Mr. J. Fleming, I am writing to confirm that I will be attending the Planning and Environment Committee Hearing for Cavalry Park on Friday 13th April on behalf of the Friends of Burngreen Park Community Group.

We are objecting to the resubmitted planning proposals (Application Number N/06/00355/FUL) for residential development at Cavalry Park, Kilsyth for the following reasons:

- **The development runs contrary to the Council's own policy on Greenbelt Land.**

- **The development will alter the drainage system of the Ebroch and Colzium Burns and increase the flood risk further downstream.**
  The Burngreen Park is the next large flat area downstream of the development. In 2006, NLC approved a £2.3 million external funding bid to develop the park. A £1.4 million bid to Heritage Lottery Fund has already been submitted (30th March 2007). The Friends of Burngreen would expect such funding to be used to improve the facilities in the park, not to be used to build unnecessary flood defences to protect this investment of public money.

- **The development will irreparably damage the environment, particularly the legally protected species in the Ebroch and Colzium Burns and further downstream.**
  The development runs contrary to the Council's own Biodiversity Policy and legal requirements (Local Agenda 21) on Biodiversity.
  There are legally protected species on site and downstream (Atlantic Salmon and Lamprey) protected under Annex II of the EC Species and Habitats Directive, in addition to their legal protection under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. The site has been surveyed in 2005 and 2006 (partly funded by NLC) and NLC expect to put a Management Plan in place. The Friends of Burngreen have already requested that NLC consider the whole aquatic system as a SINC area (this could now be designated as a SSSI site by SNH in view of the survey results). At the moment it is considered a provisional SINC area. The monetary value to the area from "Green" tourism outweighs that of dormitory housing. In an anti-poaching campaign in 2006, Strathclyde Police estimated the value of Salmon stocks poached (by criminal organisations) in the Clyde catchment area to be £13 million (BBC Scotland). The annual value of regulated Salmon (and other) fishing would be considerably more than this. The River Clyde Fisheries Management Trust is in the process of appointing a Water Bailiff for the area (the fishery belongs to the Crown Estates).
The Ebroch is used by Kilsyth Primary School pupils to release young trout under the "Clyde in the Classroom" scheme. NLC has approved this scheme to continue and enlarge. There is already stress on the aquatic environment from the Barrwood Quarry development (pollution incident reported to SEPA 23 Jan 2007). Both developments would continue to pose a threat from the use of herbicides/pesticides and other diffuse pollution entering the water once houses were occupied.

In support of our representations, please find enclosed the following documents:

- The report on the ecological survey of watercourses carried out in 2006 by the Clyde River Foundation (Ref: CRF2006/11). Please note that this document is courtesy of Clyde River Foundation, is confidential and contains some sensitive information that is not for general public release at this time. We would be obliged if everyone at the hearing respects this.
- Development Plan for the Burngreen Park and Recreation Ground (Halcrow, 2006).
- Letters (Copy) from Friends of Burngreen to NLC Ecologist.
- Minutes of the last NL Biodiversity Partnership Freshwater Working Group Meeting (Nov 06).

We assume that the Committee will already have access to the 2005 CRF survey and the relevant NLC habitat and species biodiversity action plans but we can supply these if necessary.

Yours Sincerely,

F. Murdoch

Fiona Murdoch,
(Secretary, Friends of Burngreen Park)
ECOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WATERCOURSES AROUND KILSYTH 2006

William E. Yeomans, Jennifer A. Dodd & Caroline McGillivray

Clyde River Foundation, Institute of Biomedical & Life Sciences, Division of Environmental & Evolutionary Biology, Graham Kerr Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ

Correspondence: w.yeomans@bio.gla.ac.uk

Report reference: CRF2006/11
13 September 2006

Project supported by North Lanarkshire Council
ECOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WATERCOURSES AROUND KILSYTH 2006

Cover Photograph: Garrell Burn in Burngreen Park, Summer 2006

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The Clyde River Foundation is a registered charity which researches the ecology of the Clyde and its tributaries, and promotes environmental education throughout the catchment.

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Supporters

Organisations supporting the Clyde River Foundation and its work are acknowledged at: www.clyderiverfoundation.org
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Clyde River Foundation (CRF) is currently undertaking a baseline audit of the fish communities and their habitats across the Clyde catchment.

- North Lanarkshire Council funded the CRF to carry out a baseline study of the Ebroch and Garrel Burns in 2005, which established that both had relatively diverse fish communities and that the prevailing water quality was good or fair. Two of the fish species found, Atlantic salmon and lampreys, are listed under Annex II of the EC Species and Habitats Directive. This was probably the first confirmed spawning of salmon in North Lanarkshire for over 100 years. The report recommended that an annual monitoring programme should be initiated to assess the status of salmon, lampreys and other species in North Lanarkshire.

- The Clyde River Foundation obtained funding from several sources to pursue ecological works in watercourses around Kilsyth in the summer of 2006. North Lanarkshire Council funded a follow-up to the 2005 investigations of the Ebroch and the Garrell Burns but also wanted clarification of the distribution of salmon in the Kilsyth area.

- Seven species of fish were caught among the 12 sites fished on four watercourses.

- One site, the River Kelvin at Kelvinhead was apparently fishless, which probably relates to the physical structure of the river at that point (it is essentially a drainage ditch).

- Brown trout was present at ten sites, stone loach at nine, three-spined stickleback at eight, lampreys at five, minnow at three, and eel at one site.

- Salmon was present at only two of the sites fished; on the River Kelvin downstream of the Garrell Burn, and on the Garrell Burn upstream of the River Kelvin. Both sites had young-of-the-year fish present, confirming the observation made in 2005 that salmon are breeding close by. A weir-like structure was identified as a barrier to salmon migration just below Kilsyth town.

- Lampreys were found at five sites; four on the Colzium Burn, and one on the River Kelvin downstream of the Garrell Burn.

- The Garrell Burn upstream of the confluence with the Ebroch Burn was shown to suffer from over-abstraction (see front cover). It appears that water is diverted from the burn and is used to fill Banton Loch, a British Waterways reservoir.
1. Introduction

The Clyde River Foundation (CRF) is a registered charity which researches the ecology of the Clyde and its tributaries, and promotes environmental education throughout the catchment. The CRF is currently undertaking a baseline audit of the fish communities and their habitat across the Clyde catchment. North Lanarkshire Council funded a baseline study of watercourses in its town parks during the summer of 2005 (Yeomans et al. 2005) which identified fairly diverse fish faunas and generally good water quality in the Ebroch and Garrell Burns, which bound Burn Green Park in Kilsyth. The Garrell Burn is a tributary of the River Kelvin (Figures 1 & 2). The Kelvin Angling Association manages the fishery in the study area.

In light of the discovery of salmon and lamprey in the area in 2005, North Lanarkshire Council also wished a follow-up survey of key water quality sites on the Ebroch and Garrell Burns.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Fishery Survey

Electric fishing is the most cost effective sampling method for catchment-wide fishery monitoring, and is based on the principle of generating an electric field in the river, which will temporarily "stun" fish within the field of influence of the hand-held anode. Electric fishing surveys may provide a measure of fish distribution and abundance, provide an assessment of population demography, identify adverse environmental impacts and, in extreme cases, highlight recruitment failures (Cowx & Harvey 2002). The fieldwork was carried out as far as possible to current best practice (Beaumont et al. 2001) and to Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre (SFCC) protocol (SFCC 2001).

Fish sampling was carried out using an Electracatch WFC7 generator-powered bankside unit (usual fishing rating approximately 200V and 1A smoothed DC output). Fish were caught using a short-handled fyke net. Semi-quantitative electric fishing was undertaken, with a single pass being fished through each site wading upstream with a single anode. Fish species were noted where present and, for trout and salmon, the fish were identified by eye as being 0+ (young-of-the-year) or 1++ (older) fish. Site habitat variables and basic water chemistry parameters were recorded in accordance with the SFCC protocols and all data is stored electronically on a bespoke national database (see: www.sfcc.org.uk).

Fish were anaesthetised (in a weak solution of 2-phenoxyethanol), identified, measured (fork-length to the nearest millimetre) and samples of scales were taken from representative individuals (to generate age data) before the fish were allowed to recover and returned to the river. Fish age is determined by a combination of visual assessment of the length-frequency distribution of the population, and direct interpretation of scale growth patterns.

All CRF personnel involved in the electric fishing had passed the SFCC "Introduction to Electrofishing Course", which covers health and safety, and basic electrofishing theory and practice. Additionally, Willie Yeomans, Caroline McGillivray and Jennifer Dodd were accredited SFCC Electrofishing "Team Leaders".

A total of 12 sites were electrofished in June 2006 (Figures 1 & 2; Table 2).
2.2 Biological Water Quality Survey

Surveying the macro-invertebrates in rivers helps detect and assess pollution and the effects of river management. Macro-invertebrates are the small animals that live in rivers, which are visible to the naked eye and are retained in a pond net of 0.5mm mesh size (e.g., mayflies, stoneflies, caddis flies, snails, shrimps and worms). These animals tell us about the quality of their environment—they do not move very far and respond to the whole range of stressors present in the river, including pollutants which may be present intermittently or at very low concentrations (and could therefore be missed by chemical sampling).

The riverine invertebrates were surveyed to the standard protocol used by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). A site was selected that was typical of the stretch of river being assessed. The different habitats within that site were sampled using a standard pond net (1mm mesh size) to collect the animals dislodged in a three minute “kick sample” plus a one minute stone search. The samples were preserved on-site in 80% alcohol and refrigerated no more than 48h later. The samples were sorted later in the laboratory by washing the preserved sample through a 0.5mm mesh sieve and examining the retained material under a dissecting microscope at x8 – x80 magnification. All macro-invertebrates present were removed to a spotting tray using fine forceps, identified to biological Family level (biological Class level for worms) and counted.

The raw data were fed into the Biological Monitoring Working Party (BMWP) score system, which is widely accepted as a simple means of assessing biological water quality. A numerical value is allocated to each invertebrate taxon (i.e., Family or Class) based on its tolerance to organic pollution. For example, mayfly and stonefly nymphs are intolerant to organic pollution, and therefore score ten, water beetles five, snails three, and worms (which can live in poor water quality) score one. The BMWP score for the site is calculated by summing the values of each taxon found in the sample. The Average Score Per Taxon (ASPT) is an index of organic pollution. It is calculated by dividing the BMWP score for a site by the number of scoring taxa found at that site, and represents the average sensitivity of the taxa present. ASPT is considered a reliable index of organic pollution because it is not greatly increased or decreased by variations in sampling effort and/or the presence/absence of a few rare taxa (which is sometimes caused by habitat disturbance). The number of different scoring taxa is used as an index of both organic and toxic pollution and physical pollution, such as siltation. A large number of taxa indicates a rich community and a healthy environment but a low number does not necessarily indicate polluted conditions. Biologists use these indices to detect and evaluate changes in quality at monitoring sites, as well as differences between similar sites on the same stretch of river (e.g., when comparing conditions upstream and downstream of an effluent or impact).

Different invertebrate communities are characteristic of different river types and natural differences in the nature of the stream bed, gradient, flow rate, underlying geology and geographical location. It is therefore possible that BMWP scores from different sites will differ irrespective of water quality. The computer program RIVPACS (River InVertebrate Prediction and Classification System) takes natural differences into account, and allows comparison of sites in terms of their biological quality alone (Clarke et al. 2004). From a site’s physical and chemical characteristics, RIVPACS can predict the BMWP score, ASPT and the number of scoring taxa in a sample if the site were free of human influence (i.e., pollution and/or habitat
degradation.) The difference between the invertebrate community observed at a site and that predicted by RIVPACS (the RIVPACS Environmental Quality Index) indicates the magnitude of the impacts attributable to anthropogenic activities. If the RIVPACS EQI is equal to or greater than one, the biological quality is satisfactory. As the value drops below one, progressively poorer biological quality is indicated. The RIVPACS EQIs were calculated for each site.

The SEPA classifies river water quality according to the following parameters: water chemistry (dissolved oxygen content, biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia content, iron content and pH), ecology (macroinvertebrate EQI<sub>ASPT</sub> and EQI<sub>No,TAXA</sub>), nutrient concentration (soluble reactive phosphate), aesthetic condition, and the amount of toxic substances present (http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm). The final allocation of the quality class is based on the lowest class determined among the categories. The ecological assessment is based on data collected from at least two surveys of invertebrate fauna each year. For laboratory-sorted macroinvertebrate samples, the SEPA classification scheme ignores the EQI<sub>BMP</sub>, using only the EQI<sub>ASPT</sub> and the EQI<sub>No,TAXA</sub> (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EQI&lt;sub&gt;ASPT&lt;/sub&gt;</th>
<th>EQI&lt;sub&gt;No,TAXA&lt;/sub&gt;</th>
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<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>&gt;1.00</td>
<td>&gt;0.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Fair</td>
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<td>&gt;0.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>&gt;0.50</td>
<td>&gt;0.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Seriously Polluted</td>
<td>&lt;0.50</td>
<td>&lt;0.30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Macro-invertebrate samples were taken from two sites, one at the bottom of the Ebroch Burn, the other on the Garrell Burn just above the River Kelvin (Sites A and B, Figure 2). These fell into the RIVPACS "Summer" sampling season.

While it could be somewhat misleading to utilise the data from the current survey for water quality classification in the absence of information from the other three categories (and at least one further invertebrate survey in 2006), it is nevertheless interesting to investigate the relative positions of the survey site EQI within the classification hierarchy.

3. Results

3.1 Fishery Survey

Seven species of fish were caught among the 12 sites fished on four watercourses (Table 2, Figures 3-12).

One site, the River Kelvin at Kelvinhead was apparently fishless, which probably relates to the physical structure of the river at that point (it is essentially a drainage ditch).

Brown trout was present at ten sites, stone loach at nine, three-spined stickleback at eight, lampreys at five, minnow at three, and eel at one site.

Salmon was present at only two of the sites fished; on the River Kelvin downstream of the Garrell Burn, and on the Garrell Burn upstream of the River Kelvin. Both sites had young-of-the-year fish present, confirming the observation made in 2005 that
salmon are breeding close by. A weir-like structure was identified as a barrier to salmon migration just below Kilsyth town (between Sites 11 & 12).

Lampreys were found at five sites; four on the Colzium Burn, and one on the River Kelvin downstream of the Garrell Burn.

3.2 Biological Water Quality Survey

Site A, on the Ebroch Burn in Burngreen Recreational Ground, had an EQI\text{ASPT} of 0.84, and an EQI\text{No.TAXA} of 0.85, which would place it in the "Fair" water quality band.

Site B, on the Garrell Burn just upstream of the River Kelvin had an EQI\text{ASPT} of 0.95, and an EQI\text{No.TAXA} of 0.73, which places it in the "Good" water quality band.

4. Discussion

4.1 Fishery Survey

It is unusual to find a fishless surface water in the Clyde catchment. The River Kelvin at Kelvinhead is therefore enigmatic. The proximity of this site to the source, and the physical structure of the channel may explain the lack of fish but this site is worthy of further investigation.

The 2006 survey was designed to build upon that undertaken in 2005 (Yeomans et al. 2006). The qualitative composition of the fish communities in the sampling area is largely what would be expected in a post-industrial catchment in Central Scotland, i.e. brown trout, three-spined stickleback, stone loach, minnow and lampreys, plus Atlantic salmon and eels where these species have free access from the sea.

The minnow was not recorded in the 2005 survey but was found in three of the watercourses sampled in 2006 (although sporadically). The absence of minnow in 2005 was more surprising than finding the species in 2006. It does appear, however, that the minnow is less common than might be expected in the Kilsyth area.

Encouragingly, there was no evidence of non-native fish species in either 2005 or 2006. Non-native species are common in other parts of the Clyde catchment (Yeomans & McGillivray 2003).

Salmon are listed under Annex II of the EC Species and Habitats Directive. The discovery of spawning salmon in the Garrell Burn in 2005 was shown to be no fluke by the current survey. Salmon are certainly breeding regularly in the lower end of the Garrell Burn, as well as in the River Kelvin immediately downstream. This excellent news should be tempered by the knowledge that the weir-like structure between Sites 11 and 12 appears to be restricting upstream migration of both adults and juveniles in the Garrell Burn. North Lanarkshire Council is looking to remove this impediment, which will give access to a little extra potential spawning and nursery habitat for salmon (and possibly sea trout). It should be noted, however, that the potential ecological benefits of the increased accessibility will be considerably reduced should the abstraction regime of summer 2006 be replicated in future years (see front cover). It is to be hoped that British Waterways can be prevailed upon to manage its outtake to Banton Loch in a more environmentally friendly manner. The site featured on the front cover was surveyed in 2005 and very few fish were found, despite the physical
habitat being very suitable for trout fry. The view from the bridge in 2006 helped to explain why.

Lampreys were recorded in the Ebroch/Colzium Burns in 2005. The 2006 survey confirmed the presence of a permanent population of lampreys in the Colzium Burn in Cavalry Park, and downstream into Burngreen Recreation Ground. The lampreys in the Colzium Burn and the Ebroch Burn are potentially threatened by the development of Cavalry Park and the “Waterfall Village” site. All reasonable measures should be taken to protect the lampreys (which are also listed under Annex II of the EC Species and Habitats Directive) and their habitats should development of these areas go ahead.

The single record of eel in the survey is of interest because of the current poor condition of the European eel stock, which has declined massively since 1980. No management action should be undertaken which will negatively affect the resident eel population.

4.2 Water Quality

The water quality of the two sites surveys in 2006 reinforced the impression made in 2005 (ie. both surveys found “Fair” water quality in Burngreen Recreational Ground, which improved to “Good” in the Garrell Burn just above the River Kelvin. There was again some deterioration in quality as the watercourse passes through Kilsyth, presumably as an effect of urban runoff.

As identified in 2005, vigilance should be exercised at the sampling site in Burngreen Recreation Ground should work recommence on the “Waterfall Village” immediately upstream.

5. Conclusion

A diverse native fish fauna persists in the watercourses surrounding Kilsyth, with permanent populations of lampreys and salmon breeding in the accessible areas of the Garrell Burn. Water quality is generally sufficient to support salmon and trout. Vigilance must be exerted to protect the vulnerable components of the fish community from pollution and habitat degradation, with an emphasis on the areas of stream likely to be affected by development.

6. Recommendations

- Annual surveys should be initiated to monitor the condition of the fish populations at key sites; to confirm whether the salmon breeding in the Garrel Burn is an annual event (as it appears to be); and to monitor the appearance of salmon above the planned easement at the weir below Kilsyth.

- A strategy should be formulated for the protection of salmon returning to North Lanarkshire. This is primarily the responsibility of the local angling interests but the Crown Estate, the local police Wildlife Liaison Officer and North Lanarkshire Council should have an input.

- A review of British Waterways’ operation of the abstraction of water from the Garrell Burn, and its ecological impact, should be undertaken as a matter of urgency.
7. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Jennifer Dodd, Caroline McGillivray, David Murray and Willie Yeomans. Paul Baker, David Boyes, Tommy Clarkson, and Shiona MacPhail from North Lanarkshire Council assisted with sampling site selection.

8. References


TABLE AND FIGURES
Figure 1: Location of the Survey Areas in the lower Clyde catchment
Figure 2: Sampling Site Locations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Reference (Figure 2)</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>0+ Trout</th>
<th>1+ Trout</th>
<th>0+ Salmon</th>
<th>1+ Salmon</th>
<th>Three-spined Stickleback</th>
<th>Stone Loach</th>
<th>Lampreys</th>
<th>Minnow</th>
<th>Eel</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>River Kelvin at Kelvinhead</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>River Kelvin at Auchinstarry Bridge</td>
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<td>River Kelvin d/s Garrell Burn</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Burn at Woodend Farm</td>
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<td>Colzium Burn in Colzium Estate</td>
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<td>Colzium Burn u/s Curling Pond Outfall</td>
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<td>Colzium Burn in Cavalry Park</td>
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<td>Colzium Burn d/s A803</td>
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<td>Colzium Burn u/s Kilsyth</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Garrell Burn u/s Weir below Kilsyth</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Garrell Burn u/s River Kelvin</td>
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Figure 3: Distribution of Brown Trout
Figure 4: Distribution of 0+ Brown Trout
Figure 5: Distribution of 1++ Trout
Figure 6: Distribution of 0+ Salmon
Figure 7: Distribution of 1+ Salmon
Figure 8: Distribution of Three-spined Stickleback
Figure 9: Distribution of Stone Loach
Figure 10: Distribution of Lampreys
Figure 11: Distribution of Minnow
Figure 12: Distribution of Eel
Friends of Burngreen Park
And Recreation Ground, Kilsyth
c/o 48 Orchard Street
Hamilton
ML3 6PB

29th November 2005

To:
Mr Martin Dean
Senior Planning Officer
Department of Planning and Environment
Fleming House
2 Tryst Road
Cumbernauld
G67 1 JW

Dear Mr Dean,

The Friends of Burngreen Park Community Group are writing to ask for your advice regarding the status of the Garrell and Ebroch Bums which bound the Burngreen Park, Kilsyth.

The report on the ecological survey of watercourses carried out in 2005 by the Clyde River Foundation (Ref: CRF2005/07) and supported by North Lanarkshire Council, found six species of fish in these burns, two of them (Atlantic Salmon and Lamprey) protected under Annex II of the EC Species and Habitats Directive. We were delighted to see such results as they are an indication that these watercourses are returning to good health after previous decades of industrial pollution.

In addition to their legal protection under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, we would like to ask if North Lanarkshire Council would consider providing additional protection to these watercourses by applying some appropriate designation such as SINC/Zone of Importance for Biodiversity (or would SNH consider SSSI designation?). To be effective, such protection would ideally have to be applied along the whole of the Garrell, Ebroch and Colzium (main tributary of the Ebroch) Burns and included in the Local Plan.

We are aware that Kilsyth Community Council have already written to you on the same subject (18th Oct 2005) and we fully support their views.

Thank you for your help on this matter; we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Fiona Murdoch.
(Secretary)

cc:
Dr. Paul Baker (NLC Biodiversity Officer)
Paul Carter (Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum)
Mr J McAloon (River Clyde Fisheries Management Trust)
Margot Macmillan (Kilsyth Community Council)
Shiona MacPhail (NLC Urban Parks Development Team)
Dr. William Yeomans (Clyde River Foundation)
Dear Dr Baker,

The Friends of Burngreen Park Community Group are writing to ask for your advice regarding the management of the Garrell and Ebroch Burns which bound the Burngreen Park, Kilsyth.

The Friends Group was recently approached by NLC Kilsyth Depot Grounds Maintenance (with whom we have monthly meetings), asking if we would be prepared to help with environmentally sensitive burn clearing if required. This was in response to a complaint to them (via Councillor Jean Jones) from a resident nearby who had complained about "weeds" choking the Ebroch burn. They have also contacted the Ranger Service about this.

We have discussed the matter at committee and are happy to help if required, provided that there is some sort of formal initial assessment made to see if the work is actually necessary or appropriate and also some sort of management plan in place so that no harm is inadvertently done to the ecology of the burn. This would also give Grounds Maintenance assistance in responding to such complaints. Presumably such a plan would have to involve input from SEPA (water quality/flood control) and British Waterways (who control the flow through both burns via the sluices at Colzium and the Garrell Mill lade). We would assume such a plan would follow on from the Rivers and Streams Habitat Action Plan (North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan, November 1999) which is already in place and include the BAP's on Atlantic Salmon, Otters, Water Voles and any other such plans now in place or pending (Eels, Lamprey?).

Until such a plan is in place, would you please give us some advice about the best course of action in the short term?

Thank you for your help on this matter; we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Fiona Murdoch.
(Secretary)

cc:
Mr J McAloon (River Clyde Fisheries Management Trust)
Margot Macmillan (Kilsyth Community Council)
Shiona MacPhail (NLC Urban Parks Development Team)
Charlie Whyte (NLC Grounds Maintenance Local Manager)
Dr. William Yeomans (Clyde River Foundation)
North Lanarkshire Biodiversity partnership
Freshwater Working Group Meeting
Minutes
20th November 2006
Strathclyde Country Park

Present
Laura Whyte - Biodiversity Officer, North Lanarkshire Council
Colin Dunlop - Countryside Ranger, North Lanarkshire Council
Fiona Murdoch - Friends of Burngreen
Kemp Meikle - RCFMT and Mid Clyde Angling Association

1. Apologies
Jimmy McAloon - River Clyde Fisheries Management Trust
Helena Carey - SEPA
James Delaney - RCFMT and Mid Clyde Angling Association
Mark Palmer - Countryside Ranger, North Lanarkshire Council
Willie Yeomans – Clyde River Foundation

2. Minutes of the Previous meeting
Approved

3. Matters Arising
   • Water Shrew

CD reported that there are records of water shrew in North Lanarkshire. Namely one by the Clyde Walk Way in 2005. Charlie Howe and CD have been putting out traps for water shrew by the Clyde and South Calder. A licence is not required, the trap is designed so that droppings can be collected and species can be identified. Where there are uncertainties over identification the droppings can be sent to an expert for confirmation. CD also confirmed that there is a national water shrew survey co-ordinated by the mammal society.

LW informed the group that water shrews have also been found on the border with East Dumbartonshire.

• Water Voles

LW informed the group that SNH have not yet published their report on Water Voles in Scotland. Once published LW is to organise a conference on Water Voles in Scotland; this will be based in North Lanarkshire.

CD informed the group that Paul baker (NLC Ecologist) is organising a watervole survey training day. Please contact Paul for more information.

• Drumpellier – Lochend Loch
Blue-green algae has been a problem here in the past, this has coincided with a large number of fish deaths (summer 2004, 2005).

LW informed the group that a report has been prepared for North Lanarkshire Council by Ian Gunn and Alex Kirika on this issue: *Investigation of water quality and ecology of Lochend Loch and Woodend Loch, and report on options for sustainable management.*

The main findings of the report were:

The fish deaths were found to be due to a high biological oxygen demand resulting in resident and newly introduced fish becoming stressed and vulnerable to the toxic effect of the cyanobacterial blooms. There was no indication of any losses of macroinvertebrate species or aquatic plants during the study.

A number of recommendations for the improved and sustainable management of Lochend Loch were made.

It was suggested that the loch is still being highly stocked with fish.

**ACTION LW to contact Drumpellier rangers and ask for an update**

- **Rivers and Streams**

LW informed the group that a report has been completed by the Clyde River Foundation: *Ecological survey of Watercourses in North Lanarkshire Town Parks, June 2005.* This was carried out by William Yeomans, Jennifer Dod and Caroline McGillivaray.

Some points from the report:

A total of six species of fish were caught among the four sites on the Garrel and Epoch Burns: (brown trout, Atlantic salmon, three-spined stickleback, stone loach, eel and lampreys). The South burn was apparently fishless.

Two of the fish species, Atlantic salmon and lampreys, are listed under Annex II of the EC Species and Habitats Directive.

The water quality in the South Burn was very poor by comparison with the cluster of sites around Kilsyth. Further investigation of the public health aspects of this watercourse is recommended.

It is recommended an annual monitoring programme be initiated to assess the status of salmon, lampreys and other species in North Lanarkshire.

**ACTION HC to look at SEPA surveys of water quality in South Burn and report back at next meeting. Carried forward to next meeting.**
KM mentioned the 1978 Fresh Water fish Directive with regards to the opportunities it presents for designation and thereby protection of the area.

FM informed the group that the Urban Parks development team worked on this report with Willie Yeomans.

FM wrote to Paul Baker to ask if the site could be protected through designation. The watercourses are right by the park. Enquires had also been made regarding a designation at Colzium.

**ACTION LW to find out if any progress has been made regarding this**

FM and KM informed the group that Willie Yeomans has completed another survey this year and has found that there are more salmon fry this year than last. This report has not been published yet.

- **SUDS training**

Mark Forrest had been looking to take this forward, however he has now left this post.

**ACTION LW to ask planning if any progress has been made on securing SUDS training.**

4. **Focused actions and funding opportunities**

LW reported that the plans have been updated, and the actions have been integrated into an action table, where there are set quantifiable targets. This is compatible with the Biodiversity Action reporting System (BARS). The plans will be sent out for comment, before formal consultation.

It was decided that lamprey be included in the rivers and streams habitat action plan.

CD suggested that Matt Mitchell have a look at the salmon plan.

**ACTION LW to ensure MM has a copy of the latest draft.**

LW also informed the group that there is a pot of money available for biodiversity projects and invited the group to make suggestions for projects.

KM suggested surveying a section of the North Calder close to the confluence of the Clyde. The mid Clyde angling group have the equipment and trained people to carry out a habitat survey and electro fishing. It would cost £1,000 - £1,500.

**ACTION KP to send LW more information on survey and costs.**

FM suggested a few options at Burngreen.

**ACTION LW to attend a site visit to see what opportunities are available.**
ACTION all members of group to comment on plans.

AOB

Grounds maintenance

The group discussed the possibility of working with grounds maintenance to ensure that the management of rivers and streams is consistently environmentally sensitive.

LW to discuss with Archie McLean.

The group was unsure as to the remit of Community and Environmental Wardens.

LW to try and clarify for next meeting.

Membership

ACTION LW to invite Louise Bond from SEPA to the next meeting, and a representative from Scottish Water, and friends of Kelvin Valley Park.

Tourism

FM highlighted the fact that several of the aims of the Lanarkshire Tourism Action Plan have an environmental focus.

Action LW to make contact.
