

Milngavie Heritage Centre

Response to the draft Culture Leisure and Sport strategy

On page 16 we read "The Scottish Government asserts that 'culture, creativity and a *rich, dynamic heritage* sit at the heart of Scotland's communities and everything we do.' " (MHC emphasis)

Yet references to heritage in the draft strategy are minimal, and to museums (and galleries) virtually non-existent. This is despite the outstanding EDLC assets of the Auld Kirk Museum and the Lillie Art Gallery. It is also at odds with the strong score for "heritage" amongst specific interests reported in the responses to question 2 of the 2014 on-line questionnaire, and to "Lillie Art Gallery" and "Auld Kirk Museum" in responses to question 5.

We are also disappointed to see no reference to maintenance of archives and access to them, (other than digital). In the west of ED we are anxious that the high quality archive facilities promised to replace those presently at Brookwood be realised in the projected Bearsden hub.

We suggest that attention to "heritage" in the strategy could be enriched by inclusion of the following Milngavie-related material:

1. Milngavie Heritage Centre

Draft page 37.

In the tabulation re Milngavie Community Hub, we suggest reference to recognition of the strong local aspiration, (and outstanding "proof of principle") for including history/heritage facilities in the projected Hub. A mini-museum for Milngavie? We note the highest rating given to "Maintaining existing facilities and developing new facilities" in responses to question 6 of the questionnaire.

A recent survey by Milngavie Community Council (questionnaire on paper sent to all homes and on-line) elicited 1,300 returns. Prominent under "What We don't like" (about Milngavie) was "Less feeling of community than we've had". One strong community enterprise helping towards regenerating a sense of community, since its inception in 2009, has been Milngavie Heritage Centre. Each of its wide-ranging exhibitions, two per year, of aspects of Milngavie History (staffed entirely by volunteers) has welcomed 400-500 visitors. The project was initiated by Milngavie Community Council, remains community-led, but benefits greatly from partnership working with EDLC staff. As such it could act as a beacon to stimulate similar projects elsewhere in ED.

2. Milngavie Reservoirs

Draft page 2.

Please include Milngavie Reservoirs in the list of “the great outdoors” in paragraph 2.

Draft page 41

Please Include Milngavie Reservoirs in text.

In “Actions Required” box, we suggest using part quotation from ED Local Development Plan 2 (page 90) "(The Council) will continue to work with Scottish Water and the local community to deliver appropriate tourism and leisure activities identified in the Milngavie Reservoirs Conservation and Recreation Plan". Such partnership working is already on-going.

As a *heritage* asset, the Reservoirs are of international importance, stemming from their historic role in civic interventionism and the extraordinary calibre of the engineering, both reflected in the A-listed status of the entire Victorian system and their Designed Landscape designation.

The Reservoirs were not even listed in question 5 of the on-line questionnaire, otherwise it is likely they would have elicited a high score for usage second only to Mugdock Country Park.

Much of the characterisation of Mugdock Country Park in the draft strategy " a very well-used and highly-regarded local asset that provides a number of opportunities for participating in culture, leisure and sport such as walking, cycling, local history and heritage" applies equally to Milngavie Reservoirs.

With their circuit of all-ability paths, the Reservoirs offer physical recreation such as walking, cycling and running to large numbers, notably including the less-able, and should therefore be included amongst the "opportunities to experience the great outdoors" in the foreword on Page 2.