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# Hawick Community Council

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## **Report in respect of Proposed Extension to Boardwalk & Accessibility at Williestruther Loch**

For your information, at a recent HCC meeting, a member of the public raised concerns in respect of the condition and accessibility of some parts of Williestruther Loch. On that basis French Wight and myself have made two site inspection visits to assess the situation and particularly at the second visit following a prolonged period of rain, this confirmed that there are definitely one and possibly two other smaller areas which would require more boardwalk. However, there are essentially lots of then further smaller areas which would benefit from the provision of membrane and gravel. We met with the Criminal Justice Team who is keen to carry out the work and who has since provided us with a quotation for the work.

What we propose for the areas not requiring actual boardwalk but still require attention, is placing some edging nearest the Loch side at all places, with some membrane placed down and then gravel. I have spoken with Matthew Thomson the farmer at Pilmuir and he is happy to be involved as a community gesture, firstly to allow us all access to his land, but then will provide some of the gravel we require himself and selectively place them for us and I have also spoken with John Hepburn at Northhouse who has agreed to work with Matthew on this, as I believe John has even more specialised equipment. Hopefully therefore that will keep some of our costs down

We are confident that the Community Council, courtesy of our funding from Langhoperig, will meet the costs entirely. However, I have been communicating with Frank Scott, Property Officer regarding the matter and it was he who advised that I am required to make members of Hawick Common Good aware of our proposals, notwithstanding there are no financial implications for our proposals.

Therefore please note this report as indicative of our future proposals for additional work at Williestruther Loch and that there will be neutral costs to HCG in respect of the work and would be grateful for your approval that this work may be carried out. I should point out that obviously due to weather conditions, any of this work by the farmers and equally the Criminal Justice Team will not be taking place until perhaps the beginning of May when the ground will be far more satisfactory for work.

**Marion Short**  
**Vice Chair**  
**Hawick Community Council**