
Laigh Hills Park Dunblane

*Friends of the Laigh Hills
Inaugural Meeting*

27th May 2026



Why do we need a Friends of the Laigh Hills Group?

The Laigh Hills is Dunblane's largest Park and is a popular and well used greenspace:

- it currently has much to offer for formal and informal recreation, play, biodiversity and food production;
- there is potential to conserve, enhance and promote the benefits of the Park, working with local people and Stirling Council (who manage the land);
- a large consultation exercise was undertaken by the Council in 2014 and a Master Plan was produced proposing the establishment of a Friends Group;
- the Friends Group would be a working group of the Dunblane Development Trust.



What would the Friends Group do?

The general aims of the Group would be to:

- **develop and promote the Laigh Hills for responsible public access and enjoyment by the local community;**
- **encourage volunteer involvement;**
- **source funding for projects;**
- **enhance the biodiversity of the Park in a sustainable way.**



How would the Friends Group operate?

- Many Friends of Parks Groups are long established in many towns and cities across Scotland, so there is a lot we can learn from these groups and our approach can be flexible.
- There are also a number of existing surveys and a draft action plan for the Laigh Hills which can be developed further to create an updated action plan.



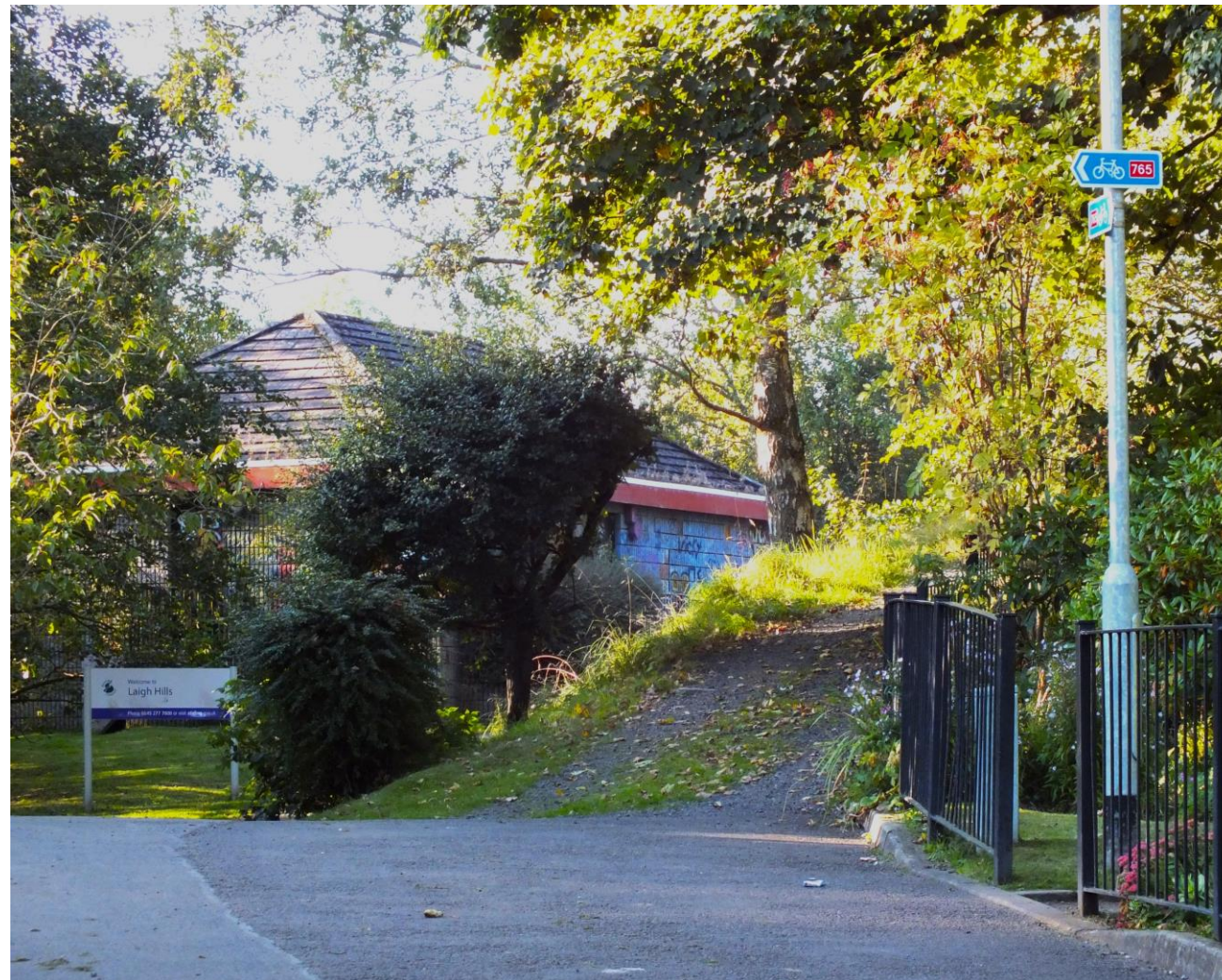
Who might be involved in the Friends Group?

Anyone who has an interest in conserving, enhancing and developing the Laigh Hills could join the group. Membership would be voluntary.

The steering group could consist of a:

- Dunblane Community Council representative;
- Dunblane Development Trust Board member;
- local community members;
- other interested parties.

Local Councillors and Stirling Council staff could also attend meetings.



What tasks are local volunteers already undertaking?

Volunteers already undertake various activities in the Laigh Hills:

- treatment of invasive hogweed;
- litter collection;
- orchard maintenance, management and events;
- mowing of bracken in and around the orchard.

Stirling Council also maintain the play park, empty bins and undertake tree planting and some path works.



Which projects are already being discussed?

Several projects are already under discussion, including:

- plans to install toilets for public use;
- proposals to upgrade the football facilities
- reinstatement or re-routing the circular path along the river following subsidence;
- provision of a more accessible path over the railway;
- biodiversity enhancements to the Scouring burn, in conjunction with Forth Rivers Trust.



What are the next steps?

Taking forward the Friends of the Laigh Hills would involve the next steps:

- **collecting names from people interested in getting involved;**
- **forming a Steering Group;**
- **promoting the Group locally;**
- **reviewing existing surveys, documents and plans;**
- **liaising with relevant organisations;**
- **establishing a volunteer group.**

