

Title of Report:	Voluntary Operation of Green Lane Museum
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 April 2025
For Decision/for Info	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities
Outcome	The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture; Museum Services Development Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	March 2027

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	1035
Staffing Costs	n/a

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Date: August 2016 (CAH strategy, of which this project forms a part)
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: 2019
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: 2019
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers to undertake the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum with support from Museum Services.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Green Lane Museum's collection first came into being in the early/mid 1980s when the Environment and Heritage Service (now known as DAERA) opened Green Lane Museum in Roe Valley Country Park. In 1997, Green Lane Museum's collection came under the ownership of Limavady Borough Council.
- 2.2 A lease was agreed in 2008 between DAERA and Limavady Borough Council which runs from October 2007 until 2032 and stipulated that the building must be maintained as a museum. DAERA will consider a sublease if appropriate to the original purpose.
- 2.3 In 2021 DAERA were consulted and consequently agreed to Council seeking a community group to voluntarily operate GLM with the support of Museum Services.
- 2.4 In January 2022, Council recommended that Museum Services seek community group assistance to operate Green Lane Museum with support from Council for overheads and lease.
- 2.5 Following an expression of interest application process, Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers were the only group to submit an application form and met all the requirements of the application.
- 2.6 A key holder agreement was drafted by the council's Legal Services which was submitted to DAERA in October 2022 and subsequently approved in December 2022. The Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers have worked with Museum Services under this Key Holder Agreement for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. **Annex A** provides detail in terms of outputs delivered.
- 2.7 In December 2024 Council agreed that, in the interest of due diligence, Museum Services could "seek a community group to voluntarily operate Green Lane Museum through a Keyholder Agreement with support from Council for overheads and lease."
- 2.8 The expression of interest application process was advertised on social media, by email and Museum newsletter, and in the local press – The Derry Post and the Chronicle and Constitution.
- 2.9 On receiving applications from two interested community groups, Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers, obtained the highest score through the assessment process.
- 2.10 In terms of costs, there will be no additional grant provided as part of this agreement. Council continues to be liable for the overheads such as electricity, annual inspections and rent to DAERA, at a cost of £5,390, comparable to 2024/2025 costs.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 Museum Service propose to work with Legal Services to update the current Keyholder Agreement with Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers to voluntarily open Green Lane Museum for the 2025 and 2026 seasons.
- 3.2 Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers will be requested to develop a plan to demonstrate engagement, outreach and collaboration with local stakeholders to ensure sustainability and growth of the museum.

3.3 Due to other voluntary groups also showing interest, Museum Services propose to work with all interested community groups and our colleagues in community development to develop a model that will enable more volunteers to become actively involved with the Museum commencing in the 2027 season.

4.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that members approve the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum by Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers under the terms of the Key Holder Agreement for the 2025 and 2026 seasons. Council will continue to pay for overheads and lease.

Annex A

Green Lane Museum

Visitor Numbers

2015	5097
2016	2091
2017	3678
2018	3607
2019	2380
2020	CLOSED
2021	CLOSED
2022	OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
2023	4100
2024	4954

Visitor Feedback 2023 and 2024

“Excellent, informative small museum. Great that it is free.”

“Informative friendly volunteers.”

“Had a very good day – a very fun place.”

“Great exhibition. Lots of friendly stuff full of knowledge.”

“I had a fantastic day being the first time for me to visit Northern Ireland.”

“Really enjoyed my visit here. Brought back many memories. Great to see my old cot, in the corner with the black cats.”