

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: January 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: L&D Batchelor, M.McGinnes, A.Bradley, K.McDonnell, J.Shepherd, S.Garvie, E.Carruthers

Apols: M.Brown, R.McDonnell, R.Barlow

No matters arising from Nov/Dec summary

Woodland Trust Update

Kilmagadwood Management Plan

Now finalised, noted that Forestry Commission Feedback during consultation stated that they were in support of the plan and approved of the 'sympathetic management of the site'.

Tetley Trail/Micheal Bruce Way

KMcD to speak with LB regards suitable format for 'expression of interest' letter in relation to field through which Kilmagadwood accessed from Portmoak Church.

Stephens Land adjacent to Kinnesswood

J.Shepherd advised that Portmoak Community Council to host a meeting in Jan/Feb, which will lead to the formation of a local Trust to address this issue. Posters will be put on noticeboards.

Interpretation

R Barlow is taking forward the 'life cycle' with in-house WT team. JG suggestion to include further visual images of land use viewed as a useful addition. R. Barlow to advise of next steps.

Viewpoint Indicator

Ongoing

Weather Data

Portmoak Gliding Union, website holds weather data, should consider a link between our site to this information. KMcD to raise with J.Gunnell.

Treasurers Report

£1251.78 in account.

Website

Continuing to develop, JG to be reimbursed for software and domain name registration. Exxon Volunteer Improvement Programme, have awarded PCW £500 to support printing of postcards and other materials via Trojan Press, in recognition of the work undertaken by Jeff Gunnell to develop site.

Timber Community Use

Seumas Mackinnon of the Galgael Trust had been in touch interested in timber depending on length for use in boat building. Will arrange a site visit in Spring.

R.Barlow advised of the availability of a Lucas Mill and that the milling operation could indeed be a demonstration event, cost £240 per day, full weekend activity, again useful awareness raising. This will be taken forward following the Burns Supper.

Squirrel Monitor

MSc student undertaking a further analysis of red squirrel activity within the community woodland, this was welcomed by the group, as will assist in decision making, as the red squirrel vs moss restoration debate evolves. Study period 3 months duration.

Suspect 3 or 4 squirrels in Moss, need to approach Fife Ranger Service Squirrel Group and ask if an indication of species balance in areas adjacent to Portmoak, and where reds and greys are located. This will then suggest how the control of Grey Squirrel population may be taken forward. KMCD to contact.

Community Woodland Association, further training day

There is further funding available to support training days, the possibility of PCW running another event was discussed, perhaps focussing on Fauna present within the Moss, including survey techniques, trapping mammals, red squirrel survey results, and microbiology of the bog through a 'bog laboratory'. This can be discussed further following the Burns Supper.

Burns Supper

Details finalised, KMCD to request alternative pudding. EC to find out what time access to hall permitted.

AoCB

The Man who planted Trees

SG to ask regards availability to take part in Portmoak Festival, PCW to sponsor.

Hanging Trees

Require warning signs 'Danger Hanging Trees', on perimeter route. R.Barlow to advise

Next Meeting: Thursday 15th Feb 2007, The Well Country Inn