

## **Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group**

**Meeting:** 20th September 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: K.McDonnell, M.McGuinness, L.Bolton, J.Shepherd, H.Rolton, S.Garvie, J.Gunnell, L.Batchelor, D.Batchelor

Apols: R.Barlow, E.Carruthers, M.Brown, A Bradley, R.McDonnell

No matters arising from August minutes

### **Woodland Trust Update**

#### **Birch control:**

Carried out 12 man days work using a combination of weed-wipers and spraying (on bigger bushes). This concentrated on the 2004/1999 areas, also got some done in the 2005 area, more of a light touch than last year (to avoid so much collateral damage) but covering more ground. The results seem to be encouraging so far. New Assistant Woodland Officer, Anna, managed the operation, surveyed the birch today and found very good results, with clear die-back over most of the treated area. Will have to assess damage to other plants and see what birch remains alive in the spring, but optimistic that a similar operation soon after leave-burst next spring will be possible, giving time to do a second tranche of work in late summer if required. RB has alloted the same budget as this year, and Anna will come up with a programme of work following the spring survey. If this fast/light coverage approach is as successful as it looks so far then believe we have a good chance of beating the birch.

HR to contact David Pickett Reserve Manager at Flanders Moss to identify their success criteria in relation to birch control and overall 'health' of the moss. Also to arrange a mutually convenient date for site visit.

#### **Path repair:**

Arrange a date to have look at it at October meeting, no budget for paths, but can review issues are and maybe find some ways round this. RB also to review the north ramped access onto the raised bog re wheelchair suitability. MMcG mentioned that the ramp gradient would require to be 1:7 which will be challenging.

#### **Large Logs:**

KMcD to contact Mike Dempsey based in Glenrothes

**Padlock at Moss** : to be replaced

**Squirrel monitor** : RB asked if group had been provided with copy of squirrel survey report. Understand that this has to be submitted to College first then a copy provided to PCW. L.Bolton to update

**Kilmagad path** - WT still have more work to do on the path, RB to monitor how the first tranche is bearing up re erosion/run-off before undertake next phase. L.Batchelor and J.Gunnell commented that the modifications made thus far were suitable, but that some additional activity would be required

#### **Interpretation**

KMcD to provide copy of basic drawing to SG.

#### **Viewpoint Indicator**

Ongoing

## **Treasurers Report**

£1322.95

### **Postcards/Greeting Cards**

MMcG provided sample cards (high quality) 4000(4\*1000) cards A5 £567 which approximates to 15p per card. To select images at October meeting.

### **Squirrel Monitor**

Discussed issues around habitat restoration to assist red squirrel population, BIFFA small grants scheme may be appropriate. It was suggested that the Birch (mature) have around 10 years left and should perhaps be removed and area replanted with Norway Spruce and Scots Pine.

L.Batchelor had observed grey squirrel on edge of Moss, contact Ranald regards local squirrel officer and request that a more extensive mapping exercise is undertaken.

### **Community Woodland Association**

Have launched new website, with links to all member websites, PCW is by far the most extensive.

Next Conference 'Reclaiming the Woods: Assets to Develop the Community' takes place in Dundee from 9th to 11th November. PCW has 2 places available any additional enquiries should be directed to [caron@communitywoods.org](mailto:caron@communitywoods.org)

Woods for Arts Sake: this short paper outlined some of the projects undertaken within the CWA community, KMcD to request attendance of Amanda Calvert CWA Arts, Culture and Heritage Coordinator to discuss how we can get involved.

### **AoCB**

#### **Red Squirrel**

Observed on access to Wellburn.

#### **Water Level Monitoring**

SG to provide data to JG for inclusion on website.

#### **Copyright on Google image**

KMcD to seek clarification from Tom Christian.

#### **Micheal Bruce Way Leaflet**

DB brought draft leaflet for consideration, detailed discussion regards content, DB to circulate comments prior to feeding back to Charles McConnell and Niall Lobeley who is coordinating this activity.

#### **Burns Supper**

Dr Carr, Hall booked. L.Riddock to deliver Immortal memory.

DB to approach D.Morris and A.McIntyre regards Toast and Reply.

KMcD to book Richard Scott and update pricing.

Approach Diageo regards drinks.

Seek sponsor for the wine.

SGarvie to stage manage event.

Ticket price £18.50, 120 numbered tickets to be printed. Raffle on the evening £1 per strip.

Article into Kinross newsletter and Stamash dependant on timing.

**Next Meeting: Thursday 18th October The Well Country Inn**