

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: Nov/Dec Summary 2006, The Well Country Inn

No matters arising from October minutes

Woodland Trust Update

Kilmagadwood Management Plan

R.Barlow agreed to substantiate certain aspects of history, eg significant felling during WW1 with David Munro and incorporate into introductory element. Will also provide a pdf for website. KMcD had received a letter from R Barlow(11th December) advising that the consultation was complete and whilst only 3 formal responses had been received, there had been significant interest in the reference copy of the plan held in the Post Office.

Other inclusions following the consultation period as follows; reference to Land Reform Act and Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and the renaming of the Tetley Trail to the Micheal Bruce Way.

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

This matter had not been discussed at the recent meeting of PCC, however it is expected that a local Trust be formed to safeguard this area.

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

Will soon have 12 months of data, intend to publicise on website in graph form. SG has identified that weather data is available from the Portmoak Gliding Union, which could be used to supplement our own information.

Treasurers Report

No statement since last meeting, £1251.78 in account.

Website

Continuing to develop, JG to be reimbursed for software and domain name registration. KMcD/JG processed paperwork in relation to Exxon Volunteer Improvement Programme, awarded £500 to support printing of postcards and other materials via Trojan Press. Response from Exxon expected mid January.

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

Leslie has been trained and is acting as monitor within the Moss and Kilmagadwood. 8 weekend visits have been undertaken and red squirrels spotted on 5 occasions, within clusters of Scots Pine and also along the Wellburn edge. There is evidence of Grey Squirrel on Kilmagadwood. Extensive discussion regards the latter, trapping of grey squirrel should be considered.

Habitat management will assist the Red Squirrel community, this should be taken into account in association with Management Plans particularly in relation to the Moss. An approach has been made regards an 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.

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

An additional meeting had been called in early January to refine arrangements, tickets available from usual sources. Programme to be available for usual January meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday 18th January 2007, The Well Country Inn