

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting 21st May 2009, The Well Country Inn

Present J.Shepherd, KMcDonnell, J.Gunnell, L.Batchelor, D.Batchelor, M.McGinness, L.Botten, R.Barlow, G.McShane, A.Bradley, R.Mukerjee

Apols: M.BrownM.Hogg

Rohan Mukerjee addressed the meeting he is currently undertaking an MSc in Ecological Economics the topic of his dissertation is a comparative study of community woodlands in Scotland and India. In India woodlands are used to sustain communities and are supported by government schemes, whilst in Scotland they are predominantly used for recreation, education, walking. Rohan will circulate a short question set prior to the june meeting and hopes to attend the july meeting on his return from India. His thesis will be submitted in august 2009.

Woodland Trust Update

R.Barlow and Peter Tweedie had met with representatives of P&K Council to discuss access to Kilmagadwood extension, this will be almost opposite the church car park exit, and ramped to increase accessibility, width will be restricted to prevent vehicular access.. The topside of the path will not be fenced to allow users to feel part of the woodland. Perth & Kinross Council propose to purchase land opposite church from the Church of Scotland and WT will lease from P&K Council.

Sheep pens will be re-built and provide an opening onto the path.

There will be no access directly opposite the entrance to the Church Park, visibility poor.

It is anticipated that works will commence approximately 6 months from completion of the acquisition. There will be a significant amount of community involvement in addition to children's involvement in the planting of 5,500 trees.

Sheep

Whilst these are doing an excellent job in controlling the grass, the owner is not co-operating with the WT. Dead lamb and ewe lying for significant period, has been asked to leave site by 15th June.

Birch Control

This is a major issue, have undertaken weed wiping at a cost of £2,000 however some comments made by members of the group that the work had not been particularly effective, and that contractor should be closely monitored. WT are considering negotiating an eradication contract.

Ditches

MMcG expressed concern that the water level is not high enough and that the top height of dams need to be raised. It would be useful if we could encourage a student to undertake a hydrological survey within the Moss, this would be very beneficial for mapping ongoing restoration of peat bog.

Interpretation

WT need the design on CD. Identified 2 suitable locations for interpretation boards, both are on the main circular route, at the bridge over the main ditch and at the top of steps on Michael Bruce Way.. PCW need to build stands for boards (JS has timber)

First Aid Training

KMcD had asked about minimum duration of first aid training in order group can support chainsaw operation within the Moss, both RMcD and DB hold appropriate certification. 4hr duration, £290+VAT for up to 10 delegates. KMCD to arrange for July and August meeting dates.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Calum McIntyre has been accepted for the Gold award and will continue to undertake tasks within the Moss. Need more volunteers to supervise activity or alternatively get agreement from WT what an appropriate level of supervision for a 16-17 year old should be. KMCD to ask.

Curling Pond

Scotlandwell in Bloom co-ordinating a way forward initial work day on 7th June. Hoping to have group of 20 volunteers (CSR project) during July 2009.

AoCB

KMcD to draft a letter of support for WT, part of funding package via 'Forests for People' initiative. Being able to demonstrate community involvement is critical for success of funding bid.

Next meeting 18th June , The Well Country Inn 1930hrs