

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007, The Well Country Inn**