

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 20th June 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: K.McDonnell, J.Shepherd, M.Brown, J.Gunnell, S.Garvie

Apols: R.Barlow E.Carruthers,R.McDonnell, H.Rolton, D Batchelor, A.Bradley,
L.Batchelor

No matters arising from May minutes

Woodland Trust Update

R.Barlow has returned from work following paternity leave, advised via email that;

Benching of Kilmagad section of Michael Bruce Way had been undertaken, he would review with contractor over next few weeks.

Gorse cutting along hill path at Kilmagad had started however given the weather and volume of gorse to be removed there was a potential fire risk. RB to have bulk material chipped on-site, again this would be reviewed with contractor.

Leaflet dispenser installed at the Moss.

Fife Conservation Volunteers have undertaken some birch pulling, this is the major threat to successful restoration of raised peat bog. It is estimated that 500 volunteer days per annum required to keep on top of this issue.

R.Barlow to provide details of Mike Demsey who could undertake machining of large timber at entrance to site, group to agree a date mid-end summer.

Programme an access review in association with August meeting.

Birch Control

Extensive discussion around this topic, identified 3 potential ways forward;

Volunteer Training; to use glyphosate wands, however would need strong evidence that there is no negative impact on the environment.

Birch Pulling; how to get a regular committent, considere advertising this as a volunteer activity across Scotland.

Use of Brush cutters, would this be an effective means of control, low cost/low impact?

KMcD to look into prior to July meeting.

Path Repair within Moss

This had been undertaken by JGunnell and S Garvie.

Tetley Trail/Michael Bruce Way

JShepherd had taken letter to PCC regards a donation of £250 to remedial works along route, this had been met with a positive response, PCW matched this amount which in total makes a significant contribution towards meeting the cost of this activity.

Leaflet Dispenser

Installed at the entrance to the Moss. Agreed that the sign requires to be restored during 2007.

Interpretation

Approach to be made to Kinross High School at start of new term, suitable project for graphic design students. Duncan of Jordanston in Dundee may also be in a position to assist, SG to identify lecturer to approach regards suitability as student project, student may also consider undertaking outwith studies.

Viewpoint Indicator

Extensive discussion, identified three elements which need to be addressed to bring this project to a close.

Text, LBatchelor and J.Gunnell to review and edit down.

Picture, J.Gunnell to review, existing panorama suitable.

Osprey, KMcD to contact.

Funds are also available through Kinross-shire Newsletter but must approach through PCC.

Treasurers Report

£1397.03

Postcards

KMcD to request a sample in order we may review quality, also to id minimum print order.

Squirrel Monitor

KMcD to speak to TRACKS regards biodiversity when planning round the loch route, hazel, scots pine, brambles etc.

Create a weblink between PCW website and Perth&Kinross Red Squirrel Group.

Discussed adding a recording form for red and grey squirrels to the site, and also a biodiversity recording form. Fife Biodiversity Partnership, www.fifedirect.org.uk/bap and Fife Red Squirrel Group, www.fife.coastandcountryside.co.uk are good examples of what could be incorporated. JGunnell to explore technical aspects of adding to PCW site.

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'. KMcD update with Diana Campbell.

CWA.

AoCB

Research Project

PCW has been approached by a student undertaking research in relation to public participation in forest management. Tom Christian will attend the July meeting to test PCW response to the use of virtual global tools on such participation, through the use of Google Earth.

RSPB Survey

Suggested that an approach be made to Vane Farm regards undertaking in Spring 2007.

Reforestation Scotland/Community Woodlands Association

Agreed to rejoin both.

Alternative Events

KMcD suggested that PCW extend an invitation for Amanda Calvert Events Coordinator with the Community Woodlands Association to attend a future meeting to provide an insight into who and what type of events are available.

Hanging Tree

RMcD and JS to address.

Kinross Show

Decided against participation this year, KMcD agreed to approach TRACKS regards making PCW leaflet available at the event.

Interest in Land

Discussed land purchase how and who through, revisited information previously supplied by LBatchelor.

Next Meeting: Thursday 20th June The Well Country Inn