

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 19th July 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: K.McDonnell, T.Christian, A Bradley, DBatchelor,R.McDonnell, L.Batchelor

Apols: R.Barlow E.Carruthers, H.Rolton, D Batchelor, M.Hogg, J.Shepherd, M.Brown

No matters arising from May minutes

Woodland Trust Update

R.Barlow had written to thank PCW for the donation towards repairs to Micheal Bruce Way, the benching of Kilmagad section had been undertaken, comments from group that the path is improved but questiones how durable repairs are. Also questioned reasoning behind work being done in sections

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.

Birch Control

Extensive discussion around this topic, identified 3 potentail 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 unable to identify any definitive solutions, T.Christian offered to download papers via University.

Path Repair within Moss

Additional repairs required, path review in autumn should allow this to be quantified.

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

no update

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.

Suggested that a visit to Flanders Moss could be organised later in year.

Research Project

Tom Christian a student undertaking research in relation to public participation in forest management addressed the meeting to test PCW response to the use of virtual global tools on such participation, through the use of Google Earth. Tom's thesis to be submitted by 15th August 2007 to meet requirements of Masters in Geographical Information Science. PCW will be provided with a copy.

AoCB

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.

Next Meeting: Thursday 16th August The Well Country Inn