

Minutes from Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group Meeting 17th June 2010, Well Inn, Scotlandwell

1. Apologies: L& D Batchelor,

2. Present: L.Botten, M McGinnes, S.Garvie, K McDonnell, J.Gilmour

3. Woodland Trust Update :

Kilmagadwood : 650 trees had been planted by volunteers from BSKyB , supported by J.Gilmour and members of PCW steering group. The trees planted in December 2009 are making good progress. In order to suppress weeds around the trees to enable them to get established glyphosate will be used, this is less hazardous than other alternatives and has a low impact on the environment. Weed control through use of glyphosate will be done for 3yrs following planting. JG stressed that the WT has a policy of no chemical use within ancient woodlands.

The fencing had been completed however this had resulted in the creation of a major path along the front of the hill, however this had been essential to get materials to point of use. It is anticipated that gorse will grow back within a few years.

Further tree planting will take place in the autumn primarily by contractors however the school will also be involved.

Portmoak Moss: WT in process of agreeing a 3yr programme with SWT, this will hopefully be more beneficial than working through contractors. SWT teams consist of 8 people, targets to be agreed in June 2010, the work when complete will be the equivalent of 64 man days. This approach is more cost effective than previous arrangement and SWT teams will take greater ownership of the project.

The Management Plan for the Moss is due for review , JG will bring up to date and then consult with group plus wider community prior to finalising this.

4. Orchard update: D&L Batchelor are taking this forward there is an 'apple' man locally who Louise will be meeting with to discuss varieties.

5. Land by Car Park: no update

6. Storage of tools etc. No update

7. Information Boards: These are now available, and will be used to raise awareness of the raised peat bog during the Portmoak Festival., following which they will need to be positioned within the Moss. SG/JG/JS to be involved.

8. Leaflets: JG to provide a box of these for the Portmoak Festival.

9. Timber inside Moss gate: Discussed possible uses, JG to look into having this planked, turned into posts or other products. Perhaps these could be machined on a open day in autumn?

10. Paths Network: SG leading walk to explore alternatives for linking Church car park to Well Green then onto Moss car park, also seeking an alternative to the 'dog-leg' on the Grahamston part of the Round the Loch trail. SG will update PCW group following this exercise.

11. Shooting in Moss: Two individuals one with a gun had been spotted in the Moss this had been reported to police. SG to speak to J.Bird of PCC regards sending a letter to the local police to establish what action was taken.

12. View Point Indicator: This should be reconsidered over the winter months, should adopt a more simplistic approach and consider locating adjacent to the bench in the Field a'bin the Kirk.

13. Additional/Renewed Dams: SWT are considering including the Moss in a bog restoration resurvey and development of an appropriate action plan. The general opinion is that the restoration is progressing and that it would be useful to set up a long term project to map how the raised peat bog evolves.

14. Woodfuel Resource Assessments: CWA are offering to provide assessments of woodlands linked to their members, it was agreed that KMCD would approach CWA to identify when this might be possible.

Next meeting: 15th July 2010-07-29

Note that the july meeting didn't really happen where is Margaret Brown when you need her!

August meeting will be held on 19th August 2010.