

## **Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group**

**Meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2004

**Present** KMcDonnell, J.Shepherd, M.Brown, S.Garvie, R.Barlow,  
L.Batchelor, D.Batchelor, B.Drysdale, H.Rolton, E.Carruthers

**Apologies** R.McDonnell, J.Gunnell

No comments on previous minutes

### **Woodland Trust Update:**

Harvesting complete, waiting for last load of timber to be removed. Minidigger will then reinstate paths. Wood can then be reopened. Dam work due to start late October. Birch has been sprayed and brash in 'old' felled area tidied. Forestry Commission has audited the Moss as part of their national audit on SFGS.

**Public Viewing:** Took place Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1800-1900 hrs, escorted site visit led by Woodland Trust. Not a huge public response, 1 or 2 new attendees.

### **Additional issues**

'High' trunks left on top of peat-bank to be removed by contractors, members of the group had expected a 'cleaner' finish, but agreed that there was limited ground damage as a result of using skylining. Whilst the birch will be sprayed this year will require pulling in future years, community involvement required. Trees for All event, involve school in planting of lower enclosure on Kilmagadwood. Need to use tubes for protection from vermin. (Roy explained that trees in tubes tend not to develop good root systems and have potential to blow over, require ongoing attention). Discussed 'deer proofing' Kilmagadwood, enclosures fences would increase in height to 1.2m, a better option than culling deer.

New leaflet to be produced for the Moss, as part of the grant scheme, WT drafting, Group will have opportunity to comment.

**Bridge:** The bridge into the 'refuge' area created by member of the public to be upgraded. Materials to be supplied by WT, work undertaken by steering group members.

**Grahamstone entrance:** Consider widening kissing gate, as members of public walking around, should be a case of moving strainer. JS/RMcD to review.

**Paths Group** WT have been advised that paths within the Moss and Kilmagadwood are part of the core paths network within Perth & Kinross. Access agreement to be drafted to meet needs of WT and Paths Group. The onus is on Users not to damage the paths therefore there will be a requirement to monitor use and users. Public meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October M.Brown attending.

**Kilmagadwood:** insufficient regeneration may have to plant out to meet grant conditions. WT to provide approx 2000 trees.

**Viewpoint Indicator:** £500 budgeted, must be done in 2005 to meet grant conditions.

**Bats:** Boxes removed awaiting relocation to new site following discussions with WT. Unable to access woodland, but 9 boxes will be relocated at earliest opportunity.

**MSc Study:** Hilary provided copy of literature review, copies to be made available to group, also reported successful translocation of sphagnum. The study will be useful in explaining significance of site.

**Kilmagadwood:** No update from J.Gibson regarding preferred route.

**Woodland Update:** Red Squirrels seen in Scots pine by several members of the public. RMcD has removed a couple of 'hung up' birch from paths, also spoken to J.Louden regarding levelling ground at Wellburn

**Treasurers Report:** available at October meeting.

#### **AoCB**

**Ceilidh:** 16<sup>th</sup> October. Mike has arranged band, JS to organise bar, group members to run bar and raffle.

**WT Tree for All:** Group to organise an event to coincide with this initiative 18-23<sup>rd</sup> November, date proposed as 20<sup>th</sup> November. Suggest involving school planting out tree nursery? Or birch pulling. KMCD to liaise with school.

**Wellburn:** Path day set for 3<sup>rd</sup> October, to reinstate path between curling pond and well burn, also extend to tie in existing paths providing alternative 'woodland' walks.

**Community Woodland Association.** Woodland Officer wishes to attend meeting/site visit to woodlands, extend invitation to next meeting.

**Woodland Visit** Bobby Stewart of Arndean has extended an invitation to visit his award winning woodland.

**HND Countryside Management Students:** B.Drysdale has arranged for a number of students to undertake a module of their course relating to Countryside Visitor Provision within the Moss. The outcome of the study will hopefully come up with valuable management ideas which the group can then consider.

**Reforestation Scotland:** Group to rejoin

**Next meeting : 28<sup>th</sup> October Lomond Country Inn**