

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 19th October 2006, The Well Country Inn

Present: J.Shepherd, S.Garvie, K.McDonnell, J.Gunnell, D Batchelor, E.Carruthers, M.Brown, A.Bradley, W.McPhedran

Apologies: R.McDonnell, M.McGinnes R.Barlow, L.Batchelor, M.Hogg

No matters arising

Woodland Trust Update

R.Barlow: Kilmagadwood draft plan produced, 'public' copies available at Post Office, posters in place. Consultation period closes on the 23rd November therefore the November meeting (16th) would be a useful opportunity for R.Barlow to present to the group and members of public interested in next steps. KMcD is to put up posters to publicise this opportunity by the end of November.

Comments on Plan: M.Brown has reviewed on behalf of PCW Group, impressed with clarity of maps. As expressed previously the principle which states 'predominantly for walkers' is open to both interpretation and abuse. WT need to decide on which title to use of P&K Council...Perth and Kinross-shire? From an historical perspective it was suggested that the notes include the significant felling of trees during world war 1, and that tree numbers then declined over time as a consequence of lack of land management.

One typographical error, p5 missing 'd'

Request that R.Barlow provide a pdf copy for inclusion on webpages. KMcD to take forward.

Tetley Trail maintenance, not as yet reviewed onsite by J.Shepherd, R.Barlow and D.Batchelor, suitable date to be agreed out with meeting.

R.Barlow has confirmed that the field on access to Kilmagadwood is indeed owned by Mr.Drysdale. KMcD to speak with L.Batchelor regards suitable format for 'expression of interest' letter, should he in the future decide to sell same.

Stephens Land adjacent to Kinnesswood: The meeting was addressed by W.McPhedran of Portmoak Community Council, this land has been offered to the community by the developer, he intends to build 1 house in this area, and 'gift' the remainder for public use. It is already used as an access route to Kilmagadwood, network of paths within gorse, the land itself has never been planted in trees, and does not fall within the Woodland Trust acquisition criteria, as a consequence the Trust are not interested in becoming responsible for the land. Suggested that an approach be made to P&K Council to manage on behalf of the community, PCC had undertaken a survey of the community the bulk of responses suggesting that the land should be used for recreational purposes, principally for children/young persons. The developer is prepared to donate 35k towards upkeep. Discussed school involvement through Eco schools, also that Kinnesswood in Bloom may be interested. The consequences of

doing nothing are, that there would then be the potential for further development in this area or could be sold off to another party. Wendy thanked the group for their assistance in forming further ideas, which could be discussed with the developer later in October.

BBC/WT Autumn Watch: 36 attendees, excellent afternoon, huge amount of birch pulling undertaken, range of craft items made; brooms, ear-rings, stars etc.

Leaflet Dispenser: ongoing

Interpretation: KMcD had drafted a 'life cycle' of the Moss with associated text. J.Gunnell suggested this could be enhanced by including visual images of how the land had been used in association with each phase of the 5 phase cycle. KMcD to forward to R.Barlow, WT will take forward.

Viewpoint Indicator: M.McG in process of considering and selecting out 'general indicators' and subsequently focus on heightening awareness of local sites of interest. Once have text can ask Osprey to provide a mock up for our consideration.

Weather data: Collection on-going, 24mm rainfall, SG considering how to present data. Rainfall appears to translate rapidly into higher water levels within the Moss

Treasurer's Report: £1251.78 in account.

Website: www.portmoakcw.org.uk Up and running, JG to be reimbursed for software and domain name registration.

JG has undertaken 20hrs activity in relation to project equivalent to £500 funding. Costing obtained for production of selection of postcards; 250 cards £70+VAT, it was agreed that Trojan should generate printing as required by PCW to the value of £500 (incl VAT), JG to process.

Timber (Community Use) Removal from Site: No update; require to resolve, chainsaw training for DB, to advise of which nptc certificates he is being advised to undertake. Mentioned that Plummer Bros could potentially use Moss as site for training purposes. Still endeavouring to locate CWA group, which can assist in machining of oak at entrance to Moss.

Squirrel Monitor: No update, JG has sighted within Moss. There is a possible nest on Kilmagadwood, group will be updated in due course.

Reforestation Scotland Event: Attended birch pulling event in preference to this.

Additional Seating: being maintained by installer.

Donation of Type 1: Purvis Plant Hire have donated 12 ton, KMcD to generate thank you for Derek Smith c/o Purvis Plant Hire.

AoCB

Rabbits Population: Decline in numbers noted, ongoing control measures in place.

Burns Supper: Immortal memory agreed, date set for 27th January. Agreed that there should be a slight increase to £18.00 to include meal plus 1 dram as a toast. Dr Carr to execute haggis, L&D Batchelor to do toast to the lassies and reply. E.Carruthers agreed to act as MC, D.Batchelor to stage manage. Music provided by choir. D.Batchelor to deliver Holy Willies Prayer. A.Barclay to do Mosses, waters. M.Hogg to create item for raffle, bench, table?

Woodmiser: Ali Hibbert to visit timber at entrance to Moss and id if miser can cope with size.

Community Woodlands Association: Diana Campbell visiting site on 29th October, anyone interested in attending meet at 1200hrs Moss entrance.

Growing Confidence: Building a Future: 11th and 12th November The Sunart Centre, Strontian. J.Shepherd and S.Garvie interested in attending. KMcD to clarify costs with CWA and book.

Next Meeting: Thursday 16th November , The Well Country Inn.