

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 14th August 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: K.McDonnell, A Bradley, M.McGuinness, L.Bolton, J.Shepherd, H.Rolton, S.Garvie

Apols: R.Barlow E.Carruthers, M.Brown

No matters arising from July minutes

Woodland Trust Update

No update. KMcD advised that the padlock on the Moss gate had been changed, to request an alternative key from RB.

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

Discussed sources of funding to allocate towards birch control, RSPB at Vane Farm have used glyphosate as control mechanism. SNH Stirling may also be in a position to assist with research papers relating to use of glyphosate on Flanders Moss.

KMcD had spoken with RB between meetings, the WT had allocated 12 mandays for birch control with weed wands (glyphosate) for control of birch regeneration in areas felled in 1999 and 2004. RB advised that the environmental impact of glyphosate had been reviewed in line with data supplied from manufacturer, mosses not on the list therefore not anticipating any negative impact on moss regeneration

Path Repair within Moss

Additional repairs required, path review in autumn should allow this to be quantified. Concern had been raised by members of the public in relation to tree stumps in the middle of the path, agreed to consider in association with path review.

Interpretation

KMcD to provide copy of basic drawing to SG.

Viewpoint Indicator

Ongoing

Treasurers Report

no update

Postcards

MMcG to provide an idea of costing for 1,000 cards, will provide sample prior to next

meeting.

Squirrel Monitor

Discussed issues around habitat restoration to assist red squirrel population, BIFFA small grants scheme may be appropriate. It was suggested that the Birch (mature) have around 10 years left and should perhaps be removed and area replanted with Norway Spruce and Scots Pine.

L.Batchelor had observed grey squirrel on edge of Moss, contact Ranald regards local squirrel officer and request that a more extensive mapping exercise is undertaken.

Community Woodland Association, further training day

H.Rolton would be in a position to deliver mammal identification training and suggested that an approach be made to John Haddow to develop delegates skills further to obtain certificated training. Agreed that it would also be useful to update the bat survey in 2008, march/april being the most appropriate months. Suggested that a visit to Flanders Moss could be organised later in year.

AoCB

Horses within Moss

Whilst there are not a large number of horses walking the Moss, a member of the public had mentioned stones flying up from path as they passed and that horse muck left on path around all-abilities route. Agreed to monitor situation, also that as dog owners are required to lift muck, horse owners should at a minimum move muck off the path.

Next Meeting: Thursday 20th August The Well Country Inn