

Monimail Woodland Group

Meeting 12/03/08, 7.30pm Letham Village Hall

Present: Cathy Bache, Louise Barron, Dave Hamilton, Neil Stoddart

Apologies: Catriona, Leilani

1. Neil opened discussions with proposals for a merger between the woodland group and the Transition Group, which has also formed recently. He highlighted a number of potential advantages to this including
 - Combining strength and numbers
 - Greater political pressure
 - Sharing funding opportunities and potentially leading to larger funding pots
 - Preventing competition for funding within a small community

Neil highlighted potential problems that he foresaw from both sides. For the woodland group potential loss of momentum and for the transition group loss of focus on their goals.

Issue was discussed at length and was left very much open for future meetings. Although all agreed that the purchase of the woodlands is a prime example for the local community to focus on and it is important to continue with this in the meantime.

2. Funding- discussed whether Funding for woodlands could be via Awards for All rather than Investing in Ideas/Big Lottery Fund. We were unclear whether you were able to purchase assets with an Awards For All grant. Dave agreed to investigate this further.
3. Cathy also suggested that the feasibility studies suggested by CWA may not be expensive and may in fact be available free from the Fife Ranger Service.
4. Dave suggested that all info regarding the woodland group can be posted on the Letham and Smart Community website.
5. Agreed the constitution of the Woodland group. Officially named the group Monimail Woodland Group in keeping with community council area. It was agreed that Neil would be first Chair, Cathy Treasurer and Louise Secretary. Discussed membership and decided it would be open to all, not just residents of the immediate community. There will be a fee of £5 to join. A separate membership form will be drawn up by Cathy along with the constitution.
6. Louise has spoken to The Clatto Community Woodland Group again. They have just been awarded the Investing in ideas grant. We are all welcome to

attend any of their work meetings which are held in their woods the second Sunday of every month.

7. There will be a Secret Garden Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday in the field that they are now leasing. Cathy would like this to also be a work meeting to get help to clear some of the barbed wire that surrounds the field. Those interested in helping to contact Cathy.

Actions Arising

- Cathy to Set up Bank Account
- Cathy Write up constitution and membership forms
- Dave to Look into Awards for All
- Louise to look into getting the woods valued
- Louise to arrange for the group to join the Community Woodland Association
- Neil to contact Donald at Reforesting Scotland for further advice re valuations, surveys etc.

Next Meeting

Date not yet agreed