



Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 1st December 2018

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 31

The Latest News - <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/news.html> and Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan> are updated regularly so in between Members Updates please look at these for news.

Membership of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association



We've 100 paid up members now!

The current membership for the year to date for 2018/2019 stands at 102 members of which 73 are Full Individual Members, 18 are Associate Members, 4 are Life Members, 4 are Corporate Members, 1 is an Associate Corporate Member and 2 are Child Members (free). Membership to support the running of the Association is very important and those members that are able to volunteer help with the essential maintenance of the woodlands, the paths and structures.

We would like to remind our members that the Association has no paid staff, the committee members offer their time freely as volunteers and member volunteers help to maintain the community woodlands, the paths and structures.

Volunteers Days - 1st April to 30th November 2018

Forty six (46) volunteers have helped seventy nine (79) times in Cormonachan Community Woodlands over the last eight months but actually in April (2 days), May (1), September (3), October (3) and November (2) plus strimming the paths in June, July & August by our seven strimming volunteer operators. These volunteers were CWA full members (18), CWA Associate members (4), National Park volunteers (14), Fife Conservation Group volunteers (9) & a local non-member (1).

We would like to thank all our physical volunteers for their amazing help in maintaining the woodlands. We would also like to thank all our other members for their financial membership support as the Association only has its membership subscriptions to pay for the running of the Association.

Check out our Volunteering page on our website:-
<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/volunteering/> for more information on the different types of volunteering.

Future Volunteers Days

The next physical Volunteers Days for spring 2019:-

February 2019

Friday 22nd February 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.
Saturday 23rd February 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.
Sunday 24th February 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

March 2019

Friday 22nd March 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.
Saturday 23rd March 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

April 2019

Friday 26th April 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.
Saturday 27th April 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.
Sunday 28th April 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

May 2019

Friday 17th May 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.
Saturday 18th May 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Members will be welcome to help mornings, afternoons or both on any or all of these days!

We do hope that as many members as possible can volunteer over these months - put a note on your calendars or in your diaries now for 2019.

Those that volunteer enjoy the experience and we hope more members will give volunteering a 'go'... You will be very welcome!

It would help us enormously to know if and when you can help volunteer in advance please as the National Park volunteers do by e-mailing Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk - Thank you!

Future Projects & Projects Completed

The Future Projects page has been altered to show those projects completed and the projects still to be achieved:- <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/future-projects/>

Proposed New Path Update

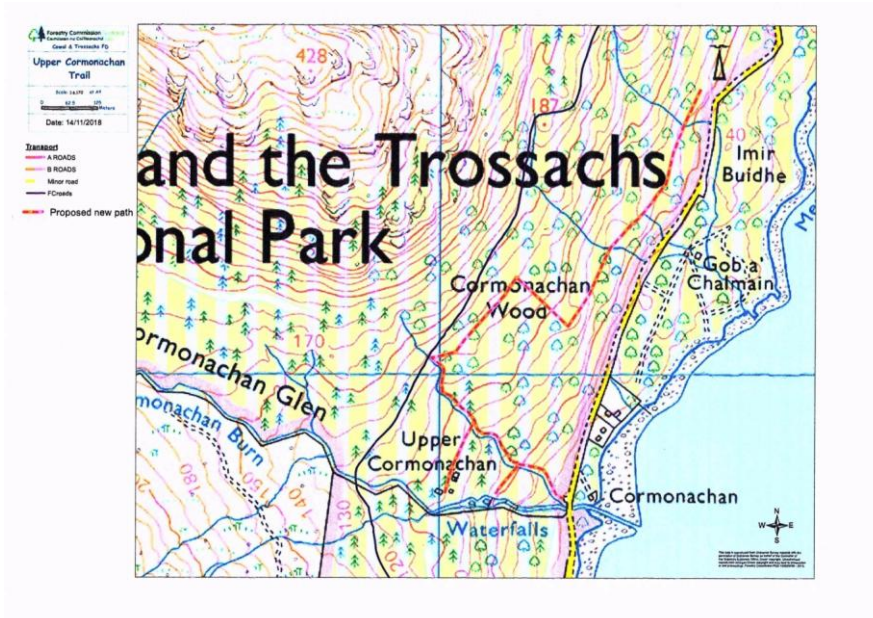
The proposed path from the Contemplation Shelter to Upper Cormonachan has already been surveyed by a hill contractor estimating the overall cost would be £309,408.00 + 20% VAT. This is a large project covering 2 km of paths, seven bridges and four viewpoints so it will have to be done in probably four stages in order to obtain the funding. The committee's proposal is to start at the south end of Upper Cormonachan by the road bridge at Cormonachan Burn with another car park and with a new path up to the waterfalls and the old village at Upper Cormonachan from the Forest Road. The final stages would be two more paths, one through the 'PAWS' area and the link back to the Contemplation Shelter. This will then provide almost 5 km of paths in Cormonachan Community Woodlands with a circular path via the Forest Road from Lochgoilhead.

Whilst this is a lot of money, it should be 100% grant funded through SRDP, a government funding organisation under the Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate that has set payment rates for path construction and ancillaries. Our Association is already registered and approved following agreement with Forest Enterprise Scotland early last year for the CWA to manage Cormonachan Woodlands. We can also apply to quite a number of other organisations for funding. Some of these do require some local funding through donations to show that there is local interest in the project so any donations to the Project Fund would be very welcomed.

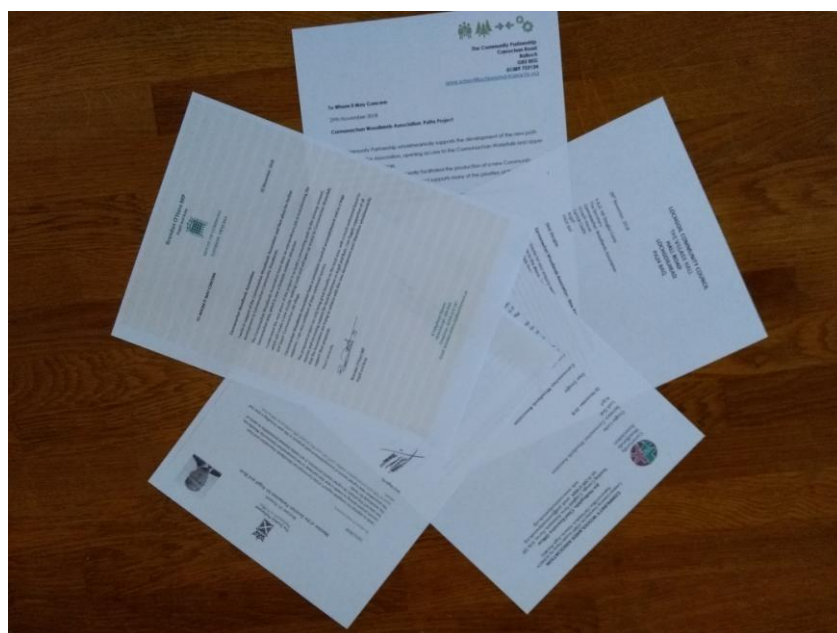
In order to progress with this, we have managed to obtain a quotation and path design from very experienced hill contractors and now the CWA is in a position to put in an application for the path to the National Park for planning permission. Application has already been made to Forest Enterprise Scotland for their permission as land owners and subject to their archaeology survey this should be acceptable as the criteria for new

paths is to open up path connections for the benefit of the community and visitors to the area. We further meet the objectives of the local Loch Goil Community Action Plan and the National Park's plans.

This is going to be a big project but the result in the end will open up all of the 58.9 ha of Cormonachan Woodlands to members and visitors and boost tourism to the Loch Goil area for local businesses.



We have so far received Letters of Support from the Argyll & Bute MP and MSP, the Lochgoil Community Council, the Community Partnership of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, the Community Woodlands Association and with promises of support from the Cowal Ward Councillor, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre and Forest Enterprise Scotland.



Red Squirrel Hide Update

Since the Red Squirrel Hide was erected in March 2018, the donation box has received **£96.20** which is very helpful as that money goes towards feeding the red squirrels and pine martens that are currently getting through 130 kilos of nuts a year that costs about £155 pa.

Training Update

We have managed to obtain a grant of £3,944.80 from Forestry Commission Scotland to train six of our volunteer members in pesticide spraying with some additional equipment, PPE and pesticide. The training takes place on 22nd & 23rd January 2019 with assessments on 4th & 5th February 2019. This is important training to help rid the invasive Rhododendron ponticum after it has been cut down and the roots and any re-growth can then be sprayed by fully trained volunteer members.

We are likely to have two 2-day Emergency First Aid Courses in 2019. One will be early in the year and another at the end of the year that will be for renewal of members current certificates that expire after 3 years.

If you would like to be trained in First Aid please let the Secretary know. As we get grants for this training, it would be free to members.

Free Funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association

GoRaise has now raised **£136.78** to Cormonachan Woodlands Association from just five of our members (3 full members and 2 associate members) that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! Ninety six purchases have been made to date donating £136.78 to the Project Fund.

It has been disappointing that **only 5% of members** have used this with no catches attached. All members could help raise free donations for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association too, just from shopping online. Join here today... <https://www.goraise.co.uk/cormonachan-woodlands-association> and then when registered add the 'Donation Reminder' <https://www.goraise.co.uk/donation-reminder/>.

There are over 3,000 online retailers that take part in the scheme to give commission donations to charities and not-for-profit organisations such as ours, including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, TK Maxx, Trainline, Booking.com and so many well known companies. There is absolutely **NO** cost to you; we have no idea what you buy so why not help raise funds for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's Project Fund.

Latest News

Please keep up to date by regularly looking at our Latest News page:- <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/news/> and by following our Facebook page too at <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan>.



Tail Piece...

The minutes to the last committee meeting held on 20th November 2018 can be viewed at:-

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/minutes-of-meetings/>

Enjoy walking in these wonderful ancient oak and hazel community woodlands at Cormonachan Woodlands and again please ask your friends to become Guardian Members and support the Association's work.

May we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019.

Cormonachan Woodlands Association -
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