



Sent: 16th March 2017

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 17

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.

Training for Member Volunteers

We are very pleased to report that 12 members took 25 training places on six training courses that were 100% funded through either the Forestry Commission Scotland's Seedcorn Fund or the Natural Heritage Fund Scheme run by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs Nation Park Authority.

The cost of all the training, equipment, tools and personal protection equipment amounted to £7,621.51 that the Association obtained 100% funding for but excluded the pesticide training that was 3/5th of £3,900.00 = £2,340.00 for our 3 members of 5 attending that was organised through the Lochgoil Community Council using the same NHFS 100% funding. So the total will have been approximately £10k of funding.

The courses run were two First Aid at Work courses in December 2016 and February 2017 when 8 members obtained their Certificates. The Trimmer course had 6 members gaining their certificates. The Chainsaw course had 4 members with 4 members gaining their felling trees up to 200mm and 3 members getting their felling up to 380mm and 1 renewing his 380mm certificate. The Pesticides course had 3 members getting their certificates and 2 members getting their Pesticides Spaying course certificates with a special addition for spraying near watercourses.

This training will be very good for Volunteers Days in Cormonachan Woodlands and already has been good as all the paths were strimmed

during the Trimmer course and a large number of Sitka spruce trees were felled during the chainsaw course.

"Car Park Fund" Update - The latest "Car Park Fund" total of receipts to date is shown on the Latest News page with a graph showing that we have reached £1,694.81 towards our target of £4,000 for work to commence on the extended car park at Cormonachan Woodlands. We are still awaiting news of our funding applications and you will be advised of progress in due course.

We can reveal that the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund - North Ayrshire Council has given us a funding offer of £2,367.00 but this has to be confirmed by the LandTrust Board as a Formal Offer of Funding before we know we have definitely got it. This can take a couple of months. We have also applied to the same Scottish Landfill Communities Fund - Argyll & Bute Council through E B Scotland for a further £2,191.91 that we should hear about very soon. With both these grants, the Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs grant of £500.00 and the donations to the Car Park Fund from the members, we would be in a position to go ahead with the car park extension on confirmation that the funding will be forthcoming.

We have also agreed with Drimsynie Estates to take over the lease for the car park from the Lochgoil Community Development Trust and its debt to Drimsynie's solicitors of over £800 since with the current lease unsigned and the Trust not having the money to pay this off, we were told the car park extension could not go ahead until it was. By making this offer, the Trust has agreed to the change and resolved its financial problem. The Association has been guaranteed by a member that the solicitor's charge will be covered by a significant donation if it cannot raise the money itself.

Free Funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association - A reminder

You can now generate free funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association whenever you shop online. We've signed up to a great new way to raise funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association and we hope you'll support us by taking part.

Booking a Holiday, wanting Travel Insurance? Buying anything at all online? Over 3,000 retailers – including M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Sports Direct & Expedia - will give Cormonachan Woodlands Association a free donation every time you shop with them, at no additional cost to you!

How does it work? Simply visit www.goraise.co.uk/cormonachan-woodlands-association and sign up for free.

Click through to all your favourite online retailers and shop as normal. A donation is generated automatically when you make a purchase, and Go Raise will pass this on to us. No catches or extra costs. It's that simple!

Help make a big difference, without any extra effort. If everyone took part, we could raise £1000's every year, simply in retailer donations generated by ordinary, everyday shopping. Remember - don't just buy it, raise funds with it! Thank you to the members who have already started to use this and the funds are beginning to accumulate...

Other News

The agreement with Forestry Commission Scotland to use Cormonachan Woodlands for conservation, recreation and education has now been agreed and signed with a Memorandum of Understanding. See the link <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/history/history-minutes-of-meetings.html> with the FES Memorandum of Understanding for the period 2016 to 2026 link alongside the last committee meeting minutes.

As agreed with the Commission, the Association will concentrate on maintaining the original area of 20 ha first where the paths are before tackling the southern area where the old village is situated. The whole area in the agreement is for 50 ha and 8.9 ha which is a PAWS area that has been replanted by Forest Enterprise.

Next Volunteers Days

Sunday 26th March 2017 from 13.00 to 16.00 hrs

Saturday 22nd April 2017 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs

Sunday 21st May 2017 from 13.00 to 16.00 hrs

The tasks that will be dependent on weather conditions will be e-mailed to members prior to each Volunteers Day. We hope to have good turnouts!

Cormonachan Woodlands Association -

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