



Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 20th August 2016

Subject: Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No: 13

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

1) Good News!

2) We now have planning permission for the Car Park Plans that were lodged with the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Planning Authority in May 2016.

3) The "Car Park Fund" is still looking for funding and donations with a target of £4,000 to pay for the car park work to be done. So far we now have £1,155.35 in the fund from members' donations, a £500 grant from Friends of Loch Lomond and Treasure Hunt competition/sales/donations at the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's stands at our Open Day on 12th June and at the Gala Day on 30th July.

Although we are now over a quarter of the way with funding we have a long way to go to reach the target so if you can offer any size of donation it would be more than welcome.

One organisation hopes to help us with a £500 donation in the autumn and we have applied to two more funders since receiving the planning permission. One, the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund have agreed that the boundaries of Cormonachan Woodlands are just within their 10 mile radius criteria with Upper Cormonachan being 9.7 miles from the nearest landfill site so we have applied for a grant from them and we have also applied to Aqiva, the owners of the TV aerial at the car park for funding as they have a Corporate Responsibility Policy to benefit communities where they operate. Whilst we will not know the outcome of these applications for some time, we do have two other funding sources to follow up of which both require local funding input.

There is a "Donate" button using PayPal on the Latest News page if you or anyone else you know may be able to help us fund the car park extension. One member has offered to match donate all donations made this way so if you donate £20, £100 or £250 for example the fund will increase by double to £40, £200 or £500. Whatever amount you could offer it will double - hopefully this will help to give the Car Park Fund a big boost?

4) Forestry Commission Scotland's Memorandum of Understanding has still to be signed by the Cormonachan Woodlands Association and AOEC Trust Ltd. for formal use of the woodlands. Although the CWA Committee and the Trust Trustees have agreed their willingness to sign the final version v8 draft, the Commission have yet to produce the final version of the document which it to be the template for all other community woodlands groups in Scotland. This should be signed very shortly now.

5) Forestry Commission Scotland agreed to clear any possibly dangerous trees that could have fallen on to the paths in the woodlands and this work has now been carried out with six trees being felled and four trees having limbs removed. This leaves one tree still to have a limb removed that is at the start of the path to the compost toilet by Jan's Hideaway. There was a question of whether bats could have been living in the open section but the National Park's Trees and Woodlands Adviser on inspecting the tree felt this unlikely as there was too much movement to the opening and felt that we could without doubt cut off the limb below the opening and after doing a final check with a bat detector cut the remaining limb away. This work could be done by one of our committee members who has a chain saw licence.

6) The next Volunteers Day will be on Saturday 24th September 2016 from 10am to 1 pm. Path clearance will be a priority again and repair to the side of the path at the north west area of the 2.5 km walk where in the last high winds an alder tree was blown over downhill taking part of the path away. There is sufficient material left to build up the path side but un-left it would erode further and now requires some volunteers help to stabilise the situation there. There will be further volunteers days in October and November with dates to be announced later on.

7) Those of you who follow Facebook will have noticed the series of photos showing the tall Sitka spruce tree being topped and prepared to later become a Totem Pole. This is at the south west corner of the Squirrel Trail.

8) We are looking for volunteers to undertake a chain saw course for felling small trees, strimmer course for clearing paths, spraying course for eradicating rhododendron and first aid course for keeping volunteers safe. At one end of the spectrum the chain saw course costs £550 and is a week long course and at the other end the first aid course costs £70 and is a two day course. As all these courses would be paid for from one of two funders (FCS Community Fund and/or LL&T National Park), the volunteers would get their certificates for free but would be obliged to offer their services afterwards to Cormonachan Woodlands on occasional volunteers days. With regard to the first aid course, we have three places booked for December 2016 and now need three members to take up this opportunity. Please contact Liz Evans, CWA Chair, for further details on 01301 703098 or by e-mail Chair@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk.

9) Do follow us on Facebook as news is posted regularly there. See also our website Latest News page:- <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/news.html>

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