



Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 1st December 2015

Subject: Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No: 7

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Progress Report

We can now report that the CWA Committee and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) have agreed that in the light of the new FCS document called 'Working with Communities: A Guide' that a Management Agreement for an initial ten years will be prepared. See the options:- <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/working-with-communities-guidance-final.pdf>

A Management Agreement with FCS will be the best option suited to us at this point in time as a lease would commit the Association to more commitment and expense and in the future the Association would still be able to apply for a lease or even purchase the woodlands.

We now have overall permission to remove Rhododendron & small Sitka spruce (up to 10cm dbh) and maintain the paths without having to apply for permission from FCS for specific dates as we have previously had to do. Insurance so far has been covered by Ardroy but from next year when we commence more volunteers days, the insurance will be covered by the Association (CWA). We already have quotes and will commence CWA insurance through Highland Council's not-for-profit organisation's insurance cover through Zurich Insurance.

The next "*Make a Difference*" Volunteers Days will be on:-

Sunday, 21st February 2016 from 10.00 to 13.00 hrs

Saturday, 19th March 2016 from 10.00 to 13.00 hrs.

Based on the success of the October 2015 Volunteers Days when so much was achieved, we hope in future to have a monthly volunteers days with

shorter hours so more members may like to be involved. As a member there is no commitment to volunteering as member supporters are valuable to the Association as well as those who like to volunteer.

The latest Minutes of the last Committee Meeting can be viewed on the Association's website on the History page or Latest News page.

Volunteers Equipment

A second FCS Community Grant application for more volunteer tools has been approved. 100% grant for £748 of tools are shown below. These are being purchased based on suggestions from the National Park rangers and other professional rangers who have volunteered in Cormonachan Woodlands. From our own experience, we also found we were lacking in certain tools so hopefully we will now have tools for all tasks the CWA volunteers can undertake plus first aid equipment, signs for all eventualities, a group shelter and facilities for a hot drink without having to return to Jan's Hideaway for breaks.

- 4 x S & J Bow Saw 24" blade (Grant £67.96)
- 4 x Bow Saw spare blade 24" (Grant £11.96)
- 1 x Roughneck Aluminium Landscape Rake 36" (Grant £39.99)
- 1 x Stanley Springback Rake (Grant £22.99)
- 1 x Service pointed Shovel (Grant £29.99)
- 1 x Back Pack Sprayer (Grant £19.99)
- 4 x Wallace Cameron Mezzo 10 person First Aid (Grant £59.96)
- 1 x Wallace Cameron Piccolo Burns kit (Grant £14.99)
- 6 x Builder's Gloves medium (Grant £9.54)
- 6 x Builder's Gloves large (Grant £9.54)
- 1 x Stanley 19" Clear Lid Tool Box (Grant £14.99)
- 1 x Stanley FatMax 28" Waterproof Tool Box (Grant £39.99)
- 4 x Grass Slasher/Weeder (Grant £64.00)
- 10 x Gardening Gloves (Grant £30.00)
- 4 x Bypass telescopic Loppers (Grant £66.00)
- 2 x Warning Forest Operations Warning Sign (Grant £14.28)
- 2 x No Public Access Forest Operations Sign (Grant £14.28)
- 2 x Danger Keep Out Sign (Grant £14.28)
- 1 x Red/Write Barrier Tape 250m (Grant £9.60)
- 1 x Tree Marking orange can (Grant £4.74)
- 1 x D D Tarp 4m x 4m olive green group shelter (Grant £46.00)
- 1 x Repair Tape clear (Grant £7.50)
- 1 x Large Base Camp Kelly Kettle stainless steel 1.6l (Grant £92.50)
- 1 x Sol Sport Utility Blanket (casualty stabilising blanket) (Grant £29.95)

The total cost of the grantable items above = £748.00, VAT included and including one additional carriage charge of £12.98.

The previous list of equipment is shown in Members Update No: 6. The Association is committed to FCS to keep all grant items safe and in good condition for a period of five years. This is a requirement of FCS that the Association must keep. Please ensure you always return tools & equipment back to the Association which are kept until lock in Jan's Hideaway and in the woodlands shed.

"In-kind" value of Volunteers

Within the committee meeting minutes for the last meeting on 26th November 2015, you will find a breakdown of the hours that have been volunteered by the committee members, members and others and donations received to 14th November 2015. To summarise for the FCS financial year, 6th April 2015 to 14th November so far, the value of all hours donated to CWA by volunteers has a value worked out by FCS totalling £5,444 plus donations received that total £387 for the same period. Since then the hours will have increased and a further donation of £413.00 has been received by CWA. All volunteers hours help not only with the maintenance of the woodlands but also with buying equipment and obtaining future grants where match funding is a requirement.

Assets of the Association

In addition to grant funded volunteers tools and equipment (valued at £1,653), the CWA now has 2 x CWA Roller Banner Displays; 6 x 1m x 60cm Folding Tables; 12 x Wall Display Units; 10 x Path Marker Posts (to be erected in Cormonachan Woodlands early in 2016); 2 x Display Red Squirrels; Treasure Hunt Board; 3m x 6m fold up Marquee with weights; Book on Atlantic Hazels; Book on Lichens & a Book on How to Scythe. We are now independently able to attend local events to promote the CWA which we will be happy to do in the future.

Finances of the Association

The base income for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association comes from the support of its members by annual subscriptions, currently £10 for local adult full members, £5 for Associates and £50 for corporate members with children under 16 having free membership. This money pays for the base cost of running the CWA - hosting the website, domain renewals, insurance, membership subscriptions to woodland organisations and stationary. Membership fees this year to date have raised £330 which would almost cover the base costs annually. Donations and other earnings

from attending events have allowed the CWA to purchase non-volunteer equipment. The bank balance as at 26th November 2015 was £913.16 which is good for our first year in operation however we have received £800 in donations to get the Association going that was exceptionally high and such an amount is highly unlikely to be repeated in future. The CWA is very grateful to those who have donated this money to the Association.

Other News

Committee members have been attending various workshops and meetings run by Forestry Commission Scotland, Community Woodlands Association, Plant Life and RSPB. These all help us to understand what other woodlands organisations are doing, how to obtain grants, advice on managing woodlands and Rhododendron ponticum control.

We are in the early stages of planning a green woodworking course for our members in early April 2016 - If you may be interested please contact the Secretary by the 25th January 2016 expressing an interest as we may be able to run two courses.

There is no further news on enlarging the CW car park at present - when there is we will advise you. Major grant assistance will be required and this will take a considerable time to achieve.

There will not be any further Members Updates until the end of January 2016 as the Secretary and Chair will be abroad on holiday until mid-January. The next committee meeting will be held on 9th February 2016.

Tail Piece (*Information received on 1st December 2015*)

Act Argyll (part of Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust) have 2 spaces available on an emergency at work first aid +f course that they are running on 17th December at their unit in Oban.

*The cost for a place on the course is £55 per person. If anyone from our Association would be interested in attending this course please contact Douglas Grierson, Act Argyll Skills and Contracts Manager - Email: douglas@act-now.org.uk, Tel: 01546 602755, Mob: 07824 833001
www.act-now.org.uk 1 Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RR*

Douglas Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)
Cormonachan Woodlands Association
E: Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk
T: 01301 703098
M: 07748 130976
F: 01301703098 (on request)
W: www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan>