



# Cormonachan Woodlands

**Sent:** 14 June 2015 14:08

**Subject:** Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Welcome to the Cormonachan Woodlands Association.

This is the first Update to the Members of the Association. All previous e-mails you will have received were prior to setting up the membership of the Association (CWA).

Thank you for your support in becoming a Member – this is very important to the Association and the Committee as we have to prove to Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) that we are a serious group of people with the interests of the Cormonachan Woodlands at heart and that it is our wish to manage the woodlands according to the Association's Constitution (attached).

The current membership consists of 21 paid up individual Full Members, 2 paid up Associate Members and 2 free Child Members. We are further expecting two Corporate Members to be joining soon.

The Association has received four donations to date amounting to £625.00 to help with the work done and to be done at and for Cormonachan Woodlands that is greatly appreciated by the Committee and thanks go to those benefactors. Ardroy Trust has given in kind free use of their minibuses and instructors as well as providing refreshments for the Open Day that was also much appreciated.

We would like to explain why we need to have paid up members of the Association. The fact is the CWA will have annual costs to cover and these include the cost of hosting the website and domain renewal (£107.50 pa); £10M Public Liability Insurance (£111.00 pa) – which will not start until we have a lease from FCS; Membership to the Community Woodlands Association (£10.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> year & £35.00 pa thereafter) & stationery costs unknown at present (around £30.00 pa).

This year we have had to reinstate the website [www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk) as the content management system (CMS) had been lost with the website when Ardroy was closed down by Fife Council. Ardroy, now AOEC Trust Ltd., has paid for the first year's hosting of the website and the Association has paid for the reinstatement of the website and CMS that cost £150.00. We now have a fully working website with gallery and also a Facebook page (Cormonachan).

Following the Open Day on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015, we have received completed consultation documents with comments from interested people and found there to be enough interest for the introduction of membership to the Association and for a lease to be applied for from Forestry Commission Scotland. Currently, FCS is producing new formatted agreements which will be applicable to all the agreements that FCS will be entering into throughout all FCS land in Scotland.

The progress of the agreement is with FCS lawyers. We are advised there is a queue of work tasks for FCS lawyers to carry out. Unfortunately agreements like this we are told are not the top of their list. Where FCS is at the moment, is getting the national template agreed first. Once that has been completed, and only then, will individual agreements such as ours be pulled together. FCS is sorry but says we will need to be patient with the progress and production of this document. They need to pay their lawyers fees, as will we, when the document is drafted. So funding could be an issue, except that one of the Ardroy Trust's directors is a solicitor who we understand is happy to review the document without charge to the CWA as AOEC Trust Ltd. will be party to the FCS lease with the Cormonachan Woodlands Association.

We are pleased to note that about fifty per cent of our members are willing to volunteer helping in the woodlands once we have a lease. We shall probably have a few volunteer days each year when those members who can help out will be very welcome to come along. The other fifty per cent of members wish to support the project which is extremely important to the Association.

Prior to this the committee will have to try and obtain funding for signage, tools and management of the woodlands costs. There are many sources of funding available so we anticipate we should be able to get the funding we need. We also hope to eventually find funding for a small car park at the entrance to the woodlands. Drimsynie Estates have given a lease to the Loch Goil Community Trust for car park land to the right of the entrance in 2008 however nothing had been done about this due to Ardroy closing down soon afterwards.

The CWA will be having a stand at the Loch Goil Gala Day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 commencing at 11 am in Lochgoilhead and we hope that members will visit the stand and if free be able to

offer an hour to help man the stand to give committee members a break during the day.

The committee members of the Association are – Liz Evans, Chair; Douglas Locke, Secretary, Rowan Fraser, Treasurer; Jimmy Sim and Marion McCune, both Members. The next committee meeting is planned to be on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

It will be our intention to send out further Updates when there is news to report to the members.

Thank you for supporting the Cormonachan Woodlands Association.

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