



Sent: 16th May 2019

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 33

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.

News Update

No news is sometimes, good news... It's been a while since the last Members Update, the reason, we have been waiting for a decision on our planning application for the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project. We thought it may have come over the last couple of months but then the National Park required further information which has all had to be dealt with and so the latest update follows...

"Upper Cormonachan Paths" Project Update

Four points have arisen and have or currently are being addressed:-

1) The West of Scotland Archaeology Service require a condition placed on the planning permission as follows:-

"No development shall take place within the development site as outlined in red on the approved plan until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service."

We have therefore had to put out to tender this archaeology work and three archaeologists will be submitting their costs by 20th May 2019 for the committee to consider and obtain funding for. There is a fund available for this work that has to be applied for, in principle, by 31st May 2019. This condition will not hold up the planning decision.

2) A law now requires the National Park to obtain a 'Protected Species Survey' to be undertaken by the planning applicant for the area covered by the new paths. This has now been completed at a cost of £400.00 and the report has been submitted to the planning officer.

3) Whilst we shall not be felling any oaks or deciduous trees along the paths route, 84 Sitka spruce and 8 Larch will have to be felled along the route which means that for every tree felled an oak or another deciduous tree will have to be replanted but away from the paths. We have had to obtain a letter of approval from Forestry & Land Scotland (that was formerly Forest Enterprise Scotland until 1st April 2019) and this has been submitted to the planning officer. We have therefore obtained a quotation for the supply of 105 replacement trees including native oaks (30 x 40-60cm), Birch (15 x 20-40 cm), Hazel (15 x 40-60cm), Hawthorn (15 x 40-60 cm), Holly (15 x 30-45 cm) and Aspen (60-90 cm) plus 105 x 120 cm shelters and 105 x 135 x 32 x 32 cm stakes at a cost of £550.68. The replacement trees will be planted by volunteers. Funding is available for the replanting of trees and can be applied for, in principle, by 31st May 2019. Now that the outline planting plan has been sent to the National Park, this will not hold up the planning decision.

4) The only outstanding matter is the Method of Construction for the section E to G in McGowan's of Aviemore, the hill contractors, quotation which they have to show more detail, particularly along the area by Cormonachan Burn on the map below. The lower area will be serviced with material dropped in by helicopter. We are currently awaiting this short statement to be able to submit it to the planning officer. Once this has been received by the National Park, a planning decision will follow.

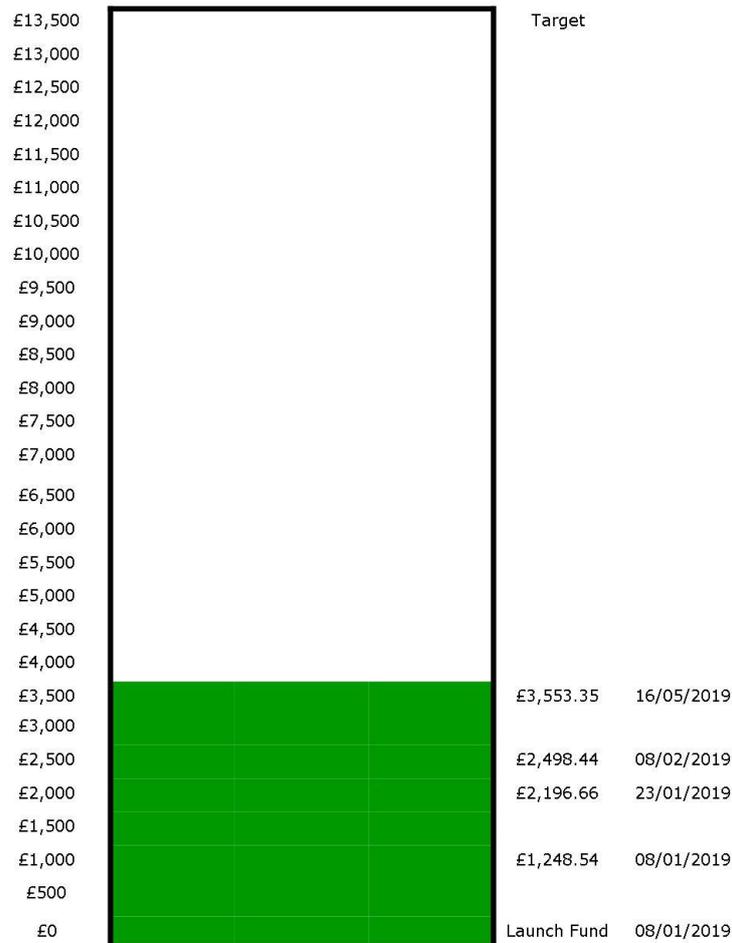


The cost of the project remains the same at £323,484.00, including VAT. We will be seeking full funding for the whole project as soon as we have planning permission from the National Park.

There is funding available from a number of organisations for this type of project. Some of these do require some local funding through donations to show that there is local interest in the project so we are looking for 5% of the project costs from donations, an amount of £13,500.00.

The "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund" has now reached £3,553.35 towards our target from members donations and the GoRaise donations. We have a year really in which to achieve this target so hope you can help if you haven't already.

"Upper Cormonachan Paths" Project Fund Cormonachan Woodlands Association



Planning permission for the project is supported by the Argyll & Bute's MP, Brendan O'Hara and MSP, Michael Russell, Cowal Ward Councillor, Alan Reid, Lochgoil Community Council, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Lochgoil Community Trust, Loch Lomond Community Partnership. Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs, Community Woodlands Association, Argyll Holidays, Rhumhor Holiday Lodge, Carrick Castle Estate & Lodge, Lodge on Loch Goil, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre, Loch Goil Kayak Hire, Carrick Farm, Lochgoilhead Holidays, Loch Goil Trails, Lochwood House Guest House, The Shore House, Rowan House Bed & Breakfast & Loch Goil Cruisers & the Boat Shed Cafe.

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 Community Woodlands to members and visitors and boost tourism to the Loch Goil area for local businesses.

The plans for the proposed paths and the car park are displayed in the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's notice board in the car park.

Membership of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

The current membership for the year to date for 2019/2020 stands at 101 members of which 71 are Full Individual Members, 17 are Associate Members, 5 are Life Members, 4 are Corporate Members, 2 are Associate Corporate Members and 2 are Child Members (free). Five members from last year haven't renewed from 1st April 2019 to date. 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.

At the next AGM on 29th May 2019, there will be a vote to increase the number of committee members up from six to eight and we are in need of a new committee member to look after the volunteering side of the woodlands as Douglas Locke has had to give up physical volunteering due to a hip problem.

Volunteers Days

Due to no volunteering support for Saturday 18th May, this volunteers day has had to be cancelled. The volunteers day on Friday 17th May is going ahead with three strimmer operator volunteers to keep the paths in order from 9 am to 11 am.

Future Volunteers Days

The next physical Volunteers Day is:-

Monday 3rd June 2019 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

This day is an extra Volunteers Day as part of the nationwide Volunteers Week from 1st to 7th June in Scotland and the UK - <https://www.volunteersweek.scot/partners/partners-list/>. About a dozen National Park staff will be volunteering that day in Cormonachan Woodlands as well. Members will be welcome to help mornings, afternoons or both.

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

These are the tasks we need to complete by 31st March 2020:- <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CWA-Maintenance-Tasks-2019-to-2020.pdf>

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

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.

Red Squirrel Hide Update

Since the Red Squirrel Hide was erected in March 2018, the donation box has received **£150.20** which is very helpful as that money goes towards feeding the red squirrels and pine martens that are currently getting though 130 kilos of nuts a year that costs about £155 pa.

Training Update

Five of our members obtained their Pesticide Spraying certificates in February 2019. Each training and assessment course cost £658 per person and this was funded by Forestry Commission Scotland. The first pesticide spraying of the *Rhododendron ponticum* re-growth after cutting is expected to take place in the woodlands later in June.

We have applied for funding for two 2-day Emergency First Aid Courses in 2019. One should be in the near future once the funding is in place and another at the end of the year that will be for renewal of members current certificates that expire after 3 years.

We need one more member for the first course to go ahead.

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. The cost for the two day training is £450.00 for up to 12 members.

Free Funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association

GoRaise has now raised **£158.10** to Cormonachan Woodlands Association from just nine of supporters (5 full members, 2 associate members & 2 non-members) that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! One hundred & nineteen purchases have been made to date donating £158.10 to the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund'.

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. 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 Projects.

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 next AGM will be on Wednesday 29th May 2019 at 7 pm in the Lochgoilhead Village Hall.

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