Fossoway Access and Amenity Project Group

28thth February 2014

**Penney’s Wood (Community Woodland Project, Fossoway) – Update**

Friends and neighbours,

You will I am sure have noticed that work has now begun on the 6 acre site bordering the Back Crook, on which a community woodland will be sited, courtesy of the estate of the late Duncan Penney – and with much appreciated support also from Amanda Penney, Duncan’s sister-in-law.

The ground has been cleared, fenced and gated, and is now effectively ready for planting in the early spring – weather permitting of course.

The purpose of this communication is to bring you right up to date with progress to this point, and to explain the next steps.

* In addition to the support from Duncan’s estate and from Amanda, commitment has also been secured from the Woodland Trust Scotland (WTS) and from Morewoods (the government agency tasked with distributing funds to promote woodland growth). Advice has been provided by WTS officials on a variety of subjects, from rights of access to appropriate species for planting, and funds are being made available from Morewoods to assist with the buying and planting of the trees.
* The number and type of trees to be planted is listed below, together with some detail on the chosen method for promoting the establishment of the trees. These choices have been influenced by the professional advice received, but also by extensive consultation with local interests in late 2012 / early 2013.
* In order to comply with current safety legislation, there can be no planting within 5 metres of the space underneath power lines – so in effect the layout of fairly natural paths will follow wherever possible the direction of the overhead lines – to maximise the plantable area.
* It is probably worth mentioning that several unsuccessful attempts have been made to secure support from SSE in putting underground the existing cables. The cost of doing this privately would have exhausted the resources of the charity, and (for the limited aesthetic benefit) was not in our view consistent with responsible management of the project.
* The plan with regard to planting is to utilise the expertise of a local contractor in the first instance in getting the bulk of the trees planted quickly and effectively. Funds are already in place to secure this assistance and the cost is safely within budget. Planting (subject to weather) is expected to begin in week commencing 4th March.
* Prior to planting, we will attempt to map out (loosely) but as practically as possible the optimum route for the paths, having the objective of maximising the area free for planting. Paths in general will be natural, but we will intervene in patches with hard-core or similar if circumstances demand.
* It is intended that the waterway bi-secting the site will be cleared prior to the final stages of planting, and subject to the overall financial position it may be possible to enhance the aesthetics around the bridge – which at the moment consists of a big pipe covered with loose stones.
* There will be ample opportunity for community participation with some of the planting (around 150 Scots Pines have been set aside for this purpose) and in the years ahead in maintaining what we are certain will become a considerable asset. Consultation on how we will manage this will begin shortly – the one certainty being that volunteers will be required.

Please indicate to Mandy Round using her email address mandyground@hotmail.com if you are prepared to give any time to the cause.

* Management of the woodland will continue to be overseen by the committee below, and ideally a part-time warden will be appointed in due course. Maintenance works will be provided by the main (planting) contractor for the first few years.
* **Of essential importance from this point on is the need for us all to look after this valuable resource – by for example avoiding (or even collecting litter), discouraging dog waste, and reporting promptly damage to the woodland to any member of the committee below. Dogs should be kept under control please until further notice. Sign posts will be erected.**
* **Please accept our thanks in advance and in anticipation of everyone’s co-operation.**

Kate Somervail (email addresses?)

Bronwen Wheatley

Mandy Round

Ewen Cameron

**Planting schedule:**

**Type - Number –**

**The chosen method of plant protection is the…….see link …………(or picture??)**