

Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Committee Meeting of 12 July 2001
Held in Dunbar Community School offices
Meeting Minutes

1) Present

S Bell, J Cowan, Councillor Hampshire, Councillor Jarvie, P Revell (chair), J Thomson, K Wilson.

2) Apologies

C Elliot, M James, R Lesso, S Panton.

3) Previous minutes: Approved

4) Matters arising

PR met with Maree Johnstone at the new play area and mapped it out. She was basically in agreement. The proposal has been sent on to KR, and we await approval from that quarter. KR has also been asked to fund DCWG leaflets.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is surveying in the woods this week.

PR will write to the Community Council to ask them to fund DCWG leaflets. Lothian Printers have quoted a price of £120 for 1000 leaflets. PR will ask for £200/300.

5) Strategy for dealing with Ken Ross

NH points out that no work has been done, in respect of the developer's obligations towards the work to be carried out in the woods. Even though KR has by now been warned by the council that financial penalties may be incurred. Apparently now all correspondence is being forwarded to the actual owner, suggesting dissatisfaction with the performance of the agent. NH suggests that the committee write to Steve Cummings, asking the council to take further action. He points out that some further detailed planning approval is still to be given by the council. This situation could potentially be exploited to exert pressure on the developer.

NH will himself speak to S Cummings. KR has not been answering calls from NH.

NH put forward the suggestion that M Johnstone could price up the work, after KR had done the basics.

SB points out that there are some serious safety issues, with trees fallen over, and in respect of the pond in the south-most part of the wood. In addition the question of whether another pond is going to be made to take the run-off from the new dual carriageway was raised. What are the drainage plans for the new road?

JT argues that an alternative to a run-off pond could be to take a drain out going through Deer Park. He pointed out that the level of water in the curling pond is dependent on maintenance of drainage.

One of the developers is going to repair the wall of the curling pond.

6) Community consultation/questionnaire

RL will be asked to do some surveying at the school, and this should produce a better representational sample than the responses gathered thus far, which have included very few

young people. The suggestion is that committee members also collect five responses or so via personal contacts, in order to get a reasonable total. SB will photocopy some questionnaires.

7) Woodland Survey/Management plan

The second phase of our own survey was carried out by SB, JC, and PR. The compartments 11 and 12 remain to be surveyed. Once completed, we can discuss grants with the Forestry Commission. SB says that there is good quality timber in the woods, and therefore some management could at least be cost-neutral, if not produce a source of income. A forestry consultant would be needed to manage the contract/s. Timber would be removed in order to maximise overall growth/yield. Commensurate with other management objectives in terms of amenity, wildlife, etc. Thought to be a bit dense as an amenity woodland. Perhaps some glades could be created. And new trees planted since the age of the trees throughout is very uniform. Mostly planted approximately late 40's/early 50's, presumably after felling during the war.

8) Logo Competition

The committee looked at and appreciated the contributions from two classes. A winner and two runners-up were chosen.

9) Next Meeting

Thursday, 16th August, 7:30 pm. PR will invite K Ross to attend. If declined, will ask S Cummings with the intention of establishing the state of play vis-à-vis the council's remaining approval of detailed planning permission, and therefore leverage with the developer. J Affleck of the Forestry Commission to be invited to a later meeting.