

**Circulated  
Un-confirmed**

**Lochend Woods, Dunbar  
Meeting to discuss the future ownership  
Held on Tuesday, 8 January 2002 in ELC offices, Haddington  
Meeting Minutes**

*Present*

Neil Clark (East Lothian Council), Simon Bell (Dunbar Community Woodland Group), Colin Elliot (Dunbar Community Woodland Group) Norman Hampshire (Councillor, ELC) Maree Johnstone (ELC) David Wilson (David Wilson Associates).

*Introduction*

Norman Hampshire opened the meeting clarifying the objective seeking agreement between ELC, Ken Ross and DCWG for the transfer of the ownership of Lochend Woods from the developer.

*The Proposed Works By The Developer*

David Wilson confirmed that he had been asked to act on behalf of Ken Ross in seeking agreement over the required works within the woodland and to seek conveyance of title.

He confirmed that works for early execution would include the following areas.

1. *Play Area* In regard to this DW confirmed that he would make the necessary application for variation of the appropriate planning consent. The felling licence application has been sent to the Forestry Commission.
2. *Primary Footpath* There was some debate about the extent of the primary path network and it was agreed that this path would be reduced to secondary status for the section north of the Kellie Road. The primary paths would be 2 metres wide.
3. *Dead And Dangerous Trees* After some debate DW accepted that all dead and dangerous trees would require to be felled.
4. *Secondary Path Network* This network is subject to variation from the original management plan and it was agreed DW's client would carry out in accordance with the updated path network, a copy of which he has been sent. This was on condition that the adjusted network would not be substantially longer in length. DW agreed to making an additional financial allowance to cover linkages from the adjacent housing developments. The secondary paths are to be 1.2 metres wide.
5. *New Planting* DW to write to planning department with an indication of the specific variations to the original plan being sought.

*Chapel Ruin*

DW raised this issue as he and his client felt the structure was now dangerous. He is to check if the structure is listed and if **no listing exists** he will serve notice upon ELC that the structure will be demolished within the next 7 days.

#### Drainage Obligations

There was some discussion as to who is responsible for drainage across the site and NH took it upon himself to contact East of Scotland Water. With regard to drainage repairs required now, in connection with the culverted sections, for example where the vaulting had collapsed and an open manhole presented a danger. CE to consult with Jim Thomson and communicate back to DW within the next 7 days.

#### Walnut Tree, Proposed Play Area

DW felt that the lower branch of this tree, given its condition, was a hazard and potentially unsafe for children. Agreed that branch be removed.

#### Pond at Southern End Wood

NH advised that he suspected storm drainage from the nearby Persimmon estate was being discharged into this pond given the recent installation of two drainage manhole covers. It was unclear whether SEPA had been notified. In any event NH to contact East of Scotland water to establish if the development has been carried out in accordance with the approved plans. SB also noted that there was a badger set nearby.

DW proposed that works to this area should form part of a later phase and that this should not hold up the transfer of the main part of the woods. ELC and DCWG however stressed that any phasing of this nature would only be considered if the pond works were clearly specified and programmed to their entire satisfaction. NH noted that the pond already acted as a holding reservoir in the event of heavy flow from upstream and that last year the drainage system failed in Belhaven. Concern was expressed over the idea of phasing that the drains in the wood may be affected by water flowing in from the pond so that ELC and DCWG would be unwilling to accept transfer of the woods until this issue was resolved.

#### Conclusion

DW advised that his client will aim to have a set of works to be agreed carried out by the end of February, along with provision of a specification and timetable for works to the pond area. DW to write to ELC planning department with a copy to MJ setting out an adjusted specification for works to the woods.

#### Other Matters

The triangle of land at the northern end of the wood previously omitted from the management agreement could, DW indicated, be passed over to ELC in a later phasing along with portions to the west of this within the gold course land.

The meeting closed at 12.00 hours.