

Morvern Community Forest Development Group meeting

25th April 2016 7:30pm

Community Room, Lochaline

Present: Claire Holohan (Lochaline resident, aromatherapist, smallholder & chair MCDC), Sam Firth (Drimnin resident, film-maker, chair MCW), Alasdair Firth (Drimnin resident, ecologist, MCW), Claire Manthorpe (Achabeg resident with interest in woodland crofts, MCW), Veronique Walraven (Lochaline resident with interest in community theatre & access, MCW), Donald Kennedy (Morvern resident, ecologist, rhododendron removal specialist, local tree-nursery manager, MCW), Martin Gale (Drimnin resident, chair BSW, former interim chair Forestry Commission), John Hodgson (Morvern resident, former boat-builder, wood-worked & wood-turner, MCDC), Mike Foulis (Drimnin resident, formerly with Scottish Government, MCDC), Annie Tordoff (Achabeg resident, community development & youth worker), Angus Robertson (Ardtornish resident, long-time Ardtornish Estate manager & chair Morvern Deer Management Group, MCDC), Lilia Dhobroková (Lochaline resident & Development Officer MCDC).

MCW = Morvern Community Woodlands. MCDC = Morvern Community Development Company.

Apologies: Bonnie Mealand, Kirsty McIntyre

1. Introduction

Those present introduced themselves to each other and outlined their backgrounds and interests in relation to the establishment of a group to look into forestry and land-use development in Morvern (see brief notes following names above).

2. Background.

Notes on previous community consultation event and group's visit to the two community woodlands on Mull (see written papers).

3. Round-table discussion on objectives and approach of the group.

- 3.a Objectives of the group. Discussion followed on whether purchase of Fiunary forest should be the primary aim of the group. Should the community's aim be to purchase the forest or to investigate other ways of using the forest in a way that benefits the community more? The general conclusion was that the group should investigate all possible ways to build connections that benefit both the community and the forest.
- 3.b The group discussed how to approach these objectives. The working group will be a forum to develop the ideas about Morvern forest development. Equally, it should be able to present these ideas to a body which could take them further, which could be

derived from the group itself, or could be a previously existing community body. After discussion, those present decided that a chair should be chosen who would be able to represent the group at government level. Vice-chairs would be chosen to reflect local community interests. Secretarial duties to be shared between group members.

- 3.c Mike Foulis accepted the offer to be chair. Donald Kennedy and Angus Robertson accepted the positions of vice-chairs. Alasdair Firth offered to minute for the group. No individual secretary was appointed but separate tasks will be shared between group members.
- 3.d Future steps: AF to circulate FCS Morvern Forest Plan and any other relevant data to the working group members through dropbox, or failing that by other means; discussions on the information therein to follow. Discussion followed on whether to investigate possibilities for community involvement in community forestry other than Fiunary Forest. Carnacailliche and Killundine were discussed as potential areas that could be investigated further in future.
- 3.e Additional actions required: SF. Check if Miles Welsh & Freda Beston are still interested in being involved in the working group. SF. Contact Craig Millar about coming for a meeting asap and set up doodle poll.

The meeting concluded at 10pm.