

The Woodland Wire—April 2011

latest news from Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group

Woodland Ballot Success

The recent ballot to gauge public opinion for a community buy out of Kirkton Woodland has shown overwhelming support with 85.1% of the returned ballots backing the project. Ballot papers were sent to every-one registered on the electoral role residing in Lochcarron, Strathcarron and Kishorn, 755 ballot papers were issued with 57.9% or 437 valid ballots returned. Of these, 372 voted YES to pursuing the buy-out, subject to funding.

Our Thanks

The Directors would like to express their thanks to all the KWHG members who took the time to encourage people to vote, also to Lochcarron Business Association, Lochcarron Community Council, Lochcarron Leisure Group, Lochcarron Primary School, Councillor Biz Campbell, Doctor David Murray and Avril MacKenzie who works tirelessly in support of this development project. Finally a huge thank you must be extended to Highland Council, in particular Robbie Bain, Highland Council Ward Manager who arranged the posting out of the ballot papers, the counting of the returns and the delivery of the result.

Smithy Development Phase One — Funding Success

KWHG are pleased to announce that their application to Awards For All has been successful. Work is about to begin on Phase One of the Smithy Development Project. The extension to the building was badly damaged by water a number of years ago and the entire interior fabric of the building requires to be refurbished. The funding will be used to replace the water damaged plasterboard, repaint the interior, install heating, a broadband enabled telephone line, office furniture, and kitchen units.

When completed, the building will provide office accommodation for the group and the better equipped kitchen will allow the group to serve food to members and volunteers participating in the various workshops and training days.

Stage Two of the development, the building of two craft worker workshops is currently at the planning stage.

Workshop Event at the Smithy

Thanks to all 16 people who came along to the Smithy on Sat. 12th March to take part in our raising awareness and volunteering day. Trees were planted, raised beds cleared, wildflower seed sown, rubbish removed and bracken cleared.

Thanks also, to the ladies who provided the home made soup and freshly baked bread and to Scottish Natural Heritage for providing the funding to purchase the tools, equipment and knowledge needed to deliver the programme. Further workshops and events will take place throughout the Spring and Summer, watch this space for details.

E-Mail our Management Secretary, Michelle Teago for membership details and subscriptions direct at;

kirktonwoodlandheritagegroup@gmail.com

Next Steps towards the purchase of the woodland

Following on from the community ballot, the next step towards the purchase of the woodland is an application to the National Forest Land Scheme.

The National Forest Land Scheme supports community acquisitions, land for woodland crofts, land for affordable housing and the sponsored sale of surplus land.

The Community Acquisition Criteria states that the proposal must;

1. be in the public interest
2. have community support
3. be consistent with the principles of sustainable development
4. not be significantly detrimental to the management of the national forest estate

Also, the community organisation must be eligible to buy the land, have substantial connection with the land and the community must have the capacity to manage the land.

First Producers Day of the Season
Friday April 22nd
don't forget !



Workshop Available For Lease

The craft workshop previously occupied by Asgard Crafts is now available for lease. For further details, please contact

either Avril MacKenzie, Vice Chair, Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group (Tel; 01520 722284) or e.mail to kirktonwoodlandheritagegroup@gmail.com



Inside this issue:

Community Ballot Success	1
Next steps towards the purchase	2
Smithy funding bid success	3
First Producers Day	4
Workshop for Rent	5
Training Workshops	6
E Mail us Direct	7