

Kilmallie Community Company

Update on the Corpach Wood Project

There is no definite news from Arjo Wiggins. We are (we hope) working towards the sale of two areas of woodland to the community. The two areas are the "Pine Wood" above Guisach Terrace and a narrow strip of wood between the Drum Fada Oakwood and the sawmill.

In order to purchase these areas we need to be a legally constituted community body. In order to claim grants (for purchase and for management) and, should the need arise, in order to register a right to buy we must register a company limited by guarantee. The company must have Memoranda and Articles which satisfy the conditions laid down by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Community Land Unit and the Scottish Executive.

The most difficult condition to satisfy is the definition of the community area. The Scottish Executive work on the basis that it must be as inclusive as possible. This means we have to open the membership to the whole of the Kilmallie Community Council area. It is a good thing to be inclusive but it means that we have to recruit a membership of at least 10% of the adult population (about 120 members). Membership does not involve a great deal. Those interested must sign up to support the objectives of the company. There is no cost. Members will be invited to an AGM and thereafter can become more involved if they so wish.

The proposed name of the company is "Kilmallie Community Company"

At the present time the only project in mind is the Corpach Wood. Once formed the company will have the power, if the members so wish, to do other projects.

The next stage is to consult a solicitor to check if we have forgotten anything. Assuming there are no snags we could be out asking for those interested to sign up as members before the end of January. There are 800 addresses in Kilmallie and we ask for volunteers to cover specific areas.

Paul Biggin
30th October 2006