

## FINAL

- 
- **FRIENDS OF GLENAN WOOD BOARD MEETING – December 2018**
- **Date:** 10th December, 2018
- **Time:** 2.00pm
- **Place:** Lucy's House
- **Attendees:** Mark Appleton, Andree Hawke, Eve MacFarlane, Heather Muir, Lucy Roper
- **Apologies:** Mick, Robin, Rob, Robbie.

There was no formal agenda for this meeting which largely took the form of a brainstorming session to consider ways of raising the funds which may be required to get a successful bid over the line.

However, Lucy did provide a brief Treasurer's report, reporting that FoGW is £138.88p in credit, albeit with around £50 in expenses related to Heather's attendance at a Community Woodland Association conference due for payment.

Eve updated those present on the Community Asset Transfer Scheme application. She explained that before the application can be validated by Forestry Commission Scotland, we need to update the sum we are seeking from the Scottish Land fund to take account of the 20% discount we have requested.

Eve also explained that, given the relevant nature of with his work with Kilfinan Community Forest, Mick would be taking on the role of liaising with the Scottish Land Fund, leaving Eve to focus more on communication and membership matters.

### **Fundraising plans**

The majority of the meeting was devoted to suggesting and exploring different methods of raising funds to ensure the success of the bid, should we be left in a position of not receiving the hoped-for discount. In that event, it is clearly in our interests to have a contingency plan which would inform our efforts to raise the required sum.

Part of that plan will include a crowdfunding campaign and letters seeking support and donations from high profile and high net worth individuals and corporate entities within Scotland preferably with a connection to the local area. A variety of ideas other ideas were discussed, detailed below.

It was agreed that a letter of support from the Tighnabruaich Development Trust would be beneficial to our cause and that the Trust would be approached for such a letter.

It was further agreed that as a charity we should engage further with local social and business entities such as the retired community within the PA21 area, local estate owners and businesses such as CalMac, Portavadie Estates Ltd etc.

One proposal was that in a similar way to the individual sections of a pier, pontoon or bridge being “bought” by individual donors to a charity, we could “sell” squares of plots of land in exchange for (limited) naming rights or simply an association of the donor with the plot in graphic form, possibly some form of map at the entrance to the Wood.

Donors might also be invited to plant a tree of their choice – obviously limited to relevant native species – in return for a certain level of donation. Equally, benches and picnic tables bearing the donors’ names might be an attractive option for some individuals or businesses.

There was considerable discussion around the idea of a launch event which might take the form of a fund-raising dinner, with a silent/live auctions, charity horserace event (using DVD/projector etc) raffles, tombolas etc.

It was suggested that we should create a fundraising pack, with details of what make Glenan Wood special, a summary of our progress so far, how much we need to raise and what our aspiration would be – possibly to have the Wood designated and area of outstanding natural beauty, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, or similar. Eve has offered to put this together.

### **Next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for January 11, 2019 at the Kilfinan Community Forest.