

Glencoe & Glen Etive  
Community Council Meeting  
Tues 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
St Mary's Church Hall Glencoe 7.30pm

Present:

Clr. David Doogan, Clr. Dave Smith, Clr. Debbie Straker, Clr Jeanette Johnstone, Clr. Denise Stewart,  
Clr. Ian-William McTaggart

Apologies:

Clr. Anne Nelson, Clr Andy Nelson, Clr Gwen McTaggart.

Forestry Commission Scotland

Ian MacEachern and Henry Dobson from Forestry Commission Scotland spoke about FCS 10 year plan for Glencoe Forest and Glencoe Lochan.

Using a satellite map they highlighted areas of the forest to the north and west of the Lochan (PAWS – previous ancient woodland sites) where conifers will gradually be thinned out, to be replaced with natural broadleaf trees and some Scots Pine. The area surrounding Glencoe Lochan is regarded as a scenic garden and will be developed sensitively with this in mind. The area to the east of the Hospital Drive and north of the Clachaig road will continue as commercial productive forest. The Community Council will be kept up to date with all proposed works as development goes forward.

As part of the plan, FCS will be removing straight lines and sharp edges to the forest to soften the visual impact from distant view points. The core path, following the power lines towards Kinlochleven will be maintained.

Henry Dobson (FCS Conservation Officer) spoke about the 15 year plan to eradicate Rhododendron Ponticum from FCS properties. Ponticum is an invasive plant which covers the forest floor, preventing growth of other plants and wildlife. FCS will cut and burn Ponticum in selected areas of the forest over the period of the plan. Areas will be revisited to spray roots and seedlings, preventing regeneration.

The CC asked that these areas be replanted with some non-invasive cultivars and other shrubs to preserve some colour on the hospital drive and walks around the Lochan. We do not wish to be left with a barren landscape. We also asked if the islands on the Lochan could be given some attention with thinning out and replanting on them also. Henry Dobson said that we would have fewer cultivars but they would be well placed. He also apologised for the cutting down of a specimen – White Lady - Rhododendron on the hospital drive. He has since had important specimens remaining on Forestry Land and grounds of Glencoe House (formerly Hospital) pointed out to him by John Roy and these will be protected.

Next year a program will begin aimed at eradicating Japanese Knotweed, which has now become a major problem nationwide. It is evident at the Lilly Pond and around some of the pools below the Lochan.

FCS was asked, by a local resident present, to improve the road sign at the fork in the hospital drive to make it more obvious that the Lochan car park was to the right and not the left. A car park symbol was missing from the sign. A lot of traffic is ending up at Glencoe House and Scorrybreac Guest House and having to turn or reverse.

DS asked if the seats on Wiggy's Walk could be repaired as the backs were falling off.

DD asked if the sign for Wiggy's walk could be put in place. Also if the protective fence/gate at the start of the walk could be put back.

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of June 14<sup>th</sup> were proposed by Dave Smith and seconded by Ian MacTaggart.

#### Matters Arising

The litter bin by the boathouse at Glencoe Lochan is overflowing. (DD to follow up)

Potholes getting deeper down the lane at Lower Carnoch and at turn off to Upper Carnoch. (DD to follow up)

#### Community Council Elections

Election Day is on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Nomination papers for those wishing to sit on the Community Council must be received by Highland Council by Tues 4<sup>th</sup> October before 4pm.

If the election is contested, i.e. more than 8 people are nominated for election, ballot papers will be posted out to those on the electoral register. These must be returned no later than 4pm on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Existing Community Councils will be dissolved at 2359 on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Community Company

Main Funding Application for the next stage of the Glencoe Orbital Route must be made by 1<sup>st</sup> November. Work is progressing toward this with the help of consultant Ian Donaldson. The Community Council is advancing £400 towards the planning application fee.

#### A.O.B

I.M made the point that ditches alongside the A82 are not being cleared when the grass verge is cut. DD to contact Transerve

The gateway from Kinlochleven road to the footpath passing alongside the playpark to Lorn Drive has been reported to Highland Council as steep and dangerous and requiring handrails. DD to check with HC on progress.

Purchase of more Christmas lights. To be discussed at next meeting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30

Minutes taken by DD

Approved at CC Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct