

Longrigg Woodland

Community Woodland Feasibility



We are writing to you with regards to Longrigg Woodland.

In March 2017, The Sunart Community Company and Community Council held a public Community Woodland Workshop. This was initiated because Forestry Commission Scotland contacted the Community Council to inform them that Longrigg Woodland had been earmarked for disposal (sale). Their first port of call is to offer it to the community, and if the community does not wish to purchase it, it goes on the open market.

The Sunart Community Council gave the Community Company the go ahead to investigate viability for a Community Woodland project.

Following the Community Workshop held in March, the Sunart Community Woodland Working Group formed with the purpose of investigating the viability and potential for our own Community Woodland project. The LDO's have been managing the project, however they are working on a wide range of projects in the area, some of which have taken more of a priority over the last year.

We are writing to let you know that investigations are underway, and the valuation has now been carried out by the District Valuer. No commitment has been made to purchasing Longrigg Woodland. The Forestry Commission are aware that we have substantial investigations to carry out before we are able to make a decision whether to proceed with a purchase or not.

We submitted an application to the Scottish Land Fund for Stage (SLF) 1 Funding last autumn.

The SLF funding will be for us to commission a Feasibility and Viability study of the Woodland. This study will help us to identify various options and costings for management and extraction (routes and methods) of the current timber resource and its value. It will give us options for the future management of the woodland and identify what potential it may have in terms of community benefits, employment etc. Once the consultant has completed the study, there will be a community consultation to present the findings.

Unfortunately, we have had to re-submit our application for funding as the SLF rules have changed. The application must now include actual quotes for work rather than estimates as was previously the case. We compiled and sent out a briefing document for the Feasibility and Viability Study to 5 consultants to tender for. We have had two responses and will be looking to decide on a consultant by the end of July. **If you are interested in looking over the tenders before the decision is made please let Izzy know.** We can happily arrange a meeting. The next Scottish Land Fund panel meeting is in August where our application should be discussed.

If you would like to add to discussions or to keep better informed and be included in our emails regarding progress with Longrigg Woodland, please let Izzy know. We will be sending email updates as we have more information.

Kind regards,

Izzy and Angela

(Contact Izzy through email izzy@sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk or 07890 689946)