

Physical Environment

COMMUNITY WOODLAND

AIM

The aim of this project is the creation of community woodland space for local residents of all ages to enjoy in the Peninsula West area

OUTPUTS

By the end of the project the output that could be achieved is:

- Woodland located and transferred to community ownership for use by the local community

OUTCOMES

The associated outcomes would be:

- More facilities for local people to use
- A healthier community, with people spending more time outdoors

NEED FOR PROJECT

CURRENT PROVISION IN AREA

There is no community woodland on the western side of the peninsula, the only similar facility being situated at Clachan Glen in Rosneath.

COMMUNITY DEMAND FOR PROJECT

COMMUNITY SURVEY

30% of respondents selected the appearance of the villages as their top environment priority for the Peninsula West area with 70% selecting it as one of their top three priorities. 60% of respondents also indicated that community gardens and woodlands were one of their top three environment priorities.

COMMUNITY PRIORITISATION EVENT

Almost a fifth of participants at the community day who completed the relevant board selected community woodland as the most important improvement to the villages in the Peninsula West area. This option was selected more than any other option except play areas. Comments suggested that projects should aim to promote biodiversity, protect the nature conservation area at Fort Road and combine community woodland and play area.

RELEVANT POLICIES

Community woodland would contribute to the achievement of one of the Scottish Government's national outcomes: 'we value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations'.

The development of a community woodland would contribute to the following outcomes of the Argyll and Bute Local Plan:

- to treat the rich natural and historic environment of Argyll and Bute as a not fully realised economic asset which, if safeguarded and enhanced, can stimulate further investment and increased economic activity

- to safeguard the diverse and high quality natural and built heritage resources, including the abundant landward and maritime biodiversity of Argyll and Bute

The project could also contribute to the following objectives of the Argyll and Bute Community Plan 2009-2013:

- high quality environment that is valued, recognised and protected
- an area that is accessible, yet retains its remote character
- proactive communities where local people and organisations look for and create opportunities

The Argyll and Bute Woodlands and Forestry Strategy aims to promote the woodland and forests of Argyll and Bute as they:

" make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation, have significant levels of economic value retained locally, enhance biodiversity and environmental quality and support the further development of recreation opportunities for the benefit and well-being local people and visitors alike."

POTENTIAL PROJECT

Developing a community woodland at Fort Road woodland which will include new paths, enhanced biodiversity, natural play areas and will be developed using a programme of conservation events and activities. Access and Lease agreements need to be in place with owners of the site to secure funding and consideration needs to be made with regard to public liability and ongoing management and maintenance of the woodland and any developments.

POTENTIAL LOCATION

COMMUNITY PREFERENCE

Fort Road woodland was identified as the preferred woodland area for this project.



POTENTIAL FUNDERS

Forestry Commission operate a **Challenge Fund** to promote social value and community use of woodland and Kilcreggan and Cove would be eligible to apply for the **Forestry For People** strand of funding (areas of existing woodland with community access over 1ha in size). This can cover both capital and revenue costs for community activities including structured volunteering, training and conservation events to develop and use community woodlands.

Scottish Rural Development Programme now include **Scottish Natural Heritage** grants under their umbrella and there could be potential to secure funding under landscape, biodiversity, access and community strands.

Heritage Lottery Fund (Your Heritage up to £50,000) could contribute to such projects celebrating both natural and social heritage aspects although there has to be strong community involvement in learning about and participating in development of a community woodland.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Perth and Argyll Conservancy – Perth and Argyll Conservancy provide local services for the Forestry Commission. The Trust could work with this group to develop a plan to increase woodland in the Peninsula West area.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

STRATHFILLAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Trust manage 95 hectares of community woodland (of which they own 10 hectares) in the villages of Crianlarich and Tyndrum in the Forth Valley.

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

The Trust holds ancient shared rights over the Forest of Birse Community (c.3750 ha) and the native pinewoods there (c.550 ha) and manages land and buildings at a dozen sites spread across the parish, including five local woodlands with a total area of approximately 1,000 hectares.

CONTACTS

Argyll and Bute Access Manager

Argyll and Bute Council
Development and Infrastructure Services
Manse Brae
Lochgilphead
PA31 8RD
01546 604314

Forestry Commission Scotland

Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT
0131 334 0303

Strathfillan Community

Development Trust
Tyndrum Village Hall
Tyndrum
FK20 8SA
01838 400545

Birse Community Trust

The Old School
Finzean
Banchory
AB31 6NY
01330 850200