

Farigaig Community Steering Group Annual General Meeting 2017

Chair's Report

Introduction

- Welcome and thanks
- Why
- Who
- What

Why

- Concerns about the Forest Classroom and toilet at Farigaig
- Concerns about path maintenance in the area
- Curious about potential opportunities

Who we are

- We all live here on the south side of Loch Ness:
 - Candy Cameron
 - Graeme Ambrose
 - Jeanette Taylor
 - John Hedger
 - Matthew Curran
 - Neil Sutherland
 - Patrick Haston
- Helped by
 - John Parrott, Alex Sutherland and Tim Lucas

What have we done?

- Our approach
- People we've worked with
 - Forestry Commission
 - Highland and Islands Enterprise
 - Aigas Forest
 - Community Woodland Association
 - Stratherrick Community Trust
 - Scottish Land Fund

Our planned approach

- Get expert advice on the possibilities for the area
- Present these to the community and find out the preferred options
- Create a business plan and a make an application for funding to purchase what we needed

Forestry Commission



- Very helpful, offering constructive advice
- FCS Community Fund
- Much can be done without purchasing the land

Highlands and Islands Enterprise



- Administer the Scottish Land Fund
- Provide advice
- Access to other sources of funds

Aigas Community Forest



We are a community run social enterprise managing the 260ha Aigas Forest as a productive, working forest providing social, economic and environmental benefits for residents of and visitors to [Lower Strathglass](#).

- 6 year project leading up to the land purchase

Community Woodlands Association



- Source of advice and inspiration
- Amazing to see what others have done

Stratherrick Community Trust



- Provided key funding to cover initial costs
- Funds must be for the benefit of the local community

Scottish Land Fund

Scottish Land Fund Ionmhas Fearainn Na H-Alba

Delivered by



Funded by



- Stage 1 application – preparation
- Stage 2 application – land purchase

We were unsuccessful

- The Scottish Land Fund wanted to see “a more fully developed proposal”
- Normally 6 months between Stage 1 and Stage 2
- We need to work out for ourselves what we want to see happen in our community and then apply for funding
- Funding to cover pre-purchase costs

Regroup and restart

- Workshop in March
- What are our aims for the area?
- What are we hoping to achieve?
- What are we trying to avoid?
- Summarised in our Vision for South Loch Ness Side

Thank you

- Neil Sutherland will explain our vision
- John Hedger will give the treasurers report
- We vote on proposed changes to the constitution
- We elect new committee members