



North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd

Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA756QS

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Charity no: SC037336 Company no: 287343

Spring Newsletter 2012

Harvesting

Harvesting has now commenced and the contractors started by clearing the snapped areas of wind blow in West Ardu as leaving it until the rest of that area was due to be felled would have affected its sales value. When this 'first aid' work is completed the contractors will move to Langamull as per the original felling schedule. The saw logs cut to clear the roadline have all been taken to the mainland (see picture below) and sold at full market value. The haulage contract for Langamull harvesting has been awarded to TSL at Craignure. Export of the harvested timber will initially be via a floating pier at Fishnish, and eventually via a fixed pier that FCS are proposing to build. By adopting this method we will save 85 road miles per 28 tonnes of timber delivered to Kilmallie. This amounts to a staggering 157000 road miles saved for the saw logs from Langamull, as well as reducing our transport costs. Transportation of harvested timber will commence in the next few weeks once a sufficient stockpile has been built up to ensure that all lorries run full to minimise journey numbers. TSL have agreed to use specialist vehicles with low pressure tyres to reduce damage to the forest roads and keep maintenance costs of the haul route to a minimum. NWMCWC Ltd strongly advise anyone walking in Langamull to look out for and comply with notices warning of forest operations so they can avoid dangerous areas and enjoy their walk in safety.



P J MacKerral's low tyre pressure vehicle transporting road line timber on the new road

Stormy Weather

The December gales caused a certain amount of damage to our woodlands. It was always recognised that the mature trees were at risk of blowing down in high winds, hence the race to get the road finished. Fortunately the damage was not very extensive and should not cause the harvesters too many problems, but it may be necessary to change the order in which certain coupes are felled. Some trees blew down across the new road and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the team of volunteers who worked incredibly hard to clear them away. In the lead up to Christmas, when everyone had many other calls on their time, the volunteers cleared the whole route of around 100 trees and still managed to keep on top of the Christmas Tree orders! Since then 2 further work parties have cleared more trees that blew down in subsequent gales. Many thanks to all of you for showing your support for NWMCWC Ltd in such a practical way in terrible weather conditions.

AGM

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, our AGM will be held on Thursday 1st March 2012 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Village Hall. All the usual business of an AGM will take place, including Chairman's Report, presentation of the Annual Accounts and election of Directors. There will also be a presentation from the Development Manager reviewing the year's activities and progress. Immediately after the AGM the Consultants carrying out the 5 Year Review (see page 2) will give feedback on the results of their community questionnaire. There will then be an opportunity for informal discussions with the Directors. If you have a complex question you would like to ask it would be helpful if you could notify us in advance so a full and accurate answer can be given. Our AGM is a great opportunity to catch up with what we have been doing over the past year and you do not have to be a Member to attend but only members can vote, so please come along if you can.

100 Club

The first 100 Draw of 2012 was made on Friday 20th January by Ros in Dervaig Post Office. The lucky winners were: 1st Prize of £35.00 Ailsa Morgan, 2nd Prize of £15.00 Arthur Brown, 3rd Prize £5.00 Cath Mayo and 4th Prize £3.50 Jo Austin. Congratulations to you all. The next Draw will take place on Friday 20th April.

5 Year Review

Grant funding from the Big Lottery and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) for the start up costs and initial overheads of NWMCWC Ltd came to an end in autumn 2011. HIE suggested that an Independent Review of what has been delivered over the life of the project so far would be useful. It was agreed that the review should also include information about ongoing projects and plans for the future. Independent consultants were invited to tender for the work via the Scottish Government tendering procedure and one tender has been accepted. The Consultants started the Review by talking to all the directors and paid employees and looking at the Business Plan, Forest Design Plan, Articles of Association and other relevant documents. They also instigated consultation within the Community to assess the wider impact and perception of NWMCWC Ltd. Many of you responded to the questionnaire and gave valuable input to the Review. Feedback from this section of the Review will be given at the end of the AGM (see page 1).

First Aid Course

So that we can comply with proposed UKWAS advice, NWMCWC Ltd are looking into the possibility of running a First Aid course. The course will mainly be aimed at those who volunteer on a regular basis, especially for work parties in the forest when chainsaws are in use. It is hoped that a training provider can be found who will tailor the course specifically to the most likely accidents and emergencies to occur in the woodlands. All current work parties are run with safety and best practice as priorities and all regulations are adhered to. The proposed course will provide additional reassurance that there are a good number of volunteers with relevant First Aid training present should an accident occur. Plans are still at a very early stage, but it would be good to have an idea of how many volunteers are interested in taking a course of this sort. Please contact the Office if you would like to be put on a provisional list and receive further information when it is available.

Fundraising

Christmas Tree sales were excellent again, raising a total of £1028.00 for the Charity. A good sized load was taken down to the Ross including trees for the Christmas Tree Festival in Bunessan. Once again a team of volunteers gave freely of their time to cut, drag and bag the trees, and we would like to thank them all very much. Fundraising continues to be an essential part of NWMCWC Ltd's income and we welcome suggestions for activities/events that will raise money for the charity.

Dervaig Toilets

Several years ago NWMCWC Ltd took over the cleaning and care of the public lavatories sited at the northern end of the village. They are now in need of major renovation beyond the means of the Charity. Argyll and Bute Council have been approached to see if they will cover the costs of repairing the building and fittings and a site visit has been made by one of their officials. Notes and photos were taken for a report and a decision will be made in due course. In the meantime the toilets will have to remain closed. If renovations are carried out and the lavatories can be re-opened to the public offers of help to keep them clean and in good order would be much appreciated.

Access Project

The Consultation Report for this Project has now been finalised, laying out the proposals in small, individually costed sections. This means that funding can be sourced in stages with applications tailored to the specific requirements and benefits of each section. The report is too big to put up on our website so it has been transferred to compact discs that may be borrowed from the Office. A hard copy is also available which can be looked at in the Office so please feel free to pop in and see the results of this important study.

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