



West Stormont Woodland Group

Business Plan Appendix BP2: WSWG Stakeholder Report

1. WSWG Development Phase (2018-2022)

Community engagement has been a core part of the WSWG journey from when local residents discovered that Taymount and Five Mile Woods were being put up for sale by Forestry and Land Scotland to raise funds for the New Woodland Investment Programme.

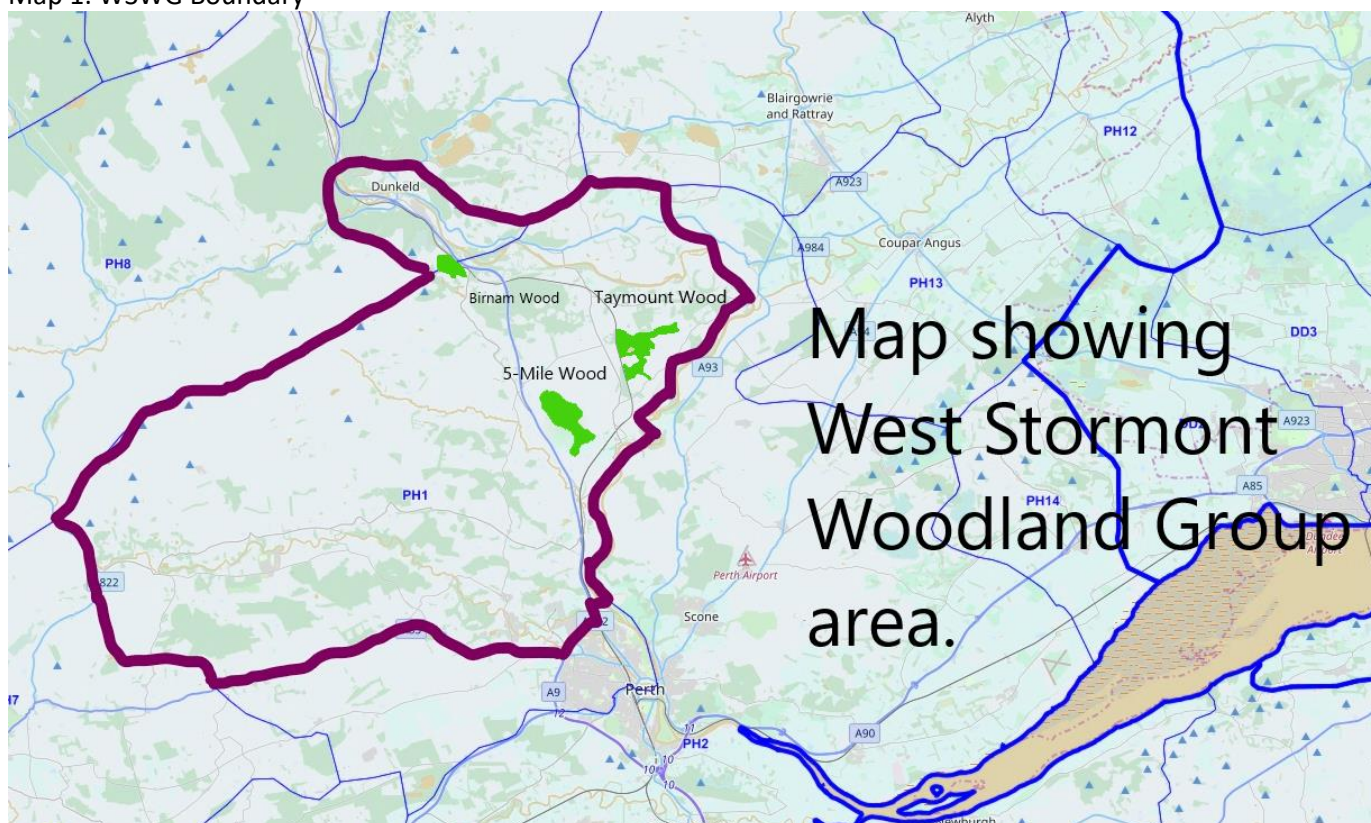
Under the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015, when a public body such as FLS wishes to dispose of assets, local communities have first refusal. This right to buy is known as Asset Transfer. The Community Asset Transfer Scheme is the FLS scheme for communities to buy their assets, usually woodlands. There is a presumption in favour of success for communities, but it is not guaranteed and the local community must present a proposal which is viable and plausible, practically, financially and administratively.

It also requires evidence of demonstrable community input into the project development and clear support for the proposal being put forward to the CATS Panel, which this Stakeholder Report seeks to do.

1.1 Community engagement and involvement

1.1.1 Demographics of the WSWG core area

Map 1: WSWG Boundary



Map showing
West Stormont
Woodland Group
area.

Taymount and Five Mile Wood are located between four main rural settlements: Stanley, Bankfoot, Murthly and Kinclaven.

Stanley and Kinclaven are in Stanley and District Community Council area
 Bankfoot is in Auchtergaven Community Council area
 Murthly is in Spittalfield and District Community Council area.

Taymount Wood lies wholly within Stanley and District.
 The southern part of Five Mile Wood lies in Stanley and District.
 The northern part of Five Mile Wood lies in Auchtergaven.

Due to enthusiasm from people in an outer ring of nearby settlements, WSWG extended its boundary of its core area to include all or part of those geographical community council areas as shown below.

Due to recent changes in PKC’s methodologies for recording demographic data, it has been quite difficult to get precise population figures for the different settlements, so the following are our best estimates.

| Community Council | Area (km ²) | Population share in WSWG area (estimated PKC 2020) | |
|--|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| • Stanley & District | 35 km ² | 1,850 | |
| Subtotal A | 35 km² | | |
| • Auchtergaven/Bankfoot | 60 km ² | 1,600 | |
| Subtotal B | 95 km² | | |
| • Luncarty, Redgorton & Moneydie | 29 km ² | 1,950 | |
| Subtotal C | 124 km² | | |
| • Spittalfield & District of 108 km ² | est 10 km ² | est 300 (of 1,950) | |
| • Dunkeld & Birnam of 326 km ² | est 10 km ² | est 1,000 (of 2,150) | |
| • Methven of 180 km ² | est 60km ² | est 300 (of 5,150) | |
| Total WSWG core area | 204 km² | 7,000 | (c. 3,250 households) |
| • Strathtay | 710 km² | 12,841 | 18 people/km ² |
| • Perth and Kinross | 5,300 km² | 151,910 | 29 people/km ² |
| • Scotland | 80,077 km² | 5,470,000 | 68 people/km ² |

1.1.2 The Breadth of Support for the WSWG Project

Through its diverse Community Engagement Programme since September 2018, WSWG has secured huge support for and contributions to the project to date.

- The original Expression of Interest to FLS was supported by 186 local signatories in a matter of days, including key community organisations and local politicians as well.
- Initial Working Group comprised people from Kinclaven, Stanley, Murthly and Luncarty – 15 individuals
- Steering Group - many participants over time, rolling average 8 people
 Shadow Board – no-obligation widening of participation at Steering Group level

Board of Trustees – 6 nominated and elected at GM June 2022/co-opted by Trustees

- Membership Scheme at December 2022 (free)
 - 505 of which 351 Members (resident within WSWG area), 154 Associates (resident outwith)
 - c. 100 children under 16 signed up within family membership
 - c. 200 additional supporters and contacts
- Local community organisations:
 - Stanley and District Community Council (currently disbanded)
 - Auchtergaven (Bankfoot) Community Council
 - Luncarty, Redgorton and Moneydie Community Council
 - Spittalfield and District Community Council (currently disbanded)
 - Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council
 - West Stormont Historical Society (WSHS)
 - Spittalfield & District Active Recreation Sports Hub (SADAR)
 - Strathtay Action Partnership
 - Bankfoot Gala
 - Murthly Gala
- Primary Schools
 - Stanley Primary
 - Auchtergaven Primary
 - Murthly Primary
 - Luncarty Primary
 - Glendelvine Primary
 - Logiealmond Primary
 - Royal School of Dunkeld
- Businesses
 - Active Kids
 - Ballathie House Hotel
 - Taymount Sawmill
 - Aviva Perth
 - Claire Dalby, Botanical Artist (free design of WSWG logo)
 - Stanley Store
 - Bankfoot and Murthly NISA Stores
 - Gerry Burke TV (drone photographs Five Mile Wood)
 - Highland Community Energy Society
 - Many others for displaying WSWG posters
 - Many others for participating in WSWG events
- Organisations from wider networking
 - Dronley Community Woodland (initial mentor to WSWG)
 - Mountblair Community Development Trust (Dalrulzion CATS project – bid withdrawn)
 - Aigas Community Woodland
 - Borders Forest Trust
 - Perth and Kinross Health & Social Care Partnership
 - PKC Community Education
 - Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
 - Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust
 - Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership
 - Perth Sustainable Small City Initiative
 - Care and Wellbeing CIC
 - Dunkeld and Birnam Climate Café

Energy4All
Highland Community Energy Society
Growbiz
Community Woodland Association

1.1.3 Community Engagement and Involvement Methodologies

- Outreach activities
 - Community Monthly Updates (circulation: website + full emailing list + poster round of 25)
 - Member Notices – email (WSWG and relevant third-party information and notices)
 - Deliveries of information by post or by hand to members not on-line
 - Margaret Lear WSWG Blog
 - Barefoot Woodland Wanderer WSWG Blog
 - Community Council meetings, area-wide; regular reporting attendance at Stanley pre covid
 - WSWG website – relaunched February 2021 (funded by PKC Community Investment Fund)
 - WSWG Facebook page
 - Imaginarium (website, events, consultations)
 - Publicity - The Bridge on-line Dunkeld and Birnam newsletter, The Atholl Quair, Perthshire Advertiser, Courier, Heartland FM, North Perthshire Locality Newsletter, other community newsletters, etc
 - Flyers
 - Membership Letter to families in 7 local Primary Schools
 - Murthly Gala 2018 & 2019 and Bankfoot Gala 2019
 - Stanley Development Trust AGM 2018
 - Stalls 2019 and 2022 - Birnam Big Climate Conversation, Gazebo Sundays (3 times) - Active Kids, Stanley Swift Awareness Week, Aviva Perth, Picnic on the Pitch (Spittalfield), Stanley Store, Bankfoot and Murthly Nisa Stores.
 - Talks and Workshops – Luncarty Lunch Club, CWA 2021 & 2022 Conferences, From the Ground Up (pre COP26 Workshop 2020), Tayside Recorders, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Joint Farmland, Upland & Woodland Working Group, Perth Sustainable Small City Biodiversity Conference 2022
 - Litter-picking and leafleting for WSWG - Conservative Party volunteers
 - WSWG Litter-picking for C406 Tackle Litter Group
 - Enclosed noticeboard at Taymount Wood main entrance
 - DIY noticeboards at west entrance to Taymount and south and north entrances to Five Mile
 - Royal Mail door-drop leaflets for Community Consultations
 - Expressions of support: WSWG logo, children’s art, poems, art and craft pieces, song composed for WSWG “This Tender Land”, historical research, freebies (pyrograph logo badges & fridge magnets) and fundraising merchandise (slide bracelets), event feedback, letters and emails. For examples of contributions see 1.1.3 below and [Community - West Stormont Woodland Group](#)
- Events (free)
 - Guided Walks – October 2018, July 2019:
Feeling Good in the Woods 2019 (number of sessions) – funded by PKC Community Investment Fund (*Total participants: 418 against target of 150-200*)
 - Mindfulness Walks (4)
 - Herbal day (2)
 - Forest School (4)
 - Bushcraft for Brownies and Rainbows (4)
 - Woodland Art (2)
 - Foraging (1)
 - Minibus Picnic Lunch and Picnic Tea for elderly (2)
 - Cycling Without Age for less mobile (1)

- Seated Mindfulness for less mobile (1)
- Woodland in a Backpack – 10 sessions at 7 local Primary Schools & Nurseries
- Citizen Science (eg Grow Project)
- Community tree planting 2019 & 2020 – under Big Climate Fightback, sponsored by energy company OVO and The Conservation Volunteers
- Access Recces 2020 and 2021: infrastructure improvement and access management planning Taymount and Five Mile Woods
- Covid recovery – socially distanced events 2020-21
 - Little Acorns Project
 - Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's 21 Days of May
 - woodland walks – bird-spotting, WSWG Proposal catch-up
 - Survey Skill Share
 - iRecord promotion
 - Carol Singing in Taymount Wood
- Protect a Wild Tree - tubing natural regeneration in Taymount Wood 2021 (2)

1.1.4 Some expressions of support along the way

Member response to WSWG viewing Taymount and Five Mile Wood as One Wood With A Gap In The Middle

I realise that WSWG must concentrate on the woods that it was established to acquire & manage, but I think the opportunity should really be seen as *three* woods with a couple of gaps. Whatever benefits are to be gained by considering Five-Mile and Taymount Woods together can only be magnified by including the Woodland Trust's nearby Kinclaven Bluebell Wood. I think a great start would be if P&K Council and landowners could be encouraged to work together to close the short gaps between all three woods in the Core Path network, reinstating the historic route connecting Bankfoot, Airntully and Kinclaven Church.

Message from Wee Adventures when posting WSWG Monthly Community Update for October 2019 on their FB page

Have you heard of the West Stormont Woodland Group yet? They are an amazing group of Perthshire locals bringing huge energy to a Community Association whose aim is to bring Five Mile Wood and Taymount Wood (near Stanley) into community ownership.

As part of their 'Feeling Good in the Woods' project they have been promoting broad community access to the woods with a variety of fantastic sessions for all ages. We are delighted to have played a part in this with Bush Craft sessions for local Rainbow and Brownie groups and a series of 'Woodland in a Backpack' sessions for local Nurseries and Primary Schools.

It's all very positive! Check them out, like their page, become a member, get involved and help them with their mission if you can 😊

Message from member in response to Forest School taster session.

Thank you so much for sending us the photos of our time in Forest School at Taymount Woods. I'm impressed that you managed to identify us in those photos - you were correct in every case.

We all enjoyed it, in fact toyed with coming back for the afternoon, but tired toddlers don't always respond as you'd hope, so it seemed safer to make the most of the weather at home. Several of the ideas were carried on, though. I.... made potions in the garden, we finished off winding the coloured wool onto the 'magic wand', and S.... and I practised our wild flower identification. I have every intention of repeating the Mud Kitchen, which was the highlight for I..., once I have gathered the necessary pots and utensils.

The great thing for us is that we can pop along to Taymount Woods whenever we have the grandchildren with us.

S.... had a good chat with Wild Sparks and would have liked I.... and E.... to attend their Forest School if she lived here.

Messages at Leila Mayne's Herbal Workshop

Thank you for the herbal medicinal walk. Was very interesting and enjoyable. Would love to learn more.

Herbal Event - thoroughly enjoyable and informative.

Thank you for the lovely day. It was very interesting. It would be good to see the medicinal plants not go to waste.

Email from new WSWG member, November 2021:

Dear Friends

Thank you very much for what you are doing to secure Five Mile Wood and Taymount Woods for the community. My husband and I have just retired to (the area). We have two border collies and frequently walk in these woods. We greatly appreciate these natural surroundings and the rewilding that is taking place. These areas of biodiversity are vital for our planet as well as being wonderful places for recreation and education.

Thank you for all you are doing.

Please could you tell me if there is anyone who is concerned about the disappearance of hedges, dykes and grass verges in the area.

Just near our cottage in the last few years we have noticed two major hedge and dyke removals to make vast fields. Just below our cottage is now a single field of 180 acres we are told. Last year all this area was given over to peas. No biodiversity here and fewer hedges for birds and other forms of wildlife. From (here) we used to enjoy a walk towards Five Mile Wood over a farm track which linked up to another track to bring us back (via) Stanley. A hedge, dyke and verge have been removed and the area ploughed up making this circular walk impossible. The farm track by a pond has also fallen into disrepair and fences removed.

I would be grateful to link up with anyone who has similar concerns.

1.2 WSWG Research: Surveys, Studies and Consultations

1.2.1 Landowner and Neighbour Surveys 2019-20 – 21 surveys

WSWG produced a short Survey Questionnaire to give neighbouring landowners and householders to Taymount and Five Mile Woods an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns about the prospect of community ownership and possible implications, positive and negative, for them. The survey was carried out through face-to-face interviews in which most landowners and near neighbours to Taymount Wood and one landowner and two near neighbours to Five Mile Wood participated in the survey. (WSWG has additionally been in close contact with other neighbours not involved in this particular survey.)

Summary of feedback

There was no significant variation in responses from properties adjoining Taymount or Five Mile Woods, so they have been considered together. Three local landowners and one business owner participated, therefore points from businesses and larger-scale landowners have been placed into one

Benefits expected:

| RESIDENTIAL/DOMESTIC NEIGHBOURS | LANDOWNERS |
|--|--|
| Access improvement to/in woods: paths & trails, parking. For all ages and abilities | Higher footfall could mean more trade for local businesses |
| New activities & events: eg. foraging, mountain biking; bushcraft, archery, Christmas/other woodland craft-making | |
| Bins – addressing litter & dog waste issues | |
| Expansion of “natural” woodland with wildlife benefits- more biodiversity | |
| Opportunities for knowledge-sharing/education- venue for learning, leisure & well-being. Also for local schools forest education | |
| Opportunities for community businesses/outputs to benefit community; support for existing local businesses eg. Local fuel wood, cycle hire, green economy, green tourism | |
| Creating a sense of identity for Kinclaven as a dispersed population especially; bringing communities together, social interaction | |
| Sense of ownership = engagement & community cohesion | |
| Sense of safety from unwanted development over which residents have no control | |
| Public perception of woods – not just trees | |
| Sustainable revenue supply | |
| Better path signage | |
| Picnic areas | |
| Local climate action focus | |

Drawbacks and Negative issues raised:

| RESIDENTIAL/DOMESTIC NEIGHBOURS | BUSINESSES & LANDOWNERS |
|--|--|
| Parking problems – attempted access where parking/turning impractical or dangerous | Health & safety issues if access assumed over farmed land – need for signs and warning when crops sprayed |
| Loss of privacy | Unauthorised & irresponsible access: vehicles, pedestrians |
| Cars using private tracks | Safety issues for users from wet ground/falling trees |
| Littering and disposal of waste | Risks to farm livestock in adjacent fields and woodland from more people & dogs |
| Attempted access by vehicles | Perception of more need for control of deer (plus other species considered a threat to crops) by farm estates |
| Safety issues (slips, trips & falls, boggy ground); health issues (Lyme disease) | May need to re-route or open rights of way to avoid larger numbers of visitors going through or very close to private property/farmyards |
| Path maintenance issues | Need potentially for extra keeping on estate to control the increase in “vermin” |
| Lack of toilet facilities | |
| Contractual & financial obligations for community – risk of divisive conflicts | |
| Volunteer burden/burnout | |
| General perception by many residents that more people in woods could have negative impacts | |

Quick takeaway: overall support from residential neighbours but with valid concerns. No relevant business info. Landowners see negatives, but farms have valid concerns. We may disagree with one major landowner's description of deer and other wildlife as "vermin" whose increase is inevitable and detrimental; however, deer control may indeed need to be stepped up if tree planting is to be successful – this should be turned into a positive benefit if it occurs. Unease over future liabilities and management from many – how will this work? Given length of time spent by most visitors at present, are toilet facilities necessary? This should be monitored. Can we negotiate at least limited access over arable land with landowner – permissive paths? – rather than make right of access a divisive issue? (No-one wants to stroll through a field of glyphosate anyway.)

Questions/issues WSWG will need to address if taking ownership:

- Need to notify neighbours of felling/other forest operations ie. Good lines of communication
- Need to ensure whole community aware of "how it works" – responsibilities and financial implications of community ownership – engage in management where possible
- Address need for access for all – across range of ages/abilities and any social barriers. Engage with all ages through involving differing groups – whole community must buy into it. Keep wide range of types and duration of activities, and avoid clashes between incompatible uses.
- Address all issues relating to increase in numbers using woods. Some solutions could be to:
 - a. Design path routes, events and trails to avoid intruding on neighbours' privacy (negotiation with neighbours crucial)
 - b. Provide clear and adequate parking in designated sites – and don't provide any on or by private roads/tracks
 - c. Vehicle barriers
 - d. Provide waste disposal bins at car parks at least
 - e. Signage for dogs to be kept on lead in areas close to livestock
 - f. Risk-assess on a regular, dynamic basis, and take action where necessary eg. Warn of tick season, repair or close damaged paths, remove rubbish.

Volunteers will always be vital – look after volunteers well to keep up morale and reward them. However, funding should be sought to contract or employ professionals to carry out major tasks which could be burdensome or disheartening to some volunteers. Have range of work and tasks so no-one feels they have to do everything. Woodland Trust at bluebell woods is a good model. Respondents also have an expectation of better communication/access routes between settlements – the West Stormont Connects vision.

1.2.2 Gateway User Surveys taken at main entrances to woods (2019-20) – 43 surveys

WSWG produced a one-page Survey Questionnaire to find out:

- number of adults, children, dogs, horses, wheelchairs
- means of transport to the woods
- purpose and duration of visit
- frequency of visits
- postcode and how long to travel to the woods
- what aspects of the woods they particularly value
- did they know the wood was for sale
- do they support community ownership
- would they join WSWG /like to be on the mailing list
- other comments

Summary of feedback

Taymount Wood

Timings of visits were not taken into account as there is insufficient data to make observations, but the surveys were undertaken at differing times of day, days of the week and in differing weather conditions and represent a fair sample.

Most users spent 11 – 20 minutes to get to the wood, using differing transport but the vast majority by car. A few had a journey of under 5 minutes. A number of users had incorporated the wood into a longer walk or cycle ride, rather than specifically visiting Taymount Wood.

A large proportion of those surveyed stated they were regular users. Most spent under an hour, with the largest number spending under 30 minutes, at the wood. Visitors spending longer were rare. There were several users who said they used the car park merely as a pit-stop, to make phone calls, have a coffee etc.

Ease of access, specifically parking, and convenience were the things which most attracted these visitors, though tranquillity, wildlife and landscape aesthetics also were quite important. The main purposes given by users for visiting were to walk, mostly but not always with dogs, to escape from town and get some fresh air. Landscape, scenery and taking photos were the next most popular purposes. A smaller number stated their purpose was to watch and enjoy wildlife, or to enjoy trees and wildflowers. There was a small number of runners and one horse-rider. Specific mention was made by one group of walkers of the contribution of the wood to physical and mental well-being, especially as a group activity.

Some of those surveyed referred specifically to King's Myre Loch. This was appreciated especially as a destination – a focal point of their walk. It is likely that most users did not spend enough time in the wood to actually reach King's Myre.

Although easy access was a plus point in terms of parking and the main path, the overgrown nature of some paths, mud and prohibitive fencing in places was seen as a major impediment to access by some. One survey identified a need for a path network – of easy, accessible paths and less formal trails or “escape routes”.

Conclusions on Visitor Experiences at Taymount Wood

It would seem that most visitors do not spend very long at the wood and therefore miss most of its features and attractions. This could be due to the lack of a circular route, uncertainties about whether the main uphill track from the car park was “going anywhere” and also that most visitors, judging from the time travelled, were not extremely local so unlikely to have explored the wood on a regular basis. It is noteworthy that comments from people in the wood as part of a longer expedition were more appreciative of its landscape, botanical and wildlife interest (although more critical of undefined and difficult paths).

From this, priorities to enhance user experience at Taymount Wood should include:

- **A path network, incorporating large/small circular routes**
- **Better signage/maps**
- **Removal of obstacles to path usage such as old fencing, overgrown vegetation, mud**
- **Focal destination (one group referred to an information cabin with seating at Dunnet Forest)**

Five Mile Wood

Timings of visits were not taken into account as there was insufficient data to make observation, but surveys were undertaken at differing times of day, days of the week and in differing weather conditions, representing a fair sample.

Visitors to Five Mile Wood surveyed had mostly spent less than 5 minutes getting there (8). Four had taken 5-10 minutes, while only six had taken longer. Although most travel was by car, we can infer that most of these visitors live nearby, and this is their “local wood”. Only three of those surveyed stayed for less than 30 minutes, with the bulk of respondents spending around an hour or between 1-2 hours. A few spent longer. Most had come specifically to the wood, rather than called in on the way to somewhere else.

The features which attracted those surveyed were very varied, but ease of access was by far the most often-given reason, together with convenience, it being local to their residence. After that, wildlife, the trees and type of woodland were appreciated, along with peace and tranquillity. One respondent mentions the smell of the trees, and another pin-pointed shelter, as desirable features.

As with Taymount Wood, the contribution of walking here to physical fitness and mental well-being was remarked on. There was a small number of runners and one horse-rider. Five Mile wood is particularly popular for dog-walking, including commercial walking and training. One commercial trainer surveyed also enjoys wildlife watching, and appreciated the open-ness of the woodland landscape for ensuring the dogs are readily in sight and thus do not surprise or disturb wildlife. It was commented that several local dog walking businesses would strongly support community ownership. Wildlife, flora and fauna, scenery, taking photographs and fresh air were the other main activities aside from walking, with foraging for wild food also mentioned.

Impediments to enjoyment of Five Mile Wood were the poor accessibility of some paths, and a tendency for fly tipping at the car park. It was suggested that future plans should avoid the wood becoming a stop-off for motorists on the A9 heading north.

Conclusions on Visitor Experiences in Five Mile Wood

The time most people spend at Five Mile Wood correlates with the time taken to undertake the main circular route round the centre of the wood. This route is well-known locally and clear on maps. Thus, it encourages longer visits, from mostly local people. Circular paths are popular – one comment was that it was “a good walking route”. Five Mile Wood also has smaller circular paths and alternative routes which are beginning to become established. However, certain access problems remain, and the centre of the wood lacks a focal point.

Future plans for visitors should include:

- **Clarification and emphasis of the developing path network**
- **Improved access at the north end, the centre, and other key points**
- **Some signage and perhaps finger-posted walks**
- **Improvement/enlargement of car park**
- **Address issues of fly-tipping/litter/dog waste**

OBSERVATIONS ON BOTH SETS OF DATA

There appears to be a correlation between distance travelled and time spent in both woods, people coming short distances staying longer. Perhaps this is explained by local people being more aware of the attractions of the site and having explored more, therefore find more to see and do. In both woods, most respondents stated they are regular visitors, and there seems to be a link between time spent/distance walked and how regularly people come. This suggests the woods are attractive destinations for people locally. All participants in the survey supported the idea of community ownership of both woods, with the proviso in one case that support would be subject to what purpose the community found for the wood. Comments were made at both sites that the woods should not be “over-managed” or changed in a way which would detract from their tranquillity and wildlife value. A back-seat approach, led by nature, seemed to be favoured.

Addendum

- Many users were already WSWG members; others signed up; others took website details; one wanted to see WSWG plans before supporting fully; one Fifer wouldn't join but thought it was a great idea; another said the noticeboard kept him abreast of the project but that he was not a “joiner”.
- Some had attended WSWG events.
- The one person who advised beware of opening up as an A9 stop-off point felt the car park area could offer an informal road tourer chemical toilet emptying site.
- Destination site for formal Walking Groups – some car share from meeting points eg Broxden P&R. One group commented on the challenges in accessing Taymount Wood from the surrounding fields.
- One expressed wish for improved path links eg between Taymount Wood and Kinclaven Bluebell Wood.
- Not all visitors during survey periods participated in the survey. The car numbers listed pertains only to the people who completed the surveys, not the numbers present in the car parks.
- One user suggested solar panels as a possible development.
- One user said they were 110% behind WSWG's efforts to bring Taymount and Five Mile Woods into community ownership.
- No-one surveyed had come with a wheelchair.

Summary of Gateway User Survey Sessions undertaken by WSWG

| TAYMOUNT WOOD | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Date | Survey period | Surveys | Adults | Children | Dogs | Cars | Bike | Foot | Bus | Horse |
| 09.06.19 (Sunday) | 5 - 6pm | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 16.06.19 (Sunday) * | 10am - 4pm | 0 | 22 | 6 | 8 | 32 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 17.06.19 (Monday) | 4.20 – 6pm | 5 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18.06.19 (Tuesday) | 2.30 - 3.30pm | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13.07.19 (Saturday) | 10am -12pm | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 13.07.19 (Saturday) | 1.15 - 2pm | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25.07.19 (Thursday) | 11.30am | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25.07.19 (Thursday) | 2 - 4pm | 4 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 08.02.20 (Saturday) | 10am– 2.40pm | 4 | 17 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| TOTALS | | 23 | 66 | 8 | 23 | 48 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 |

** This data in the table above relates to a visitor head count during a period when there was a WSWG event in Taymount Wood. It excludes those participating in the WSWG event. 32 cars relates to both visitor numbers and event participants. No survey questionnaires were carried out on this occasion.*

| FIVE MILE WOOD | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------|------|-----|-------|
| Date | Survey period | Surveys | Adults | Children | Dogs | Cars | Bike | Foot | Bus | Horse |
| 09.06.19 (Sunday) | 10am– 1.15pm | 7 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 7 | | | | |
| 20.06.19 (Thursday) | 1.10 - 2.10pm | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 3 | | | | |
| 13.07.19 (Saturday) | 12.10- 12.50pm | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 18.07.19 (Thursday) | 10 – 11am | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | | | | |
| 15.02.20 (Saturday) | 10.30am- 1.30pm | 7 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 8 | | | | |
| TOTALS | | 20 | 30 | 5 | 30 | 21 | | | | |

1.2.3 Access Audits

With so many members interested in the potential access improvements which could be delivered under community ownership, it was important to involve a mix of people with different expertise and perspectives on the matter. Despite eight such members being poised for the task, early attempts to deliver a cohesive programme of access audits and workshops were impacted by circumstances. Eventually the task was done in a more piecemeal but equally effective way, involving separate small groups of very local individuals undertaking recces within and between the woods as covid lockdown eased. Their appraisals and plans formed the basis of the Welcome, Access and Accessibility Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Woods which are presented, costed and scheduled according to priority in the WSWG Proposal 2022. The auditing and planning processes sought to respect the privacy and security of residential properties in the immediate vicinity of the woods.

1.2.4 Key Studies by WSWG Volunteers

Sustainable Timber Production

As part of the considerable discussion as to the optimum woodland management system to put forward in the WSWG Proposal in terms of the relative balance between timber production and nature recovery, WSWG Associate, Professor Alastair Fraser produced a very valuable report looking at a long-term option for sustainable timber production and carbon sequestration in the growing crop for Taymount Wood, entitled “An Option for the Management of Taymount Wood”. A Woodland Management Plan based on those sustainable timber production principles was then drawn up by the WSWG Forestry Sub-Group for consideration.

Woodland Management for Nature Recovery

Woodland Management Plans with nature recovery at their heart were drawn up by WSWG ecologist, Alan Ross. These incorporated Proforestry principles plus the concept of Living Forest products which would enhance and diversify the woodland ecology and provide income generation, alongside a limited area dedicated to sustainable timber production under LISS, thus allowing reduced reliance on timber extraction and sales over time. The added contribution this approach would make to soil carbon storage as well as the above ground storage in the woodlands is one reason WSWG decided to choose this management option for both woods under community ownership. See WSWG Woodland Management Plans and accompanying maps.

Botanical Survey

In 2021, Dunkeld and Birnam based WSWG member and professional ecologist, Adrian Davis, carried out a Phase 1 Habitat and botanical survey of Taymount and Five Mile Woods for WSWG, waiving his fee, which was very much appreciated.

Hedgehog Recovery Plan

This valuable report for WSWG by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), which includes a statement of support for the WSWG Project, promotes action to provide a range of nesting opportunities, high quality feeding areas and ensuring varied habitats are well-connected, highlighting how well the WSWG Woodland Management Plan will deliver these aims for hedgehog recovery in the local area.

Case Study - developing community woodland infrastructure

In 2021, Lisa Davidson, a WSWG member with an MSc in Ecotourism, volunteered to research examples of ecotourism and other development projects undertaken by different community woodlands in Scotland, producing a very useful background report "Development of Infrastructure in Scottish Community Woodlands: A case study analysis".

Historical Research

Eminent professional landscape historian and WSWG Associate, Christopher Dingwall sourced a range of archives to produce a superb academic report for WSWG entitled "Notes on the Early History of Five Mile Wood & Taymount Wood" with no fee, for which WSWG is extremely appreciative.

WSWG member, Hugh Green, donated the excellent and fascinating research he did a decade ago on the old road through Five Mile Wood.

WSWG member, Laura Burns, also passed on to WSWG, from family anecdotal records and discoveries on the internet, information on Camp 53 - "The Newfie Camp" – which was located at Taymount Wood and manned by Canadian loggers from Newfoundland as part of the war effort from 1940-41.

WSWG would like to thank all the above people for their extremely helpful research contributions to the WSWG Project.

1.2.5 Community-wide Consultations

- Community Consultation 1: WSWG Draft Proposal - February-March 2021
- Community Consultation 2: WSWG Proposal 2022 "*Going Forward*" - October 2022

Both these on-line community consultations were widely publicised to members and non-members alike through email, facebook, Royal Mail door-drop leaflet in Strathtay ward, local and posters. The few members not on email were sent survey packs by post with an SAE to return the completed survey form. The surveys were primarily based on 5-option tick box responses to a range of questions, from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree, with the opportunity to add comments at each stage.

The purpose of Community Consultation 1 was to consult on the content of the Draft Proposal and to use comments both for good ideas which came forward and for discerning the general steer from the community as to what was finding favour and, just as importantly, to identify aspects which met sufficient doubt or disapproval to merit being dropped from the Proposal.

The purpose of Community Consultation 2 was primarily to endorse the final WSWG Proposal *Going Forward* as the basis for the CATS Application. In that survey, the value of the comments was primarily in terms of reiterating the degree of support or otherwise from respondents.

There are too many comments from both consultations to include with this report but WSWG appraised how supportive or otherwise they were by mapping all comments received against four headings:

Positive Positive with advisory note/concerns General Negative

Whilst comments from all respondents were assessed in this way in both consultations, for Consultation 1 we have summarised below those from Stanley & District (including Kinclaven and Airntully) and Auchtergaven (Bankfoot) as the two community council areas in which the woods are actually located.

Community Consultation 1 (4-week period February-March 2021)

- 😊 367 Surveys completed – representing 769 adults and 131 children
- 😊 More than half of respondents were not members and 100 new members joined WSWG
- 😊 92% of respondents agree or strongly agree with WSWG’s Eco-forestry proposals for the woods
- 😊 95% agree or strongly agree that the woods should be managed for climate and biodiversity
- 😊 95% agree or strongly agree with WSWG’s proposals for Welcome, Access and Accessibility in the woods
- 😊 Walking was the favourite activity of all, with nature walks in next highest demand, followed by environmental education, cycling and foraging. Over 40% of respondents selected the following as activities which appealed to them most: dogwalking, local history, biodiversity surveying and monitoring, children’s events, family events, forest school and bushcraft/outdoor adventure.
- 😊 Overwhelming support for working with local businesses as well as creating jobs and community enterprise.
- 😊 Bothy and Hutting in Taymount Wood were more popular than Wigwams in Five Mile Wood.
- 😊 Only 0.83% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with WSWG’s Vision for the woods.

Summary of Responses to Multiple Choice Questions in Community Consultation 1

| | | Responders | | Proportion | | Comments |
|----|---|-------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Q1 | Replied as individuals Replied as household | 277 responses 92 responses | | c. 75% c.25% | | |
| Q2 | >16 years < 16 years | 768 adults 131 children | | | | |
| Q3 | Postcodes | | | 100% | | |
| Q4 | Very familiar with WSWG Somewhat familiar Not so familiar Not at all familiar | 95 165 64 41 | | c. 25% c. 50% <20% c. 10% | | |
| Q5 | c. 25% WSWG Full Members < 20% WSWG Associate Members c. 50% Non-members | 96 71 198 | | | | Errors corrected in “Full” or “Associate” may have slightly affected statistics. |
| Q6 | Read Full Proposal Read Proposal Summary on website Read both | 142 103 144 | | c. 40% c. 30% c.40% | | |
| Q7 | How well do you know the woods? Visit often Visit less often Don’t visit Unaware | TW | FMW | TW | FMW | |
| | | 95 | 112 | 26.1% | 30.68% | |
| | | 138 | 142 | 37.91% | 38.90% | |
| | | 109 | 98 | 29.95% | 26.85% | |
| | | 25 | 14 | 6.87% | 3.84% | |
| Q8 | I support the Eco-forestry Management Proposals: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | TW | FMW | TW | FMW | |
| | | 188 | 191 | 60.06% | 61.02% | |
| | | 100 | 97 | 31.95% | 30.99% | |
| | | 22 | 19 | 7.03% | 6.07% | |
| | | 1 | 3 | 0.32% | 0.96% | |
| | | 3 | 4 | 0.96% | 1.28% | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Q9 | I agree that the forests should be managed for climate and wildlife: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | TW 238 60 12 2 2 | FMW 238 60 12 2 2 | TW 75.8% 19.11% 3.82% 0.64% 0.64% | FMW 75.8% 19.11% 3.82% 0.64% 0.64% | |
| Q10 | I agree that the forests should be managed for community benefit: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | TW 198 94 17 2 2 | FMW 198 94 17 2 2 | TW 63.26% 30.03% 5.43% 0.64% 0.64% | FMW 63.26% 30.03% 5.43% 0.64% 0.64% | |
| Q11 | Too complex to summarise here. | | | | | Q11 does drill down into technical forest management |
| Q12 | I support the proposals for improved Welcome, Access & Accessibility in the woods: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | | 204 88 11 3 1 | 66.45% 28.66% 3.58% 0.33% 0.98% | | |
| Q13 | I support the proposals for Bothy and Hutting in Taymount Wood: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | | 70 84 109 30 14 | 22.80% 27.36% 35.5% 9.77% 4.56% | | Would have been useful to have had separate questions for these. |
| Q14 | I support the proposals for Wigwams in Five Mile Wood: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | | 57 63 118 44 25 | 18.57% 20.52% 38.44% 14.33% 8.14% | | |
| Q15 | I support the idea of working with existing local businesses to promote green enterprises within the woods such as timber and woodland products, outdoor education and leisure activities, and wildlife conservation. Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | | 162 108 25 10 2 | 52.77% 35.18% 8.14% 3.26% 0.65% | | |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Q16 | <p>I am supportive of WSWG creating local jobs and training opportunities, as well as development of new community enterprises promoting products and activities from within the forest. This includes establishing key posts for a Forest Manager and Healthy Living Coordinator, in addition to creating apprenticeships and other outdoor occupational training provision.</p> <p>Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree</p> | <p>175 95 26 4 7</p> | <p>57% 30.94% 8.47% 1.3% 2.28%</p> | |
| Q17 | <p>I like the WSWG Window on the Woods Vision:</p> <p>Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree</p> | <p>103 91 44 0 2</p> | <p>42.92% 37.92% 18.33% 0% 0.83%</p> | |
| Q18 | <p>I like the proposals for year-round activities:</p> <p>Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree</p> | <p>117 86 31 3 3</p> | <p>48.75% 35.83% 12.92% 1.25% 1.25%</p> | |
| Q19 | <p>Which if these activities appeal to you most?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walking 2. Nature Walks 3. Environmental Education 4. Cycling 5. Foraging 6. Dogwalking 7. Local History 8. Biodiversity Survey & Monitoring 9. Children's events 10. Family Events 11. Forest School 12. Bushcraft/Outdoor Adventure 13. Woodland Art 14. All Abilities Activities 14. Forest Gardening 16. Running 17. Walking Groups 17. Mindfulness 19. Inclusive Orienteering 19. Theatre/Performing Arts | | <p>95.42% 71.25% 56.25% 55.42% 49.58% 47.50% 45.83% 45.42% 45.00% 44.58% 44.17% 42.50% 38.75% 37.92% 37.92% 36.25% 35.00% 35.00% 29.17% 29.17%</p> | |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| | 21. Youth Programme 21. Training Courses 23. Volunteering/Wwoofing 24. Music 25. Forest Bathing 26. Yoga 27. Trim Trail 28. Recuperation 28. Geocaching 30. Poetry/Creative Writing 31. Bothy Breaks 32. Hutting 33. Wigwams 34. Horse-riding 35. Gravel biking 36. Bioblitz 37. Forest Church 38. Dog training | | 28.75% 28.75% 27.92% 27.50% 22.08% 21.25% 20.83% 20.00% 20.00% 19.17% 18.75% 17.92% 16.67% 16.67% 15.83% 15.42% 12.50% 10.83% | |
| Q20 | If you could add one other thing to the WSWG Proposal, what would it be? | | | See Comments Spreadsheet |
| Q21 | How in general do you perceive the WSWG Proposal as a whole? I like the Proposal for Taymount Wood: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree I like the Proposal for Five Mile Wood: Strongly Agree Agree +/- Disagree Strongly Disagree | 131 89 17 2 2 133 86 17 4 2 | 54.4% 36.9% 7.1% 0.8% 0.8% 55.0% 35.6% 7.0% 1.7% 0.8% | |

| Community Consultation 1: Comments analysis – Stanley and Bankfoot | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Subject | Full/Summary Proposal | How well do you know the woods | Window on the Woods Vision | Manage woods for climate and biodiversity | Manage woods for community benefit | Woodland Management actions | Improved Welcome, Access and Accessibility |
| Essence: | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 18 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 4 |
| Positive + advisory/ concerns | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 6 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| General | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Negative + advice/concerns | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 31 | 19 | 8 | 13 | 18 | 0 | 22 |

| Community Consultation 1: Comments analysis – Stanley and Bankfoot (cont.) | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Subject | Bothy and Hutting in TW | Wigwams in FMW | Working with existing businesses | WSWG Jobs and training opportunities | Year-Round Activities | Which activities most appeals to you? | Totals | % |
| Essence: | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 72 | 37.5% |
| Positive + advisory/concerns | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 57 | 29.7% |
| General | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 9.9% |
| Negative + advice/concerns | 14 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 44 | 22.9% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 21 | 20 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 192 | 100% |

Stanley and Auchtergaven respondents added a further 81 comments when asked to suggest one other thing to the WSWG Draft Proposal, across all elements as follows, perhaps showing a particular interest in access, nature and site amenities and maintenance issues:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Welcome, Access and Accessibility | 21 | 25.9% |
| Culture and Creativity | 5 | 6.2% |
| Health and Wellbeing | 5 | 6.2% |
| Life-Long Learning | 2 | 2.5% |
| Green Enterprise | 6 | 7.4% |
| Amenities and Site maintenance | 9 | 11.1% |
| Nature | 10 | 12.3% |
| General | 23 | 28.4% |
| Total | 81 | 100% |

Community Consultation 2 (2-week period October 2022)

- 😊 173 responses representing 376 adults and children
 - 71.3% of responses from the WSWG area; 28.7% from outwith the WSWG area
 - 52.3% of responses from members, 47.7% from non-members
- 😊 Support for different elements of the WSWG Proposal – **average score out of 5:**
 - Year-Round Activities Programmes 4.6
 - Access Improvements 4.6
 - Taymount Wood Hub (Flagship Project TW) and Community Enterprises 4.3
 - Woodland Observatory Project (Flagship Project FMW) 4.5
 - Woodland Management Plans 4.7
 - Governance 4.5
 - Operations 4.3
 - Funding 4.2
 - Overall support 4.6

| Community Consultation 2: Respondents | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|---|-----------|------------|
| Area | Household Responses | | | | Number of people represented in responses | | |
| | Members | Associates | Non-members | Totals | Adults | Children | Totals |
| Auchtergaven | 13 | | 12 | 25 | 51 | 11 | 62 |
| Stanley and District | 42 | | 29 | 71 | 134 | 15 | 149 |
| Rest of WSWG area | 11 | | 16 | 27 | 53 | 10 | 63 |
| Outwith WSWG area | | 24 | 26 | 50 | 79 | 21 | 100 |
| Postal responses | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Totals | 67 | 24 | 83 | 174 | 319 | 57 | 376 |

| Community Consultation 2: Comments analysis | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Subject | YRA | Access | TW Flagship | FMW Flagship | Woodland Management | Governance | Operations | Funding | Overall support | Totals | % |
| Essence: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 29 | 27 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 24 | 146 | 41.2% |
| Positive + advisory/ concerns | 11 | 20 | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 80 | 22.6% |
| General | 3 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 13 | 92 | 26.0% |
| Negative | 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 36 | 10.2% |
| Totals | 46 | 63 | 47 | 34 | 33 | 25 | 31 | 29 | 46 | 354 | 100% |

Both these Community Consultations have achieved the objective of providing evidence of local community support for the WSWG Project and submitting the WSWG Proposal *Going Forward* as part of the CATS Application.

1.3 Resourcing and Contributions

1.3.1 Funding

Financial donations between 2018 and 2022 have amounted to almost £36,000 in total. The key financial contributors are listed below.

Public funding:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Development Funding | £18,453.00 |
| Perth and Kinross Council Community Investment Fund (two awards) | £5,932.50 |
| Community Learning Exchange | £740.00 |
| Total public funding | £25,125.50 |

Private funding:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Highland Community Energy Society (Littleton Burn Hydro Scheme) via Energy4All | £9,551.55 |
| WSWG Website donations | £597.21 |
| Stanley Store Plastic Bag Fund | £200.00 |
| Other | £390.96 |
| Total private funding | £10,739.72 |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Grand total development funding | £35,865.22 |
|--|-------------------|

1.3.2 Contributions-in-kind and Volunteer time

There have been numerous and continuous contributions-in-kind gifted to WSWG during its development phase by core and other volunteers. WSWG kept detailed records of these for the first year of operations between July 2018 and August 2019, from the Steering Group members alone, including equipment, materials (stationery, printer ink, displays, etc), facilities, IT, services, software and travel, totalling £3,351. This does not include gifts and interest-free loans from other members and supporters, and small donations from plant sales and other miscellaneous sources which amounted to several hundred pounds in the same time period.

Timesheets for this period for the main contributors to the WSWG process amounted to almost 6000 volunteer hours, which at the 2018 minimum wage of £8.75 totalled £51,754.

This gave a combined figure of £55,105 for the first year. Estimates for the next six months to the end of 2019 raised this figure to around £80,000. During 2020, volunteer input was majorly impacted by the covid pandemic, which would have resulted in a much lower value for the subsequent 6-12 months. However, since early 2021, the rate of volunteer time input has at the very least been maintained at first year levels, and very probably increased quite substantially.

WSWG's early time-accounting exercise has not, however, been sustained, such were the demands of what, for many reasons, has been an extremely time-consuming and exhausting couple of years. However, with simple extrapolation, and a likely underestimate of time input for 2021 and 2022, it is reasonable to assume at least the following on the same basis as above:

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2018-2019: | 18 months - calculated | £80,000 |
| 2020: | 12 months - indicative | £20,000 |
| 2021: | 12 months – estimated | £50,000 |
| 2022: | 12 months – estimated | £50,000 |
| Indicative value of time input by core volunteers: | | £200,000 |

It would be true to say that the WSWG process has been very time-inefficient for the core WSWG volunteers, as is so often the case with community projects and their working groups, particularly on complex projects such as this under the challenging societal and personal circumstances that have prevailed since 2018. However, were the degree of skilled and professional input to be acknowledged, evaluating at minimum wage as above can only be seen to be a considerable underestimate of the true value of the time core volunteers have given to the development of the WSWG Project to date.

1.4 Concluding statement

The range and breadth of stakeholder contribution to the development phase of the WSWG Project has been substantial and sustained to an extraordinary degree.

It has not all gone smoothly by any means, with mistakes made, lessons learned, some solutions found and more yet to find, but such is the potential value of the WSWG project to current and future generations in our local community and beyond, what the immense input to date represents is absolute evidence of the level of support this project has from local people, both in the defined WSWG area and more widely in Perthshire and the city of Perth just a few miles away.

2 WSWG SCIO – Going Forward: Stakeholder Development Plan

Given the current ecological, climate and social emergencies will continue into the foreseeable future, we are all stakeholders, directly or indirectly, in the WSWG Project going forward, both within the local community and beyond. This section looks at how WSWG intends to engage and deliver for the different categories of stakeholders we have identified and networked with to date and others we intend to draw in to empower our local community in the years of community ownership ahead.

2.1 Members and Volunteers

Figure 1: WSWG Window on the Woods Vision



Community engagement will be at the heart of all future SCIO activity, in line with the WSWG marketing strategy..... *that everything we do is for the Community, for its wellbeing, its resilience, and its future.*

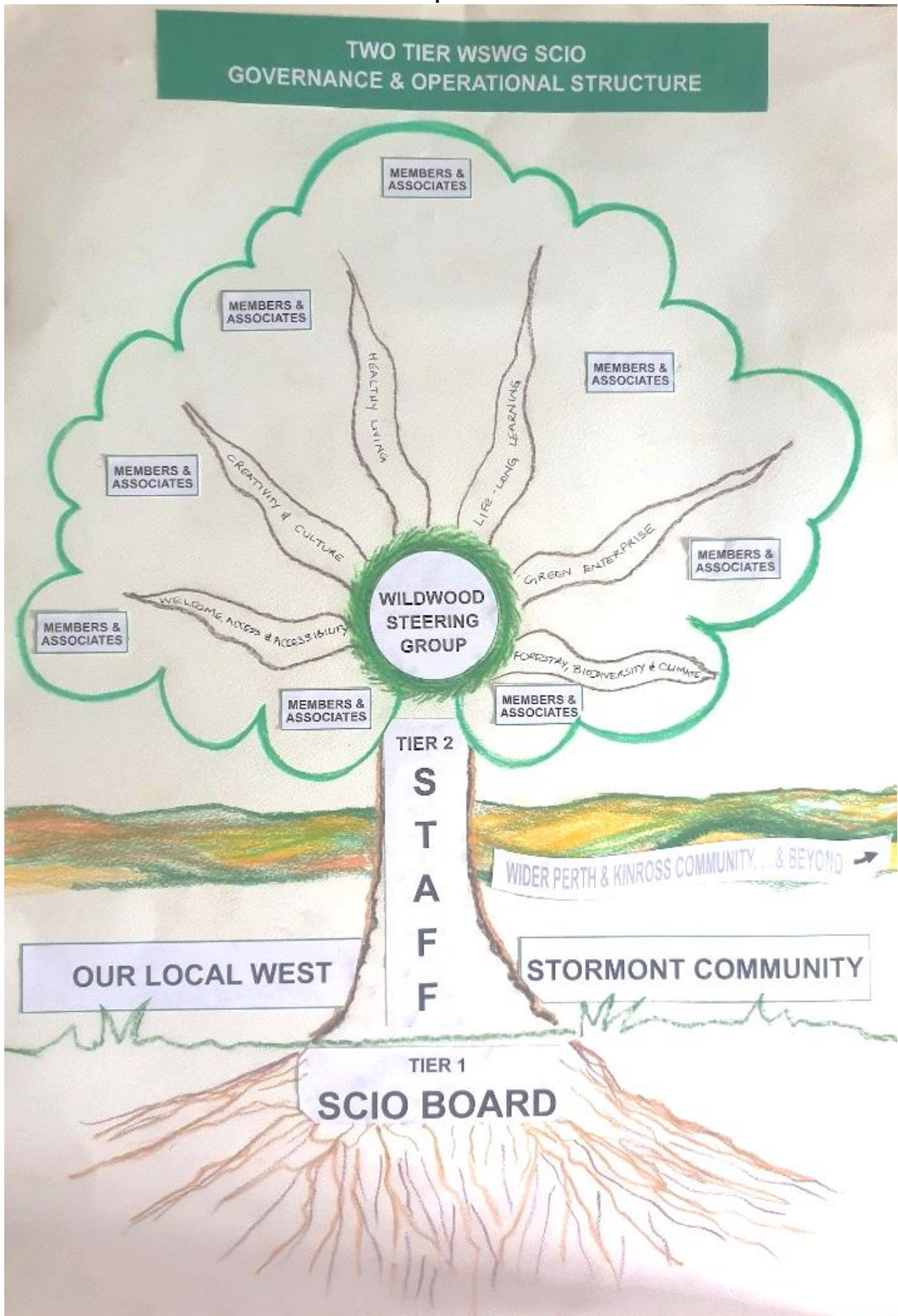
The primary stakeholders in the WSWG Project going forward will be the Members and Associates to whom the WSWG SCIO belongs, plus all those in the local community who will benefit directly and indirectly from community ownership of Taysmount and Five Mile Woods.

Volunteering will be a fundamental part of that community engagement, it being one of WSWG's main aims to provide a wide-ranging, inclusive and rewarding portfolio of volunteering opportunities for as many people as wish. Volunteering must be a pleasure for them, not a burden or obligation without which the WSWG project could not survive.

As well as for roles in governance, advice, mentoring or administration on the **Board of Trustees** or the **Wildwood Steering Group**, key volunteering opportunities will be available under each of the Window on the Woods themes (Figure 1). Individuals interested in particular themes could volunteer through the corresponding **Community Working Groups** to help ensure development of those themes through grass-roots involvement of members and associates and others in our community. Associated with that will be a raft of volunteering opportunities available to people of all ages and abilities in running the events and activities in the funded woodland-based, Window on the Woods-themed Year-Round Activities programmes. For example, volunteering activities under the Forestry, Ecology and Climate theme could include planning or practical involvement with wildlife surveys and monitoring – perhaps with the Woodland Observatory Project in Five Mile Wood -, tree planting, seed collection, woodland maintenance, tree nursery management and working in the Food Forest amongst others. Or perhaps to volunteer in Taysmount and Five Mile Wood as part of the Tayside Tree Warden scheme. For the Creativity and Culture theme, it may be woodland arts and crafts or a WSWG choir, whatever activities each group wishes to develop for its Year-Round Activities Programme at any given time. Volunteer numbers will vary accordingly depending on the appeal or needs of different activities. Volunteer recruitment will range from general members of the public to corporate and public sector employees looking for team-building and environmentally-friendly output opportunities. As well as the immediate pleasures and rewards of participating in activities of particular interest to different people, these will build skills and confidence of participants, leading to greater employment opportunities as well as skill-building within the local communities. The idea is very much that the WSWG Project is influenced and developed in response to input at grassroots level.

Figure 2 below shows the proposed integration of these different levels of governance and operational activity through which the WSWG Project will go forward, represented as a tree.

Figure 2: The WSWG 2-tier SCIO Governance and Operational Tree



At December 2022, the WSWG membership scheme stands at 505, of which 351 are Members (living within the WSWG area) and 154 are Associates (living outwith the WSWG area), with supporters and other regular contacts taking the regular mailing list up to about 700 individuals. There have been over 50 new sign-ups in 2022, including around 30 in October when WSWG was publicising and running Community Consultation 2. It is expected that there will be a surge of new members and associates once the woods come into community ownership.

The membership scheme will remain free to ensure it is always inclusive and equitable for all. The basic system at present will be reviewed and improved to better suit a community woodland project to cater for different purposes, such as the idea for Woody’s Kids’ Club; Youth Ranger Group/Tayside Under25s Young Recorders, etc for older children and young people. It will also be important to have young people on the Wildwood Steering Group. Events, activities and services will be open to members and non-members alike.

In terms of WSWG going forward with its programme of staff-supported activities and services, there is huge potential for involving large numbers of members, associates and others from the local community. Although impossible to predict with any certainty at this stage, particularly for events and activities, the following suggests prospective numbers of volunteers and participants which could prevail per year, depending on the type and format of “events and activities”.

Core involvement

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Board of Trustees | 3 – 10 |
| Wildwood Steering Group | 15-30 |
| WotW Community Working Groups (6) | 30-60 (5-10 per group) |
| Young People’s Volunteering | 10-20 |

Events and Activities

6 themed Year-Round Activities Programmes:

- Welcome, Access and Accessibility
- Creativity and Culture
 - *Creativity and the Arts*
 - *History and Heritage*
- Healthy Living
 - *Active People, Active Places*
 - *Healthy Eating*
 - *Social Wellbeing*
- Life-Long Learning
- Green Enterprise
 - *Forest Enterprises*
 - *Community Enterprises*
- Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate

Eg average 1 event/activity per week for each group over time

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 300 events/activities per year | 1500 participations (5 per event) |
| Additional volunteer helpers | 50 |

Annual Totals:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Volunteers – all ages) | 100 |
| Participants (allowing for repeat participations) | 500 |

Thinking about future Social Return on Investment (SROI) from volunteering, the above numbers compare favourably with participation levels in research by the Central Scotland Forest Trust which found that from 185 volunteers participating over one year, the Net Present Value to society was £976,552 over five years. Based on the volunteer and participant numbers suggested above for the WSWG Project, a similar Net Present Value could realistically be achieved by WSWG in its overall future SROI calculations. For more information about SROI as a measure of project value, see [Appendix BP8: Social Return on Investment \(SROI\) for Taymount and Five Mile Woods.](#)

2.2 Landowners and Neighbours

WSWG envisages close and considerate working relationships with neighbouring residents and landowners based on effective communication and co-operation on joint issues.

With regard to WSWG's aspirations and 25-year Mission "beyond the woods", landowners and managers in the WSWG core area will be critical to achieving these.

2.3 Staff

The staff team will be the single most important mainstay of resourcing and delivering the WSWG Proposal. It is therefore vital that WSWG's recruits and retains a highly competent, creative, enthusiastic team of employees dedicated to the ethos and purpose of the project and delivering the best in community benefit across the whole WSWG Vision.

As such, WSWG will ensure the staff are fully provided for with supportive line-management and working conditions to enable them to work to the best of their abilities in an enjoyable and motivating environment and atmosphere.

The nature of the project will require staff to be closely involved in its early stages of development in ways which will require a good deal of pragmatism and learning on the job until everything beds in with working routines and necessary infrastructure.

2.4 Partnership Working

WSWG will keep working and networking with the many local community organisations, primary schools, local businesses and other relevant organisations it has already connected with to deliver optimum community benefit and connectedness with the woods. WSWG see great value in further developing functional partnership working by increasing the involvement of relevant specialists in the local area through the Wildwood Steering Group and also to developing stronger links to the Perth Sustainable Small City initiative and also various academic, conservation and other research partners.

2.5 Future potential for the Tourism Market

A key attribute of the WSWG Project in terms of tourism markets is that both Taymount Wood and Five Mile Woods lie within the immediate corridor of the A9 trunk road from central Scotland to Inverness and onwards to Scrabster harbour, which has been called "the spine of Scotland".

In March 2018, Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, described the importance of the A9 as follows: *"The A9 is much more than just a road. It connects visitors to some of the best tourism experiences in Scotland, taking them through the heart of Perthshire and up to the Highlands. Scotland's reputation as a quality destination relies on innovation and considering new and creative ways to reach out to visitors, showcasing all we have to offer."*

Whilst not yet on Tripadvisor's "A9 Places to Stop", situated as they are at the south end of the 100-mile section of the A9 from Perth to Inverness, WSWG does see the potential for both woods, and Five Mile Wood in particular, to feature in that list one day. In 2014, 142,000 vehicles were said to use the A9 every day. However, it is felt that it will first need a robust community-focussed WSWG project to be in place before decisions can be made about bigger scale endeavours. As such, an A9 "Aire" at Five Mile Woods is presented in Budget Level 4 as an uncoded aspirational project alongside other bigger ventures such as a Community Energy Project and new access links in the wider landscape on land "beyond the woods".

Many people already travel to Taymount and Five Mile Woods from as far afield as Fife and Dundee, with the woods featuring as destination sites on the rotas of several walking groups as well. The prospective route for the River Tay Way, a long distance walking and cycling route from Aberfeldy to Perth and potentially on to Dundee being developed by Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, takes in the Taymount Wood area, holding great ecotourism potential for WSWG in the future.

2.6 Communications and Marketing

The WSWG Publicity and Communications Strategy will be based on:

- WSWG communications: website, Facebook (and other social media platforms), membership direct, plus woodland-based and local community noticeboards
- Local Media & papers – The Perthshire Advertiser, The Courier, The Bridge On-line, The Atholl Quair, The Blairie, etc
- Local Radio - Heart Radio/Tay FM

Selected specialist platforms will be used to publicise specific aspects of the project as it develops to reach relevant audiences, for example for letting the The Artists' Bothy and, in due course, reaching out to the A9 and other tourist markets.

2.7 Funders

The WSWG Proposal includes a graduated introduction and growth of a variety of community benefit-based income generating enterprises to provide funding for WSWG Charitable Activities and Services. With good design, management and marketing, WSWG believes they could provide potentially much more income than is currently included in the financial projections which have been pitched at a deliberately modest level.

The Proposal is also designed for flexibility and scalability so that activities and services can be tailored to the level of resources available. However, with a stable and integrated staff team being so fundamental for the delivery of the project, whether on a relative shoestring or plentiful resources beyond basic operational costs, external fundraising will be a routine part of the project for the foreseeable future.

WSWG looks forward to developing mutually beneficial relationships with a wide range of funders as key stakeholders in the success of the WSWG Project.

Table 1 below shows in matrix form the many stakeholders WSWG envisages engaging in the WSWG Project going forward, either overall or set against particular themes in the Window on the Woods Vision.

Table 1: WSWG Stakeholders December 2022

Colour-coding

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| WSWG In-house stakeholders | Stakeholder organisations for WSWG Priority stakeholders for WSWG | Contact made | No contact to date Priority stakeholders for WSWG |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|---|

| 1. WSWG Key Current or Potential Stakeholders relating to themes in the Window on the Woods Vision | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| General | Forestry & Ecology | Welcome, Access ... | Creativity & Culture | Healthy Living | Life-long Learning | Green Enterprise |
| Members Associates Trustees Wildwood Steering Group Staff | WSWG Forestry, Ecology and Climate Community Working Group: a. Climate b. Biodiversity | WSWG Welcome, Access and Accessibility Community Working Group | WSWG Creativity and Culture Community Working Group: a. Creativity & the Arts b. History and Heritage | WSWG Healthy Living Community Working Group: a. Active People, Active Places; b. Healthy Eating; c. Social Wellbeing | WSWG Life-long Learning Community Working Group | WSWG Green Enterprise Community Working Group: a. Forest Enterprises b. Community Ents |
| Supporters Wider Community | Scottish Forestry | | | | University of Edinburgh Dr Markus Ketola | Growbiz |
| Forestry and Land Scotland | Forestry and Land Scotland | Stanley Development Trust | West Stormont Historical Society | Stanley Development Trust | West Stormont Historical Society | |
| Scottish Land Fund | Local sawmills | Skinny Tyres | | Cycling Without Age | | |
| Strathtay Action Partnership | Local conservation organisations & businesses | Strathtay Action Partnership | Strathtay Action Partnership | Strathtay Action Partnership | Strathtay Action Partnership | |
| Perth Leadership Forum – Perth Sustainable Small City initiative | Community Woodlands Association | Local walking groups (Strollers, Stride for Life, Friday Walking Group) | PKC Community Education | Lyndsay McManaman, Community Engagement Worker, P&K Health & Social Care Partnership | PKC Community Education | Community Woodlands Association |
| Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust: widespread scope for WSWG and PKCT to collaborate across all WSWG themes. | Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership | Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust | | Jeni Guthrie, Social prescriber, Highland and Strathtay | U3A Perth | |

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| Energy4All/Highland Community Energy Society | Local landowners | Spittalfield and District Active Recreation Hub | | Spittalfield & District Active Recreation Hub | Tayside Biodiversity Recorders Tayside Under-25s Young Recorders Committee | Energy4All |
| Investing in Communities, (funding applications submitted and pending) | Tayside Biodiversity Partnership: a. Joint Farming, Upland & Woodland Working Group b. Biodiversity Villages c. Under 25 Young Recorders Committee | Local horse riders | Local schools/cluster schools | Care & Wellbeing CIC | Schools (WSWG links with 7 primary & nursery schools to date) | The Bothy Project |
| Local community councils | Tree Warden Scheme | Perth Active Travel Group (PATH) | Local Forest School providers (eg Wild Sparks) | Local Forest School providers (eg Wild Sparks) | Local Forest School providers (eg Wild Sparks) | |
| | The Food Forest Project | Greenspace Ranger Service | Outdoor Education providers (eg Wee Adventures) | Local Forest School providers (eg Wild Sparks) | Outdoor Education providers (eg Wee Adventures) | |
| | Tayside Woodland Partnerships | | | | | |
| | Buglife | LiveActive | | Local church groups | Local church groups | |
| | BTO Surveys eg Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) | Paths for All | | Care Homes (elderly, other supported living) | Westbank: (Probation Service/ Community Payback) | |
| | The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) | P&K Outside Access Forum | | Sheltered Housing complexes | | |
| WSWG Programme Funders (Public, lottery, charitable, corporate, benefactors, Wellbeing sources, etc) | WSWG Programme Funders | WSWG Programme Funders | WSWG Programme Funders | WSWG Programme Funders | WSWG Programme Funders | WSWG Programme Funders |