

GL/LM

08 November 2022

To Whom It May Concern



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Dear Sir / Madam

West Stormont Woodland Group – Letter of Support

As one of the local Councillors for Ward 5, I would like to confirm my support for West Stormont Woodland Group's application to the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

Their ambition to bring both Taymount and Five Mile Woods into local community ownership is one that I have no hesitation in supporting and wish them every success in their endeavours.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Laing".

Councillor Grant Laing
Leader of the Council

Dear Andrew

Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) – support for WSWG’s CATS proposals for Taymount and Five Mile Woods

PKCT are delighted to support WSWG’s CATs proposals.

We are very glad to have received WSWG’s support for our own Perthshire Nature Connections partnership (via Elspeth Coutts) for over a year. We also enjoyed the opportunity for our graduate trainee Courtney Cooper to contribute some design work for WSWG’s woodland centre visioning. I am sure that we will have further collaborations in the future, across the whole scope of our shared agenda for nature restoration, public access and environmental education. We will continue to encourage community action on this agenda across Perth & Kinross, and we believe that the community involvement in land management, including community ownership of land and access to it, is a necessary response to the climate and nature emergencies. Please do keep us informed of how we can help further with WSWG’s work, and if and how we can contribute further to the success of your applications for CATS.

Sincerely

David Tollick | Conservation Officer



07720 621745 – working week only

Pullar House | Kinnoull Street | Perth | PH1 5GD

www.pkct.org



Perthshire Organic Gardeners

Elsbeth Coutts, Secretary, Stormont Woodland Group

26 March 2021

Dear Elspeth

POG and WSWG

We are a group of gardeners across Perthshire who grow crops using organic principles. We aim to raise awareness of practices which respect nature and provide locally produced, chemical-free and nutritious food.

Members of Perthshire Organic Gardeners (POG) have been following with interest the efforts of West Stormont Woodland Group (WSWG) to acquire the areas of woodland at Taymount and Five Mile Wood and to develop them as community-owned assets.

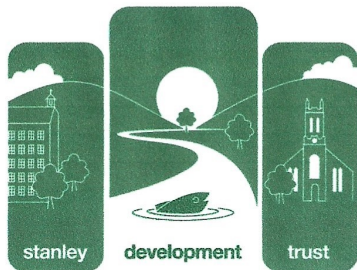
In accordance with our commitment to preserving biodiversity, expanding local food production, and encouraging greater appreciation of nature, we welcome the initiative of WSWG, and wish it every success.

At a recent meeting we agreed unanimously to become a supporter organisation of WSWG. POG is happy to be associated with the Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) application being prepared for submission to Forestry Land Scotland, and wishes it every success.

Yours sincerely

Philip Bryers, Chairperson

POG Secretary: Avril Fulton a.f.fulton@icloud.com 07977290268 **POG Chairperson:** Philip Bryers. p.bryers@virginmedia.com 01738 560250 **POG Treasurer:** Catherine Wilson Wilson_rockdale@yahoo.com 01738 637743 **POG e-mail:** perthorganic@gmail.com **Facebook:** "Perthshire Organic Gardeners"
Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/perthshireorganicgardeners>



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31 October 1922

Dear Shonagh

This letter of support relates to your application to the Community Asset Transfer Scheme to bring Taymount and Five Mile Woods into local community ownership

The Trust has always been supportive of this project as both these woods have core paths within them and lie within the area the Trust serves.

The WSWG "Windows in the Woods" vision relates to community wellbeing, which is a big part of the work we also strive towards with our Care & Wellbeing Project.

We wish you well in your application and look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely

Anne Sweet

Anne Sweet
Secretary

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



28th October 2022

Ms. Shonagh Moore
Chair of the Board of Trustees
West Stormont Woodland Group
(via email)

Dear Ms. Moore,

Support for Bringing Taymount & Five Mile Woods Into Local Community Ownership

I am very pleased to confirm the Partnership's support of your grant application to secure the two woodlands for community ownership. The project is a very important one which will act as a best practice case study, I hope, for other communities keen to do something similar. It has been inspiring to see just how much effort has been expended over the past few years in engaging local people and organisations, not just in the vicinity, but right across the board. The Partnership has been happy to be involved and certainly hopes to be more involved in the future.

I know the aim is to naturalise both woods: the Group has gathered together a knowledgeable team to do this through careful and sustainable management which fully takes into consideration how best to manage the sites for biodiversity. This also encompasses the wider community needs which seem well balanced with the proposed biodiversity management.

In its West Stormont Connect vision, the Group's wider plans includes the Partnership's Biodiversity Villages initiative. This is being rolled out already by communities in St Madoes and Guildtown (and Blairgowrie is now Scotland's First Biodiversity Town). The West Stormont Woodland Group is ideally placed to encourage local communities in its area to undertake a wide range of projects to safeguard both species and habitats. It is already doing this exceptionally well for the two woodlands.

The timing of the funding application could not be more crucial with more and more news of alarming decreases in species populations and the fragmentation of habitats. The WSWG is leading on not just raising awareness of all these issues in their area, but it is actively engaging the community in showing how everyone can play a part in making positive changes – starting with the two woods they wish to purchase.

The Appendix below lists the actions and targets in our current Biodiversity Action Plan that this project will contribute towards. I very much hope you are successful in securing the funding and greatly look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Catherine A G Lloyd - Biodiversity Co-ordinator

Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth. PH1 5GD/Email cagloyd@pkc.gov.uk/www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

 [Tayside Biodiversity / Tayside Swifts / Tayside Amphibians & Reptiles / Tayside Wildlife Recorders](#)

APPENDIX

The WSWG's aims contribute directly to the current Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (2nd Edition 2016-26) - [Action Plan – New LBAP 2016-26 – Tayside Biodiversity](#) - especially the following objectives and actions:

Woodland Ecosystems

The Group epitomises the Woodland Ecosystems Action Plan's objectives, namely:

1. *Endeavour to reduce the direct pressures on woodland biodiversity by implementing projects to enhance ecosystem health*
2. *Safeguard woodland ecosystems, species and genetic diversity by enhancing connectivity and where possible preventing its decline*
3. *Mainstream biodiversity conservation action by raising awareness and the enjoyment of woodland ecosystems within local communities*

Action 1 – Protect and expand Tayside's forests and woodlands, increasing their value to society and the environment.

Action 2 – Maintain existing native woodland areas and prevent net loss or reduction in their quality.

Action 3 – Investigate and support projects and policies which create more planning of native woodland species and forest cover in Tayside.

Action 4 – Improve the environmental value of woods and forests throughout Tayside.

Action 7 – Maintain, improve and increase the habitat quality of Coniferous Plantations where Scottish Biodiversity List species are present:

- Safeguard and enhance existing and potential habitat features in all plantations
- Restructure first rotation conifer plantations

Action 8 – maintain, restore and improve Wet Woodlands in Tayside and expand them where appropriate.

Action 12 – Restore woodland plant species populations and genetic diversity and enhance species connectivity.

Action 13 – Promote the sustainable development of Tayside's woodland types through increased policy integration (including Climate Change reporting).

Action 14 – Reduce the direct pressures on woodland biodiversity by enhancing ecosystem health

- Tackle littering and invasive non-native species at problem sites
- Encourage measures which reverse habitat fragmentation
- Develop and promote ongoing beneficial deer management
- Introduce biosecurity measures where necessary at outbreaks of notifiable tree diseases

Action 15 – Ensure the long-term future of woodland habitat by showcasing best practice land management techniques.

Action 16 – Promote the safeguarding and management of veteran trees.

Action 18 – Promote restoration projects and species management programmes.

Action 20 – Encourage collaborative regional working for green networks.

Action 22 – Investigate the effects of climate change on the movement of woodland species through regular surveying and monitoring.

Action 23 – Investigate woodland bird spatial and temporal distribution patterns in Tayside.

Action 25 – Raise awareness of endangered woodland butterflies and moths and encourage community participation in conservation.

Action 26 – Promote local recorders, clubs and biodiversity open days

Action 27 – Increase awareness of woodland species in Tayside and facilitate community participation in data recording.

Action 28 – Encourage community outreach, development and training.

Action 30 – Encourage school age participation in projects relating to woodlands and orchard issues.

Action 31 – Encourage responsible interactions to minimise disturbance in woodlands.

Action 32 – Reduce the direct pressures on woodland biodiversity and ecosystem health from invasive non-native species.

People & Communications

Action 1 – Encourage community groups to manage local areas for biodiversity.

Action 6 – Promote the Tayside Recorders' Forum

- Utilise the skills of local recorders and specialist groups/organisations to target specific species
- Support a programme of events to promote the Forum.

Action 14 – Work with specialist and cultural groups to raise awareness of biodiversity in all its forms.

Farmland Ecosystems

Action 7 – Promote restoration projects and species management programmes

- Explore options for fencing to protect sensitive habitats from disturbance
- Run rural skills training days to encourage appropriate management of hedgerows, the retention of hedgerow trees and the restoration of gappy hedges
- Encourage the development and setting up of a Tayside Farmland Butterfly Initiative to advise farmers and landowners on targeted management for farmland moths and butterflies.

Action 8 – encourage collaborative regional working for green networks – encourage or co-ordinate landscape-scale projects and surveys and advise on funding; set up Green Habitat Networks to create stepping stones for key species.

Action 9 – Investigate the effects of climate change on the movement of farmland species through regular surveying and monitoring

Action 10 – Investigate farmland bird spatial and temporal distribution patterns in Tayside.

Action 11 – Survey and monitor threatened farmland butterfly and moth populations.

Action 12 – Increase awareness of farmland species in Tayside and facilitate community participation in data recording.

Action 13 – Encourage school age participation in projects relating to farmland issues.

Urban Ecosystems

Action 3 – Increase opportunities for communities to participate in experiencing and enjoyment of nature

- Roll out Buglife's Buzzing project across Tayside and investigate new areas of stalled space within cities, towns and villages

- Biodiversity Villages Initiative – investigate the potential to set up a suite of village-based projects to encourage local communities to participate in a wide range of projects and events.

Action 4 – Improve the biodiversity quality of greenspace and green networks

- Set up a Verge Champion Initiative to engage volunteers and specialists to survey key sites and to then nominate important biodiversity verges for future management to safeguard species.
- B-Lines – encourage participation on all spatial scales in habitat enhancement for pollinators in line with B-Lines guidance.

Action 11 – encourage participation in urban citizen science surveys and projects.

Action 16 – Raise awareness in villages of endangered species (including Tree Sparrows)

Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth. PH1 5GD/Email cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk/www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

 *Tayside Biodiversity / Tayside Swifts / Tayside Amphibians & Reptiles / Tayside Wildlife Recorders*

 *TayBiodiversity*

TCV Statement of Support at beginning of The Hedgehog Recovery Plan TCV produced for WSWG which includes validation of a wide range of actions proposed in the WSWG Woodland Management Plans.

The HogWatch Scotland project has been running since 2019, funded by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and aims to survey and protect hedgehogs across Scotland. There are concerning population declines across the UK. Between 2000-14 hedgehog populations declined by over half in our countryside and nearly a third in cities and suburbs. There are around 310,000 hedgehogs left in Scotland and around 1.5 million across England, Scotland and Wales collectively. Although population estimates can be challenging throughout the 1960's there were over 30 million hedgehogs across Britain. Further information in [The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018](#).

Our proposal until 2023 is to work more with communities on a landscape scale to develop more connected landscape and implement conservation changes to enhance habitat for hedgehogs. We therefore fully support the actions of the West Stormont Woodland Group to restructure and renaturalise the conifer dominant woodlands. We also support West Stormont Connect, the landscape scale vision implemented through projects such as Ridge to River and Biodiversity Villages.

Letter of support for WSWG from the Blairgowrie, Rattray and District Climate Café.

The Climate Café covers a wide area which includes the West Stormont and Nine Mile Woods. We are aware of the strong connection between the Climate and Nature emergencies and our members are engaged in work to improve the biodiversity of the area. One crucial part of this is enabling the general public to enjoy and participate in the natural environment. The WSWG project has this as a central aim and we strongly support them.

We are also aware of the importance of natural environments being connected (as with the Bug Life B-lines initiative). The aim of linking the two areas of woodland is an example of good practice in this regard. Also, woodland and biodiverse areas need to be managed in order to thrive and WSWG's stated objectives include this.

We will encourage people from Blairgowrie to participate in the project both as visitors and as volunteers.

We believe this is an excellent initiative and it has our wholehearted support.

Len Seal (co-coordinator, BRDCC)

From: [Suzanne Burgess](#)

To: [Alan Ross](#)

Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2022 3:21 PM

Subject: RE: WSWG letter of support

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your email and information about your proposed project. Apologies for the delay in replying and hope this email of support is still of use.

Your proposal is of interest of us- we fully support the proposals for the restructure of the woodland via nature recovery. Woodlands are home to a number of important invertebrates and support a diverse range of species from wood ants to longhorn beetles. It is positive to see that your project will have a focus on the structure of dead wood but also the presence of flowers and planting of native trees. As you know the larvae of the vast majority of our longhorn beetles in the UK require dead and decaying wood to complete their life cycles, but the adults are often found visiting flowers. Restructuring the woodland to ensure that habitat is provided for all, will ensure the greatest benefits to a number of species and we fully support this.

Great to read that a full survey is planned for the site but that initial surveys have already highlighted the areas importance for a range of insects and other species. We would be keen to hear more about what species are recorded and how the woodland restructuring will benefit them all.

Buglife Scotland fully support your project and look forward to hearing of its progress. Please do keep us updated on how things progress and anything we can do to help please do let me know.

Kind regards

Suzanne

Suzanne Burgess

Scotland and Northern Ireland Development Manager

My work days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, Unit 4, Beta Centre, Stirling University
Innovation Park, Stirling, FK9 4NF**

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Community Engagement Team

Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD

Contact Lindsay McManamon
Tel: 07849800326
Email: lmcmamanon@pkc.gov.uk

Date 18 December 2022

Dear West Stormont Woodland Group,

As Community Engagement Worker for the Health and Social Care Partnership, I fully support and commend your efforts in the development of the Taymount and Five Mile Woods.

The proposals look very thoroughly researched, planned and I know that your efforts in engaging and consulting the local and wider communities have been outstanding. This really shows in the way you have brought all the elements together into your proposal.

I look forward to working with you in the future to help you realise your health & wellbeing goals and look forward to seeing how the project develops. Good luck with the next stage of your journey.

Yours sincerely

Lindsay McManamon

Community Engagement Worker



Bob Talbot <aardvaarkcreative@gmail.com>

FW: Letter of Support

1 message

Andrew Lear <secretary@weststormontwoodlandgroup.scot>
To: Bob Talbot [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 21, 2022 at 4:58 PM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: weststormontsec@gmail.com
Sent: 16 November 2022 16:15
To: [Andrew Lear](#)
Subject: Letter of Support

Dear Andrew

We at West Stormont Historical Society have supported the aims and aspirations of the West Stormont Woodland Group since the beginning. We were happy to help with early awareness raising activities in both woods. In particular, we welcome the emphasis placed on Heritage & History within the Creativity and Culture strand of year round activities in the 'Window on the Woods' proposal. There is much research yet to do on the histories of both Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood and it would be good to work with WSWG building projects that will involve people of all ages from within the community.

We wish West Stormont Woodland Group every success in securing these woods for the community.

Yours sincerely

12/4/22, 10:20 PM

Gmail - FW: Letter of Support

Paul McLennan

Secretary

West Stormont Historical Society

07823 556 357