

**Asset Transfer Request made by Ettrick & Yarrow Community Development Company for the purchase of 173 ha of Gamescleuch Forest and the Ettrick Marshes**

**Response received by email on 5 September 2017 from Ettrick & Yarrow Community Development Company to representation of 3 August 2017**

[REDACTED] a meeting last year to discuss the proposed community purchase of Gamescleuch forest. His interventions at that meeting were around the current forest design plan as agreed by FCS which is due to be renewed, and a felling proposal from Tilhill forestry which had been wrongly interpreted by us as being based on the FCS plan. While we subsequently realised and admitted this mistake, it was largely immaterial as neither were the proposals that we were intending to follow.

The map was a very small part of the presentation and discussion centred around the possible community benefits which could flow from ownership and suggestions from the floor around possible improvements and things that could happen if community ownership could be achieved.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
It has subsequently been clarified that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He is neither a resident nor a member of the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company and can make no claims to know what the membership is thinking. He [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

No one at the meeting last November was 'scared out of their wits' by the felling plan and the 'misleading map' was not the 'raison d'être for the application'. In point of fact, at a subsequent meeting in February when we presented the work done by our forestry consultants with our proposed ten year felling plan, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

This latest correspondence is an ill-founded concoction of misrepresentation and slander. The board of EYCDC object to the tone and the language of this correspondence and ask Forest Enterprise to disregard it. The respondent is not speaking on behalf of anyone but himself and seems to be fixated on a forest design plan which would in any event need to be renewed.

The correspondent claims to have initiated a public meeting in February 2017. This is patent nonsense as the meeting was arranged by the EYCDC coordinator and included a presentation by the local council regarding the final closure of the primary school as well as a presentation on the forest purchase plan. There was no correspondence with [REDACTED] regarding its organisation.

Likewise, suggestions that the 'buy out team' have a vested interest [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is quite wrong. The Articles of Association of the EYCDC do not allow directors of the company to benefit financially. We refute almost every part of this nonsensical and vexatious letter and trust that Forest Enterprise will pay more attention to the people who live in the area.

We gauged support amongst the community in Ettrick by asking people to sign if they supported the proposal. We visited or contacted every household through the month of July to discuss the business plan and answer any questions. The response was overwhelmingly positive with 112 people signing in support out of a voters' roll for the area of 140. It is no surprise to us that the correspondent did not know that this was happening as he is not a resident [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

In conclusion, we ask Forest Enterprise to note the community support as evidenced by the 80% positive response to our petition. Further, we ask them to recognise that our 10 board members all

play an active part in the community and that we have over 160 members, many of whom have lived here for generations. We respectfully suggest that our desire to see a sustainable future for the valley should be accorded more weight than this ill-founded letter [REDACTED].

ENDS