

Sir,

I would like to confirm my support for the community taking control of this woodland. The woodland is used as a resource for a good section of the community from dog walkers to wildlife watchers to runners to mountain bikers and schoolchildren carrying out project work learning about the natural environment. This all needs to be encouraged so that the various activities do not inherently interfere with each other. The identified proposals for enhancing the natural environment and including the various activity routes and structures need to be developed in a coherent manner. Callander needs to find ways of encouraging tourists and visitors to dwell in and around the community and the Woods should form a significant part of that attraction when they are well managed with activities signposted and advertised. The Callander Community Development Trust has taken an interest in the initiative and should be tasked with maintaining the woodland through the appointment of work groups and contractors as required. There seems little evidence that FLS is able and willing to manage these assets for the benefit of a local community in this way so it would make sense for the Callander Community Development Trust to be allowed to have a go.

Thanks

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