

FES : Community Asset Transfer Scheme  
CARRON VALLEY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Response by Valley Renewables Group to FES Consultation Replies to the Asset Transfer Application

1. FES validated our CATS application on 14th December 2017. It was advertised on 21st December with a closing date of 23rd January 2018 for responses. Valley Renewables Group issued a newsletter to all our households confirming the scope and status of the application, the advertisement process, the closing date and address for responses, together with a brief description of the project and our ambitions for the phased development of the site.
2. By the closing date, nine letters from resident households had been received by FES in response to the application, its advertisement and our community newsletter. Eight letters were in support of the application. One letter was in support of the asset transfer, but expressed some concern on the proximity of the community woodland to nearby residential properties, and in particular the proposal to manage the mature woodland for increased public access and the consequences for residential privacy and seclusion. There was a request for no increased public access to, or development of, the compartment of standing mature woodland alongside the River Carron and a preference for use and development of areas to the south of the forest road.
3. Knowing of this resident's concern, we have stated from the outset that we would engage with these local households to ensure their concerns are respected insofar as is possible. However, we do note that the six properties concerned are separated from the nearest part of the Community Woodland by the River Carron and the public road through the Valley and that the mature riverside woodland is already used by local residents as a walk. We are also aware there have been local issues of antisocial behaviour, which we are keen to address. We do undertake to work closely with all parties to meet their concerns, but feel that this important area should be responsibly used, enjoyed and sensitively managed. This important part of the Community Woodland can be arranged to improve the view and prospect from these properties. Their overshadowing and the restriction to views by the existing conifer stands can be resolved by their gradual thinning and restocking with native tree species, and this is consistent with the key elements of our woodland management strategy.
4. The eight letters of support, when taken with the full commitment of members of the Community Council and Development Trust, who have not responded to the consultation, represent a positive response to the proposed asset transfer. All those supporting the transfer have emphasised the real focus this project will provide for our community, the opportunities for progressive development of the site, the benefits of our management proposals for the forest, local residents and visitors, and its potential contribution to a long term legacy for our community's life and cohesion.

RF  
for Valley Renewables Group  
Development Trust for the Carron Valley & District  
25/01/18