

Community Asset Transfer Manager
Forestry and Land Scotland
Silvan House
231 Corstorphin Road
EH12 7AT

26/11/19

Dear Sir or Madam

Please see below comments on Coihallan woodland asset transfer.

As a neighbouring business owner on the northern boundary of the wood I have several concerns relating to the transfer. There appears to be a lack of meaningful engagement with neighbouring property owners regarding concerns about access and ongoing boundary and drainage maintenance issues.

For example, considerable thought will have to be given to developing an access management plan to maximise safety and minimise the disruption to existing users of the area and surrounding access roads during the development and operation phases should this project be successful. It is my expectation that holiday home owners will not experience any detriment to the amenity of their property and stays (and again an appropriate boundary management plan and monitoring should be put in place). In particular, There are several cross drainage water courses which protect Callander Holiday Park from flood damage during heavy rain, and therefore it is expected that any potential disruption caused by new paths and MTB trails, would be reflected in new drainage plans and maintenance regimes to be managed by CCDT which would maintain the same level of protection to Callander Holiday Park.

I raised each of these issues at the public meeting and was given an assurance that I would be contacted by the Chairperson in the near future to discuss ways that we could work together to prevent problems. Disappointingly, to date no contact has been made by CCDT.

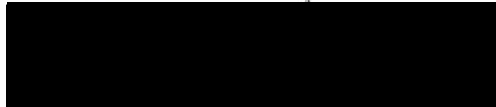
Having studied the survey results from both the 2017 feasibility study and the latest survey from 2019 it appears opinion is split as to the benefits of community ownership given the number of concerned responses furthermore, the low number of responses (185) from a community of 3500 leads me to think that support going forward for volunteer's in the medium term maybe a problem for the feasibility and sustainability of the project.

I feel that the proposed café facility is completely at odds with idea of trying to boost tourism within the community as this will discourage visitors from integrating their visit with existing main street businesses already supporting local employment. It also appears to me that no capital cost implications are included in the projections for building the café and hub area for Trossachs Mobility.

The original mountain bike trails plan that has been integrated into the current transfer project was previously felt to be unsuitable by FCS, this is a concern as FCS now FLS successfully manage a number of woodland areas both themselves and in conjunction with communities to promote high quality trail access most notably Dunkeld, Laggan Wolf Tracks and the Seven Stanes.

Whilst I agree that improvements within the woodland area to paths and signage would be of great benefit to the local community working in partnership with FLS a well-resourced and experienced public body to deliver these aims would ensure funding and long term sustainability of the project rather than relying on grant aid and unskilled voluntary labour.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Tony Mower.

Tony Mower