

# Coilhalla Community Woodland Project



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# Feasibility Study

- ▶ Following FCS unwillingness to allow mountain bike trail development, CCDT Board agreed to Feasibility Study for Community Purchase of Coilhallan Wood.
- ▶ SLF Stage 1 funded feasibility study concluded that CCDT should proceed with project as set out in this presentation with mountain bike trail development as only one strand of a much wider, more general community inclusive project.

# The Proposal

That CCDT acquires Coilhallan Woodland and manages it sustainably to increase access, facilities and opportunities, making it a true asset for the benefit of the local community and visitors alike.

## Project Aims

- ▶ **Acquire Coilhallan Wood for the Community**
- ▶ **To deliver the Woodland Management Plan effectively:**
  - Manage the woodland in a sustainable/environmentally friendly manner
- ▶ **To increase the number of people benefitting from the woodland, both visitors and very importantly the community**

# The Proposal

## Phase 1 - After initial purchase of Coilhallan Wood

- ▶ Improved signage and new footpaths
- ▶ Manage non-native invasive species
- ▶ Guided woodland walks / educational experiences
- ▶ Trossachs Mobility base, commercial café and facilities at the Coilhallan carpark
- ▶ New mountain bike trails
- ▶ Small scale wood fuel and timber sales
- ▶ Manage the birch woodland for coppicing within 10 years
- ▶ Advertising and sponsorship from local businesses

# The Proposal Phase 1 Partnerships

A number of partnerships are under active discussion which will enable CCWG to manage and maintain Coilhallan Woodland. These include:

- ▶ Callander Landscape Partnership ( 'Mind the Gap'),
- ▶ FABB Scotland (All Ability Cycling/Sensory Trail Project),
- ▶ Trossachs Mobility (All terrain mobility scooters),
- ▶ Catering Franchisees (Café),
- ▶ McLaren Community Leisure Centre (Joint activities),
- ▶ Callander Primary School/McLaren High School (Educational),
- ▶ Callander Youth Project Trust (Outdoor activities)
- ▶ Cambusmore Estate (Common interests)
- ▶ Scottish Wildlife Trust (Callander Centre) (Biodiversity)
- ▶ Callander Enterprise (Joint promotions/sponsorship)
- ▶ Callander Heritage Society (Archaeology)
- ▶ Callander Ramblers



# Capital

Capital Costs	
Purchase of Woodland	Capital
Proposed purchase price	£195,000
Legal fees for purchase	£2,000
Set up and phase 1 projects	
Mountain bike trails	£232,187
other set up costs	£5,700
Total Capital Costs	£434,887
Capital Income (not confirmed)	
SLF funding *	£197,000
Other capital grants for setup	£5,700
Mountain bike trails	£232,187
Total Capital Income	434,887

# Revenue

Cashflow	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5
Income	£48,291	£49,915	£18,761	£16,593	£19,026
Expenditure	£52,703	£41,752	£16,896	£17,403	£17,925
Annual Cashflow	-£4,412	£8,163	£1,865	-£810	£1,101
Cumulative Cashflow	-£4,412	£3,751	£5,616	£4,806	£5,907

\*\* This does not include any cashflow associated with the timber not cleared by FCS



# Expected Project Outcomes

- ▶ **Coilhullan Woodland is owned and managed by CCDT**
- ▶ **New partnerships and collaborative projects developed**
- ▶ **Community engaged and contributing to a sustainable project**
- ▶ **Improved facilities in place and generating an income**
- ▶ **Woodland Management Plan successfully implemented**
- ▶ **Increased number of volunteers engaged**
- ▶ **Increased events and activities in the woodland**
- ▶ **Increased number of people accessing the woodland**
- ▶ **Increased confidence and skills within local community**
- ▶ **Increased community resilience and self determination**

# Governance and Operational Management

- ▶ Legal responsibility for ownership of the asset will sit with CCDT.
- ▶ Administration of grants towards the purchase and maintenance of the woodland will sit with CCDT.
- ▶ Callander Community Woodland Group will act on behalf of CCDT and will lead the project and deliver the voluntary work required.
- ▶ A part time Woodland Manager will be employed for the first two years to support development and volunteer recruitment whilst income streams are developed and to deliver planned woodland activities.
- ▶ Volunteers will deliver the majority of the maintenance. They will be trained and managed by the Woodland Manager initially.

# Key risks and recommendations

- ▶ **The Phytophthora (Larch dieback) risk is high**  
CCWG must consider the cost of removing all larch from the site. This cost is unknown. So indicative figures have been included as contingency.
- ▶ **There is a need to increase the knowledge and understanding of woodland management within the team of volunteers through sharing skills, training and recruitment of new members.**
- ▶ **Continuing community engagement by delivering events and activities within the woodland from this point in time, building momentum and engaging with a wider audience. Crowd funding is being actively investigated.**
- ▶ **Continuing to develop partnerships with local organisations to support the management of the woodland.**

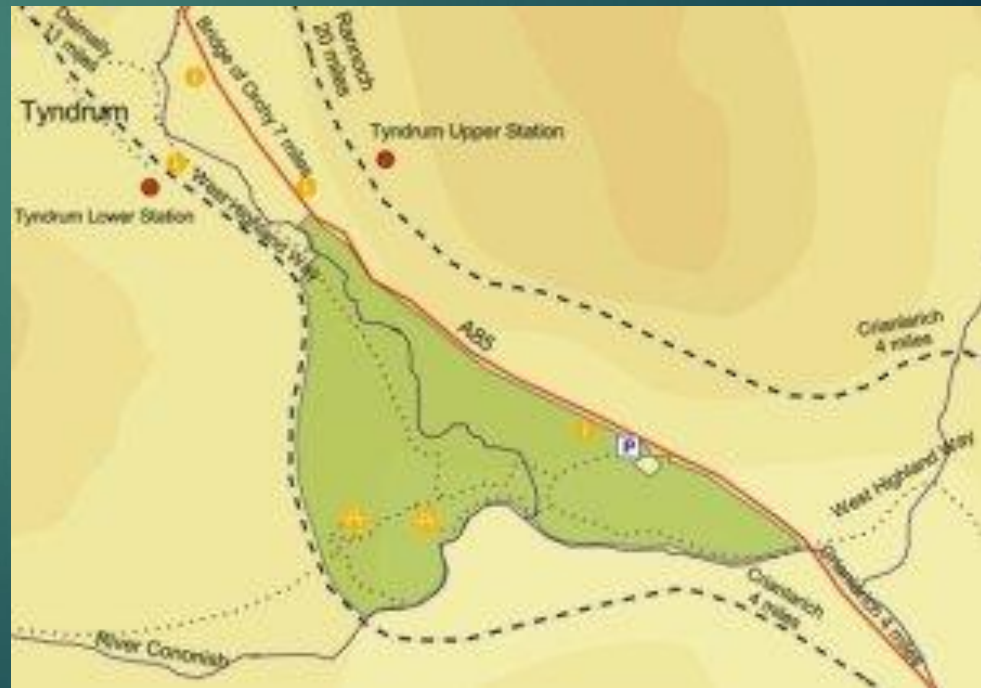
# What if we do nothing?

- ▶ **Coilhallan Wood does not appear to be a priority for FES.**
- ▶ **FES Management Plan states that restocking will take the form of natural regeneration. This will mean that non-native species will remain in the wood**
- ▶ **No significant encouragement of diversity**
- ▶ **FES do not have the flexibility or resources to manage invasive species effectively at this very local level**
- ▶ **Gradual decline?**

# Comparator Woodland

Strathfillan CDT own the Tyndrum Community Woodland.

- ▶ Circa 100 Ha woodland. (25% bigger than Coilhallan)
- ▶ Ownership issues:
  - ▶ WHW- passing visitors, 'wild camping', litter etc.
  - ▶ gold mine access
  - ▶ Gruffalo trail
- ▶ Community of 400.
  - 4 regular volunteers.
- ▶ Revenue circa £1000 p.a.



# Indicative timescales



Coilhalla Woodland Valuation	Dec 2017
Apply for FCS Community Asset Transfer (CATS)	July 2018
CATS Panel meeting	Sept 2018
SLF application prepared and discussed with SLF	Oct 2018
CATS response	Nov 2018
Funding applications for project development	Sept 2018
SLF application submitted (after CATS response received)	Feb 2019
SLF response received	Mar 2019
Potential to purchase woodland	April 2019



# Callander Community Woodland Group

