

CLOCHANDIGHTER

EDITION 55 - SUMMER 2007

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Photo - Courtesy of Ken Watson



Portlethen Moss Conservation Group

www.portlethen-moss.org.uk

Update:

Since my last article, when I wrote of the WIAT funding that our group had successfully been awarded, I'm pleased to report that the proposed upgrading of paths in the Moss is now complete. The newly upgraded paths are of very high standard and once the growing season kicks off the edges should look a bit softer and I think make the paths look a little less 'cosmetic'. Feedback from regular walkers on the Moss regarding the new paths has been very complimentary.

You may have read in the newspaper that the group was recently awarded an additional sum of money in excess of £1,200 from Aberdeenshire Council. This money was due to go to the community council, which no longer exists, and rather than it be split between community councils in other areas, William Munro of Aberdeenshire Council very kindly put forward our group as the favoured benefactor. The money is being held for the group until we have our constitution finalised and are in a position to set up our own bank account.

The group is to meet with representatives from Aberdeenshire Council, the SNH and our local Ranger to discuss how to best utilise the remainder of the WIAT funds. Initial ideas are for gorse clearance (once the bird nesting season is over), tree and shrub planting, interpretation (do we have any artists out there who would like to volunteer their services to create an interpretation board for us?), how best to progress the Local Nature Reserve - *and the other proposal for a community woodland park to the east of the railway line.*

Community Woodland Park:

Aberdeenshire Council asked me some time ago if our group would take on any other environmental projects in the Portlethen and District area as/if they arose. Consequently I put forward a proposal to Aberdeenshire Council regarding the creation of the above on an area of land (currently owned by the council) which lies east of the railway line immediately on the left after crossing the railway bridge on the Downies Road, between the railway line and the right of way that leads down to Old Portlethen village. To my surprise the proposal was taken seriously and further discussions have taken place regarding the layout and since then an Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Architect has drawn up a plan for the field.

Initial thoughts were that it would not only 'give back' to the community the green-space it lost in Bourtree Park due to the extra land required by the new academy, but in addition it would also be an area that would link up both the North and South ends of Portlethen. A request in the proposal was for the opening up of an old right of way path which lies at the south end of the field and leads right down to the railway bridge at Cookston Road, in opening up this path the area would then be accessible from the north end of Portlethen. The area will also offer an attractive alternate route for anyone wishing to walk to the church or cemetery from the south.



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If anyone reading this article has any thoughts or ideas that they wish to put forward regarding any of these plans please do not hesitate to contact me and I'll put your suggestions forward.

I've included a map showing the route round the Moss and have highlighted the areas where the paths have been upgraded. I apologise for the crudity of this map however I have been reliably advised from someone who used it for their first visit to the Moss that it is actually easy to follow (do we have any cartographers out there who would be willing to offer their services to draw up a map for us?)

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