

Free seminar on trees in towns

29/11/07

A free seminar tomorrow [Fri, 30 Nov] will focus on the benefits that woodlands are bringing to City and Shire communities.

Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Forestry Commission Scotland are hosting the session to look at how the Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) initiative is contributing to the region.

The seminar will be held at the Goals Soccer Centre, Inverdee, Great Southern Road, Aberdeen, from 9.30am-3.30pm, and will include site visits to Portlethen Woods and Tollohill Woods in the afternoon.

Ken Rundle, the BBC TV Landward rural affairs correspondent, will be one of the speakers and will introduce the seminar. Other presentations will be made by members of the Portlethen Moss Management Group, Simon Harry from the Forestry Education Initiative and Donald McPhillimy, the consultant who has been looking at opportunities for social enterprise projects using the woodland resources of the area. Other speakers will come from the NHS and Aberdeen City Council.

Aberdeen City Council Countryside Officer Ian Talboys said: "This is an exciting opportunity to bring together a wide range of people with an interest in managing and using our urban woodlands. They form an important part of our natural environment and this event will help to demonstrate the benefits to the local community of the woods in and around our towns."

The Aberdeen City WIAT project is developing projects in 13 of the city's woodlands to improve access to and within them. The project will undertake woodland management, including thinning, new planting and promoting the woods to encourage local communities to make better use of the valuable green spaces on their doorsteps.

The project is being implemented by a partnership including Aberdeen City Council, Forestry Commission Scotland and Aberdeen Countryside Project.

To book one of the few seminar places left or for more information, contact Aberdeen Woodlands Project Officer Steven Webley on 07793 708823, or e-mail steven.webley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk .