

06.12.24 Burnbrae Farm Woodland Creation proposals

From Andy Greathead <AGreathead@savills.com>
Date Fri 06/12/2024 12:38
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 1 attachment (5 MB)

Burnbrae Map 3 Woodland Design.pdf;

David, Liz, Deborah

Many thanks for meeting with Andy Hines and myself on Wednesday. It was a really useful meeting and we took away the following points (plan attached):

1. While generally supportive as the woodland creation proposals enhance the current natural habitat and have the potential to provide a much needed off road walking route out of the village, Symington Community Council do not support woodland creation at the south east extension of compartment 1 and compartments 3 and 4 and see these as a precursor to future housing development.
2. Symington Community Council are keen to see pathways that join Symington village to the network of paths through the woodland creation area avoiding walking along the public road. These could potentially link to the existing core path network.
3. In the longer term, Symington Community Council are keen to see the maturing woodland managed under continuous cover forestry as opposed to a restructuring system of felling and replanting productive areas as they mature.
4. Symington Community Council would be keen to be involved in management of some of the internal hedges but assume that external roadside hedges will continue to be cut back by a contractor.
5. Symington Community Council would welcome the improvement of pathways including some surfaced sections for wheelchair users which could be grant funded under a Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme administered by Scottish Forestry.
6. Symington Community Council would welcome community involvement in the woodland creation area in the form of walks, benches and interpretive signage providing information on the biodiversity and species within the woodland.

We discussed our draft woodland creation operational plan to be submitted to Scottish Forestry as part of the Forestry Grant Scheme application which includes:

Additional Features Beyond Grant Aid Support

The landowner is keen to cooperate and support the local community and after consultation with the Community Council the following items have been agreed. These features are not part of the grant aid funding, however, they show the genuine desire to work with the local community in order to create a woodland that is valued and well-used by local people.

- *Establishing small plots of wild flowers, which will be tended by local people and allowed to spread into the adjacent woodland edges*
- *Installing bird and bat boxes, with opportunities for these to be made by local school children, Scouts group or community groups*

- *Incorporating a wider range of flowering trees and shrubs to support the local drive to create habitats suitable for pollinators*

Thanks again for your interest and we will be able to provide an update in advance of the next Community Council on 21 January 2025.

Regards

Andy

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