

Public Drop In session and meeting in the Boston Hall about  
Community Ownership of Gamescleuch Forest and the Ettrick  
Marshes – Please come along to give your ideas.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm to 7pm Drop In - then Public Meeting 7.30pm

The Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company is concerned about the future of the Ettrick Marshes next to Honey Cottage Caravan Park in Ettrick. It is the largest flood plain restoration project in the UK and the boardwalks have been greatly enjoyed by local residents since it was officially opened in 2002. However, it is still owned by the Forestry Commission and they are concerned that the boardwalks are not up to their standard and some parts of it may have to be taken out. Borders Forest Trust have given up their lease. We have therefore been in discussions with the Forestry Commission for some months to see if we could buy both the Marshes and some of the commercial forest surrounding it on behalf of the community.

If we own part of the commercial forest we can control how much of it is felled at any one time and do this in smaller lots than the Forestry Commission intend to do. We can then use the income from timber sales to maintain the Marshes as well as carrying out other projects within the community. We have now been granted some Scottish Land Fund money to engage a team of professional forestry advisors to draw up a business plan and to quantify the value of the timber in the area we want to purchase. This team is headed up by Willie McGhee who will be known to many of you in the valleys already.

We are holding two meetings in November to talk about these plans. The first one is at the Boston Hall on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November with a drop in session from 3pm to 7pm with a meeting following at 7.30pm. Willie and members of the development company will be on hand to explain what might happen and to record ideas from people about what they would like us to follow up within the forest.

The second meeting is in Yarrowfeus Hall on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> November starting at 7pm and is combined with our EYCDC AGM. Willie McGhee will be speaking at the AGM and answering questions. We hope you will be able to come along to one of these events but if not, you can always contact us directly via email on [info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk](mailto:info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk) or by phoning 01750 62263 or by writing to EYCDC at the Waterwheel Cafe, Philiphaugh, TD7 5LU.

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