

CRAILING ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting with Representatives of Buccleuch Estates

Monday 19 April 2021

Present: Community Council P Jeary, D Scowen, C Robertson, M McGregor, D Faulds

Buccleuch Estate E Morris, Estate Manager, Borders Estate, E Lambie, Land Agent

AGENDA

1. WOODEN LOCH TRACK, PLANNING APPLICATION

The background to the application was discussed together with the issues and objections raised by the Community Council and individuals.

1. Estate confirmed that they were the owners of the track
2. Estate confirmed that they owned the track only and not the tree area
3. Estate to provide a GPS map confirming the exact boundaries
4. Estate confirmed that they had, to date, not received an application to take access to the site from the Wooden Loch Track
5. Estate confirmed that they were currently awaiting the outcome of the Planning Application and then anticipated an application for access by the purchaser.

2. WOODEN LOCH TRACK, POSSIBLE UPGRADE.

Walk route explained and area requiring upgrade/improvement examined.

1. Estate had no objections to a plan to use infill to raise the level of the track on the identified area.
2. Estate agreed to contact FT Ramsey & Co Wester Wooden and WM Fleming, Mosstower, who use the track, to inform them.
3. It would not be an Estate priority to carry out the work, but should time and resource become available, they might be able to help.
4. Estate happy for the Community Council to carry out the work on its own initiative.

3. BLACK BARN.

The area around the Black Barn was examined.

1. Estate confirmed that the asbestos survey of the roof had been completed. There were some broken sheets and broken skylights. These would be replaced in the near future
2. Estate confirmed that the area of roof sagging was now stable as it was resting on the wall and could not sag any further.
3. Estate outlined their plans for the barn which would be submitted to Planning shortly. In summary, the proposal is to convert the stone structure and footprint of the barn to provide one house which would face south towards Wooden Hill. This would use the existing walls and roof joists. The asbestos roofing sheets would be removed (by the purchaser). Architect's initial drawings had been prepared and the Estate intention would be to take this to full planning permission before selling the site. The total size of the site would be that ground at present enclosed by the fence round the site.
4. Community Councillors were positive about what they saw as an imaginative proposal to deal with an eyesore.
5. Agreed that the Community Council would respond fully as part of the Planning process.

4. VILLAGE BOUNDARY SHELTER BELT

The site of the Village Boundary Shelter Belt was examined

1. Estate confirmed that they owned the track and the Shelter Belt
2. All agreed that it was unsatisfactory in its present state.
3. All agreed that it would be beneficial to preserve the village boundary area
4. Possible options – thinning, coppicing, clearing and replanting, replanting with shrubs and bushes that would not grow higher than 2 metres were discussed.
5. Agreed to meet an Estate Forester to discuss options and the way forward.

5. BENCHES ON THE LOANING AND WOODEN HILL

The Community Council proposal to site another bench on the Loaning and two in the forestry (of a more rustic nature) on Wooden Hill as enhancements to the Jubilee Walk was explained and discussed.

1. Estate confirmed that they could see no objections to this
2. Estate to confirm with WM Fleming, Mosstower and their Forestry Department
3. Community Council also to contact WM Fleming, Mosstower.
4. The cost of this project to be borne by the Community Council

6. HOUSE SITE AT THE EAST END OF THE ECKFORD COTTAGES

1. Estate confirmed that the Planning Consent for this site would run out in the autumn
2. A further effort to market the site would be made over the summer.

7. GRAHAMSLAW SITE

1. Estate confirmed that they had retained ownership of the land between the two sets of Grahamslaw Cottages
2. A Planning Application for two houses on this site would be submitted shortly
3. The Community Council would respond fully as part of the Planning process.

The Meeting closed with an expression of thanks to Buccleuch Estates for their prompt response and attendance at the Meeting.