

Beebraigs

Following the front-page article in the Linlithgow Gazette of Friday, April 12, 2019 and the subsequent discussion on social media it is useful to reflect on the activity of the Community Council with Beebraigs Country Park. The Park falls within the Community Council area of responsibility.

On 26 October 2011 the Community Council was invited to send a representative to a scoping meeting for the Beebraigs long-term forest plan. The meeting was chaired by Liz Poulosom of Forestry Commission Scotland to ensure that all relevant information had been gathered, this in addition to the wider public consultation workshops and surveys already conducted. It was agreed at this meeting that the forest would be managed under a continuous cover forestry regime i.e. the forest being gradually thinned and or small areas felled to allow young trees to grow up and take their place in the canopy with large areas of clear felling being avoided.

In January 2012 a severe gale devastated the country park with hundreds of trees being brought down. Large areas of the park were closed to the public until they could be made safe. This delayed the long-term forest plan which was eventually published in 2013. The devastation meant that it was difficult to undertake the continuous cover forestry regime as planned. The long-term forest plan now shows areas of clear felling.

At this time, it is fair to say that the Community Council lost touch with Beebraigs Country Park. The long-term forest plan 2013 - 34 was published with the approval of the Forestry Commission Scotland. The forest plan is included in the papers for this meeting on the Community Council website.

Within the past 12 months the Community Council has become aware of projects planned for Beebraigs Country Park.

The Community Council needs to address whether it wishes a stronger linkage with Beebraigs. Tracey Smith, the Ranger, is willing to make a presentation of future plans at a Community Council meeting.

John Kelly
20th April 2019