

Education Sub Group of Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve
Minutes of Meeting
28th April 2015

Present: Alastair Macbeth Friends of Duchess Wood
Veronique Cassels Lomond School
Charlie Cairns Lower Clyde Greenspace
Eileen Kay Argyll and Bute Council

Apologies: Stewart Campbell Friends of Duchess Wood

Minutes of previous meeting:

- AMacb- asked that the minutes be sent out as a word document and a PDF document as he had experienced difficulty in opening the minutes of the meeting 12th November 2015.
- AMacb- highlighted that the group should be referred to as the Education Sub Group of Duchess Wood Local Reserve to ensure that there was no confusion regarding different sub groups.
- CC- updated the group on the meeting he had with the HALCO in February. There were 8/10 Head Teachers at the meeting. The HALCO saw the value of the Duchess Wood but issues regarding the time it took some schools to get groups to the wood and the cost of travel to the wood proved to be obstacles which were hard for some schools to overcome. Also that the Duchess Wood was competing with local spaces where outdoor learning is achieved just as well and with no travel or real time constraints. There was then a discussion regarding a generic education pack which could be used by schools and the wider community.

As a result of this feedback, EK suggested that the following might be considered:

- If the education pack is not specifically for schools who should be responsible for producing the education pack?
- Is there a need to develop an educational resource at all?
- Do we need to continue to meet if there is no focus for this education sub group?
- If the generic pack was produced which site would be the source of such a resource? The FODW would have to discuss this and give their permission. Both Richard Horrell and Stewart Campbell are involved in the development and maintenance of the FODW website.
- CC – suggested Argyll & Bute Council could perhaps be the host of a web based generic Educational Resource

Further discussion took place regarding the original remit of the Education sub group and AMacb asked if there is a written remit for the sub-group and if this might be discussed at the Duchess Wood Local Reserve Meeting on the 18th May 2015.

VC- gave feedback to the group that she had been in the Duchess Wood with her class and that some of the children had told her that they had then gone back into the Duchess Wood with their parents.

Proposal for further discussion at Duchess Wood meeting May 2015:

Please see separate sheet

A.O.C.B

Wild Flower Walk Leaflet

- AMcb- Issued the members of the group with the Spring Wild Flower Walk leaflet
- There are now leaflet holders with roofs in the woods. They are located at the carpark, the new information hub and Millig Street entrance
- The date for the Wild Flower Walk has not yet been decided

Duchess Wood Information Boards

- Amacb- had photographs of the new Information Boards and printed information regarding what was on the boards and shared these with the sub group members
- The Information Boards were constructed by Babcock
- The FODW were supported by voluntary groups and Babcock to make it possible to have the new Information Boards which have on them educational information in a broader sense
- There was an opening event for the Information Boards recently and this was reported in the Helensburgh Advertiser

School Contact with FODW

- Rhu Primary continue to use the Duchess Wood on a regular basis
- Lomond School are now using the Duchess Wood for Outdoor Learning Opportunities
- John Logie Baird P2 class contacted the FODW and would like an accompanied visit to assist their topic the Great Outdoors and would like to take part in pond dipping and tree rubbing. Stewart Campbell has contacted the school and will assist with the arranging of the visit.
- Rangers from the National Park have been in the woods, to monitor and record birds and bat boxes.