



## **Forest Officer Report for July 2017**

### Forestry Management

Following meetings with A&BC and FCS, a meeting has been arranged on 3<sup>rd</sup> August with Tilhill to discuss all aspects of future forestry management.

Following a fatal accident in Scotland involving stacked timber, we have been raising awareness of the potential dangers of climbing on timber piles and ensuring that all our stacks are stable and have adequate warning signs.

### Timber Haulage

A meeting with Argyll & Bute Council roads, Tilhill, JST and SWMID was held at Lochgilphead on 5<sup>th</sup> July to discuss this issue. A&BC agreed to the haulage of the existing cut logs from Tiroran, based on 6 loaded movements per day until the end of October subject to weekly road condition surveys. Haulage subsequently recommenced on 12<sup>th</sup> July and two inspections have been carried out with no visible deterioration in road condition. Future timber haulage on the existing road is to subject to discussions on a Section 96 agreement with A&BC. The possibility of a feasibility study to look at future options for timber haulage, including a new pier and road upgrade, is also being discussed.

### Plant Health Notices (PHN) – Larch Disease

Two further PHNs have been issued for Tiroran Community Forest following this year's surveys by the Forestry Commission (FC). A subsequent meeting was held on site with FC representatives where it was agreed that SWMID would prepare a costed action plan for dealing with all existing PHNs and instruct Tilhill to submit a revised forest design plan incorporating FC comments.

### Pre-treated Trees/Pesticide use

FO attended the meeting in Dervaig chaired by Michael Russel MSP. Both NWMCW and SWMID confirmed that they were looking at alternatives and would consult local residents before taking any decision on the use of pre-treated trees and pesticide sprays.

### Visitor Centre

Initial discussions and consultations are under way on the possibility of creating a forest centre at Tiroran Community Forest.

### Woodland Crofts

A further meeting is to be arranged to initiate discussions about possible locations within the forest.

### Mull Eagle Watch (MEW)

MEW trips at Tiroran will be continuing as normal until 13<sup>th</sup> August. After that date the RSPB ranger will be leading trips at Tiroran Sunday to Tuesday and at West Ardhru on Thursday and Friday.

### Deer Management

It has been agreed to grant a further annual licence for deer management in the western side of the forest to Kilfinichen Estate.

### Circular Trail, Paths, etc.

The circular trail seems to be being well used. Bracken clearance has been required and work has been carried out to trim vegetation and cut and clear fallen and leaning trees in the outdoor school area prior to the next event hosted by the NTS Ranger.