

community Tiroran Forest



August 2017

Forestry Management

The forest design plan is still not finalised due to uncertainty about Plant Health Notice work and the level of felling relating to timber haulage capability. Tilhill, SWMID and the Forestry Commission are in discussion to try to move things forward.

The safety signs on log stacks have been checked and renewed as necessary and safety talks are to be given to local schoolchildren.

B 8035

Timber haulage of existing cut logs under a temporary licence is ongoing (6 loaded vehicle movements allowed per day maximum). Haulage was suspended for several days while re-grading of the forest track was carried out to enable access for loading by JST.

SWMID and Argyll and Bute Council are in negotiation to attempt to resolve the issue of timber haulage.

A&BC have now carried out repairs to most of the main potholes (although not all) and further repairs to the ends of resurfaced sections.

Weekly road inspections by FO and an A&BC representative are ongoing and records of heavy vehicles travelling on the B8035 are being kept.

Proposed Timber Pier at Kilfinichen

The proposed pier at Kilfinichen may offer SWMID an alternative means of transporting timber. However, in the first instance, it is proposed that a feasibility study should be carried out to determine the most cost-effective and economically sustainable means of transporting timber, whether this is via a pier development, an upgrade to the B 8035, or alternative options.

Plant Health Notices (PHN)

SWMID are in discussion with the Forestry Commission and Tilhill to move forward with dealing with current PHNs. Costs are high but there is some grant help available.

Pre-treated Trees/Pesticide use

We have asked Tilhill to implement weevil monitoring in the forest and to look at alternatives to replanting with pre-treated trees. Due to timber haulage restrictions which has limited our income for this year we are not intending to replant until, at the earliest, 2018. Before any replanting is carried out, we will consult further with the community.

Mull Eagle Watch (MEW)

The eagle chick fledged on the 12th/13th August and is called Arwen.

Stone Bench & Sign

The area for the welcome sign has been cleared and it is hoped that stone work will begin soon.

Education, Walks, etc.

Emily Wilkins (NTS ranger) held a successful 'Survivor Camp' event at Tiroran on 31st July as part of Gala 2017, and a further school event on 24th August. A 'Big Fit Walk' was led by Morven Gibson on 1st August.

Rally

It is proposed to hold one element of the 2017 Mull Targa Road Rally at Tiroran on 13th October.

Alternative Timber Uses

We intend to start to investigate projects that create alternative on-site uses for timber, such as biomass.