



# West Stormont Woodland Group

Join us today to bring Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood into community ownership

# GOING FORWARD



**Bringing Taymount and Five Mile Woods into Community Ownership**



**Proposal prepared by WSWG SCIO Board of Trustees  
for its  
CATS Application  
December 2022**



## Bringing Taymount and Five Mile Woods into Community Ownership

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## Appendices to the WSWG Proposal 2022 *Going Forward*

**Appendix P1:** Background to the WSWG Project Proposal

**Appendix P2:** Imagine Looking Back

**Appendix P3:** Botanical Survey (A. Davis 2021)

**Appendix P4:** Hedgehog Recovery Plan (TCV 2021)

**Appendix P5a:** Taymount Wood Access and Features Map

**Appendix P5b:** Five Mile Wood Access and Features Map

**Appendix P5c:** Taymount Hub Map

**Appendix P5d:** Taymount Hub Visualisations Map

## Abbreviations used

WSWG	West Stormont Woodland Group
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
CATS	Community Asset Transfer Scheme
SLF	Scottish Land Fund
SCIO	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
AGM	Annual General Meeting
OSCR	Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator
YRA	Year-Round Activities
WAA	Welcome, Access and Accessibility
LISS	Low Impact Silvicultural System
FT	Full time
TW	Taymount Wood
FMW	Five Mile Wood
USP	Unique Selling Point
P&K	Perth and Kinross
U3A	University of the Third Age
MiDAS	Minibus Driver Assessments and training Scheme
EV	Electric vehicle
TCV	The Conservation Volunteers
SROI	Social Return on Investment
BL	Budget Level
Ent/Ents	Enterprise(s)
Cap	Capital
GM	Gross Margin
NR	Nature Recovery
CGE	Community Green Enterprise
TH	Taymount Hub
WOP	Woodland Observatory Project



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## Preface

Behind this West Stormont Woodland Group (WSWG) Proposal 2022 *Going Forward* is an absolute conviction and a deep commitment by those who have contributed to the development of the WSWG Project to this point that the future for Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood is that they should be managed for climate and biodiversity and deliver the greatest possible compatible benefit for all sectors of our local community. Key to this will be that after some clear felling for early income injection and clearance for community spaces, thereafter timber sales during the next 25 years will be primarily from thinnings once nature recovery and community benefit uses on site have been served. On the open market, the alternative to community ownership of the woods is most likely to be purchase by a commercial forestry operator for whom the primary purpose will be timber production, with ecological and social considerations reduced to little more than the legal minimum.

This Proposal sets out what WSWG aims to achieve after the woods are in community ownership, hopefully later in 2023 or early 2024. Firstly, this will be subject to FLS accepting the Proposal and our capacity as a community to deliver it in practice. Secondly, it will be subject to WSWG successfully raising the funding required for the agreed purchase price based on the current woodland valuations at that time. Thirdly, WSWG must provide evidence that the local community clearly supports the Proposal. The WSWG Community Consultation 1 in early 2021 demonstrated very high levels of support from the local community, members and non-members alike, for the Draft Proposal. Feedback from that Survey has been used to shape this final, costed Proposal, clear support for which was reiterated in Community Consultation 2 which was open to all from 17 to 31 October 2022.

The scale of the WSWG Proposal reflects the challenge placed on us at the outset by the sellers, the government agency Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), that as the woods were individually and collectively a big asset, FLS would be requiring a Proposal commensurate with that scale.

For this reason, the Proposal is ambitious in scale, whilst seeking to be realistic in timescale. It is important to recognise that the actual scale of operations and activities carried out will be determined by available funding and our coat will be cut according to our cloth at all times. In the Proposal, costed plans have been set out against four Budget Levels to help appreciate this fact. Budget Level 1 represents “Essential” Operations, investment which we believe would enable WSWG to deliver its core objectives well, but even these could be delivered in a meaningful way at lower scale if funding is more limited. Budget Level 2 represents more Progressive Operations, including a Flagship Project for each of Taymount and Five Mile Woods. Success with the Taymount Flagship Project in particular will also bring substantially more income generation from related community enterprises. Budget Level 3 majorly expands the scope of Year-Round Activities and introduces further enterprise opportunity through the Craft Hamlet. Budget Level 4 indicates Aspirational Projects under consideration but not yet designed or costed.

Respondents to Community Consultation 2 were invited to bear in mind when reading the Proposal the reasoning and latitude which co-exist in its presentation. We see the Proposal as responding to the challenge expressed in Rob Hopkin’s Book: “From What Is to What if – Unleashing the Power of Imagination to Create the Future We Want”. This Proposal is about taking meaningful local action for People and Planet.

Read more background to the WSWG Proposal in [Appendix 1: Background to the WSWG Project Proposal](#).

*Footnote: It is worth saying that whilst community ownership is by far WSWG’s preferred option, if full acquisition funding proves difficult to secure in the available timeframe, WSWG would be open to considering interim or phased ownership options, lease or other partnership arrangements with the sellers if willing, subject to nature recovery and community benefit being at the heart of any alternative scenario.*



## 1. Going Forward

We will only really know the actual WSWG story when we are able to look back and see what we have done for our community and local environment by bringing Taymount and Five Mile Woods into community ownership. As part of our preparation for the first WSWG GM in June 2022, we took an imaginary leap forward some 20 years to help our members grasp what we would miss out on if we did not achieve this goal. You can read how we told that story in [Appendix 2: Imagine Looking Back](#).

But we are in 2022, not 2042, so right now we want to take you through the WSWG Proposal *Going Forward* looking forward and hopefully get your support for what we believe would be an amazing project for our community now as well as for future generations if we can make it happen, which we can and must.

Here goes.

### 1.1 The WSWG and CATS Timeline Going Forward

#### ***October 2022***

The main goal for October 2022 was to gather as much support for the WSWG Proposal as possible through “Community Consultation 2” to provide the required evidence of community backing as the basis of the impending Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) Application. Consultation 2 ran from 17 to 31 October inclusive and was open to all, Members, Associates and non-members alike.

Consultation 2 primarily involved an on-line survey which was available on the WSWG website, links for which were emailed to everyone on the WSWG mailing list, who were encouraged to forward it to family, friends and neighbours locally. WSWG arranged a Royal Mail promotional leaflet door-drop in the Strathtay ward with further promotion of the consultation on posters, Facebook and in the local press. WSWG Members who are not on-line received printed Survey Packs in the post. WSWG also had pop-up stalls in a gazebo in Stanley, Bankfoot and Murthly during the consultation period where people were able to see the plans and discuss the Proposal with WSWG Trustees and volunteers.

#### ***November and December 2022***

After evaluation of the results of the Community Consultation 2 on-line survey, the main goal for the WSWG Board was to complete the documentation required for the CATS Application, for submission to FLS before Christmas 2022.

#### **2023**

The CATS Panel will judge our submission early in 2023 against a scoring matrix of requirements. A representative of the panel will have already met with the WSWG Board to ask questions about the Proposal and make other assessments to support their recommendation to the meeting of the CATS Panel.



As long as the application is not rejected at that meeting, there could be up to six months of discussions with FLS about the Proposal and to negotiate a discount on the asset valuation, in which time WSWG will be invited to improve areas of weakness in the application before a final decision is made as to whether FLS will allow WSWG to submit an offer to purchase the woods.

If FLS approve the WSWG Proposal and agree a purchase price with WSWG, funds for purchase, based hopefully on a substantial proportion from the Scottish Land Fund, will have to be secured over the following few months before a firm offer can be made for the woods by WSWG. Funding has not yet been secured but WSWG has researched and mapped potential funding sources for both purchase and running costs, including mainstream and novel sources, and in June 2022 submitted a substantial application to the Investing in Communities Funding Round 2 for revenue funding to support staff and activities costs until 2025. (We should learn the outcome of this funding application in January or February 2023.)

#### **2024**

Subject to success in both the CATS Application Process and in fundraising for asset purchase and operational start-up costs for Years 1 and 2, WSWG anticipates that by 2024, Taymount and Five Mile Woods will be in community ownership. At that point, WSWG will embark on delivering its Proposal for Taymount and Five Mile Woods.

## **1.2 Governance of the WSWG Project**

Governance is a general term which includes what legal form an organisation will take, how it is run, and how it will work as an organisation.

During its development phase WSWG has operated as a constituted community association with no legal status. WSWG was required to adopt a legal form which allowed it to own and manage Taymount and Five Mile Wood and on 5 April 2022, WSWG was officially registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a "SCIO"). As a SCIO, WSWG is now accountable to OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator.

WSWG is now a registered charity which is owned and run by its Members who elect a Board of Trustees each year at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). WSWG has chosen to become a "2- tier SCIO", which means that its members are encouraged to participate in the running of the organisation and its activities.

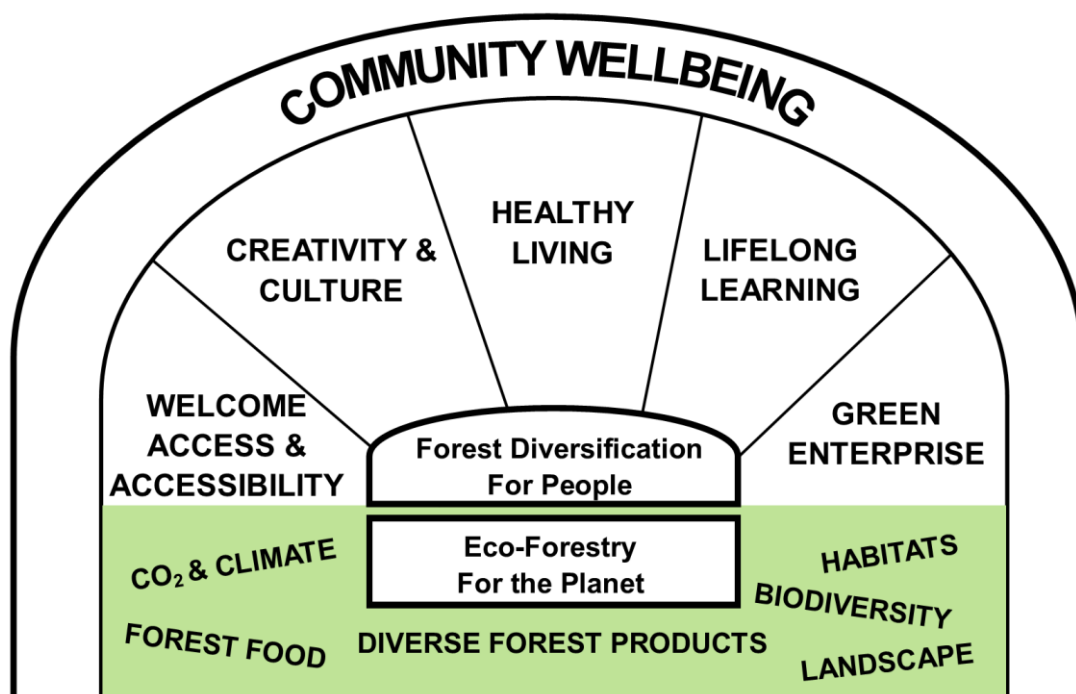
As the WSWG SCIO we must adopt a set of Rules (a "Constitution") to work by which clearly set out WSWG's charitable aims and all the duties and responsibilities of its Board, its Trustees and its Members. See [Appendix BP4: WSWG SCIO Constitution](#) to the WSWG Business Plan. As well as ensuring that WSWG is always fully compliant with all fiscal and other regulations governing its operations, we will seek to achieve the best practice in all aspects of employment, equality of opportunity, and other concerns in line with the WSWG ethos.



The WSWG Constitution allows for between 3 and 10 Trustees on the SCIO Board. The Board of Trustees will comprise a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Other formal roles are also likely, such as Vice Chair and Membership Secretary, and the Board will also appoint an external Auditor. The board as a matter of general principle will always seek to include people whose interests and expertise collectively represent the full breadth of the WSWG Window on the Woods Vision. The elected Trustees must be Members and should include at least one representative from each of Stanley & District and Auchtergaven (Bankfoot) Community Council areas. The Constitution allows for two co-opted Trustees who are Associates who bring special skills but who live outwith the specified WSWG area.

WSWG will operate as a staffed organisation, which will grow over time in line with demand. The Board will ensure that appropriate policies, line management structures and insurances will be in place. Whilst the SCIO Board will be responsible for the overall governance of the organisation and its charitable responsibilities, day to day operations will be largely led by staff who will work with Members to support and to lead "Windows on the Woods" themed Community Working Groups to achieve full community participation in our Year-Round Activities Programmes and other projects and improvements.

**Figure 1: WSWG Window on the Woods Vision**



**WSWG Vision: "Window on the Woods"**

Further information on the proposed Operational arrangements is set out in Section 1.3 below.



### 1.3 WSWG Operations

WSWG is a community project which we believe is too large to be founded solely on volunteer effort alone and thus why it will be run as a staffed organisation, one especially created to deliver maximum community benefit, and to provide wonderful opportunities for volunteering in a woodland setting which is being managed for biodiversity and climate change benefit.

As a SCIO, WSWG will continue its free membership scheme in which those living in the WSWG area can become **Ordinary Members** (also referred to simply as **Members**) with full voting rights and those living outwith the WSWG area can become **Associates** but without voting rights.

The “Window on the Woods” Vision was developed from WSWG’s Needs Benefit Analysis in 2019, using statistical data on the Strathtay Ward from Perth and Kinross Council. Our proposed Operational Plan has been developed in line with that vision to fully support its delivery in the immediate and longer terms.

As a 2-tier SCIO where members have a more direct involvement in the running of the organisation than a single tier SCIO, we are proposing operational structures and mechanisms which will ensure and nurture community engagement as the route through which the WSWG Project will evolve over time. WSWG have come to see this governance and operational structure in the form of a tree, as shown in Figure 2 below, where the SCIO Board as Tier 1 forms the root base of the tree, and the Membership and Community representation and involvement in the advisory Wildwood Steering Group and Window-on-the-Woods themed Community Working Groups as Tier 2 form the heartwood, branches and leaves of the growing canopy above, with the Staff providing the supporting role as the trunk between the two.

The staff, under the governance and line management of the WSWG SCIO Board of Trustees, are therefore absolutely key to the delivery of diverse of the WSWG Project.

The pivotal point in delivering the Window on the Woods Vision will be staff supporting a Community Working Group for each of the six themes in the Vision. These groups will comprise WSWG members of all kinds in a voluntary capacity in shaping, planning and delivering the corresponding Window on the Woods Programmes, and importantly informing WSWG’s fundraising programme. This might be for Year-Round Activities Programmes, infrastructure improvements, or new green enterprise ideas, and indeed they might wish to review and revise the detail, priorities and timings set out in this Proposal.

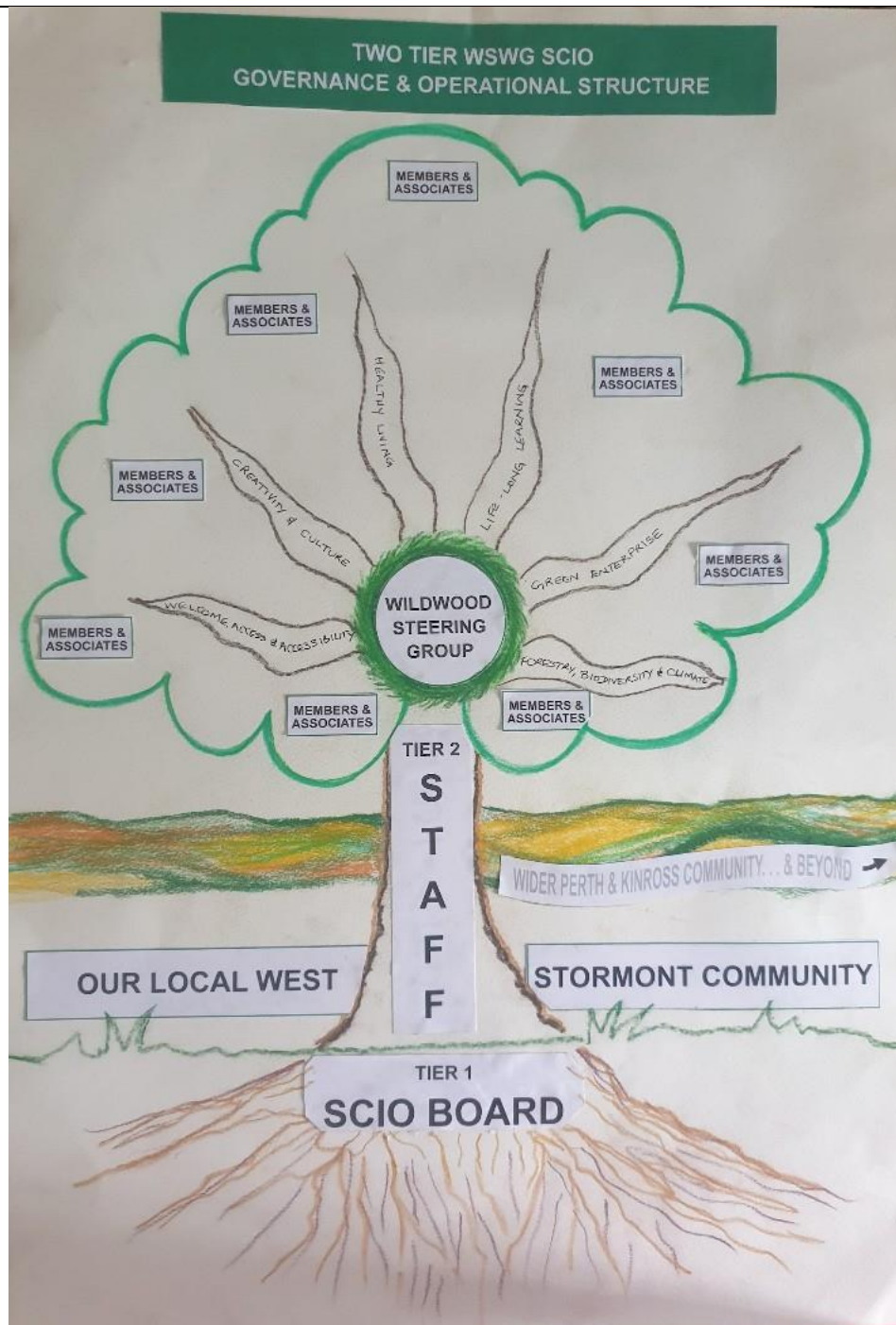
This creates a clear means for members to have an influential stake in how the project develops over time, without becoming Trustees. A representative of each Community Working Group will also be invited onto the co-ordinating “Wildwood Steering Group” to ensure strong, effective and democratic communications within and between all parties, and to attend Board Meetings if and when necessary. Equally, it is



envisaged that those with relevant expertise who are on the Wildwood Steering Group in an advisory capacity may be available to directly support or participate in these Community Working Groups if wished.

And of course, for those who do not wish to volunteer on the Board of Trustees, the Wildwood Steering Group or the Community Working Groups, all Members, Associates and the wider community will of course be able to benefit from and support the WSWG SCIO by coming along to and perhaps helping with the diverse, Year-Round Activities Programmes, WSWG events and other projects which it will be running across all themes of the Window on the Woods Vision.

**Figure 2: The WSWG Governance and Operational Tree**



## 2. The Proposal in Summary

The WSWG Proposal 2022 *Going Forward* sets out detailed plans and costings to 10 years, with this presented in more detail in the accompanying Business Plan which also includes outline plans and costings to 25 years.

**Staff**



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The single most important element of the Proposal is having staff whose job it is to work directly with the local community to make the WSWG Project deliver their priorities and aspirations under the WSWG Vision. They will develop groups of interested members around each of the six Vision themes to come up with programmes of activity which can be carried out in the woods and wider area to deliver benefits to our local community. With staff to support this collaborative way of working, amazing things could be achieved even with the woods more or less in their current condition, even on a shoestring. However, so much more could be done if each of these six groups had their own dedicated budget to work with.

### ***Year-Round Activities (YRA)***

WSWG proposes to fundraise against the programmes developed by the Community Working Groups to give them dedicated budgets to work with. In Budget Level 1, we have set a provisional target of securing £1,000 per Group for each wood per year, a total of £12,000 per year, but in the expectation of inspirational and ambitious ideas coming from the groups, in Budget Level 2, we have tilted our caps at potentially fundraising for an overall YRA budget of £60,000 per year, topping up each group's budgets to £5,000 per wood per year. Imagine how many more individuals and groups in our community, from school groups to kids' clubs, less mobile or socially isolated people to those without their own transport, enthusiastic young volunteers to active retirees, could benefit from joining in enjoyable and uplifting activities and events in a lovely woodland environment throughout the year.

### ***Welcome, Access and Accessibility (WAA)***

Even with the woods as they are, the combination of staff and YRA budgets will go a long way to delivering new benefits to our community, as achieved through the "Feeling Good in the Woods" programme in 2019. However, the path networks are currently variable in standard with no all-abilities surfaces, the parking is limited and there is little signage or information. And at present, there are no seats let alone picnic tables or shelters in either wood. WSWG therefore proposes to make the woods more welcoming and accessible to everyone and provide improved access, infrastructure and information to achieve this. The rate of progress with these improvements will obviously depend on successful fundraising but WSWG aspires to have the most pressing upgrades and provisions completed in the first 8-10 years of community ownership.

### ***Woodland Management for Nature Recovery***

Whilst for the past twenty years, Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood have been managed together as a unit by FLS under a forestry system known as Low impact Silvicultural System (LISS), WSWG intends to take a further step-change in how the woods are managed in future.

We are all increasingly aware of the climate and ecological emergencies we are in and how much business-as-usual continues to drive climate change and biodiversity collapse. If whole communities cannot turn away from business-as-usual to imagine and pursue new ways of doing things better for people and wildlife, who can? WSWG is therefore responding to the global challenge of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration by delivering the declared wish of local people that the woods be managed for climate and



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biodiversity. Through a clear mindset and exemplar woodland management for nature recovery, the Proposal represents a way our community can achieve direct action for environmental regeneration.

### ***Flagship Projects***

The WSWG Proposal includes a Flagship Project for each wood which individually reflects the different character and opportunities each wood offers to the WSWG Project and similarly emphasise the clear complementarity of the two woods as our “One Wood with a Gap in the Middle”.

With Taymount chosen as the main base for the WSWG Project, the Flagship Project there is the proposal for the Taymount Hub which will house a range of community facilities, premises for income generation from Community Green Enterprises and a staff base with office and storage provision.

With the “wood of two halves” at Five Mile Wood offering huge scope for ongoing learning for all ages through observation, citizen science and formal research, WSWG proposes the “Woodland Observatory Project” as the Flagship Project for Five Mile Wood.

Because of their significant operational and financial scale, the Flagship Projects feature in Budget Level 2 of the Proposal.

### ***Forestry Green Enterprises***

Alongside Nature Recovery, the Woodland Management Plans includes Forestry Enterprises for bringing conventional, novel and forward-looking income generation from both woods, with detailed projections up to 10 years summarised in Section 3 below. Outline projections to 25 years will be presented in the Business Plan as part of the CATS Application in November 2022.

### ***Community Green Enterprises***

Whilst WSWG anticipates always making best use of available grants and external funding to support its charitable community benefit and environmental work, the Proposal sets out to underpin the costs of developing and keeping the WSWG Project going by generating income in-house. In addition to income streams from conventional, novel and forward-looking Forestry Enterprises, WSWG proposes a number of Community Green Enterprises which will both provide valuable community facilities, further community benefit and generate income.

The following table summarises how the WSWG Proposal is scheduled during the first ten years of community ownership.





**Table 1: Summary and 10 Year Timetable for the WSWG Proposal – Budget Levels 1 and 2**

	Budget Level 1	Budget Level 2
Years 1-2	<p><b>Staff:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Co-ordinator/Community Benefit Manager (FT)</li> <li>• Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager (FT)</li> <li>• Office Manager/Fundraiser (FT)</li> <li>• Living Forest Enterprise Developer (1d/wk)</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Year-Round Activities Programmes</b> and <b>Basic Budgets</b> for Window on the Woods themed Community Working Groups</p>	<p><b>Year-Round Activities Programmes</b> and <b>Enhanced Budgets</b> for Window on the Woods themed Community Working Groups</p>
	<p><b>Welcome, Access and Accessibility priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nameboards, noticeboards and essential signage</li> <li>• New path North entrance to FMW</li> <li>• Car park extensions</li> <li>• All abilities paths from car parks</li> <li>• Seats</li> <li>• Compost toilets</li> <li>• Site safety and maintenance: litter, flytipping, dog fouling, vegetation control</li> <li>• MiDAS Community Transport Project to enable more inclusive accessibility to WSWG activities and services.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Welcome, Access and Accessibility priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor gym at FMW</li> <li>• Picnic benches</li> <li>• Path network improvements</li> <li>• Cycle parking</li> <li>• Interpretation boards</li> <li>• Rain shelters</li> <li>• Signposting/waymarkers</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Woodland Management for Nature Recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embark on Woodland Management Plans for TW and FMW: sustainable management with key action for network of Nature Recovery Zones in TW and rewilding of northern “Gap Site” in FMW</li> <li>• Community Mini Food Forest/Food Trails</li> <li>• Long-term Species and Habitat Survey Programmes to measure the impact of positive management for Nature Recovery over time</li> </ul>	



	<p><b>Forestry Green Enterprises:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living Forest enterprises             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest Food Project including Commercial Food Forest and Hazel Orchards</li> <li>- Novel Forest Income including tree sponsorship schemes, pot-grown Christmas tree rental, niche products, etc</li> <li>- Climate and Ecology Funding including Biodiversity Net Gain scheme</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Timber sales:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- small clear fell operations for early income injection and clearance for community spaces;</li> <li>- thereafter, primarily sales from thinnings once nature recovery and community uses on site have been served</li> <li>- sustainable timber production under LISS in designated areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Community Green Enterprises:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loggers’ Shieling – covered outdoor workspace</li> <li>• Artists’ Bothy – off-grid accommodation bothy for use by artists and others</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Operations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional services to oversee site until staff appointed (up to six months)</li> <li>• Planning permissions</li> <li>• Service installations TW (water and electricity; on-site waste-water management)</li> <li>• Temporary portacabin staff base at TW (off-site rented office space until serviced portacabins installed)</li> <li>• Office set-up and operations</li> <li>• Tools and Equipment</li> <li>• Project and site vehicles (electric as low carbon option if possible)</li> <li>• Legal compliance measures</li> </ul>	



<p><b>Years 3-5</b></p>		<p><b>Staff:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life-Long Learning Manager</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Welcome, Access and Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Site safety and maintenance: litter, flytipping, dog fouling, vegetation control</li> <li>• MiDAS Community Transport Project to enable more inclusive accessibility to WSWG events.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Welcome, Access &amp; Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s play area TW</li> <li>• Further seats, picnic benches, waymarking, interpretive boards, bird hide</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Flagship Projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five Mile Wood “Woodland Observatory Project” including 2 Forest School Outdoor Classrooms/Play areas</li> <li>• Taymount Hub construction</li> </ul>
<p><b>Years 6-10</b></p>		<p><b>Staff:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taymount Hub Manager/ Green Enterprise Lead</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Welcome, Access and Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site safety and maintenance: litter, flytipping, dog fouling, vegetation control</li> <li>• MiDAS Community Transport Project to enable more inclusive accessibility to WSWG events.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Welcome, Access and Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further waymarking, interpretive boards, ditch bridges</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Community Green Enterprises:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taymount Hub “Camp 53” enterprises: Café, Shop, Exhibition Space and Meeting Room</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Operations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent staff base at Taymount Hub</li> </ul>



### 3. The Proposal in Detail

#### 3.1 Community Benefit

Under the CATS requirement and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, it is a condition that community benefit is delivered against local needs and aspirations by the WSWG Project. Community Engagement is therefore central to WSWG's delivery of Community Benefit across its Window on the Woods Vision and the WSWG Staff will be key to this.

WSWG proposes to use and manage Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood for community benefit in ways which reflect and build on the already contrasting but complementary characteristics and settings of the woods. Each woodland will have its own special focus for community use in addition to woodland management for nature recovery. These are:

***Fitness, Fun and Learning at Five Mile Wood*** - an active recreation and environmental education emphasis.  
***Tranquility at Taymount*** – an emphasis on community cohesion and wellbeing.

The main WSWG base will be at Taymount Wood where the aim is to build the Flagship Taymount Hub, to provide recreational and other community facilities, staff facilities and a range of small enterprises to offer community services and bring in additional income to the project.

#### ***Staff roles in delivering Community Benefit***

As mentioned at the start of Section 1.2, WSWG staff will be the single most important and absolutely indispensable resource for the WSWG Project. Without staff, there will be no WSWG Project, given the large scale of the woodland assets and their vast and diverse potential for community wellbeing in both social and environmental terms. A genuinely sustainable future must be built on livelihoods and support positive and enjoyable rather than overburdened volunteering. WSWG's 10-year Staffing Plan involves 5 key posts by Year 6, all full time if funding permits, plus 1 very part time position. Initially, under Budget Level 1, two Field Staff posts will be central to community engagement as follows:

- The lead post for both the Community Benefit Programme and the WSWG Project overall will be the full time **Project Co-ordinator/Community Benefit Manager**. They will be the staff support for the Window on the Woods Community Working Groups and Year-Round Activities Programmes for:
  - ***Creativity and Culture:*** (i) Creativity and the Arts; (ii) Heritage and History
  - ***Healthy Living:*** (i) Active people, active places; (ii) Healthy Eating; (iii) Social Wellbeing
  - ***Life-long Learning***
  - ***Community Green Enterprise***

Note: Under Budget Level 2 proposals, the Life-Long Learning Manager to be appointed in Year 3 for the Five Mile Wood Flagship "Woodland Observatory Project" would at that point assume responsibility for the whole WSWG Life-Long Learning Programme.





- The principal role of the second post of full time **Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager** will relate to woodland and site management, but they will also be responsible for delivering the infrastructure elements of the Welcome, Access and Accessibility Plan. The postholder will also lead on the Forest Food Project and contribute to community engagement as staff support for the Window on the Woods Community Working Groups and Year-Round Activities Programmes for:
- ***Welcome, Access and Accessibility***
  - ***Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate (including Forestry Green Enterprise)***

Both field staff will be involved in developing and servicing Children's Groups, Young Ranger or Recorders Groups, Tree Wardens and other volunteer activities involving members and the wider community.

Whilst involvement in the Community Working Groups will primarily be for Members and Associates, the WSWG Project will deliver a wide range of benefits for everyone in the local community, whether members of WSWG or not. It will seek to improve the access infrastructure within the woods, upgrading the path network, providing seating, shelter, information and other facilities for regular users and occasional visitors alike to enjoy. It will also seek to improve accessibility to the woods to help more people get there to enjoy the direct benefits the woods provide and to participate in events and activities WSWG will offer. We wish to find ways in which the woods will nurture our creative spirit and strengthen our local culture, whether understanding and appreciating things past or creating greater community cohesion and identity going forward. By making the woods more welcoming for people of all ages and abilities, we want lots more people in our community to use the woods for their health and wellbeing and to bring in people for whom woods have not yet featured much in their lives. Our woods will also be a place to learn about woodlands, nature, living in harmony with our planet and a range of other things we can gain from getting to know our lovely woods better.

Through the WSWG project, Taymount and Five Mile Woods will become a treasured and diverse community asset for us all, an integral part of our local identity, not just a couple of plantations to be lost again to the ecologically-limiting short rotation life-cycle of clear-fell commercial forestry.

The next section sets out the scope and proposed delivery of Community Benefit Programmes over the first ten years of community ownership. It is a wide-ranging and ambitious plan, some elements of which will be readily achieved and others which will require significant funding and resources. In prioritising the fundamental over more ambitious or aspirational projects, we have sorted the overall Proposal as follows:

Budget Level 1 – Essential Operations

Budget Level 2 – Progressive Operations i

Budget Level 3 – Progressive Operations ii

Budget Level 4 – Aspirational Operations (currently undeveloped and uncostered)

With most of the first ten years costed in Budget Levels 1 and 2, these only are presented below.



### 3.1.1 Community Benefit Programmes

#### ***Year-Round Activities: Creativity and Culture***

This theme of WSWG's Vision and Proposals for Community Benefit includes two key threads:

- (i) Creativity and the Arts
- (ii) Heritage and History

During the project development phase, both of these themes have featured markedly in our community engagement activities, indicating huge scope for these topics to deliver wide-ranging community benefit going forward. There have been contributions from and participation by many people in different ways. On the arts side of things, these have included woodland art events, carol singing, forest school activities, children's art, posters, exhibition material, the WSWG logo, pyrographic wooden logo badges and fridge magnets, inspirational blogs by Margaret Lear and the Barefoot Woodland Wanderer and a song written specially for WSWG by a member. Independently of WSWG, various creative pieces by members of the community have a lovely habit of popping up out of the blue, such as the painted figures on slates hanging on trees throughout Five Mile Wood. On the heritage and history side of things, West Stormont Historical Society guided us to our name, local people have provided us with 20<sup>th</sup> century reminiscences and fascinating information about the Newfoundland loggers' "Camp 53" at Taymount Wood during World War 2 which lends itself to a potentially great community history project with scope even for archaeological excavations in the woods. A local historian member forwarded wonderful research he had done a decade ago on the old road which went through Five Mile Wood in medieval and possibly earlier times. WSWG has also been privileged to have an academic report written on the early history of Five Mile and Taymount Woods by renowned historian, Christopher Dingwall, as a gift to the project, which has compiled amazing historical details from diverse archives.

The woods are a wellspring of Creativity and Culture for us going forward, which could include:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Promoting the powerful combination of art and nature for community wellbeing  
as a USP for Taymount and Five Mile Wood
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Involving local community in planning and delivering the WSWG Creativity and  
Culture Year-Round Activities Programme including establishment of a  
Creativity and Culture Community Working Group
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Using creative sector methodologies to engage more people  
in the WSWG Project
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Designing woodland features drawing on creative skills and community
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Designing spaces to accommodate creativity and cultural aspirations
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Community-led design of the proposed Taymount Hub building
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Developing arts-based Community Enterprises eg Artists' Bothy and Craft Hamlet
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Extending partnership links with local creative groups, businesses and individuals
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Building links with Perth Theatre, Birnam Arts, Perth Sustainable Small City initiative
- \_\_\_\_\_



Creativity and Culture will be a notable component of the WSWG Year-Round Activities Programmes hosted in Taymount and Five Mile Woods as developed through the Creativity and Culture Community Working Group. Who knows the breadth and content of the creativity and cultural agenda that could bring our community in gaining new knowledge and skills, having fun, relaxation, entertainment, self-expression, company of others in a thriving environment, and innovative community design in forest development. Creativity and Culture will be crosscutting all WSWG themes through regular workshops, performances, storytelling, guided walks, interpretation, daytime, night-time events.

The following table sets out the main Creativity and Culture activities proposed.

Proposed Creativity and Cultural Programme	Budget Level		Years		
	1	2	1-2	3-5	6-10
▶ Creativity and Culture Community Working Group engaging across all themes of the WSWG Vision	●		●	●	●
Celebration of Taymount and Five Mile Woods achieving community ownership	●		●		
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – basic budget	●		●	●	●
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – enhanced budget		●	●	●	●
▶ Community-led Design Process for Taymount Hub	●		●		
▶ Creative and Cultural Community Enterprises:					
- Artists' Bothy (south side of King's Myre) off-grid retreat space for artists and others	●		●		
- Exhibition space in Taymount Hub		●			●
- Enterprise development for Craft Hamlet		●			●
▶ Special Creative and Cultural Projects: eg		●			
- Histories of Taymount and Five Mile Woods					
- Environmental Art/Sculpture Trail					
▶ Annual celebratory event	●		●	●	●

In bringing together parties with an interest in promoting local creative and cultural activities, WSWG would or has reached out to the following organisations:

- Local arts organisations including Perth Theatre, Birnam Arts and Perthshire Artisans
- West Stormont Historical Society
- Local schools/cluster schools
- PKC Community Education
- Local Forest School and Outdoor Education providers including Wild Sparks and Wee Adventures
- Probation Services in Perthshire
- Local church groups

***Year-Round Activities: Healthy Living***

This theme of WSWG's Vision and Proposals for Community Benefit includes three key threads:

- (i) Active People, Active Places
- (ii) Healthy Eating
- (iii) Social Wellbeing

WSWG has benefited from advice and back-up from Community Engagement Workers in the P&K Health & Social Care Partnership in outlining these areas of focus going forward and has been included in the Strathgry Local Action Plan as a working partner in several Outcomes and Actions relating to Key Priority 2: Physical and Mental Health around providing outdoor access and Year-Round Activities Programmes for health and wellbeing.

Healthy Living is therefore at the core of proposals being developed by WSWG for managing the woods with a community wellbeing focus. It is envisaged that staff and potentially other sector advisors (eg social prescribers) will work with the Healthy Living Community Working Group to develop and deliver Healthy Living Year-Round Activities Programmes designed to encourage people to use a range of organised activities and also self-guided exploration of the woods for health benefits. In response to diverse reasons for people experiencing social isolation, where individuals are unable to come to the woods, WSWG intends to develop virtual and remote participation experiences for people to enjoy and benefit from, thus extending social wellbeing and community cohesiveness through the WSWG Project.

Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood are extensively used by local communities and visitors for a range of activities that are associated with promoting healthy living, be that walking, running, off-road cycling, dog exercising, horse-riding and many other activities such as enjoying fresh air, wildlife and foraging. Usage by local people increased markedly during 2020 when Covid pandemic restrictions allowed access to nearby woodland spaces, and has remained high since then, illustrating the enhanced role Taymount and Five Mile Woods could make in building community wellbeing and resilience going forward.

The Healthy Living Year-Round Activities Programmes will also cross-cut particularly with WSWG's Welcome, Access and Accessibility and Creativity and Culture Programmes for both woods as well as the Forest Food element of WSWG's proposed "Living Forest" Enterprises.

Using ideas which came through wide-ranging community engagement over the past few years and very positive feedback from both Community Consultations 1 and 2, this Proposal includes features in both woods to support Healthy Living outcomes. Five Mile Wood, with its 2-mile circular route as a convenient running route, is being proposed as the main locus for active recreation with corresponding installation of features supporting the "Active People, Active Places" theme. Taymount, with its proposed Food Forest and potential Taymount Hub café, is being proposed as the main locus for the "Healthy Eating" theme.





Going forward, therefore, the WSWG Healthy Living Year-Round Activities programme will be diverse and accessible to many people in many ways, as outlined below:

Involving local community in planning and delivering the WSWG Healthy Living Year-Round Activities Programme including establishment of a Healthy Living Community Working Group		
Engaging people in collaborative design of indoor & outdoor spaces for wellbeing		
Woodland walks, cycling and fun activities		
Working with existing Walking Groups in Stanley, Bankfoot and elsewhere	Starting up new Walking Groups eg in Kinclaven	
Meditation/forest bathing	Social prescribing	Mindfulness events
Creating partnerships with local physical exercise providers	Creating partnerships with local practitioners supporting mental health	
Outdoor gym	Sporting activities	Inclusive Orienteering
Foraging and herbal walks	Permaculture	Community Picnics

The following table sets out the main Healthy Living activities proposed.

Proposed Healthy Living Programme	Budget Level		Years		
	1	2	1-2	3-5	6-10
▶ Healthy Living Community Working Group	●		●	●	●
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – basic budget	●		●	●	●
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – enhanced budget		●	●	●	●
▶ Outdoor Gym in Five Mile Wood	●		●		
▶ Forest Food Project: commercial and community food forests and hazel orchards in Taymount and forest food trails and foraging in both woods	●		●	●	●
▶ Loggers' Shieling covered outdoor workspace in Taymount Wood	●		●		
▶ Seats, shelters, new car park, cycle parking, toilets and all abilities surfaces to cater for more people	●	●	●	●	
▶ Taymount Hub – including café, shop, exhibition space and meeting room for social cohesiveness		●			●
▶ Artists' off-grid bothy available for rent by anyone when not in use by artists for a tranquil retreat in the woods near Kingsmyre Loch.	●		●		



### ***Year-Round Activities: Life-Long Learning***

Taymount and File Mile Woods both hold huge potential as a lifelong learning and educational resource which will be used to great advantage going forward in community ownership. In identifying this WSWG, has run a range of events with learning objectives and outcomes such as forest school and bushcraft sessions with professional providers. WSWG has also engaged with seven local primary schools who recognise the value and benefits of using woods as an outdoor classroom, identified potential for links with Perth U3A (University of the Third Age) and heard wonderful reminiscences from older people in our community who knew loved the woods as children. Life-Long Learning does what it says on the tin, inviting learning for all ages and knowledge levels.

It will be a really exciting topic for the Life-Long Learning Community Working Group to propose Year-Round Activities Programmes for, with so many potential partners keen to be involved and so many sources of funding to tap into.

As a member of the Community Woodland Association WSWG has learnt how woodlands can be utilised to provide lifelong learning within an environmental context covering a cross section of disciplines from climate change, carbon reduction, wildlife biodiversity and woodland habitat, citizen science, forest schools, occupational training partnerships, developing sustainable enterprises and much more. WSWG has also established close links with Perth and Kinross Community Education Service and is seeking to identify learning needs and opportunities for different community participant groups to be involved, in particular those who may be excluded or hard to reach. The scope for engaging more widely with colleges, universities and research bodies is also highly valuable.

Through conversation with schools, woodland network groups, organisations providing learning opportunities and through feedback from local community engagement events, we have identified the following lifelong learning priorities that crosscut and deliver within all themes of the WSWG Vision:

Reconnecting with nature and seasons	Climate and Ecological Emergencies
Informal learning eg plant and tree identification	
Information trails	Forest food and permaculture
Community based planning engagement	
Forest Schools and play	Art through nature
Citizen science, geography and mapping	
History	Reminiscence and anecdotal research
Academic links and research	

In developing the complementary “wood-mood” characteristics and contribution to the WSWG Project for Taymount and Five Mile Wood, in addition to active recreation, WSWG is proposing a very specific emphasis on learning in Five Mile Wood. “The Woodland Observatory Project”, the proposed Flagship Project for Five Mile Wood, is a long-term educational project. It is not a building for looking at the stars! (Although it could include that if the local community wishes!). Learn more later in the Proposal.



The following table sets out the main Life-Long Learning activities proposed.

Proposed Life-Long Learning Programme	Budget Level		Years		
	1	2	1-2	3-5	6-10
▶ Life-Long Learning Community Working Group	●		●	●	●
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – basic budget	●		●	●	●
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – enhanced budget		●	●	●	●
▶ Habitat and species surveys, recording & monitoring	●		●	●	●
▶ “Woodland Observatory Project” - Flagship Project at Five Mile Wood – long-term educational project		●		●	●
▶ Life-Long Learning Manager to run Woodland Observatory Project and take over WSWG Life-Long Learning role from Community Benefit Manager.		●		●	●
▶ Loggers’ Shieling covered outdoor workspace in Taymount Wood and indoor meeting room in Hub	●	●	●		●
▶ Potential learning methodologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engaging in citizen science activities</li> <li>- Community-led design</li> <li>- Forest School/Nursery in both woods: regular, holidays or periodic</li> <li>- Bushcraft for children and adults</li> <li>- Bioblitz learning surveys and field studies</li> <li>- Using paths, networks and mapping as a learning tool</li> <li>- Storytelling events</li> <li>- Guided themed walks and woodland exploration</li> <li>- Self-build Training Programme: shelters, bothy</li> <li>- Bringing communities together to interpret their local heritage</li> <li>- Hosting informal learning led by local people</li> <li>- Forest Apprenticeships</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●	●
▶ Potential topics for learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Habitat creation/habitat &amp; species management</li> <li>- Developing outdoor learning curricula and teacher training opportunities</li> <li>- Environmental design and management</li> <li>- Reducing and monitoring carbon uptake in woodland ecosystems</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●	●



### ***Welcome, Access and Accessibility (WAA)***

During 2019, WSWG undertook a series of “Feeling Good in the Woods” community engagement events designed to gauge and identify a range of activities across our Window on the Woods Vision that could be based in the woods to enable all ages and abilities to enjoy access to and inspire people to gain from community benefit. Part of the engagement process also involved undertaking a number of surveys of land adjacent to both woodlands and a questionnaire for nearby residents and landowners, as well as access audits within the woods to assess current access provision, barriers and boundaries.

The existing forestry tracks provide reasonable but very basic and not always very well-connected access in both woods. There is huge opportunity to improve the path networks overall and provide associated infrastructure and facilities to make access easier, more functional and enjoyable for more people and more inclusive and user-friendly for people of all abilities. Effort will also go into addressing access to the woods and connectivity between the woods and with their neighbouring settlements.

There was huge support for WSWG’s access improvement plans in both Community Consultation 1 (95% agreed or strongly agreed with them) and Community Consultation 2 (scoring 4.6 out of 5). Based on the comments and suggestions which those survey produced, WSWG now happily proposes the following programme of actions as a key part of the community benefit the WSWG Project will deliver:

Encourage considerate and inclusive use and enjoyment of both woods
Involve local community in planning and delivering access improvements through Welcome, Access and Accessibility Community Working Group
Access and project information (eg. woodland nameboards, noticeboards, interpretive viewing and listening boards, maps, waymarking etc)
Improved walking and multi-use access routes in woods including for less mobile people
Increased parking provision
Community Transport opportunities
Basic infrastructure features (eg seats, picnic benches, rain shelters, etc)
Recreation features (eg children’s play areas, outdoor gym, outdoor classrooms, cycle parking, Loggers’ Shieling covered outdoor workspace)
Toilet provision at main entrances
Engaging in virtual and online woodland events programme
Repair and maintenance of path network: core paths, vehicle tracks, informal dirt tracks (eg. potholes, drainage, vegetation control etc)
General site management (eg. 3 <sup>rd</sup> party access rights, responsible access, litter and flytipping, health and safety, site security, etc)
Partnerships with neighbouring landowners to improve the local path network eg Taymount Wood to Kinclaven Bluebell Wood and Five Mile Wood to Airtully. Also links to the proposed “River Tay Way” long-distance walking and cycling route.



This will be a long-term programme, some being ongoing activities, others being one-off improvements. Whether it can all be done and how quickly even the most important enhancements can be achieved will depend on success with fundraising and other resources. There is a significant societal push and political will to promote active travel for sustainability and outdoor activity for health and wellbeing, and so there is a wide range of potential funding opportunities out there. If WSWG is successful in bringing Taymount and Five Mile Woods into community ownership, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust have expressed their willingness to help with fundraising and other resourcing for upgrading its access infrastructure.

The following table sets out the main access improvements and activities proposed for each woodland according to envisaged timescale and Budget Level. See also [Appendices P5a and P5b: Access and Features Maps for Taymount and Five Mile Wood respectively](#); [P5c and P5d: Taymount Hub Map & Visualisations](#).

Wood	Welcome, Access and Accessibility Proposals	Budget Level		Years		
		1	2	1-2	3-5	6-10
<b>SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION</b>						
<b>Taymount</b>	Install nameboards and noticeboards at N, S & E entrances	●		●		
	Leaflets and maps	●		●		
	Interpretation boards – viewing and listening		●	●	●	
	Waymarking and fingerposts		●	●	●	●
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>						
<b>Taymount</b>	Minor/temporary upgrades to existing car park surface	●		●		
	Seats and picnic benches dispersed through woods	●	●	●	●	
	New car park at south entrance	●		●		
	All abilities path from new car park	●		●		
	Children’s play area		●		●	
	Picnic area		●	●		
	Composting toilet	●		●		
	Rain shelter at T-junction of principle NS and EW paths		●	●		
	Refurbish metal gates at both ends of eastern end track		●	●		
	Cycle parking		●		●	
	Improvements to unsurfaced path network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- open up overgrown Muirside Loop North</li> <li>- ditch bridges</li> <li>- short boardwalk sections on core path</li> <li>- steps and handrails at core path link track past King’s Myre Cottage</li> <li>- new path loop along WW2 Command line trench</li> <li>- edible Forest Food Trails</li> </ul>		●	●	●	
Events marquee pitch	●		●			





	Bird hide		●		●	
	Loggers' Shieling (Community Green Enterprise)	●		●		
	Off-grid Artists' Bothy (Community Green Enterprise)	●		●		
	Taymount Hub (community, staff and enterprise facilities)		●			●
<b>ACCESSIBILITY TO THE WOODS</b>						
Taymount	<b>WSWG MiDAS Community Transport Project</b>		●	●	●	●
	Many groups, including schools, and individuals find it difficult to get to the woods, either due to lack of transport, budget constraints or mobility issues. Perth and Kinross Council have two minibuses which are available for use by community groups in the Strathtay Ward. However, these are under-used as they can only be driven by MiDAS-trained drivers, of which there are relatively few locally and no central register of drivers. There is a PKC fund available for MiDAS training. WSWG proposes to apply to this fund to arrange MiDAS training for 8 drivers over time so they can make up a pool of volunteer drivers for WSWG events and activities. WSWG will also fundraise for an Inclusivity Transport Fund to cover fuel, insurance, driver expenses, parking and other associated community transport costs to make this project functional.					
<b>MAINTAINENCE</b>						
Taymount	Manage litter, dog fouling and fly tipping issues	●		●	→	
	Gorse and other vegetation control to open up overgrown paths, create logical links and protect indigenous wildflowers up verges/centre of tracks	●		●	→	
	Undertake windblow clearance and safety measures	●		●	→	
Wood	Welcome, Access and Accessibility Proposals	Budget Level		Years		
		1	2	1-2	3-5	6-10
<b>SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION</b>						
Five Mile	Install nameboards and noticeboards at N & S entrances	●		●		
	Leaflets and maps	●		●		
	Interpretation boards – viewing and listening		●	●	●	
	Waymarking and fingerposts		●	●	●	●
<b>ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS</b>						
Five Mile	Minor/temporary upgrades to existing car park surface		●	●		
	Create new path giving safe access in from north entrance	●		●		
	Seats and picnic benches dispersed through woods	●	●	●	●	
	New car park at south entrance	●		●		
	All abilities path from new car park	●		●		
	Outdoor gym		●	●		



	Picnic area		●	●		
	Composting toilet		●	●		
	Rain shelters at T-Junctions N and S ends of circular track		●	●		
	Cycle parking		●	●		
	Events marquee pitch		●		●	
	Bird hide with feeding station					●
	Improvements to unsurfaced path network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- open up loops from main track</li> <li>- ditch bridges</li> <li>- improve bridge over Benchil Burn from Active Kids</li> <li>- localised drainage</li> <li>- edible Forest Food Trails</li> </ul>		●	●	●	
<b>ACCESSIBILITY TO THE WOODS</b>						
<b>Five Mile</b>	<p><b>WSWG MiDAS Community Transport Project</b></p> <p>Many groups, including schools, and individuals find it difficult to get to the woods, either due to lack of transport, budget constraints or mobility issues. Perth and Kinross Council have two minibuses which are available for use by community groups in the Strathtay Ward. However, these are under-used as they can only be driven by MiDAS-trained drivers, of which there are relatively few locally and no central register of drivers. There is a PKC fund available for MiDAS training. WSWG proposes to apply to this fund to arrange MiDAS training for 8 drivers over time so they can make up a pool of volunteer drivers for WSWG events and activities. WSWG will also fundraise for an Inclusivity Transport Fund to cover fuel, insurance, driver expenses, parking and other associated community transport costs to make this project functional.</p>		●	●	●	●
<b>MAINTAINENCE</b>						
<b>Five Mile</b>	Manage litter, dog fouling and fly tipping issues		●		●	→
	Gorse and other vegetation control to open up overgrown and new paths and protect indigenous wildflowers up verges/centre of tracks		●		●	→
	Undertake windblow clearance and safety measures		●		●	→

As with all the Window on the Woods themes, the Welcome, Access and Accessibility Programme will be founded on collaborative working between WSWG staff and the corresponding Welcome, Access and Accessibility Community Working Group to ensure members are at the heart of how the WSWG Project goes forward in practice. As such, funding for the above WAA programme is expected to be an amalgam of the WAA Group's Year-Round Activities Budgets under Budget Levels 1 or 2 as well as dedicated fundraising for larger projects, such as the car park extensions, new paths and outdoor gym.



### ***The Proposed Flagship Project for Five Mile Wood – “The Woodland Observatory Project”***

This is not a building for looking at the stars! (Although it could include that if the local community wishes!).

The Woodland Observatory Project is a proposal for a long-term, learning-through-observation, educational project through which we can watch Five Mile Wood evolve over time, seeing how different parts of the wood grow, finding out what wildlife comes in at different stages, what effects different management activities bring for wildlife, learning how people and wildlife can best share the woods, monitoring the impacts of climate change, what food and other products our forests can provide, and whatever else we wish to find out.

The Flagship Project will have a dedicated staff member who will work with local people, community organisations, schools, colleges and others. The project will be for all ages and levels, from Forest School to U3A, from citizen science to academic research links. The University of Edinburgh already has a long-term research project in which Five Mile Wood is one of forty sites looking at the impact of climate change on the nesting dates and breeding success of blue tits in Scotland.

In Five Mile Wood, we have an amazing opportunity to learn by comparing and contrasting this wood of two distinct halves – the mature plantation wood in the southern half and the regenerating “Gap Site” in the northern half which was cleared after “creeping windblow” during the past decade.

We will observe, investigate and write up about

- i The Rewilding of the northern “Gap Site”
- ii Management to naturalise the southern Mature Plantation Woodland
- iii Sustainable Forest Products for use or sale
- iv Historical Features in Five Mile Wood

Infrastructure and resources investment in this Flagship Project have been costed to include two Forest School Outdoor Classrooms, equipment, teaching and operational resources, plus an annual development budget. It is envisaged that the Woodland Observatory Project and the Five Mile Wood Life-Long Learning Community Working Group and Year-Round Activities Programme Budgets will become integrated and work together.

The goal of this Flagship Project is that by coming to know Five Mile Wood inside out, our community will be best placed to love, protect and nurture this precious and historic wood long into the future. We will add to the archives of the future, just as the archives of the past have saved for us the story of Five Mile Wood as recorded for WSWG in Christopher Dingwall’s report of 2022 entitled “Notes on the Early history of Five Mile Wood and Taymount Wood”.



### ***The Proposed Flagship Project for Taymount Wood – “Taymount Hub”***

The Taymount Hub is a proposal for a localised development at the southern entrance to Taymount Wood which will provide a range of community, staff and project facilities. See [Appendices 5c and 5d: Taymount Hub Map and Visualisations Map](#).

The overall Hub area is to be located principally in the 70m x 70m woodland compartment to the west of the main vehicle track into the woods between the C406 road and the deep cross-ditch and will comprise:

- a purpose-built Taymount Hub building incorporating a permanent staff base for the WSWG Project, indoor facilities including toilets for community and visitor benefit plus income generating enterprises
- a car park extension with EV charging points
- cycle parking
- the “Loggers’ Shieling”, a covered outdoor workspace for use by staff and renting out to third parties
- part of the “Craft Hamlet” (currently scheduled for a Year 11 start under Budget Level 3)

Just north of the deep ditch, which will have a footbridge across and be fenced for safety, there will be:

- a children’s play area
- a picnic area
- a Mini Community Food Forest for open use by the public
- an all-abilities path to the proposed marquee pitch site at the side of the main vehicle track a few hundred metres into the woods

The proposed location in the southern leg of Taymount Wood, west of the main track, is therefore one of the currently commercial conifer zones to be felled to create space for community facilities and an injection of early income for the WSWG Project. The area north of the deep ditch will be replanted with native broadleaves to provide a natural setting for the play area, picnic area and all abilities path, with a shrubby, edible woodland edge corridor along the western boundary for shelter, foraging and habitat benefit. This will provide a more interesting and welcoming arrival for visitors than the dark monocrop it is at present.

In addition to providing excellent community facilities for public use and WSWG events, the Taymount Hub will provide the locus for a range of income generating Community Green Enterprises. Principal amongst these will be the Camp 53 Café, Shop, Exhibition Space and Meeting Room, named after the Camp 53 loggers’ station which operated at Taymount Wood in 1940-41 as one of over 70 at UK level as part of the war effort. Manned by Canadian loggers from Newfoundland, this station was known locally as “The Newfie Camp”.

The sooner the main Taymount Hub building is available, the better for both community benefit and in-house income generation. However, the scale of the project means it will involve a great deal of planning, design and fundraising, which is why it is scheduled provisionally for construction in Year 5 to become operational in Year 6. More details of the Taymount Hub enterprises are presented below under Community Green Enterprises.



### **Community Green Enterprises**

The WSWG Proposal is of a scale and composition where external funding, whether from public or private sources, is always likely to be part of the financial picture. However, the more of the Proposal that can be self-funded from in-house income generating activities or enterprises, the more robust and secure the project and its long-term viability, and something which lends itself to ongoing development.

The nature of the woodland asset means that there are many Forest Enterprise opportunities for income generation and WSWG intends to diversify these to move away from primary dependency on timber sales for income. The key forest enterprises in the WSWG Proposal are indicated in Section 3.2 below.

Community Enterprises (green enterprises to ensure genuine sustainability in line with the WSWG Project ethos) is the term we are using for enterprises we can set up on site to offer community facilities and generate income in-house from non-forest business activity. The intention is that these will mostly be owned and run by WSWG but there will be opportunities for renting space for other compatible businesses to use. Opportunities may also exist for other business to come into the woodlands that share a common environmental sustainability ethic and want to work in partnership with WSWG to ensure a viable future for Taymount and Five Mile Woods.

The Proposal includes a suite of Community Green Enterprises which have come forward through a range of community engagement activities. The professional Feasibility Study produced for WSWG also contributed many options in addition to these which WSWG may wish to consider in future.

The Community Enterprises will be run for the benefit of the community, in this case the charitable activities of the WSWG Project. Proceeds will be returned to the project and not profit third parties. However, WSWG would like to have its own community philanthropy scheme as part of its Community Benefit portfolio. As such, WSWG will establish a small grant aid scheme dedicated to funding local charities, groups, schools, green initiatives (including from individuals) that aim to implement actions, activities and business ideas that benefit the environment and health and wellbeing. These will be primarily targeted at activities not related to the woodlands. Starting small and growing with the Living Forest, it will be funded from income from the Living Forest enterprises.

It is likely the Community Enterprises will adopt the social enterprise model, which is broad-based enabling it to be crosscutting in its outlook in relation to other WSWG Community Wellbeing themes. It allows WSWG to develop businesses that are solely embedded in the community utilising local skills and knowledge in providing opportunities and employment. These businesses can evolve gradually over time acting as guardians of the woods, whilst ensuring that they can contribute in a sustainable and equitable way to the local economy using business practices that look after people and the planet too.





Responding to the 2021 community consultation feedback on the Draft Proposal led WSWG to a shift in emphasis and location of proposed community green enterprises. A combination of relatively low support for hutting and wigwam accommodation located through the woods and a general desire that the wider woodlands should not be over-developed meant a major rethink was in order.

Although there are several ideas in reserve for income generation from community enterprises at Five Mile Wood, none have been costed up or scheduled for inclusion in the revised Proposal. All the proposed Community Green Enterprises as presented below are in Taymount Wood meaning that necessary development has been largely shifted to the area around the main south entrance. This achieves the goal of tranquility in the wider woods at Taymount where the heaviest visitor pressure will occur in the vicinity of the Taymount Hub but will dissipate further into the wider woods.

<b>COMMUNITY GREEN ENTERPRISES IN YEARS 1-10</b>	
<b>Loggers' Shieling</b> covered outdoor workspace	<b>Artists' Bothy</b> Off-grid accommodation for artists and others
<b>Taymount Hub</b> Camp 53 Café Camp 53 Shop Camp 53 Exhibition Space Camp 53 Meeting Room	
<b>COMMUNITY GREEN ENTERPRISES AFTER YEAR 10</b>	
<b>Craft Hamlet</b> (provisional start Year 11)	
<b>COMMUNITY GREEN ENTERPRISES UNDER CONSIDERATION</b>	
Community Energy Project EV charging points Cycle Hire Soup shack/van until Café open Larger outdoor workspace A9 "Aire" at Five Mile Wood WSWG Active Recreation/Cycle Events	



Proposed Community Green Enterprise Programme	Budget Level		Years		
	1	2	1-2	3-5	6-10
▶ Green Enterprise Community Working Group with portfolio of Community & Forest Green Enterprises	●		●	●	●
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – basic budget	●		●	●	●
▶ Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – enhanced budget		●	●	●	●
▶ Community Green Enterprise 1: Loggers’ Shieling covered outdoor workspace in Taymount Wood	●		●		
▶ Community Green Enterprise 2: Artists’ off-grid bothy available for rent by anyone when not in use by artists for a tranquil retreat in the woods near King’s Myre Loch	●		●	●	●
▶ Community Green Enterprise 3: Taymount Hub – including café, shop, exhibition space and meeting room for social cohesiveness		●			●

The Loggers’ Shieling, Artists’ Bothy and Camp 53 enterprises will all need some capital investment up front, as presented in Section 4 below which we will resource through grants, charitable, corporate or philanthropic donations, crowdfunding, existing WSWG in-house income streams or potentially loans, but once up and running would cover their own costs and produce net profits for WSWG to use for other project needs. Some of these enterprises would also use the services of existing local businesses (eg cleaners for the Artists’ Bothy) whilst some would create new jobs, such as the Taymount Hub café and shop. The Hub Building will need major sponsorship and so will be the subject of an early fundraising effort on the back of the Community-led design outcome to cover the confirmed capital and other costs associated with its construction.

WSWG’s Community Enterprise Plan focuses for the first 10 years on income generating activities at Taymount Wood. Apart from cautious target growth in the Budget Level 2 Taymount Hub enterprises and the Budget Level 3 “Craft Hamlet” community enterprise proposed to start at Taymount Wood in Year 11, TW community enterprise projections in the Business Plan between Year 11 and 25 are based on the productivity level of each enterprise at Year 10, even though further growth is both possible and likely.

WSWG has begun discussion and sought specialist advice on a range of other prospects for income generation, which do include community enterprises at Five Mile Wood. The projects under consideration are not yet designed or costed and as such sit in Budget Level 4 as Aspirational Projects.



Examples of Budget Level 4 Aspirational Projects include:

Community Energy Project (solar, wind, EV charging points); development of an A9 “Aire” - a stop-off point for campervan and other visitors – at the south end of Five Mile Wood; Forest School; Soup Shack/Van; Cycle Hire; Cycle Events; and a WSWG Active Recreation Festival amongst others. It would be up to those involved in the WSWG Project over time, staff, board and members, as to whether these could or should be investigated further at any stage.

At present, there is no projected income generating activity from community engagement activity, which is intended to be covered by fundraising including for Year-Round Activities Programmes. In the spirit of inclusiveness, most WSWG events will be free, by donation or occasionally charged to cover direct costs rather than turn a profit. However, there could be huge scope to develop income generating opportunities from courses and training, performance arts and other community events. There could, for example be quite a market in forest, countryside, eco-building and green living skills accredited training. This approach must not, however, in any way threaten the fundamental ethos of the WSWG project for equity and inclusiveness for all in our community and WSWG must work hard to maintain that position.

The suite of income generating community enterprises now in the Proposal 2022 received overwhelming support in Community Consultation 2, scoring 4.3 out of 5.



### 3.2 Eco-Forestry: Woodland Management for Nature Recovery

In the WSWG Community Consultation 2021, 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood should be managed for biodiversity and climate. The Woodland Management Plans for each of Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood, which will address interlinked Ecological and Climate Emergencies from day one, set out how WSWG proposes to diversify woodland management with Nature Recovery as its primary outcome and also to produce income streams from the “Living Forest” as well as conventional timber extraction. They achieved the highest rating of support in Community Consultation 2, scoring 4.7 out of 5. See accompanying Woodland Management Plans plus associated Appendices TW1 and 2 and FMW1 & 2 and Maps for Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood respectively.

WGWG will adopt principles of ecologically-informed forestry (which we refer to as Eco-Forestry, rather than perhaps Multiple Objective Forestry) that aim to transition the woodlands of Taymount and Five Mile away from that of intensive plantation forests to naturalised woodlands able to support extended biodiversity and provide positive local action on climate change. This process will include building significantly on the low impact silvicultural system (LISS) that Forestry Commission Scotland adopted in the woods twenty years ago. The presence of native Scots pine as a significant plantation conifer species in the woods is a real bonus for WSWG’s goal of naturalisation, although the WSWG Woodland Management Plans value the current and future niche contribution of several species of existing non-native conifers to both the habitat structure and timber value of the woods as a whole. [Appendix P3: Phase 1 Habitat/Botanical Survey](#) by WSWG member and ecologist, Adrian Davis, is a baseline record for the woods in 2021.

The WSWG Woodland Management Plans embrace a proactive approach placing Nature – “our life support system” — at the forefront of decision making, ensuring meaningful community benefit, improved health and well-being in both a local and bigger picture sense. The economic emphasis of forest products will shift from dependence solely upon conventional timber production to a diverse range of income streams from “Living Forest” enterprises, including Commercial and Community Food Forest areas. This will also ensure “old growth” - the oldest and largest trees - is protected and allowed to keep growing as nature intended.

In Taymount Wood, our emergency actions will include the establishment of critical Nature Recovery Zones with thousands of new native trees and other wildlife habitats, to create a Biodiversity Network across the woodland, thus ensuring future generations can still experience an intimate engagement with nature.

In Five Mile Wood, our emergency Nature Recovery Plan includes the rewilding of 60 hectares of previously felled woodland and increasing the biodiversity of the remaining woodland area.

Managing the woods in this way, through significant increase in carbon capture and storage in the trees and living soils, will also contribute to Perthshire’s action on climate breakdown and delivery of Scotland’s national net zero targets .... or better.

With an all-or-nothing urgency at its heart, the Woodland Management Plans for Nature Recovery are proposed at Budget Level 1.



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**Woodland Management Action will specifically include:**

- ▶ Enhancing biodiversity value through forest restructuring to significantly increase the diversity of tree species and habitats present, with the establishment of a network of several Nature Recovery Zones in Taymount Wood and the rewilding of the 60 hectare previously cleared “Gap Site” in Five Mile Wood.
- ▶ Emphasis on increasing the levels of native tree and shrub species essential for insect recovery as insects underpin all of our ecosystems. Trees including wild apple, wild cherry, hawthorn, holly and rowan will not only offer essential nectar resources for pollinating insects such as bees and hoverflies, but will also be an essential food resource for migratory and other bird species feeding on the fruits and berries.
- ▶ Establishment of an oak restoration network throughout the woodlands with a wider aim of landscape connectivity including Kinclaven Bluebell Wood east of Taymount Wood.
- ▶ Establishment of Forest Food projects ranging from a commercial Food Forest in Taymount Wood to community Mini Food Forests and Forest Food Trails in both woods. (For more information, see WSWG Forest Food Plan in Taymount Woodland Management Plan.)
- ▶ Restoration of woodland wildflower communities which have suffered significant declines in recent decades. This will also help to boost insect populations locally and, in particular, provide foraging for bee species including honeybees, thus having a direct benefit for local beekeepers.
- ▶ Preventing scrub encroachment on road verges and shallow soil areas to maintain flower-rich habitats for butterfly species, including common blue and small copper, and native wild bee species.
- ▶ Maintaining forest integrity and wildlife protection by avoiding excessive path creation in the forest.
- ▶ Installation of wildlife shelter resources including bat and bird boxes, hedgehog houses and otter holts as well as breeding habitat for bees, amphibians and other small fauna.
- ▶ A Red Squirrel Management Plan which will ensure a continuous and sustainable feeding resource throughout the woods. This will include retention of thousands of mature trees including Scots pine, Noble fir, Norway spruce and establishment of thousands of new trees, eg hazel, wild apple and oak.
- ▶ A Hedgehog Recovery Plan produced for WSWG by the TCV HogWatch Scotland Project. [Appendix P4](#).
- ▶ A Dead Wood Management Plan aimed at reversing the critical shortage of dead wood habitat across both woods. This habitat is critical to the survival of thousands of woodland species ranging from bees and beetles to woodpeckers and bats.
- ▶ Comprehensive Species and Habitat Survey and Monitoring Programme to observe and measure the impact of positive management for Nature Recovery over time. This will help to inform future management decisions which can be incorporated into a Best Practice strategy to address the worsening global ecological emergency.
- ▶ Addressing the Climate Emergency by substantially increasing the potential of the woodlands to sequester carbon and ensuring our activities have a low carbon footprint.
- ▶ Small clear fell operations for early income injection and clearance for community spaces; thereafter, primarily sales from thinnings once nature recovery and community uses on site have been served.
- ▶ Working with the Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate Community Working Group to develop Year-Round Activities Programmes to help deliver community engagement in the woodland management.





**Table 2: Summary of Proposed Woodland Felling and Thinning Actions for Taymount & Five Mile Woods**

	<b>Taymount Wood</b> (155 hectares)	<b>Five Mile Wood</b> (134 hectares)
Phase 1: Years 1-5	Felling 14.4 hectares for early income, area for car park expansion and Taymount Hub and creation of 6 Nature Recovery Zones	Felling 1.4 hectares for early income and area for car park expansion and recreation and education features
	Thinning 24.1 hectares	Thinning 30.1 hectares
Phase 2: Years 6-10	Felling 0.9 hectares for second Hazel orchard Thinning 29.5 hectares	Thinning 9.8 hectares
Phase 3: Years 11-15	Thinning 29.5 hectares	Thinning 9.8 hectares
Phase 4: Years 16-20	Thinning 18.5 hectares	Thinning 13.4 hectares
Phase 5: Years 21-25	Thinning 12.2 hectares	Thinning 9.8 hectares

### **Forestry Enterprises**

The following table summarises and schedules the main forest enterprise activities including how the Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate Community Working Group might integrate with that aspect.

Forestry, Ecology and Forestry Enterprise Programme	Budget Level		Years		
	1	2	1-2	3-5	6-10
► Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate Community Working Group	●		●	●	●
► Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – basic budget	●		●	●	●
► Year-Round Activities Programmes for Taymount and Five Mile Wood – enhanced budget		●	●	●	●
► Forestry Green Enterprise: Living Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest Food Project (commercial Food Forest, Hazel orchards, birch sap, deer control &amp; venison)</li> <li>- Novel Forest Income (tree sponsorship schemes, pot-grown Christmas tree rental, niche products)</li> <li>- Climate and Ecology Funding including Biodiversity Net Gains Scheme</li> </ul>	●		●	●	●
► Forestry Green Enterprise: Timber Sales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- small clear fell operations for early income injection and clearance for community space</li> <li>- thereafter, primarily sales from thinnings once nature recovery and community uses (crafts, construction, children’s activities, etc) on site have been served</li> </ul>	●		●	●	●



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## 4. Financial Summary

Set out below is an overall picture of the expected investment expenditure in delivering the full WSWG Proposal as presented above, along with projections of income generation from in-house Forestry and Community Green Enterprises during the first ten years of community ownership. This then lets us see what funding from external sources will be required.

To do this, we have costed as best we can all the envisaged inputs, both capital and revenue, categorised into Budget Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 which reflect our view of the priorities for the expenditure. These are summarised in tabular form below. The finances are presented in more detail in the accompanying Business Plan, including [Appendix BP9a: Financial Projections to 10 and 25 Years](#) (Excel spreadsheet) and [Appendix BP9b: Summary Profit and Loss Years 1-10 and 11-25](#).

The business planning process has been conducted by WSWG Trustees with relevant business management experience, and we have also consulted with sector professionals and Growbiz advisers on different aspects of the Proposal.

Further details will be available in the full Business Plan including outline projections to 25 years which will accompany the WSWG Proposal when our CATS Application is submitted to FLS in late November 2022.

### 4.1 Summary of funding for WSWG Development Phase 2018 – 2022

WSWG would like to thank all those who have contributed funding and time to the development of the WSWG Project to date. The key financial contributors are listed below.

#### ***Public funding:***

Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Development Funding  
Perth and Kinross Council Community Investment Fund  
Community Learning Exchange

#### ***Private funding:***

Highland Community Energy Society (Littleton Burn Hydro Scheme) via Energy4All  
WSWG Website donations  
Stanley Store Plastic Bag Fund  
WSWG Volunteers (time and funding)

Financial donations have amounted to almost £36,000 in total.

Contribution from volunteers in terms of their time, contributions-in-kind and cash is many, many times this value. An evaluation of this will be presented with the CATS Application.



## 4.2 Acquisition costs of Taymount and Five Mile Woods

For WSWG to become the owners of Taymount and Five Mile Wood we will need to secure funding to meet the purchase price yet to be agreed with FLS.

The purchase price will be based upon an independent valuation agreed between FLS and WSWG. The woods were valued in November 2020 and “refreshed” in May 2021 by Galbraith at £1.4 million for Taymount Wood and £1 million for Five Mile Wood, totalling £2.4 million.

Under CATS, WSWG has the opportunity to negotiate a discount on the valuation price from FLS commensurate with the level of community benefit the project will deliver – the Social Return on Investment (SROI).

The market price of forestry land has experienced a marked rise since 2020/21, which will have to be factored into negotiations with FLS and SLF going forward.

The figures included here are based on the existing valuations.

**Table 3: Impact of % Community Benefit Discount on Purchase Price**

<b>PURCHASE COSTS AND TIMING</b>				
	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Years 1-5</b>	<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>10-year Totals</b>
<b>Valuations at 2020/21</b>				
Valuation – Taymount Wood	£1,400,000			
Valuation – Five Mile Wood	£1,000,000			
<b>Total TW &amp; FMW</b>	<b>£2,400,000</b>			
<b>Effect on prospective purchase cost of different community benefit discount levels</b>				
> Discount 5%	£2,280,000			<b>£2,280,000</b>
> Discount 10%	£2,160,000			<b>£2,160,000</b>
> Discount 20%	£1,920,000			<b>£1,920,000</b>
<i>Legal costs/conveyancing</i>	<i>tbc</i>			

No funds have yet been secured against purchase costs but our original application to SLF for Stage 1 Development Funding included an estimate of what we expected to request from SLF in Stage 2 Funding which comprised a provisional capital sum of £1,250,000 towards purchase and a provisional revenue sum of £125,000 towards 2-year start-up costs for the WSWG Project, representing a total of £1,375,000.

It should be noted that this sum is not guaranteed and that any bids to SLF for Stage 2 Funding above £1,000,000 would require ministerial approval.



### 4.3 Post-Acquisition – Projected Costings for the WSWG Proposal

Financial costings for the first ten years of the WSWG Proposal are presented in summary data form in the tables below, in three phases: Years 1-2; Years 3-5; and Years 6-10. In the Business Plan, financial projections are extended in outline to 25 years.

Table 4 shows the projected Core and Programme Costs under Budget Levels 1 and 2 for the first ten years.

Table 5 shows the projected Capital investment, Income, Expenditure and Gross Margins for the proposed Forestry Enterprises and Community Green Enterprises under Budget Levels 1 and 2 for the first ten years.

Whilst the overall totals amount to significant sums of money, they are proportionate to the size of the assets (Taymount and Five Mile Wood) and the proposed improvements in infrastructure provisioning for community benefit and enterprise over time and represent valuable investment in the wellbeing of our local community and environment going forward.

**Table 4: Summary Financial Table for the WSWG Proposal: Core and Programme Costs after Acquisition**

PROJECT EXPENDITURE	Years 1-2	Years 3-5	Years 6-10	10-year Totals
<b>BUDGET LEVEL 1 – ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS</b>				
Staff	£228,000	£342,000	£537,500	<b>£1,107,500</b>
Year-Round Activities	£24,000	£36,000	£60,000	<b>£120,000</b>
Welcome, Access, Accessibility	£167,376	£8,500	£15,500	<b>£191,376</b>
Nature Recovery	£48,100	£56,800	£86,500	<b>£191,400</b>
Flagship Projects	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
Operational overheads excl. staff				
<i>Revenue</i>	£119,980	£146,220	£243,700	<b>£509,900</b>
<i>Capital</i>	£126,899	£500	£1,350	<b>£128,749</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£714,355</b>	<b>£590,020</b>	<b>£944,550</b>	<b>£2,248,925</b>
<b>BUDGET LEVEL 2 – PROGRESSIVE OPERATIONS i</b>				
Staff	£0	£71,500	£315,250	<b>£386,750</b>
Year-Round Activities	£96,000	£144,000	£240,000	<b>£480,000</b>
Welcome, Access, Accessibility	£66,913	£68,800	£1,200	<b>£136,913</b>
Nature Recovery	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
Flagship Projects				
<i>Taymount Hub Camp 53 Building</i>	£0	£355,000	£0	<b>£355,000</b>
<i>FMW Woodland Observatory</i>	£0	£24,000	£27,500	<b>£51,500</b>
Operational overheads excl. staff				
<i>Revenue</i>	£0	£8,780	£61,850	<b>£70,630</b>
<i>Capital</i>	£21,702	£1,361	£1,500	<b>£24,563</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£184,615</b>	<b>£673,441</b>	<b>£647,300</b>	<b>£1,505,356</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL BL1 + BL2</b>	<b>£898,970</b>	<b>£1,263,461</b>	<b>£1,591,850</b>	<b>£3,754,281</b>



Table 5: Summary Financial Table for the WSWG Proposal: Forestry and Community Green Enterprises

	Years 1-2	Years 3-5	Years 6-10	10 year Totals
<b>BUDGET LEVEL 1</b>				
<b>CAPITAL COSTS</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL1:</b>				
Timber	£0	£0	£0	£0
Living Forest	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT CAPITAL BL1</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prise BL1:</b>				
Loggers' Shieling	£16,829	£1,500	£2,500	<b>£20,829</b>
Artists' Bothy	£27,500	£750	£1,250	<b>£29,500</b>
<b>TOTAL COMM. ENT CAPITAL BL1</b>	<b>£44,329</b>	<b>£2,250</b>	<b>£3,750</b>	<b>£50,329</b>
<b>TOTAL ENTS CAP BL1</b>	<b>£44,329</b>	<b>£2,250</b>	<b>£3,750</b>	<b>£50,329</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL1:</b>				
Timber	£358,220	£0	£75,465	<b>£433,685</b>
Living Forest	£52,720	£159,460	£500,125	<b>£712,305</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT INCOME BL1</b>	<b>£410,940</b>	<b>£159,460</b>	<b>£575,590</b>	<b>£1,145,990</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prises BL1:</b>				
Loggers' Shieling	£5,922	£17,766	£41,454	<b>£65,142</b>
Artists' Bothy	£5,820	£33,019	£63,300	<b>£102,139</b>
<b>TOTAL COMM ENT INCOME BL1</b>	<b>£11,742</b>	<b>£50,785</b>	<b>£104,754</b>	<b>£167,281</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT INC BL1</b>	<b>£422,682</b>	<b>£210,245</b>	<b>£680,344</b>	<b>£1,313,271</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>				
<b>VARIABLE COSTS</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL1:</b>				
Timber	£14,920	£800	£1,625	<b>17,345</b>
Living Forest	£21,742	£28,066	£67,745	<b>£117,553</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT V. COSTS BL1</b>	<b>£36,662</b>	<b>£28,866</b>	<b>£69,370</b>	<b>£134,898</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prises BL1:</b>				
Loggers' Shieling	£1,820	£2,730	£4,550	<b>£9,100</b>
Artists' Bothy	£2,688	£11,184	£19,980	<b>£33,852</b>





TOTAL COMM ENT V. COSTS BL1	£4,508	£13,914	£24,530	£42,952
<b>TOTAL ENT V. COSTS BL1</b>	<b>£41,170</b>	<b>£42,780</b>	<b>£93,900</b>	<b>£177,850</b>
<b>GROSS MARGINS:</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL1:</b>				
Timber	£343,300	-£800	£73,840	<b>£416,340</b>
Living Forest	£30,978	£131,394	£432,380	<b>£594,752</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT GM BL1</b>	<b>£374,278</b>	<b>£130,594</b>	<b>£506,220</b>	<b>£1,011,092</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prises BL1:</b>				
Loggers' Shieling	£4,102	£15,036	£36,904	<b>£56,042</b>
Artists' Bothy	£3,132	£21,835	£43,320	<b>£68,287</b>
<b>TOTAL COMM ENT ENT GM BL1</b>	<b>£7,234</b>	<b>£36,871</b>	<b>£80,224</b>	<b>£124,329</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT GM &lt; CAP BL1</b>	<b>£381,512</b>	<b>£167,465</b>	<b>£586,444</b>	<b>£1,135,421</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT SURPLUS &gt; CAP BL1</b>	<b>£337,183</b>	<b>£165,215</b>	<b>£582,694</b>	<b>£1,085,092</b>
<b>BUDGET LEVEL 2</b>				
<b>CAPITAL COSTS</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL2:</b>				
Timber	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
Living Forest	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT CAPITAL BL2</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prises BL2:</b>				
Taymount Hub Camp 53 Ents	£0	£0	£30,203	<b>£30,203</b>
<b>TOTAL COMM ENT CAPITAL BL2</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£30,203</b>	<b>£30,203</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT CAPITAL BL2</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£30,203</b>	<b>£30,203</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL2:</b>				
Timber	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
Living Forest	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT INCOME BL2</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prises BL2:</b>				



Taymount Hub Camp 53 Ents	£0	£0	£338,700	<b>£338,700</b>
<b>TOTAL COMM ENT INCOME BL2</b>	£0	£0	£338,700	<b>£338,700</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT INC BL2</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£338,700</b>	<b>£338,700</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>				
<b>VARIABLE COSTS</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL2:</b>				
Timber	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
Living Forest	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT V. COSTS BL2</b>	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prises BL2:</b>				
Taymount Hub Camp 53 Ents	£0	£0	£92,970	<b>£92,970</b>
<b>TOTAL COMM ENT V. COSTS BL2</b>	£0	£0	£92,970	<b>£92,970</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT VAR COSTS</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£92,970</b>	<b>£92,970</b>
<b>GROSS MARGINS:</b>				
<b>Forestry Enterprises BL2:</b>				
Timber	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
Living Forest	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST ENT GM BL2</b>	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
<b>Community Green Ent'prises BL2:</b>				
Taymount Hub Camp 53 Ents	£0	£0	£245,730	<b>£245,730</b>
<b>TOTAL COMM ENT GM BL2 &lt; direct Hub Staff costs</b>	£0	£0	£245,730	<b>£245,730</b>
Hub Enterprise Staff Costs BL2	£0	£0	£155,610	<b>£155,610</b>
<b>Surplus BL2 &gt; direct Hub Staff costs</b>	£0	£0	£90,120	<b>£90,120</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT GM BL2 &gt; direct Staff costs &lt; Cap costs</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£90,120</b>	<b>£90,120</b>
<b>TOTAL ENT SURPLUS BL2 &gt; direct Staff costs &gt; Cap costs</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£59,917</b>	<b>£59,917</b>



Table 6: First 10 years of Proposal Delivery under Community Ownership Budget Levels 1 and 2

	Project costs	Income generation (Gross Margins)	External funding requirements
<b>BUDGET LEVEL 1</b>			
Staff	£1,107,500		
Year-Round Activities	£120,000		
Welcome, Access and Accessibility	£191,376		
Nature Recovery	£191,400		
Overheads excl. staff			
<i>Revenue</i>	£509,900		
<i>Capital</i>	£128,749		
<b>Forestry Enterprise</b>			
Timber income	£0	£416,340	
Living Forest income	£0	£594,752	
<b>Forestry Sub total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,011,092</b>	
<b>Community Enterprises</b>			
Loggers' Shieling	£20,829	£56,042	
Artists' Bothy	£29,500	£68,287	
<b>Community Sub total</b>	<b>£50,329</b>	<b>£124,329</b>	
<b>TOTALS BL1</b>	<b>£2,299,254</b>	<b>£1,159,984</b>	<b>£1,139,270</b>
<b>BUDGET LEVEL 2</b>			
Staff	£386,750		
Year-Round Activities	£480,000		
Welcome, Access, Accessibility	£136,913		
Nature Recovery	£0		
<b>Flagship Projects:</b>			
Taymount Hub Camp 53 Building & Ent capital	£355,000 £30,203	£245,730	
<i>Camp 53 staff</i>		(-£155,610 cost)	
FMW Woodland Observatory Project	£51,500		
Overheads excl. staff			
<i>Revenue</i>	£70,630		
<i>Capital</i>	£24,563		
<b>TOTALS BL2</b>	<b>£1,535,559</b>	<b>£90,120</b>	<b>£1,445,439</b>



**Notes to Table 6 above:**

1. To deliver the scale of operations envisaged, WSWG would only wish to reduce potential costs by reducing staffing levels as a last resort. Many other cost estimates could and would be revised first.
2. The sums shown for Year-Round Activities in both Budget Levels 1 and 2 are nominal.
3. Ecological surveying and recording carried out by amateur surveyors and volunteers could substantially reduce the sum allowed for Nature Recovery.
4. Recent review of the projected timber income have indicated that a further £100,000 could be added to the sums presented. This revision will be considered for inclusion in the Business Plan.
5. Living Forest payments as a foundation for income generation is still novel but expected to increase markedly in the coming years in response to the global ecological emergency. For this reason, WSWG proposes to engage a Living Forest Enterprise Developer 1 day per week to build WSWG’s diverse Living Forest income streams, with a particular emphasis on securing Biodiversity Net Gains.
6. The capital sum included for construction of the Taymount Hub building is illustrative only.

**4.4 Mapping the WSWG Proposal to Potential Sources of Funding**

This is something of a chicken and egg situation. Only now when we have finalised the Proposal and feel it hangs together as a whole, and, more particularly, only once we have proof of clear support of the Proposal from our local community can WSWG realistically approach prospective funders. Fundraising will be a routine part of the WSWG Project as it goes forward, but along with funds for purchase, we will need to secure at least two years start-up and running cost and demonstrate a plausible financial route forward thereafter.

The following table aims to illustrate the wide range in types of funding sources whom WSWG could approach to support different parts of the Proposal and to map the most likely matches with WSWG activities, xxx indicating the greatest probability of success in our view.

**Table 7: Indicative Principal Sources of Funding for WSWG Proposal**

Budget Level 1 and 2									
	Public	Lottery	WSWG	Corporate	Charitable	Crowd-funding	Benefactors	Loans	Other
Staff	2yr	xx	x		xxx				
YRA	x			xx	xxx				
WAA	xx				xxx	x			
NR				xxx	xx	x			
CGE Capital		xxx	x					xx	
TH Capital		xx		xxx			x		
WOP	xx				xxx		x		
Overheads	2yr		xxx		xx	x			



## 5. Taking Forward our Proposal

Community Asset Transfer creates a unique opportunity with Taymount and Five Mile Woods holding such great potential benefit for our community and giving them a chance to make a valuable and positive difference towards enhancing our local environment, that may otherwise be lost if the woods are sold off for commercial forestry or private use.

The level of community support expressed generally through WSWG's wide-ranging community engagement programme since 2018 and specifically for the WSWG Proposal 2022 *Going Forward* through both Community Consultations 1 and 2, gives WSWG great confidence that our plans form a strong case for our CATS Application and in seeking the support of enlightened funders.



Do come have your say and join in our consultation event:

[www.weststormontwoodlandgroup.scot/consultation/](http://www.weststormontwoodlandgroup.scot/consultation/)

Thank you for your support.





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