

Good Evening,

I would like to register my opposition to the asset transfer being proposed by CCDT of Coilhallan Woods. As one of the few people who rides and runs regularly in these woods I see no reason to purchase an area which is already publicly owned. Anywhere else a business case such as this would be looked upon with ridicule.

The area to be purchased has an elevation that does not make it attractive for most and it looks likely to be bulldozed through by those, by their own admission, who want mountain bike trails. This would be an absolute disaster for those of us that walk, run or ride horses as mountain biking is a fast sport and on my only occasion where I encountered one coming down the path, they were unable to stop in time, despite me wearing Hi Viz and forced my horse onto a main road. Understandably, I'm all for outdoors activities but there are plenty of places in this area where there are already trails for mountain bikers which disturb others less than with this piece of land.

I'm also interested about how many talks have taken place between CCDT and FLS about how it could stay publicly owned and the way it is managed. I have only had one issue whilst using the area which was the amount of ragwort bordering the paths and I contacted them and it was removed within two days so I'm struggling to see why there's any reason that, with some lobbying, FLS could not manage it in the ways that allows all users to enjoy it but CCDT appear to think they could do a better job. The best bit about the application is the mention that volunteers will manage it. In a set of their own minutes they state that it is a limited number of volunteers that staff the visitor centre and more are needed. They are struggling to get volunteers to do a four hour shift in a shop but apparently there are lots to do a hard shift in the woods. In the CCDT minutes for September 2019, it is stated that a decision has to be made about the feasibility of future opening times will be made on, upon other things, volunteer availability. The bottom line is to change and manage these woods will take time by specialists and a lot of money and I'm unsure why we would waste that money when we can get the FLS to complete the agreed work although again I would state this should not be for mountain bike trails.

Lastly I would like it on record that the people who are named on the application for the asset transfer of the woods should be financially liable for all costs if in the future grants etc dry up, which they invariably do, and the people on the board lose interest and leave it as a pig in a poke for the future generations in Callander. This should be written as part of the conditions of the sale if it should be successful.

Your Sincerely

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