

Heartwood Community Woodfuel Group

Launch Event/AGM 2017/18 Season

Date: 11th September 2017

Venue: The Railway Inn Moira 19:00 – 21:00

Attendees: Kevin Banton, David Gravett, Mark Beer, Ted Tann Watson, Maddie Parker, Helen Bralesford, Clive Sharples, Darren Abell, Chris Conway, Melinda Bell, Tim Bell, Martyn Hardy, Mark Wileman, Steve Ivatt, Michael Perry, Kevin Praed, Brian Crofton, James Powell, Steve Miller, Joe Kirkwood.

Apologies: Graham Bowers, Ben Devine, Mark Eydman, Rupert May, Chris Adams, Mark Adams, Dan Liddicott, Julie Starkey, David Burton, Urden Tyler, Damon Bland, Martyn Ladkin.

Introductions:

Kevin introduced the event and thanked everyone for attending.

Group Achievements:

Kevin ran through the slides outlining the groups progress to date. Supporting information provided by David Gravett and Mark Beer as the presentation was discussed within the group.

Strategy and Group direction:

The meeting discussed the strategy wheel, it's contents and how we have progressed against them. It was agreed that this approach is serving an excellent purpose, keeping the group and the committee focused on it's main objectives.

The meeting agreed this now needs to develop and start looking further out as we are now in the fourth of the five rings. Kevin agreed to take this away to the committee and once we have the season underway we will start looking to extend the wheel.

An overview of training was presented by Mark Beer, outlining the training we have completed and that in the plans. A change of approach from the Woodland Trust means the First Aid training we have previously completed will need to be updated to cover the "+F" aspect. Mark is looking to get training organized in October/November.

Funding and Finance:

The meeting was presented with a very simple view of the funding to date and the outlook for the coming season. There were comments from the meeting that we now need to start more detailed financial planning and accounting. Kevin will take this to committee.

The meeting also agreed that a voluntary per session fee of £2 - £3 would be a good way of maintaining funds to cover refreshments, replacement blades and other group costs. Kevin agreed to take this to committee for action during this season. Notification will be included in the session invites to make this clear to all members.

2017 session plans:

A view of the session dates through to end of the calendar year were shared. This included the allocation of roles and responsibilities. This will continue to be updated and the dates will be communicated to the whole membership over the next two weeks.

David Gravett is continuing to work on the session booking system.

A chainsaw refresher day will be arranged for the 1st October.

AGM and election of officers:

The current committee members and the positions they hold were presented. The meeting agreed to vote the whole committee into the same positions again using a block vote. Ted Tann-Watson proposed the existing committee be re-elected, this was seconded by Helen Bralesford. This was unanimously agreed by all at the meeting.

Kevin asked any other members who are interested to contact a committee member if they would like to attend the meetings and contribute to the running of the group.

Kevin thanked the whole committee for their hard work during this transition year, this has been a very busy year and a great deal of time and effort has been committed by all. The meeting agreed and supported the thanks for all involved.

AGM other business:

The meeting commented that the nest box building session was a great event and involved a good number of the members (and others). It was asked that we repeat the event next year.

Requests for charcoal sessions was raised. A discussion on the commercial benefits of doing this had a number of pros and cons. Kevin agreed to take this to the committee and we have a number of options for charcoal experience in the pipeline.

The meeting closed with thanks to everyone and commitment that the information (slide set) and minutes would be made available to the whole membership.