

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 25 November 2019 20:45
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Highlandman's Wood, Rhu

Dear [Redacted]

Yes – we will provide an update prior to the next CC mtg on the 11th of December.

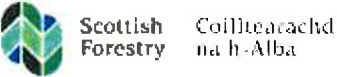
Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Senior Operations Manager
Scottish Forestry
Perth & Argyll Conservancy
Upper Battleby | Redgorton | Perth | PH1 3EN
Office: [Redacted]
Direct: [Redacted]
Mobile: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]@forestry.gov.scot

Please note I work Monday to Thursday

[Website: forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)
[@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Sent: 24 November 2019 14:15
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@forestry.gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]>; [Redacted] <secretary@rhuandshandoncommunity.org>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@forestry.gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Highlandman's Wood, Rhu

Dear [Redacted]

The next Community Council meeting is on 11 December. I was wondering if you might be able to provide an update on the various issues for it?

Many thanks

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

Tel. [REDACTED]
Mobile [REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Date: 27 October 2019 at 23:31:00 GMT+3
To: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED] secretary@rhuandshandoncommunity.org,
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot
Subject: RE: Highlandman's Wood, Rhu

Dear [REDACTED]

My apologies for taking so long to reply to you. I have been waiting for the resident's group to provide the list of recorded breaches of the TTMP. This is attached.

I have reviewed the UKFS breaches protocol and we look forward to your future comments and conclusions.

Overall, the Community Council and residents of Rhu who have expressed an opinion do not think this forestry operation has been carried out as well as we think and expect it should be in accordance with the published guidelines. You are aware that the main concern of residents is road safety. In the intervening three years or so before there is any more felling and timber extraction from Highlandman's Wood, and certainly before anything happens on the ground at Stuckenduff and Letrault, the access issue really needs to be resolved. Hopefully a route across Luss Estates land can be found. I know you have been advised of the complaint to the Scottish Government Ombudsman by residents of Rhu regarding failure of Argyll and Bute Council to deal with the whole TTMP appropriately. It was disheartening to hear [REDACTED] of Scottish Woodlands state that he has also had no response to correspondence with the Council.

As we have advised it is not just the timber transport that has caused so much upset, we have other concerns as you have noted below. The range of issues gives overall concern about the adherence of the operator to the various rules and guidelines across the board.

The photograph below was taken on 20 October 2019 and shows the Glennan Burn between Millig Street and Stafford Street in Helensburgh. It is as you can see full of silt and this is not usual, it is usually crystal clear (this is in my parents' garden). While I can't prove that this silt is due to the forestry operations it is highly unusual for the burn to be this dirty and I can't imagine what anyone in the two blocks of houses further up the hill might have been doing to cause this so it does seem most likely it has come down from the forestry plantation. I have not reported this to SEPA as I feel you are now aware of all the issues and are dealing with it. However, to see the burn this dirty a good month after the CC felt it necessary to contact SEPA does not inspire confidence that SEPA's advice is being implemented.

<image004.jpg>

Thank you for coming to meet with me as the CC's representative and for noting all our concerns. I think this is a big step forward in addressing and hopefully resolving the issues that have caused so much upset in the community and that going forward the forestry operators will act with more care and attention.

The Community Council appreciates that at the present time there is no other option to Station Road / Pier Road for timber extraction but we very much hope that every effort will be made to secure an alternative route that does not pass through the village on roads that are quite simply unsuitable for this activity.

Regards

[REDACTED]

For Rhu and Shandon Community Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED]

Mobile [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot]

Sent: 08 October 2019 18:36

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; secretary@rhuandshandoncommunity.org;

[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Subject: RE: Highlandman's Wood, Rhu

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for meeting myself and [REDACTED] last week on site. I thought it was a useful meeting and we managed to go through everything in a relatively short timeframe.

To summarise the outcomes of our discussion:

I will contact the Forest Works Manager for the site – [REDACTED] to raise concerns about the timber transport, damage to the stone dyke, diffuse pollution and the brash on the path. I will be doing this under the Scottish Forestry UKFS breaches protocol. This guidance is available at the link below (half way down the page):

<https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations>

Essentially we are starting an investigation which could lead to a range of outcomes. Prior to the meeting I thought [REDACTED] was the FWM and I had not spoken to [REDACTED] however, I will now and allow her to explain her perspective on these issues before I conclude how Scottish Forestry will respond.

Once this is completed, I will let you know the outcome. This should include any agreed remedial action required.

I am still in discussion with [REDACTED] about the TTMP and where breaches have occurred. I have record of 1 breach – I assume there are more? If so, please could you give me more examples so I can gauge how many times it has been breached and the nature of the breaches.

Regards

[REDACTED]

—

[REDACTED]
Senior Operations Manager

Scottish Forestry

Perth & Argyll Conservancy

Upper Battleby | Redgorton | Perth | PH1 3EN

Office: [REDACTED]

Direct: [REDACTED]

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Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)

<image001.jpg>

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 27 September 2019 00:13

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <secretary@rhuandshandoncommunity.org>

Subject: Highlandman's Wood, Rhu

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our telephone conversation last week I have re-arranged my diary so that I can be available on 2 October when you are visiting.

Please could you let me know what time you will be arriving? I could meet you at the gate to the sheep field at the end of the tarmac road (Station Road / Torr Farm Road) if that suits.

I attach a photograph of the Glennan Burn after the brash had been removed taken on the SEPA visit on 12 September. The blockage of this burn was causing localised flooding further down which is now resolved. However, you can see how much silt had accumulated during the time it was

blocked. I would imagine most of this has now washed down the burn due to the heavy rain we have had recently.

Just to recap our main issues are:

- Lack of community engagement
- Timber transport issues
- Watercourse pollution
- Damage to historic environment features
- Blockage of core recreational paths

I look forward to meeting you.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

For Rhu and Shandon Community Council

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tel [Redacted]

Mobile [Redacted]

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<Record of breaches - Highlandman's Wood TTMP.pdf>

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