

SCOTTISH FORESTRY STRATEGY REVIEW – PUBLIC MEETING TUESDAY 30 AUGUST 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

Paul Ignatief, RFF South Scotland Chairman gave an introduction to the proceedings and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to give people the opportunity to put forward their views/opinions on the SFS Review.

2. SFS 2000/SFS REVIEW

Hugh Clayden gave a presentation on what the Scottish Forest Strategy 2000's aims were and what its achievements/non-achieves were since the original document was produced in 2000. He gave a background on what the review is about and how this can be achieved, by completing the questions in the back of the SFS Review booklet. This meeting is the initial consultation process, which is due to end on 16 September. The next round of consultations will be after the New Year.

3. WORKSHOPS

The meeting was then broken into three work groups each with a South Scotland Regional Forestry Forum Member, who would act as a facilitator and a Forestry Commission member for guidance and clarification of points/issues.

Each workgroup were given 4 questions to consider:

- a) What has gone well since 2000
- b) What hasn't gone well
- c) What should now be our top priorities
- d) What needs to happen to deliver

3. OUTCOME OF WORKSHOP/GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The three facilitators gave a presentation on the outcomes of each group

details attached here:

Group 1 – Facilitator – Chris Badenoch
Group 2 – Facilitator – Hamish McLeod
Group 3 – Facilitator – John Todd

5. DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

Hugh discussed the points raised and asked for clarification on a number of issues.

From the various presentations there seem to be a consistency in comments and nothing out of the ordinary came out of the meeting. The consensus of feeling from the discussion with regards to the original review of 2000 was positive.

However there was the feeling that communication between the communities was lacking and a gap in understanding of what the forestry's aims are.

The feeling that the industry as a whole should be more accountable, especially the private sector.

It was agreed that individuals should become more involved, however there was the realisation that communities are concerned, but don't make themselves heard enough. Goodwill does exist and needs to be maintained.

More emphasis on employment, and types of jobs available through forestry, directly and indirectly. The perception of 'real jobs' needs to be emphasised not just subsidised jobs. How to overcome the difficulties in attracting people into jobs, make them sociably acceptable, look at how to improve this. Convince people that there are training opportunities, as course fees too expensive – allow people to get their qualifications. Emphasis that funding is available.

Improve Forestry and Agricultural links. Through different strategies and policies.

Timber peaks – need to look at how to maintain the peak. Increase in commercial timber, which would ultimately lead to change in management values. How is timber going to be used. How will it be used to maintain goodwill and public investment.

Systems to monitor peaks and troughs of timber flow and quantity.

6. THANKS

Paul Ignatief thanked everyone for the valued contribution. He reiterated the need to complete the SFS Review booklets to ensure that your views are heard. The meeting was closed at 5.30pm.

A. WHAT HAS GONE WELL SINCE 2000

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Long term forest plans - FDP ◆ SFGS - rewards respects UFM ◆ Community involvement -consultation ◆ Amenity plantings - landscape ◆ Partnership working ◆ Improvement management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cluster concept ◆ Industry ◆ Conform ◆ Transport solution - agreed routes ◆ Community involvement - PR general public ◆ More talking to community ◆ Raise profile ◆ Ayrshire locational premium ◆ Emphasis on existing woodland and quality improvement ◆ Environment benefits / change in public sector (FC) ◆ Forest tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improvement in grant support (amount and mechanisms - targeted) ◆ SE recognition of SFS ◆ Industry development especially in Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Investment ◆ Confidence ◆ Stability important ◆ Strategy has <u>caused</u> positive elements ◆ Improved access - good ◆ Co-operation - stakeholders (timber transport etc)

B. WHAT HASN'T GONE WELL

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reaching rural communities ◆ Transport (inc rail) routes - community input? ◆ Education - raise awareness ◆ Local employment ◆ % of land cover - forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Forestry still marginalised by agriculture interest with SEERAD ◆ Co-operation between SEERAD/FC and private sector not happening ◆ Balance between economic sustainability and environmental sustainability not been conducive to sustainable development. ◆ Effect of peak and trough in supply not been addressed. ◆ Return to grower has not been forthcoming in terms of non-commercial benefits for forestry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expansion of well designed productive woods ◆ Haven't exploited non timber benefits eg health. - not adequate ◆ Gaps in information on modern Forestry Commission co-ordination of access and recreation ◆ Lack of recognition of range of interaction in SFS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Housing ◆ Recreation facilities ◆ Other interests ◆ Sustainability - normality

C. WHAT SHOULD NOW BE OUR TOP PRIORITIES

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Solve transport problem ◆ Education - ministers - primary schools ◆ Develop local markets ◆ Commercial hardwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Economic sustainability throughout the supply chain ◆ Better integration with other land use ◆ Wood energy policy - co-ordinating approach, connectivity with other government policy eg renewable obligation targets ◆ Push new markets for wood products ◆ Address the peak supply issue ◆ Take into account climate change (but how?) ◆ Support for forest research ◆ Deer management continued ◆ Implementation ie funding ◆ Providing a native wood culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Normality - an objective (more expansion of productive woodlands) ◆ Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Economic ◆ Social ◆ Environmental ◆ Climate change ◆ Recognise regional priorities ◆ Renewable fuels

D. WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO DELIVER

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increased commercial planting ◆ Increased use of local resources ◆ Better communications - feedback ◆ Increase investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Education and training integration ◆ Complete loops - integrate tourism, recreation opportunities with forestry ◆ Encourage focused funding forestry to support non-forestry benefits in private sector ◆ Got to load the priorities ◆ Capitalisation on goodwill and understanding within the sector to deliver strategy ◆ Link into clear strategies such as health benefits, need formal recognition. ◆ Key Performance Indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Write a strategy ◆ Action plan/delivery mechanisms ◆ Living in woods

Other comments:

- ◆ Don't lose quality improvements gained throu SFGS
- ◆ Resolve state aid question re STTF - quickly
- ◆ Create an 'outcome' of normality in 9M m3/yr
- ◆ Build on partnerships of goodwill built since 2000.

- ◆ Government investment is required into the timber transport infrastructure.

- ◆ Essential that planting levels increased to address projected timber production shortfall.