

# Aigas Community Forest



Could this be your forest soon?

Lower Strathglass residents - let us know your views

You may have heard that a local Committee has been established to explore the possible community purchase of Aigas Forest - the woodlands (currently owned by the Forestry Commission) located on the west side of the River Beauly above and around Crask of Aigas and Teanassie.

People in lower Strathglass are now being given a chance to have their say about what should happen. It will be important to ensure that any plans drawn up for the Forest reflect the hopes and needs of the community, and so Bell Ingram Consultants have been commissioned to carry out an independent survey of local people.

Please use the survey form enclosed to tell us your thoughts about Aigas Forest as it is just now - then tell us what you'd love to see happen (or not happen!) in the future. If you receive more than one of these forms, please ask a different member of your household to complete it so that we can hear as many views as possible.

There is also to be a **public gathering** for everyone to view and discuss the proposals in more detail on **Monday 29 June at 7.30 pm at Kilmorack Hall**. Please come along, bringing this completed form with you if you can. Alternatively, please return completed questionnaires to Teanassie School by **Thursday 2 July** or post to the address below by **Saturday 4 July**. You can also complete the survey online at [www.bellingram.co.uk](http://www.bellingram.co.uk) (click on the "latest news" button) and e-mail it to [patrick.laughlin@bellingram.co.uk](mailto:patrick.laughlin@bellingram.co.uk). Thanks for your help!

*This survey is being carried out by **Bell Ingram, 22 Market Brae, Inverness IV2 3AB**, on behalf of Aigas Community Forest Steering Committee. Please contact Patrick Laughlin on 01337 857420 if you have any enquiries about the survey.*

## AIGAS FOREST COMMUNITY SURVEY

1. What would you say was your level of interest in the future of Aigas Forest? (circle one answer)  
HIGH      MEDIUM      LOW
2. Do you and your family currently make use of the Forest?  
YES      NO (If "no", go to Q 5)
3. What activities do you and your family currently carry out in the Forest? (please state all)
4. Do you have any comments about access to, and within, the Forest?
5. Now we'd like you to write down the things you like at the moment about Aigas Forest and its immediate surrounding area (even if you don't visit the forest at the moment). What aspects of the forest do you especially cherish?
6. Now tell us the things that you don't like at the moment about the forest and its surroundings. You might also like to say why you don't like these things.
7. Now, please say what improvements and/or new amenities you would like to see in the forest in future. At this stage, please do not be afraid to be imaginative and ambitious (but sorry, no zoos or theme parks!).

8. Tell us why you would like to see the forest change in the ways you have suggested, from the perspective of you, your family's or your club/group's needs.

9. Finally, we would like you to score the following possible uses of the forest according to what you feel is most important for the future benefit of the local community. Write "1" beside your top priority, "2" for your next most-favoured option, and so on down to "5" for the type of use that matters least to you. Score

**Environment** (protecting/enhancing the forest's ecology and aesthetics)

**Economy** (using the forest's resources to create local businesses and jobs)

**Energy** (exploring sustainable/renewable energy sources)

**Education** (using the forest as a resource for learning for all ages)

**Enjoyment** (using the forest as a place of relaxation and recreation)

10. If you have any other comments, please write them here:

Your name (optional) .....

Your age (please tick box) Under 16  16-35  36-64  65+

Male  Female

Your status (e.g. "local resident", "member of XXX club") .....

Please return completed questionnaires to the public meeting at Kilmorack Hall on 29 June, to Teanassie School by Thursday 2 July or post to the address below by Saturday 4 July. You can also complete the survey online at [www.bellingram.co.uk](http://www.bellingram.co.uk) and e-mail it to [patrick.laughlin@bellingram.co.uk](mailto:patrick.laughlin@bellingram.co.uk). Thanks for your help!

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