

Response from Forest District Manager (Inverness, Ross & Skye Forest District) re Broadford and Strath Community Company application

There are no significant changes to this application to that approved previously in 2006 and therefore the FD comments remain largely unchanged.

1 Consideration of the effect on management of the National Forest Estate.

While this application is for part of an existing forest area (Broadford Forest), the access will be taken from adjacent ground and not through the forest, therefore there will be no impact on access to the forest. This land largely drains away from the remaining forest and the proposed developments for the land are unlikely to impact on the surrounding forest in terms of services etc. Inevitably as this land is developed for recreational and public space use, there is the potential for some marginal impact in terms of increased access, but given the good record of Broadford and Strath Community Company in working in partnership with FCS, this is not seen as a problem.

The application has no impact on employment or timber supply contracts in this location.

2 FES opinion on the capacity of Broadford and Strath Community Company to manage the land.

Broadford and Strath Community Company have demonstrated through partnership projects that they have the capacity to deliver community benefit in terms of land-management work (path networks, community gardens etc). While this project is slightly more ambitious, the membership of Broadford and Strath Community Company is wide and it has a diverse range of skills. BSCC has proven capacity to deliver and has a vision for the community which should be supported.

This is a well-organised community body with good business skills that is well placed to manage this piece of land immediately adjacent to the community centre.