

The long-term role of the Forestry Commission England Public Forest Estate: consultation.

North West England external consultation event.

The aim of the event was to stimulate discussion on the issues raised by the consultation, allow people to hear the views of others and to encourage people to submit a written response to the consultation.

Details

Date of meeting: 13/07/09

Location: Tickled Trout, Preston

Number attending: 41

Chair: Eunice Simmons, Forestry Commission North West Regional Advisory Committee Chair

Forestry Commission England National Committee attendee(s): Tayo Adebawale

Study Working Group attendee(s): Stuart Goodall, Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor).

Key points raised during whole meeting discussion

Reality check Question 25

- Income from all sorts of opportunities: did not dismiss any totally but need balance and ensure not unfairly competing with private sector. Could charge for more things and increase amounts. Against Forestry Commission exploring opportunities outside woodland.
- Costs increase from restructure of Estate especially social agenda.
- Job creation – Intermediate Labour Market etc. – need to cover costs but no income generated.
- Wider forest estate outside Public Forest Estate – efficiencies for managing across landscape scale.
- Other sectors to work with – e.g. health, offenders, renewable energy.
- Community ownership opportunities –e.g. energy. Opportunities for joint ventures / efficiency savings.
- Wood has carbon benefits as timber as well as when used as woodfuel. Need to be more carbon literate – wood contributes to low carbon economy as a source of

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energy, as a carbon store and as a low carbon source of materials. Need more promotion of the potential for woods to capture carbon.

- ConFor – “Wood for Good” want Forestry Commission to continue support, most of research gone into energy need more on solid wood. Danger of perverse outcomes, driven by short term political agendas rather than long term outcomes. Local heat good but not for large scale energy production. Forest soils carbon store – little known about. Innovation – new ideas/purpose. Road ahead re climate change unpredictable – Forestry Commission needs be responsive / flexible.
- Forestry Commission needs to sell itself more outside the forestry community. Need to engage with broad range of public.

Comment from Chair

- Open document – no recommendations, asked to comment on issues raised.
- North West punches above weight in England context so views will be taken seriously
- Want to know about new ideas and also what already that you agree with.
- Please pass consultation on widely including to those outside sector.

Note taker: Penny Oliver and Mick Hine

Date notes finalised: 15th July 09

To find out more go to www.forestry.gov.uk/england-estatestudy or contact:

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