



Clydebelt News

Number six

February 1994

Clydebelt is the organisation dedicated to protecting our Greenbelt heritage in the Kilpatrick Hills.
It is non-political, non-sectarian, and non-profit-making

Community Woodland - good or bad for the hills ?

Clydebelt has been following the shifts in plans for new woodlands in the Kilpatrick Hills.

Cochno Farm, formally owned by farmer Donald Buchanan, has been bought for over £200,000 by Kilpatrick Woodlands from the original proposer of the Community Woodland, Rowland Parke.

Dom Brogan, who was to have been manager under Rowland Parke, is now one of the new owners, together with John Ferrier and John Hughes.

He has approached various groups, including Clydebelt, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Ramblers Association, Friends of the Earth, and the Community Council Forum, seeking endorsement of their plan for this sensitive area so that they can apply for substantial grants from the Forestry Authority.

The Forestry Authority assures us that they will not award a Community Woodland grant until local community groups are satisfied with the landowners' plans.

Although much of the plan seems attractive, there is concern over preservation of the views, and details of access and tree planting.

We are concerned that after only six years there will be an easy option for the new owners to sell, having had the majority of their grant, with subsequent owners under no obligation to provide public access. We are worried about a new road creating a potential house-building area.

Some members have said that for only £200,000 the land could have been bought directly for the public by the District Council, avoiding all the doubts over the security of private ownership.

Because of the nature of our organisation the committee feel that we must hold a membership meeting to discuss our position.

Forestry sell off

Meanwhile, the Forestry Commission has been trying to sell off acres of land in three parts of the Kilpatrick Hills.

Last month the Rambler's Association Access Officer met the Clydebelt committee to explain their national campaign against the sell-off. The main problem is the prospect of restricted access. We wrote to Ian Lang, with a copy to MP Tony Worthington, who has asked questions in parliament critical of the sell-off.

Subsequently the Forestry Commission recently reported that they have withdrawn the Kilpatrick forests from the market for the time being. It was suggested that prospective buyers were being put off by the controversy over access.

We hope this will continue to be true.

Meeting

Monday 21st February 1994 7.30pm
see back page for details

Planner vs Councillors at Inquiry

A Public Enquiry was held on Nov 15th on appeals against the Clydebank District Local Plan.

The Reporter, Mr G Pease, gave Clydebelt members every opportunity to express their views.

The main items concerning Clydebelt were appeals from three landowners to have Greenbelt land released for building. Developers also want land freed for house building in the "green finger" right down into Dalmuir Park.

Clydebelt spoke up at the Enquiry to support the Council on this issue. But in a surprise move, Principal Planner Stephen Beebe sided against the elected council position, and wanted to release green belt land on one of the three sites. We were amazed to see this planner contradicting evidence from Councillor John Gilleece.

Mr Beebe seemed to have double standards. Although against extending urban fringe into "marginal land" land around Three-Acres and No 8 Holding off Cochno Road, he argued that

Carleith Farm should be removed from the green belt.

After a fierce campaign by Clydebelt in May 1992, just before local elections, councillors had agreed to preserve this part of the green belt.

Clydebelt also opposed a late move by the Council to put a clause into the Local Plan that seems to permit extensions, of any size, around Estate houses such as Cochno and Edinbarnet.

We await the Reporter's decision.

Edinbarnet may extend Nursing Home after all

Clydebelt objected to and Clydebank District Council refused permission for an ugly extension to Edinbarnet House which would have destroyed valuable features of this listed building. This was in April 1992.

On 16th March 1993 Clydebelt took part in the Public Inquiry hearing the owner's appeal. The Reporter, Mr Michael Thomson, agreed with the District Council's planners that the design was not satisfactory, and dismissed the appeal against planning permission being refused. Clydebelt persuaded the Reporter that the owners should rebuild the former roof space rather than have their extension.

Now, at the beginning of December, the Nursing Home has applied again with a revised design for a large extension.

We believe that the District Council planners may be satisfied with the design, and may give planning consent this time. Although many of the previous objections no longer apply, Clydebelt is unhappy with the size of the proposed building.

you are invited to the
Clydebelt Members'

General Meeting

Monday 21st February
7.30pm 1994

**in the Trinity Church,
Roman Road, Duntocher**

We will discuss the issues raised in this Newsletter, and any more that arise. The meeting is for all those who are members - all who receive this newsletter. Come and make your feelings known.

Agenda

1. Minutes of 4th October meeting
2. Financial Report
3. News since previous meeting
5. Current issues (as in this Newsletter) especially Community Woodlands decision
6. Any other competent business

more information from Clydebelt Chairman/Secretary George Campbell,
1c Burnbrae Street, Faifley, Clydebank G81 5BY 0389 76540

The Kilpatrick Hills in Former Time

Prof Rankine's recent book on the March stones of the Kilpatrick Hills gives a convincing explanation of those mysterious stones spread about the hills which carry carved initials. The book has been published by the Clydebank District Library.

Prof Rankine, will be talking to the Clydebank Local History Society on Thursday 20th April at 7.30 in the Lesser Town Hall on "The Kilpatrick Hills in Former Time".

Clydebelt members are welcome.

What is this called in the Kilpatrick Hills?

Lady's Smock is sometimes called *Cuckoo-flower* - but her e?

Its botanical name is *Car damine pratensis*. *Car damine* from the Greek for a kind of cress, as the plant belongs to that group. *Pratensis* Latin, 'growing in meadows.'

Habitat: Damp fields and meadows, sides of streams, moist places.

Flowers: Spring and early summer **Height:** About 1 foot.
Delicate flowers which vary in colour from white to the more usual pale lilac. Flowers grow in clusters at the head of the stem.

Stem leaves are smooth and so deeply cut the leaflets seem almost needle-shaped. Bottom leaves are cut into more rounded leaflets placed in pairs along the midrib. The stem is smooth and upright.

