

## **Brief Report on Meeting with NFLS Panel Member – 17.11.09**

Just a quick note on today's visit with the NFLS Panel member Diana Gilbert. Diana was accompanied by Malcolm Wield and David Jardine from FCS. On the Aigas side we had Peter Masheter, John Graham, Steve Byford and me.

The meeting took the form of a drive / walk through the forest allowing Diana to see for herself what she and fellow panel members will be discussing on 10 December. We were also very gently quizzed around the same points that were in the NFLS application i.e. community capacity, community support and social, environmental and economic benefits. We took the chance to talk about all the potential benefits of community ownership both in terms of potential income generation and also, importantly, in terms of improved access and social use and environmental regeneration.

The whole thing lasted just over 2 hours.

The next stage is the NFLS panel meeting on 10 December. This panel has never rejected an application outright although it does have the option to apply conditions to the acceptance. Having said that, there was strong indication that our application covers all the bases and there would be no need for conditions.

After the panel decide this has to be ratified by FCS management and only then are we informed. Malcolm was optimistic we would hear before Christmas.

Cheers for now

Andrew