
LAUDER GRAZINGS AMENITY WOODLAND

Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure

LAUDER COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE

19 June 2019

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **The report seeks to obtain the consent of Lauder Common Good Fund Sub Committee to allow a grant application to be made on their behalf for the planting of tree at Lauder Grazings.**
- 1.2 **The plan showing the location of the proposed planting, covering an area of 2.12 acres (0.86 ha) also requires approval.**

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that Lauder Common Good Sub Committee approves the planting of trees as shown on the attached plan with SAC Consulting acting as agent and the Council's Penmanshiel Compensatory replacement grant scheme as funder.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The fencing adjacent to the Lauder Burn is in a state of disrepair and some erosion has occurred to the stream banking. In order to comply with SEPA regulations and improve grazing conditions new fencing and water troughs are required.
- 3.2 An initial site meeting was carried out by SBC and SAC consulting, identifying suitable areas for some amenity planting to improve the visual impact of the Lauder Burn as people enter Lauder from Galashiels.
- 3.2 Public consultation was a carried out through the Lauder Community Council and at the community council meeting on 15 April 2019. The feedback from this was positive.
- 3.3 The planting design can be seen at Appendix 1. The fencing has been provisionally noted as a 3-line wire fence but may be enhanced to ensure it be strong enough to contain the horses. All trees planted adjacent to the grazing's will be horse friendly.
- 3.4 The tree planting and associated works will be funded under the Penmanshiel Compensatory Replacement Grant scheme through a twenty year contract. The Council is responsible for delivering this compensatory woodland in Scottish Borders, with an objective to providing multiple benefits for communities.

Please see forecast figures below.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Totals
Establishment Costs	5374	754	299	237	190	6854
Income	5374				2366	7740

Any surplus will be reserved for maintenance costs. The water troughs and tree survey on existing woodland will be funded in addition to enable the works.

- 3.5 Once the woodland has been planted the Lauder Common Good fund would then be responsible for the future maintenance. Although this will be monitored for the first ten years by SAC consulting who are administering the grant on behalf of the Council. The Common Good will be responsible for instructing any maintenance which is identified by the SAC, reporting to the Council. After the ten year monitoring period it will be the responsibility of the Common Good to identify and instruct any maintenance works if required.

4 IMPLICAIONS

4.1 Financial

The cost of establishing the new woodland along with the associated works will be covered by the Penmanshiel Compensatory replacement grant scheme. It is forecast that the funding will be available for maintenance of the trees for the first 10 years after planting and this will be monitored by SAC Consulting. The Common Good fund would then be responsible for the cost of any routine maintenance. The forecasted figures show a surplus, which could be reserved for the future maintenance of the trees.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a risk that the award of grant funding doesn't cover all the cost of establishing the woodlands and the initial maintenance. This is considered a low risk as it is forecast that there will be surplus. There is also a risk that the trees might not grow, although highly unlikely, if this occurs the grant money must be paid back with interest.

4.3 Equalities

No adverse equality implications are envisaged.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

No significant economic, social or environmental effects are anticipated as a result of the recommendation in this report

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions. This would contribute to carbon sequestration on a small scale.

4.6 Rural Proofing

None

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, Communications and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Martin Joyce

Service Director Assets & Infrastructure Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation
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Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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