

From: Michelle Fraser <branchingupwards@gmail.com>
Sent: 18 August 2021 07:28
To: Tatler, Robin <Robin.Tatler@scotborders.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL] Re: Use of Peebles Common Good Land

CAUTION: External Email

Hi Robin

I would be extremely grateful if you are still able to discuss my organisation using the woodland at the edge of the river in Haylodge park (around where the rope swing is - approximate Grid Ref NT243403) to run 2 groups for Kingsland Primary for 7 weeks, at the Peebles Common Good Land meeting today. Should all permissions be in place we would like to start on Monday 23rd. We would run 2 sessions on a Monday with the first arriving in the woodland around 9am and leaving by 1045 and the second arriving around 1.15pm and leaving by 3.10pm. We will operate a strict Forest School 'leave no trace' policy. With permission, we would do a small contained 10 min fire within a fire pit raised off the ground during some of our sessions. By doing so we will be teaching the children very strict rules of how to do fires in a safe and controlled way where they have no impact on the natural world around them. I am happy to discuss any aspect of this further. We would also set up some hammocks but would use tree straps so not to damage any of the bark. The sessions are called 'Nurture in Nature' and are funded by the Scottish Government as a way of supporting pupil emotional and physical wellbeing through Nature Connection activities that build confidence, resilience and relationships between participants and with the natural world. I have been running similar blocks of sessions of this nature across Tweeddale schools for SBC for the last 2 years with great success.

I am very aware from following PCC minutes, discussions with High School and the Fire Dept that antisocial behaviour and fires started by teenagers have been an issue throughout Peebles of late. I would be keen to work alongside PCC and PHS to get involved in a project whereby all children, including those at PHS, are educated about how to enjoy but care for the natural world.

Both Clare Swann and I are very keen to help develop youth services in Peebles under each of our own Not for Profit Community Interest Company umbrellas. We are both very passionate about this and have vested interest in that our own children are currently in P7. Through our roles (Clare through Schools Out and mine as a Teacher or Forest School Leader across many of the Tweeddale Schools) we have developed trusting relationships with many of the current P7-S2 pupils and are keen to provide an opportunity for their voices to be heard in shaping such a service. I would be happy to organise the running of a drop in Forest School session one evening for the youngsters to come along and share their views (with the tempting reward of toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate in return).

I am happy to arrange a meeting with any members of PCC, PHS, Clare and I should this be deemed appropriate.

Kind regards
Michelle Fraser