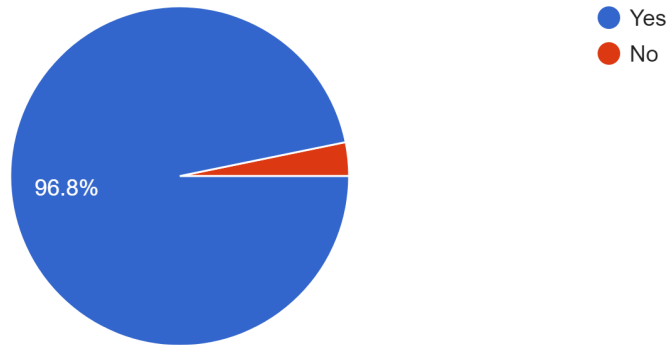


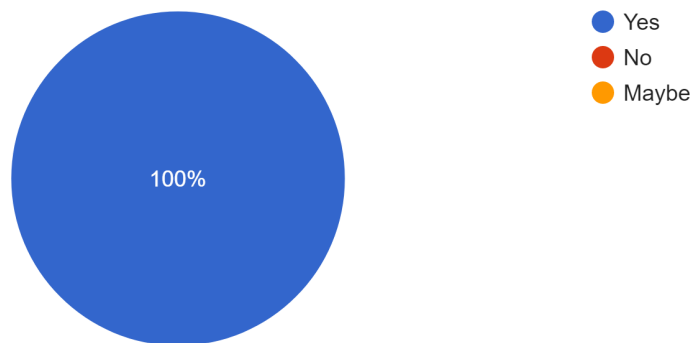
**Dingwall Community Woodland
Local Resident Consultation Responses
October 2020**



Do you live in or close to (within 5 miles) of Dingwall?
187 responses



Do you like the idea of a Community Woodland for Dingwall?
187 responses



If yes, what are the main reasons? (tick all that apply)

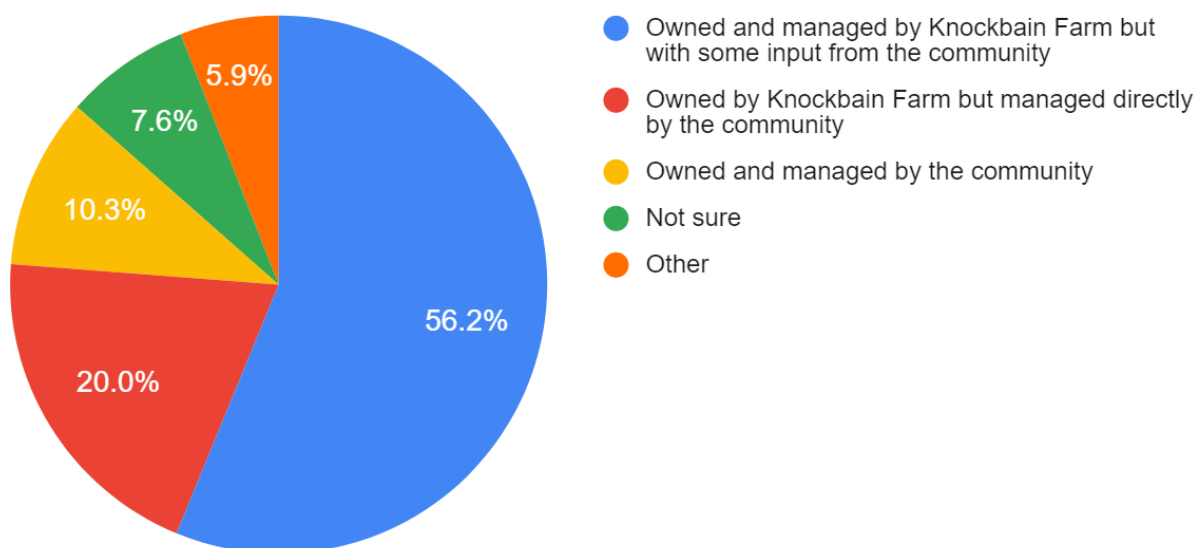
186 responses



Other reasons given:

- Improve the local landscape
- Opportunity for a community orchard
- Preservation of trees we don't see often nowadays
- Another place/way for all to enjoy the great outdoors
- Communities in general need to reconnect with our natural world
- For physical and mental health
- Dog walking
- Planting trees for future generations to enjoy
- Picnic area
- Woodlands are healing
- Suitable access for all age groups

Do you think the community wood should be:



Other suggestions:

- Phased from farm to community over time (years) as the community builds experience and knowledge from the farm. **7 people suggested this**
- Can it be co-owned and managed by both the Knockbain Farm and community **2 people suggested this**
- How about the Schools manage the area as educational classes under the management and direction of Knockbain Farm

Do you have any suggestions and ideas that you think we should consider?

Note: Words in bold were mentioned more than once, underlined are words/ideas mentioned frequently.

Community

- Physical & mental health
 - Would encourage more locals to be more active and take part in the community projects
 - Outings for people who wouldn't be able to get there under their own steam
 - Work with groups like orienteering club & Dementia Scotland
 - Woodland trails for walkers/runners
 - Trim Trail/Outdoor fitness equipment
- A **natural playpark**. All things made from wood, recycled materials etc.
- Sensory areas
- Seating
 - A small clear **area for people to enjoy a picnic** on a sunny day/ **picnic benches**
 - Bench viewpoints
 - Some nice seating in a nature feeding area, so we can quietly observe them
- Memorial trees and benches
- Outdoor toilets would be really helpful for families/visitors
- With an eye to future pandemics, could incorporate outdoor gathering spaces such as an **amphitheatre** or other space where social distanced gathering is possible.
- Carpark

Education

- Educational resource for **schools/nurseries** to be involved.
 - **Outdoor nursery**
 - Education trail
 - Bug hotels
 - Children to learn about respecting the outdoors
- A **covered shelter** to act as an **outdoor classroom** for adult/children groups. This could include visits such as the dementia group, local nurseries etc.
- Nature education
 - Tree identification
 - Bird song/ bird watching walks
 - Work with other groups to offer courses/walks
- **Learning boards**
- Learning for how to restore natural spaces and how to survey for wildlife

Access/ Inclusivity

- Different walks **suitable for different ages and disabilities**
- **Wheelchair friendly**
- Access to the area from the town itself, so people don't have to drive to it and park

- Dog friendly
- Buggy-able paths
- Circular routes
- Linked **paths to Dingwall Mart** or Hector MacDonald Monument graveyard and Peffery Way
- Safe access and safe space for school children/early years

Nature

- **Plant only native trees**
- Leave standing and fallen deadwood in situ in the future
- Carefully plant the understory too with blaeberry, holly, etc to encourage wildlife to thrive
- **Ponds**
- **Feeding areas** for different animals
- **Wildflower meadow**
- **Bird/bat/squirrel boxes**
- Scrubby shrubby weedy areas to increase the habitat potential of the site
- Guelder rose for berries for birds in the autumn
- SNH, RSPB, Forestry Scotland or other conservation charities to get involved, offer advice or support.

Art

- Wood sculptures/stone circles
- Fairy houses
- Storytelling

Food Growing

- **Community allotments/garden**
- Summer fruits (e.g. **orchard**, brambles, rosehips, elderberries) and winter veg for either community to help themselves or **donate to local charity e.g. community fridge**
- **Foraging e.g. fungi**

Generating Income

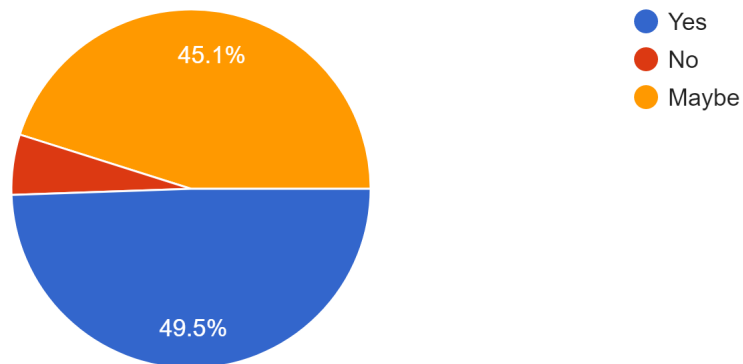
- Cafe
- Manage for long term **native timber**
- Outdoor nursery could be established as source of income
- In Evanton there was the opportunity for every home to make a donation at the beginning of the project (when the wood was bought) so that people felt they had an interest in it.

Other

- As a Fortrose resident I would be really interested to see how a community project like this could be used to stimulate interest within other communities such as Fortrose.

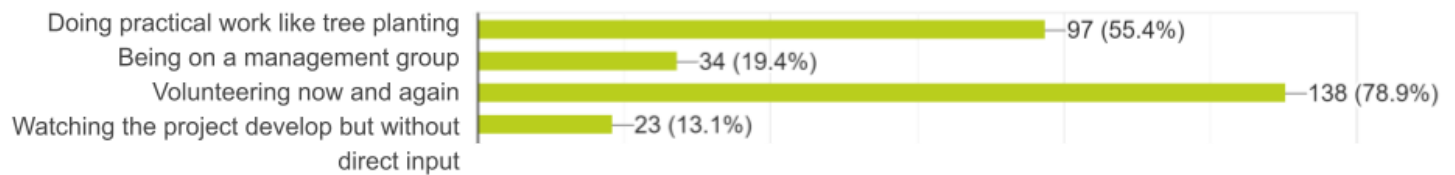
Would you like to be involved?

184 responses



If you got involved would you be interested in (choose all that apply):

175 responses



Other:

- Roles for people who can't help physically
- Advertising and getting additional support etc if needed
- Helping to fundraise
- Education work
- Art and storytelling activities

END