

Community Woodland Network Grant Report

Group Name: Wirksworth Community Woodland Association
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There were two elements to the grant application as follows

1. Free courses run on site for members and local community:

Tree Identification course
Introduction to Environmental Conservation
Working with willow

Benefits:

These courses have generally proved to be a great success this summer. The two practical courses ran well with good attendance. However the course we ran as an introduction to environmental conservation was a great success. This seemed to give people with no prior involvement in the wood and area in which they had the confidence to promote their ideas.

One of the main group exercises carried out at Stoney Wood was to assess the area in terms of education, conservation and recreation, for what's already been achieved, if these are good or bad, what could be done to improve the site and how that could be done. The group came up with many interesting points which they wanted to share with the Stoney wood management group. This was a great form of consultation and the comments will be used to inform the future management of the site.

2. Skills courses for core group members:

The Arts as Tools for Community Consultation. (NIF course 1 place)
Supporting Community Fundraising(NIF course 1 place)
Effective Partnership Working (NIF course 1 place)
Getting people Active and Involved (ETN course 1 place)
Interpretative Provision for Visitors (ETN course 1 place)

Benefits:

We have had difficulty organising these as courses keep getting cancelled.

However, to date, group members have attended Getting people Active and Involved and the Interpretative Provision for Visitors course. These have both been really helpful as we had an interpretation project on the site where we needed to design a couple of boards. This course helped group members by inspiring them with ideas. Likewise the Getting People Active and Involved course helped us to design the Introduction to Environmental Conservation course that we ran that has been a great success. This was a great course that we would recommend anyone new to the subject to attend.