*Press Notice: Monday 10 May 21 Embargo* ***00.01 14 May***

**Community asset transfer planned for BroomPower hydro woodland.**

Lochbroom Community Renewables (LCR) is preparing a business case to buy 94 hectares of Lael Forest from the state foresters, Forest and Land Scotland (FLS). The aim is to develop community interests for local benefits which are not in FLS forestry plans.

£292k is the estimated purchase price of the forest lots between Allt na Chrìche and Allt a Bhràighe. In addition, the Broompower hydro footprint is priced at £20k.

LCR Board is seeking agreement with FLS so as to apply for Scottish Land Fund grant of 95% after the scheme restarts after the Scottish elections.

To cover purchase costs and legal fees the target is between £40k and £50k to take forward these exciting plans. No grant is possible for the hydro footprint itself therefore LCR is asking members to pledge donations and buy extra community shares. Further details will be laid out by the LCR Board at the time of offering.

LCR, whose constitution includes provision for developing community benefit, is scoping the potential for woodland crofts and woodlots to rent along with cabins for visitors and off grid hutting. Recreational uses such as walking, and mountain biking are in the mix.

In Wester Ross, and particularly around Loch Broom community, creating woodland crofts could alleviate housing need. Sky high prices of homes for sale are far beyond local pockets. Informally young people have shown interest in the potential woodland crofts for rent.

Speaking this week LCR chair, Rob Gibson, said,

“This is an exciting new venture for Ullapool and district. It is the largest population centre in Wester Ross and deserves to have ambitions that turn our natural resources to local needs in an environmentally sustainable way. We hope to involve the wider community as our business plans gain approval by FLS.”

Notes:

1. Details of the proposed fund-raising plan are available on Broompower website.
2. A map of the proposed Lochbroom Community Woodland is attached for information only.
3. Several photographs of the land are available for publication from LCR on request.

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