

## **Denholm Dean Update – Proposed Felling of Sitka Spruce**

The Lower Dean was gifted to the Trustees of Denholm Feuars & Householders Council (Feuars) in 2019 by the late Michael Braithwaite as an amenity for the village and a haven for wildlife. One of the conditions of the gift was that the nonnative conifers be removed and replaced with native broad-leafed trees. The Feuars Council have recently established a Sub Committee (The Denholm Dean Committee) with non-council members who have the expertise to manage this project.

An additional reason for the urgency in felling is that many of the spruce trees have developed Butt Rot and Bark Beetle damage making them unstable and require felling for safety reasons.

A felling licence has to be obtained before final arrangements can be made and one of the requirements for the licence is consultation with the local community including the neighbours of the Lower Dean. A letter has been distributed accordingly.

The trees in sections 1 on the enclosed map would be felled and stacked to the side of the Dean Road from where they would be picked up by the hauliers. There would be some disruption over one or two days. The trees in sections 2-4 would be felled and transported across the field to the west and then to the roadside. This has been agreed in principle by the farmer at Honeyburn but the uplift point has still to be confirmed. It may take a week to complete removal of these trees.

The committee have already received quotes for felling and harvesting the trees and selected in their opinion the best one which should result in a small profit but that is dependent on the quality and quantity of the timber delivered to the saw mill and log prices at that time.

It is planned to carry out the work in the summer when the ground is dry and the window between lifting and sowing crops at Honeyburn. You will be notified of the planned start and finish dates.

Any concerns or comments with regard to this can be directed to the Denholm Dean Committee email: [denholmdeanconsultation@gmail.com](mailto:denholmdeanconsultation@gmail.com). This matter will also be discussed at the next Denholm & District Community Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 7.00pm in Denholm Village Hall, where representatives will be present when these proposals will be discussed and questions can be raised.