The Langholm Initiative incorporating The Tarras Valley Nature Reserve – An overview for Rotary

The Langholm community now legally owns 5,200 acres of land which includes upland moor, ancient woodland, meadows, peatlands and river valley which is being developed into the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve (TVNR).

 The Langholm Initiative now has a team of staff in place to taking forward development of the reserve which includes creating a nature reserve management plan, planting a new woodland and developing a school education and volunteering programme.

The team recognises that to be successful it works with partners in setting the future direction, thus presenting a major opportunity for Rotary. There will be many volunteering opportunities available going forwards, including practical conservation tasks, biological surveying, environmental education and community engagement.

2nd Phase Buyout
A campaign to raise the funds to purchase a further 5,300 acres of land is now underway with a deadline of 31 May 2022. To complete this project they will need to raise £2.2m and this will be our final opportunity to bring this land into community ownership. This will be the largest Community led land restoration project in Scotland

Planning
- TVNR has funding to permit at least 3 years of activity.
- Much of the programming of work is conditional on the success of purchasing the 2nd tranche of land.
- Woodland restoration projects are key as will be the creation of a large tree nursey
- Up to 50,000 trees will be planted by the end of 2023
- At least 1,000 acres of land are in need of Peatland Restoration.

Support
Other than what Rotary could offer support will be provided by Nature Scot. The TVNR team are working closely with them.
Rotary can now work up some plans ready for implementation after the fate of the second buyout is defined. This planning will include discussions with the District Foundation team. However the TVNR team are enthusiastic about working Rotary.