



Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland

Phone/Fax: 0506 23557

Email: woodlife@justforests.org

Internet: www.iol.ie/~woodlife

Taking a livelihood approach to forest conservation since 1989

29 July 2000
Mr. Eoin Doyle,
Offaly Community Forum,
Bridge Centre,
Bridge Street,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.

RE. Timber Purchasing Policy for Local Authorities.

Dear Mr Doyle,

Just Forests are the Irish partners of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Soil Association (SA), the pioneers of responsible forestry related initiatives. The attached *Timber Purchasing Policy* for Local Authorities, which was developed, by WWF and the Soil Association aims to help Local Authorities obtain their timber from sources, which are environmentally, socially and economically sound. In particular, the project supports the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) whose principles and criteria encompass these aspects of forest management. Just Forests are the official contact for the Forest Stewardship Council in Ireland.

As the recently elected Environment/Conservation/Culture representative on Offaly Co Council's SPC on Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development, I wish to submit a recommended *Timber Purchasing Policy* for the SPC's consideration and have great pleasure in enclosing a copy of the policy for presentation to the members of Offaly County Council's SPC on Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development.

As Offaly Co Council are about to build a new headquarters we feel the adoption of a *timber purchasing policy* that ensures timber used in the new building comes from well-managed forests will place Offaly Co Council in a unique position as the Irish leaders of responsible timber sourcing in Local Authorities. Offaly Co Council could actually pilot a *timber purchasing policy* for Local Authorities. The results of which would be made available to all Local Authorities.

Local Authorities who work with Just Forests on this policy will be able to present their affinity in support of their Local Agenda 21, as well as in support of Local Authority EMAS. The Local Authorities Project has been endorsed by the Local Government Management Board (LGMB) of the UK for inclusion as part of a Local Agenda 21 Strategy.

Worldwide forests are under immense pressure from human interventions. Responsible harvesting practices that take account of the environmental, social and economic aspects of forestry will need to be better enforced if forests are to continue to provide us with the array of services we need to sustain life.

All Local Authorities on the island of Ireland have been informed of the project by this office. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information regarding this project.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Roche

Enclosures: