

Gatehouse Development Initiative

Meeting Wednesday 26 July 7.30pm Community Centre

Present: D Steel (Chair); F Bruno; I Burnie; T Burnie; J Davidson; D Finlay; W Finlay; J Jameson; W McKie; J Morton; K Smyth.

1. Apologies: P Addison; R Dean; R Forster; M Hannay; D McIntyre; B Napper; J Russell

2. Minutes of 31 May meeting.

Accepted with amendment that John Jameson was present.

3. Matters arising

It was suggested that names be placed against action points and that draft minutes be displayed on the noticeboard due to the length of time between meetings. This was agreed. It was noted that there is a shortage of room on the notice board partly because half is currently reserved for the diary of events. It was noted that it is a GDI notice board and should be fully used for GDI/Community Council business. It was agreed that F Bruno, K Smyth and I Burnie meet to seek to resolve the problem.

ACTION: F Bruno; K Smyth; I Burnie.

4. Current Projects

Cally Gates: The gates are being painted by the owner as an interim measure until a plan/funding for their full restoration can be arranged. The project will come off the current list for the time being.

Economic Development: The sub-group has met for the first time. Membership includes a number of local employers. The top priority is felt to be affordable housing. It was seen as important to attract working families to redress the age imbalance in the population. A meeting will be arranged with the Planning Officer responsible for the next 5 year plan to discuss options. CADISPA, who specialise in regeneration and development work with rural communities and who have greatly helped the Drop-in Centre have been approached and indicated they would be happy to work with a wider Gatehouse remit. An initial step will be a community survey.

Garries Park: Sensory Garden: A further bid for funding is being made.

Multipurpose Hall: Discussions ongoing. It was noted that a feasibility study to show evidence of need would be required for a project of this size.

Port Macadam: Riverside Walk: This is now complete. Ron Forster submitted a written report detailing all the work carried out. The path will be officially opened by the Provost on 31st July. Elected representatives and representatives of groups and organisations involved have been invited. The following bodies supported the project: The Community Council; Air Training Corps; Ardwall Farms; Solway Heritage; National Trust for Scotland; Scottish Natural Heritage; Awards for All; Dumfries and Galloway Council; National Scenic Area Countryside Team (Volunteers). The Council have not been able to find money for the extension of the tarmac pavement at the Cardoness end. SEPA have been asked to investigate the foul effluent discharging into the river at the eastern end. **Phase 2, Port Macadam:** Clarification of who is responsible for authorising work on the riverbed is being sought.

The Chairman commended Ron for his achievement in bringing the path about and thanked him and the volunteers for all their hard work.

Renewables: Solar Panels: Nothing to report. Willie McKie stated that he was keen to investigate the potential for mounting solar panels on roofs in the High Street, and what the implications would be re planning.

Geothermal: The Mill now has a signed lease, but the fund for renewables is now heavily oversubscribed and the project is unlikely to proceed for the time being.

Wind Turbine: The concrete base for the turbine is now in place and ready for the tower. The turbine itself is under construction in Canada and is due to be shipped during August. It is still hoped to have the turbine commissioned by late October. Franca Bruno noted that communities within a 15km radius of wind farms are benefiting financially from the developers. Solway Heritage are acting as the interface between communities and developers.

Town Entry: As there is no imminent progress on this it was agreed to drop it from the current project list.

Walks: No report. It was noted that the Gatehouse Walks Leaflet is out of print. It is felt that this is a very useful leaflet and should be reprinted. Wilma Finlay will speak to the Tourist Office in Dumfries.

ACTION: W Finlay

Web Site: Ongoing.

5. Any Other Business

Jock Davidson raised the problem of car parking again. John Jameson felt this could be picked up under the Economic Development remit. Ron Forster is already involved for the Community Council.

ACTION: J Jameson

8. Dates of future meetings

27 September; 29 November