

Gatehouse Development Initiative
Wednesday 28 May 2008 7.30pm Community Centre

Present: D Steel (Chair); D Carlisle; R Dean; W Finlay; R Forster; S Harris; J Jameson; D McIntyre; A Mitchell; J Morton; W McKie; J Russell; K Smyth; .

1. Apologies: P Addison; F Bruno; I Burnie; M Hannay.

2. Minutes 30 January. Accepted, proposed W McKie, seconded J Morton.

Matters arising:

- R Forster was advised that the correct title for Eykolina de Zwart from Solway Heritage is Wood Pasture Officer.
- D Steel reported that Nic Coombey (Solway Heritage) has completed the draft report for the recently undertaken survey of the Cally walls and that it will be presented at the next meeting of the Cally Designed Landscape Steering Group.
- D Steel reported that it is the intention of the D and G Council to reprint the full suite of walks leaflets for the region this year.
- D Steel reported that a meeting has taken place with a representative from the Energy Agency to discuss further ideas for alternative energy provision in Gatehouse, particularly the potential for a Methane Plant. This would be a large project and would require a feasibility study first. Visits were made to Cream o' Galloway to look at the turbine, and to the Mill on the Fleet.
- D Steel has reported on the CADISPA report to a meeting of the Stewartry Rural Partnership, and will do so also to the Area Committee in June. It is important to draw the attention of the local councillors to the Gatehouse priorities.

3. Presentation of the Accounts for 2007 (carried over from the AGM)

The accounts were discussed at a meeting of the Directors prior to this meeting and accepted. The preparation of the accounts for the GDI is now a more complex matter due to the substantial turnover of the company, particularly as a result of the turbine project, and OSCR the charities regulator now requires the use of specific charity accounts software for the purpose, which the GDI accountants Bell Ogilvy now have. W McKie reported that he has now derestricted several GDI funds and that in future only funding tied to a particular project will be restricted. He also reported that the accountants had highlighted the need for a formal agreement between Cream o' Galloway and the GDI re the maintenance of the turbine and sale of the electricity generated. This will be progressed. The Treasurer also noted that as there is an increasing flow of income generated by GDI projects it will be necessary to have a policy on how these funds may be used. Up until now it has generally been the case that GDI projects are self financing. R Forster suggested that a fund for 'small works' be established. It was also suggested that a budget for expenditure be established. In the first instance Finance will be added as an agenda item to future agendas. R Forster requested £300 for bracken control on the Riverside Walk, a decision on this to await further information.

5. CADISPA: Discussion of recommendations.

The Chairman welcomed Adam Mitchell who had agreed to lead a discussion within the GDI meeting of the CADISPA recommendations. Those present spent approximately an hour in two small groups looking at which of the recommendations best fit the aims and objectives of the Initiative. Key objectives were divided into a number of shorter and longer term goals, which will form the basis for an action plan

6. Current Projects

Reports were held over to the next meeting.

7. Any other business

- Stocks of the Community leaflet are very low. It will also need updating. D Steel will look at options for a new edition.
- Dawn McIntyre reported that the Community Centre Management Committee has held a special meeting to consider the way forward. They are looking with SCVS at converting to charitable company status which should help in seeking refurbishment grants. They are circulating users to canvas their views on future development and will thereafter hold a public meeting to get community views. A grant from D and G Council has allowed for essential repairs to the roof to be carried out. Fundraising is being organised to purchase new folding tables for the Centre. All bookings should be made through Dawn directly. Rates are currently: Rooms - £8 per hour; Hall £10 per hour; Parties £60.

8. Date of next meeting

30 July, 7.00pm in the Murray Arms (the Community Centre is unavailable). Please note earlier start time.

Workshop - Prioritising the recommendations from the Cadispa report.

The workshop on the 28th May 2008 was attended by members of the Gatehouse Development Initiative.

The workshop was facilitated by Adam Mitchell (Community Development Worker) and participants spent approximately an hour in two small groups looking at which of the recommendations best fit the aims and objectives of the Initiative. They were asked to:

- ◆ Choose which recommendations would be best achieved through another source (I.E. Community Council, Housing partnership, Local Authority, other)
- ◆ Agree in their individual groups which projects directly related to the objectives of the GDI
- ◆ Collate on flip chart into short medium and long term achievability.
- ◆ Collate both of the groups' findings and look at similarities.

Within the work groups discussion was had around the links between some of the short, medium and long term recommendations, how recommendations with a long term view overlap or compliment the short term projects that already exist. The example being the Tourist information Centre project linking to the importance of co-ops, social enterprises, Community owned assets and the need to balance services for tourist trade with those for locals.

In conclusion the progress made has identified a number of specific areas of work. I would recommend the next step to be to look at feasibility and to start to set targets and time scales that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time based).

At right is a record of the flip charts made on the night and the short, medium and long term achievability from the Bullseye diagram.

Priority issues for the GDI

Group 1

Retain services of TIC
More consultation on community plans
Improve ICT Broadband etc
Importance of preserving natural and built environment
Tourism strategy as part of 5 year plan
Better public participation
Space for existing and new business units
Discussions to ensure housing needs recognised within Local Plan

Group 2

Importance of preserving natural and built environment
Look at civic improvements
More signage and access issues
Space for existing and new business units
Balance services for tourist trade with those for locals
Importance of co-ops, social enterprises, community owned assets
Asset register of business space
Potential for social enterprise and power generation at Mill

Short term achievability.

- ◆ Retain services of TIC (linked to Importance of co-ops, social enterprises, community owned assets and Balance services for tourist trade with those for locals)
- ◆ Importance of preserving natural and built environment (linked to Potential for social enterprise and power generation at Mill)
- ◆ Look at civic improvements
- ◆ Better public participation (Linked to Tourism strategy as part of 5 year plan)
- ◆ More signage and access issues
- ◆ Improve ICT Broadband etc
- ◆ More consultation on community plans

Medium term achievability.

- ◆ Space for existing and new business units
- ◆ Discussions to ensure housing needs recognised within Local Plan
- ◆ Space for existing and new business units
- ◆ Importance of co-ops, social enterprises, community owned assets
- ◆ Balance services for tourist trade with those for locals

Long term achievability.

- ◆ Potential for social enterprise and power generation at Mill