

Gatehouse Development Initiative
Meeting Wednesday 28 November 2007 7.30pm Community Centre

Present: D Steel (Chair); P Addison; C Barrat; F Bruno; D Carlisle; D Finlay; R Forster; J Jameson; D McIntyre; W McKie; M McPherson; J Morton; J Russell; K Smyth.

Apologies: I Burnie; T Burnie; D Cameron; S Harris; A Mitchell; P Murray-Usher.

The Chairman congratulated Cream 'o Galloway and the NSA Officer, the Turbine and Viewpoints projects having been shortlisted for the Leader+ Awards.

2. Minutes of 26 September meeting. Accepted.

3. Matters arising: No matters arising.

4. Current Projects

CADISPA: The report is still awaited but is expected soon. Once received a public meeting will be arranged to present the findings. The Housing element has been received and copies of this were circulated. A general discussion re housing took place. Concern was expressed about the difficulty of ensuring new housing would be available for locals. D Steel had attended a very useful presentation by a representative from Kiltimagh in the Irish Republic who have been very successful in regenerating their community. J Jameson reported on his scheme to fell and infill Garries Wood and build a new street parallel to the High Street. F Bruno for the Community Council felt the scheme should be considered along with any other development options within the town. The meeting agreed that further general investigation of the scheme could continue.

Country Market: Running smoothly.

Economic Development: Nothing to report.

Garries Park: Nothing to report.

New Town Hall: Nothing to report.

Port Macadam: R Forster advised the meeting that a having a lease would be the only way of seeking large scale funding for the Port. The CADISPA report is awaited for Community feedback on the project.

Walks: Updates are being made to the walks brochure. Concern was raised about warning signs on a walk crossing fields containing cows with calves. D Finlay suggested this was likely to be mainly advisory, possibly for the farm's own legal protection. He advised that in general the greater threat was from inquisitive younger cattle, and to walkers with dogs.

Web Site: Running smoothly.

Wind Turbine: Generating power. Some teething troubles still. An engineer from a different firm, Perpetual Energy, has visited and some repairs have been carried out. It is intended to install a wireless link to the control building. D Finlay handed over a first cheque for £1406 for GDI funds.

5. TIC

Meetings have taken place between Visit Scotland, the Council and four interested parties re running the TIC. All the groups have been asked to submit more detailed proposals including 3 year business plans. The Council's Regeneration Department has indicated that financial support could be available for a partnership involving a community enterprise. D Carlisle attended the meeting and gave an outline of her proposal that the building be used as a promotional tool for local businesses and as a portal for regional craft and food producers, possibly with GDI support. D Steel advised the meeting that it would be inappropriate to discuss any of the proposals, as it will be up to Visit Scotland and the Council to reach a decision on the plans submitted. He asked, however, if the meeting would support the GDI becoming involved if the appropriate opportunity arises. This was agreed in principle. F Bruno abstained.

6. Any Other Business

W McKie reported that a Small Initiatives Fund providing grants up to £750 for Stewartry projects was available, the money to be used in this financial year. D Steel informed the meeting that next year is the 40th anniversary of the Dry Stone Walling Association, started in Gatehouse, and that Gatehouse was likely to be a focus for activities to mark the occasion. Proposals being considered include educational or demonstration events at the Mill, and restoration work and workshops on the Cally walls as part of the Cally Management Plan. It was agreed that a bid be made for funding to develop the event.

7. Dates of future meetings: 30 January, 26 March.