

**Gatehouse Development Initiative**  
**Wednesday 29 July 2009 7.30pm Murray Arms Hotel**

**Present:** D Steel (Chair); P Addison; D Finlay; W Finlay; R Forster; J Jameson; W McKie; H Oxley; K Smyth.

1. **Apologies:** I Burnie; D Carlisle; J Morton.

2. **Minutes 27 May.** Accepted.

**3. Matters arising:**

Area Committee Targeted Funding. Agreement in principle to support the Murray Usher Foundation redevelopment of the Riverside Workshops has been given. Community purchase of the former TIC building has been given support. The Council will now negotiate with Visit Scotland on price before coming back to committee.

**4. Finance**

Bank balances:

- Main Account £9924 (After allowing for all known liabilities. Of these funds, approximately £6900 are Restricted)
- No.2 Cally Boundaries Account £10216 (after including outstanding claim to Leader+).

Financial report:

- Annual accounts for 2008 in draft form have been circulated to Board members. Unless there are any further comments/ amendments, the final Accounts can be ready in early August. Because of the requirement to meet the OSCAR deadline, it will be necessary to have these approved at a special AGM meeting. This will take place on 9th September.
- Current funds available for the Kiosk stand at £2400. The terms of the Tenancy Agreement for the Kiosk with Visit Scotland have been complied with.
- The Country Markets fund now stands at £970, thanks to stall rental income.
- The grant of £500 from the John Younger Trust to carry out refurbishment of Robbers Gate has been used to replace the gate as a contribution to the Cally Boundaries improvements.
- Funds for Community Centre development remain as yet unspent at £1025.
- A grant of £1500 has been received from Central Sciences for Fleet Valley Carbon Offset planting of fruit trees. The volunteers could help with planting once locations have been decided on. It is suggested that planting should take place along walks and cycleways.
- Due to operational difficulties, there has been no electricity income generated from the Wind Turbine since April. Remedial action is in hand to address the problem.

**5. Current Projects**

Cally Designed Landscape. The Walls project is progressing well. Regular reports are being submitted to Leader. Jim Logan has been making a photographic record of the project. Selections from this could be added to the Town website. D Steel's individual effort in clearing large sections of the walls was noted.

Community Centre. Much of the workroom is now complete and the room is again in use. There is some joinery work to complete and the sink. D Steel agreed to check whether there are any deadlines to meet re the DGHP funding.

Country Market: The normal 1st Saturday market is continuing in Ann Street, but we now have van based traders over whom we have no control setting up down in the car park. As expected, this has caused some ill feeling at the market proper, but they seem to be within their rights to trade where they like, and indeed could come and set up outside the market in Ann Street. There is some interest now in moving the market to the car park if this is possible. A site visit with Helen Friedrichsen from Regeneration and with the Road Dept. is being arranged (no date yet). We need the Council to be supportive. We would also need to move the recycling bins to the other side of the car park or to another location in Gatehouse. There is some concern whether the community can in fact manage this sort of event if it takes place in a public area or whether it might just become a free for all, for anyone with a traders license to pile in - including non-food producers? Traders piling in on 'profitable' weekends or on an ad hoc basis could undermine the viability of the market for the regular traders who have stuck it out with us through rain, shine and cold winters. The Country Market has worked very well for over 3 years - community, established businesses, and traders have all been generally happy with how it has worked. It has benefited the local economy, provided local access to food supplies otherwise now unavailable in Gatehouse, and supported local producers - all things which Regeneration and the Council should welcome. There is an issue here for all the Producers Markets running in the region. These locally based initiatives are run by volunteers giving their own time - and in the case of Gatehouse the Market has paid its own way and has required no public funding. The use of the Kiosk

to provide an outlet for the bread maker and a meat producer from the market to have their produce available on the other non-market Saturdays has also worked very well. They have been tidily accommodated within the Kiosk area with no impact on the car park. However between the Market and the Kiosk we do seem to be a victim of our own success and the arrival of the van based producers has now meant we are overspilling onto the car park. It should be noted that both the butcher and fish/veg vans are welcome additions - and immediately popular with customers. The service they are providing is in demand and their weekly presence welcome, and relations are good. But we need to be clear as to what happens if suppliers we would rather not have in the car park start coming, the effects on the car park, and on the community market. What we have at present seems beneficial for Gatehouse and we need to be able to manage the situation to allow a new model to develop without unnecessary problems.

Economic Development: J Jameson has had a letter from the Area Development Manager with regard to the next Local Development Plan and to invite communities to propose sites and submit other comments. A full discussion of this will be part of the next GDI meeting on 30th September. R Forster agreed to check on the progress of the Community Council's Housing Group report.

Garries Park: Nothing to report.

Port Macadam: Nothing to report.

Stellage Wood: R Forster reported that most of the newly planted trees appear to have taken.

The Kiosk: Additional to the issues already mentioned above, the Kiosk is part of the Gatehouse project submission to the Carbon Communities Fund, being done in conjunction with the Crichton Carbon Centre. The Kiosk project seeks to establish a local social enterprise network that promotes and makes available locally produced food and local crafts and skills; promotes local shops and businesses; provides an outlet for surplus garden produce and engages with the community to find local ways of meeting needs. The first phase of this will be the employment of a consultant to carry out a community survey and propose ways in which this project can be developed.

Walks: The latest draft of the Core Paths Document has taken on board most of the requests from the community.

Website: Nothing to report.

Wind Turbine: The problem with the brakes on the turbine is continuing. We have now lost over 3 months of power generation. The problem has been difficult to address due to the Canadian company which provides these turbines going into receivership. A company in Glasgow is hoping to recruit some of the Canadian engineers and will now take up case and it is hoped this may move things forward.

## **6. Any other business**

Horse Route: Ongoing.

Snowdrop Festival: Maps showing snowdrop areas exist and it is hoped to combine these with other trail maps to provide the basis for a board/boards/leaflet.

Old School House: A quotation for stabilisation work is still awaited.

## **7. Dates of next meetings**

AGM: 9 September, 7.30pm Community Centre;

30th September, 7.30pm, Community Centre.