

Gatehouse Development Initiative
Wednesday 30 July 2008 7.00pm Murray Arms Hotel

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

1. Apologies: M Hannay; A Mitchell; J Morton.

2. Minutes 30 January. Accepted.

3. Matters arising:

- D Steel reported that the Gatehouse Brochure is being updated and will be reprinted shortly. The Chamber of Trade have agreed to pay half the cost.

- An application for funding to paint and upgrade the workroom at the Community Centre has been made, and it is hoped that this may encourage volunteers to tackle other parts of the building. A caretaker has also been appointed.

4. Finance

GDI funds are quite healthy at present due to the number of projects now generating funds, such as the Country Market, the Website, the Cally Booklet, and the Turbine. The GDI is now registered for VAT mainly as a means to reclaim the VAT from the turbine project. W McKie explained that the distinction between the restricted and unrestricted funds in the financial report is that some funds are restricted where they are composed of grant money given for a specific project.

5. CADISPA

D Steel tabled an action plan pulling together the priorities drawn from the consultation sessions which have taken place which was agreed with the addition of a reference to the garage site. Different groups are already moving forward on specific projects, such as a Community Council sub-group on community housing.

I Burnie raised a concern over the possible confusion of visitors re tourist information. It was explained that both the Kiosk project and the TIC in the Mill are being evaluated on an ongoing basis to try to ensure that they provide a complementary service. It was noted that the Council have still not updated the road sign to the TIC.

J Jameson asked about any developments re the garage site. Nothing has been reported back since the last planning refusal.

6. Current Projects

Cally Designed Landscape. Following on from the survey recently undertaken, currently looking at options for conserving and interpreting the walls. Grant applications have been submitted to Leader and Heritage Lottery. Forestry have reacted positively to a proposal from R Forster which would see the old school building stabilised and retained to its full height.

Country Market. Running smoothly. A request has been made to the Council to allow the base of the clock tower to be used for storing the market stalls.

Economic Development. Ongoing.

Garries Park. Some weed clearing on the new path to the sensory garden is required. R Forster advised that the Council was unlikely to readily take on any additional path maintenance. The Sensory Garden is very fine at present, and being well looked after.

Port Macadam. Volunteers continuing to carry out maintenance. Bracken spraying is being postponed until next season.

Stellage Wood. A report has been received from Solway Heritage. However, because of the current land use, the possibility of fencing and replanting the wooded area was raised. A site visit will take place shortly.

The Kiosk. No report.

Walks. The walks leaflet has been amended and is ready to print. The GDI will advance funding to pay for this if reassurance is given that the funding will be forthcoming. This is still being sought.

The Pool of Ness walk is proving very popular with good feedback being received via the Mill Information Centre. The Council's progress on the Core Walks network continues to be impeded by staffing shortages.

Website. Running smoothly. Additional accommodation providers being regularly added. The House Sales section is also becoming established.

Wind Turbine. VAT issues being finalised. Otherwise working well.

7. Any other business

- I Burnie raised the problem of no signage into Garries Park from the car park. Many visitors may be failing to realise they can access the park this way.

8. Date of next meeting

24th September, 7.30pm, Community Centre.