

**3rd Meeting of the Community, Economy & Volunteering Thematic Working Group
14 September 2016 14:00hrs, Castle Douglas Town Hall**

Minutes

Attendees

Brian Jones	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust
Christine Clarke	Third Sector, Dumfries & Galloway
Ed Forrest	Southern Upland Partnership
Elizabeth Tindal	Freelance Ranger
Helen Keron	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust
Susan Farquhar	Dalry Secondary School
Jim McLelland	Loch Ken Advisory Management Committee
John Blaikie	Outdoor Access Forum/Kirkcudbright Canoe Club
Karen Morley	DGC – Countryside Services
Kerry Monteith	DGC - Employability and Skills
Lyndy Renwick (Chair)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Marie McNulty	GSA Biosphere
McNabb Laurie	Galloway Glens Development Officer
Nic Coombey	Solway Firth Partnership
Richard Hermon	Galloway Activity Centre
Tom Henry	DGC – Countryside Services

1. Welcome

- 1.1 McNabb welcomed all to the meeting, with everyone introducing themselves to all present. Lyndy Renwick was the group's designated chairman, therefore also sitting on the partnership board, but for simplicity it was agreed that McNabb would act as chair of this meeting.
- 1.2 Everyone was thanked for the excellent turn out at the meeting, with almost full attendance.

2. Minutes from last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes from the May 2016 meeting had been published on the Scheme website.

3. Scheme Update

- 3.1 McNabb gave an overview of activities since the last meeting, this included significant publicity efforts up and down the project area to raise the profile of the scheme and also the commissioning of the studies.
- 3.2 McNabb stressed that projects supported through the Galloway Glens Scheme would come from two places, as a result of the more strategic studies that had been commissioned, OR from these expressions of interest.

- 3.3 It was clarified that all expressions of interest would reach the subsequent meeting of the board, and so today’s meeting was not saying ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to applications. The Partnership Board was keen to get the input from the working groups to assist in their decision making.
- 3.4 It was noted that this meeting had only received a portion of the 80+ expressions of interest received. It was hoped that these were, where possible, the project ideas that best aligned with the skills and interests of attendees.
- 3.5 Only at the Board meeting would an overview be taken of all project ideas received, the funding implications and the broader landscape scale approach.

4 Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 It was agreed that any direct conflicts of interest should be declared to the meeting when each project was being discussed. These would be noted for the minutes and by all attendees. The individual would then be able to answer any direct questions about the project but would take no part in subsequent discussions and or recommendations.

5 Expressions of Interest Received

- 5.4 The meeting worked through each presented project in turn, considering the proposal fully, the fit with the governing nine HLF criteria and any other comments that members had from experience in this sector.

#GG01	Making the Artists’ Footsteps project mobile and iPad friendly	TBC
The existing website was known to a couple of members, and was currently hosted by the Council. The intention of the project was supported by those in attendance however concern was raised about whether the information was quite specialist and therefore would not engage with a broader audience. Members were sorry that updating the website was such a big task, mindful of how simple it can be done if in the correct format. Ultimately, members were supportive of the project aims but felt that when compared to other projects under consideration, the benefits that would result from this proposal were limited.		
#GG02	On the Artist’ Trail	D & G Council - Arts & Museums
Much discussion took place in the meeting on the relative strengths of paper leaflets vs apps. There was concern amongst members that demographics of people interested in the trail would lend this project more towards the paper leaflets rather than the app. It was known that there were a number of historic/Kirkyard walks that already took place in Kirkcudbright, although these tended to be guided and therefore this proposal would allow people to travel at their own pace. Members felt this proposal would be very beneficial if it came to fruition and it was a good fit with the nine HLF criteria. If the Board were minded to seek to develop this proposal then efforts should be made to work collaboratively with local organisations, e.g. KBT Summer festivities group.		

#GG03	Galloway Glens - A dramatisation	Castle Douglas Development Forum
<p>Members supported the overall aim of a theatrical representation of the overall GG Scheme, to take place at some point in the 5 year delivery phase, but felt this should be co-ordinated centrally based on the projects supported. Members felt this proposal would better form part of a broader ‘arts’ based project supported by the GG Scheme. There was an opportunity to work with all ages + localities in the project area to draw out local connections and uniting points of the area. Using different venues and as a result of workshops with young people, this could be a project that tied in better with the governing criteria – and it was noted that interpretation activities like this would be classed as a ‘heritage skill’. There was some support for this project idea, providing the above concerns could be addressed.</p>		
#GG04	Loch Ken Promotion	Loch Ken Management Advisory Committee
<p>Members were very excited by this project, strongly feeling that Loch Ken was significantly underutilised as an asset that would drive economic activity and ultimately sustainable communities in the area. The project sought to pull together disparate strands of activity in the area – from festivals to boat registrations. It was noted that Scottish Open Water Swimming Association had complimented the loch on being the cleanest water they had seen. It was felt that there was a need for the project officer to drive a project like this forward. The project would also be able to consider income generating activities, through the website, to assist with sustainability. It was felt that this project should not just focus on watersports but make use of the other assets in the area – such as the hospitality available, dark sky park etc. Members felt that when looked at holistically, this project was actually a good fit with the governing criteria, focussed on the natural heritage and also acknowledged a landscape scale approach to supporting sustainable communities.</p>		
#GG05	Branding and Marketing Project and Cross Community Long Distance Path Scheme	TBC
<p>The proposal was in two parts, 1) branding the Glenkens and 2) long distance paths. It was noted that the path element tied in well with other path projects received (primarily considered under the ‘Landscape, Wildlife and Land Management’ working group) and it was heartening to note the support for this development work. The path element to this proposal would be progressed as part of the broader access audit and the overarching long distance path aims.</p> <p>The concept of ‘branding’ the Glenkens was known to many of the members, and had been discussed previously in different guises. Similar to the previous Loch Ken proposal, members applauded the applicant for seeking to think larger than a single site and confront broader issues. Concerns were raised however on the classification of ‘the Glenkens’, with some differing opinions about what was considered to be in the Glenkens. It was queried whether this should be looked at on a ‘Galloway Glens’ scale to acknowledge the whole landscape partnership – although other members felt that the identity of the Glenkens was distinct from the other areas. This proposal related to #GG04 above. Members wanted to be able to support the Glenkens branding element of the proposal but felt that there were a number of queries at this stage. Members were happy that the long distance path element would hopefully be progressed as part of the broader access audit and other applications under consideration.</p>		
#GG06	New Galloway Heritage Centre	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
<p>Members were hesitant to recommend additional facilities be acquired in New Galloway to host a heritage centre, mindful of the current buildings available. The project did fit the criteria but perhaps to a lesser extent than other proposals under consideration. The project aims were wholeheartedly supported by all present but it was queried whether the applicant could look again at the possibility of hosting the heritage display in the town hall. The pop up museum was known to a few members and was agreed to have been very successful. Projects being considered at this meeting, and the other two working groups, had included the idea of flexible heritage information that could be erected within community facilities to form a chain of ‘heritage hubs’. This project tied in perfectly with this and, subject to the applicant’s approval, this suggestion would be considered as part of the broader heritage hub proposal, with the town hall as the</p>		

suggested venue.		
#GG07	Digital app and platform review for GG use	Castle Douglas Community IT Centre
<p>Members discussed the proposal, which centred upon investigating the feasibility and options available for the development of an app. Discussion took place about apps, noting the lack of D&G representation on the app store. Acknowledging challenges such as phone reception and the need for content to continue being updated, members were supportive of there being a Galloway Glens App to guide visitors through the heritage of the area. Members suggested that officers remain in touch with the applicant as, while acknowledging the work would have to be tendered appropriately, to skill up a local organisation in the development of apps would be a significant spin off benefit from the Scheme itself.</p>		
#GG08	Children of the Biosphere: A Seasonal Gallimaufry	Glenkens Children's Club
<p>The Children's club was known to members as providing a useful service to parents across the Glenkens area. Members were supportive of the project idea, feeling it was a strong fit with the criteria, and suggested that this proposal be bundled with other projects under discussion ('Galloway Glens – A dramatisation' etc.) to form a larger education package. This would allow the Galloway Glens to engage people right from children's club age through to retirement, with the overall aim of connecting people to the local heritage and providing a lasting artistic legacy from the project.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the number of children that could benefit through a project like this but this was countered by others present that this offered a strong return on investment, especially acknowledging the rurality of the area.</p>		
#GG09	Outdoor Classrooms/Forest Schools	TBC
<p>As above, members felt this principle of making pupils confident about learning outdoors was a strong fit with the governing criteria and this principle should be included in a broader education package supported by the GG scheme that could address the issue on a strategic basis.</p>		
#GG10	Biosphere Explorers	Crichton Carbon Centre
<p>Members were broadly supportive of the proposal, again forming part of a bigger education package. Queries were raised about the detail of the proposal suggesting a package at ages P5 – S2, and whether it could be extended to S6. It was also felt to be too tightly focussed on identified local career sector – forestry etc. The creative sector should also be included, with a broader targeting of third sector work and others. The work should also tie in with existing qualifications and accreditation, such as the John Muir Award.</p>		
#GG11	Balmaclellan Regeneration Project	Balmaclellan Community Council
<p>Much discussion took place over the three proposals received from Balmaclellan (#GG11, #GG12 and #GG13) focussing on the Old Smiddy (GCAT), the Old Filling Station (Balmaclellan CC), and the Old Store (Barscobe Covenanters Trust).</p> <p>The men's shed, operating from the back of the Old Smiddy was known to be a popular project with a good number of attendees. Members were keen to give the Balmaclellan projects a good chance at the Board meeting but it was queried whether McNabb would be able to meet all three parties before the Board meeting to present a consolidated and unified case.</p> <p>Members noted the element of in kind match funding secured for the Old Smiddy project and were concerned that the costs for the Old Store heritage centre, knowing the state of the building, were underestimated. The strongest element, in terms of fit with the criteria and benefits that would result for the village was felt to be the old filling station and the proposal to make a village centre out of this currently overgrown piece of land -but the applicant would be asked to develop the biodiversity benefits that would result. This would change the project from simply an access and aesthetic project to that with a natural heritage benefit.</p> <p>Earlier discussions about a series of 'heritage hubs' might support the case for an element of GG support going to one of the heritage centre proposals, noting the obvious good fit with the criteria. This could work</p>		

on the old filling station site also, with suitable interpretation on site. Members were keen to bring all parties together to discuss a consolidated application going to the Partnership Board.

****After the working group meeting, McNabb Laurie met the three applicants to better understand how the three proposals linked together. It was agreed that they were each separate projects and should therefore be considered individually, on their own merits. ****

#GG12	Balmaclellan heritage Centre	Barscobe Covenanters' Trust
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See #GG11 above

#GG13	Balmaclellan Community & Heritage Hub	GCAT
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See #GG11 above

#GG14	New Galloway Town Hall Development	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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Members supported the applicant's efforts to take over the hall and wanted to support their initiative and endeavour, however it was known that the ownership was still to be confirmed and that the management had only recently transferred. The work itself and the benefits that would result were not felt to be a perfect fit with the GG Scheme criteria and for that reason it might be a better fit with another scheme. Members were reluctant to come to this conclusion but felt, when considering other projects under discussion, that other proposals were a better fit with the scheme criteria. It was suggested that the previously discussed principle of 'heritage hubs' could result in a benefit for the New Galloway Town Hall, subject to the approval of the applicant.

#GG15	Community Engagement Officer, New Galloway	New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd
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Helen Keron declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. This proposal was in tandem with the work underway at the moment to purchase and run the community shop in New Galloway. This would allow the proposed community engagement officer to increase their working hours to expand the community engagement work, particularly work with a heritage focus. Discussion took place about the additionality offered by the project and whether it was better suited to the proposed small grants scheme that would run through the GG delivery stage. A decision would be known in January 2017 on the broader shop project.

#GG16	Loch Ken Microhydro	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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In the early stages of the GG Scheme development, a number of years ago, it had been suggested that a community renewables project could be included in the scheme however as the renewables sector had developed, other funding sources had been established, such as Local Energy Scotland, to better cater for this sector. For that reason, member felt that other projects were now a better fit with the GG scheme criteria. It was known that a couple of problems had been encountered locally with the project itself and so members asked McNabb to advise the applicant of the support available from Local Energy Scotland to give the project every chance of going ahead.

#GG17	Kenmure Castle	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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This site was known to a number of members and there was a feeling that if access could be opened up then it would provide some significant heritage advantages. Members asked a number of questions that couldn't be answered – regarding landowner willingness for access, the work that would be required etc. Members noted that an access audit of the Galloway Glens area was due to be undertaken in the coming months and it was hoped that this could form part of that as this was a much underappreciated heritage asset in the area. Members also suggested that Historic Environment Scotland be contacted to assess their interest/involvement in the site.

#GG18	Composting Toilets	TBC
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Members broadly approved of this suggestion. Rather than a standalone project, this should be issued as a challenge to all Galloway Glens Scheme projects to consider composting toilets. The maintenance regime was reduced but it was agreed that an element of maintenance was still required, even for a rudimentary

facility.		
#GG19	Kirkcudbright Dark Skies Visitor Centre	Kirkcudbright Development Trust
<p>John Blaikie declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Much discussion took place on this project, with strong support around the meeting. It was noted that the project is relatively advanced, with a wide range of funding applications underway. It was queried whether the project's location outside the dark sky park itself was an issue however this was answered by members, and support was noted from the Forestry Commission and the Dark Sky Observatory. Members queried whether the school building could also be used as a GG Scheme hub, advertising the projects supported. This would be discussed with the applicant if progressed. Members were excited by the project and felt it fitted well with the criteria and the overall scheme.</p>		
#GG20	Village Hall refurb/renew	Mosdale Village Hall Committee
<p>The poor repair of the hall was noted, which members wanted to be able to support but upon reviewing the criteria it was felt that the heritage benefits proposed that would result were limited. It was suggested that the project could be considered as part of the 'heritage hub' discussion but the condition of the building was felt to be the bigger issue, rather than expanding usage etc. Following discussion, members suggested that there were more appropriate funding opportunities for this village hall repair project.</p>		
#GG21	Clerk-Maxwell 'light'	Parton Community Council
<p>Members applauded the scope of the project, proposing a heritage centre based on the James Clerk Maxwell connection and using that to support toilets and a café. Members were glad to see a proposal seeking to capitalise and better highlight the James Clerk Maxwell link. The separately proposed walking route would support use of the facility, although this was not a project without challenges in itself. Members felt this was exactly the sort of project that the scheme should be looking to support, with a good match to the governing criteria and really celebrating one of the area's most famous historical residents. The costs quoted, although only indicative, seemed cheap and members suggested that if the Board was inclined to develop this proposal then the costings be assessed, also any restrictions on the use of the building.</p>		
#GG22	The CatStrand – A GGLP Hub in the heart of the Glenkens	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust
<p>Helen Keron declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Members felt that this project, relatively inexpensive based on the indicative costs, was a good idea to support people's interaction with the projects supported through the scheme. It was felt that basing this facility in the CatStrand would be more successful than a village hall because of the nature of the building but also as it is consistently staffed and advertised. This project ensured that all work undertaken through the scheme was better articulated and other projects benefitted from maximum levels of public engagement. Existing staff would be trained to act as an information hub for the initiatives supported through the GG scheme. If the Board were minded to support this project, members suggested the applicant be asked to consider a visitor information touch screen unit.</p>		
#GG23	Men's Shed	Castle Douglas Development Forum
<p>Queries were raised over the level to which this project was gender specific. While the Mens' Shed scheme did not formally exclude women, a core aim of the project had been to address mental health issues encountered by retired men and so there was an undeniable focus on this area. It was felt that the success or failure of this type of project depending on having a core group of committed volunteers that could carry things forward – and if the project had a large group then some of the work in the proposal (especially making the building wind and watertight) could be done by volunteers. Ultimately members were keen to support the project but felt that other proposals under consideration had a stronger match to the criteria.</p>		
#GG24	Galloway Glens - A soundscape	Castle Douglas Development Forum
<p>Members liked the principle of a piece of music being written for the scheme, and it was suggested that</p>		

this form part of the aforementioned education/artistic programme. Members felt the project ties into the dramatisation proposal earlier but should be based on children’s input, rather than professionally procured. Local song writing groups were suggested for their input also. There was some support for this proposal.

#GG25	A New Creative Residency Bothy in Dumfries and Galloway	The Bothy Project
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Members noted that this formed part of the nationally recognised Bothy Project scheme; however concerns were raised about what would actually be provided through this project, and specifically whether there were already sufficient residencies for artists in the area. Members were unsure as to whether there was any difference between this proposal and existing facilities in the area, particularly those in the private sector. Alternative buildings were known and members felt there was a risk of duplication. Ultimately, members were not sure a project of this scale and investment was suitable for the area.

#GG26	Ken Words - Linking Landscape and People	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust
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Helen Keron declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. It was noted that the work would obviously have to be tendered so this was just the project idea that was being considered. As with the dramatisation proposal above, this proposal would work well as part of a broader ‘Galloway Glens Arts’ project – albeit with a limited appeal - and if the Board were minded to support it then members recommended that it form part of a broader programme. Any work done to gather individual’s poetic suggestions could benefit other activities such as literature and other publications created through the scheme.

#GG27	Environmental Arts	TBC
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This project idea proposed activities, workshops or events in Kirkcudbright to connect artists with their environment. Discussion took place about the Environmental Arts Festival which was supported by members but can be perceived as being a bit elite and not open or of benefit to the wider general public. It was vital that any work done in this sector was genuinely open to all and wasn’t seen as ‘elite’ art. Acknowledging this requirement, members were keen that the board include in their artistic programme projects that draw together the environment and art. Any festivals that result should not duplicate work already underway in this sector.

#GG28	‘Welcome to.. Our Place’ - Creatively engaging community with place	GCAT
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Helen Keron declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Members felt this project tied in nicely with projects discussed above, particularly #GG08, #GG09 and #GG10. The work would have to be tendered and so it was the project idea that was being considered. The exhibition and performances proposed supported earlier discussions on these topics. Members suggested that the training and work experience angle be developed as part of the arts programme, to give artists and young people the opportunity to work as modern apprentices on projects. Even if they are only over a short period, resourcing the project creatively would provide vital content for CVs etc.

#GG29	Dalry Heritage Project	Dalry Town Hall Management Committee
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Members were interested in the project that was felt to fit the criteria on a number of levels, also being realistic in its targets. The project sought to consolidate existing buildings, including the public toilets, into a more popular and multi-functional space, getting better use out of the current facilities. The project was felt to tie in well with the aforementioned suggestion of ‘heritage hubs’, itself suggesting spaces to be dedicated to a heritage display. Members noted the relevance of the Southern Upland Way and the use and footfall this would therefore experience. Members were inclined to suggest that the Board consider developing this proposal to get a better understanding of the potential– it was obviously at a very early stage but members felt that the proposal was a good fit with the criteria and it would be interesting to develop. (This proposal was considered with #GG31)

#GG30	Connecting people with their environment: creating enduring legacies	Donald Watson Bird Centre
<p>There were 5 discrete proposals from the applicant, under a single heading: 1) the Watson bird garden, 2) Bird walk around Dalry 3) Art Trail around the Glenkens 4) Oral History of the Watsons and 5) Sponsored debates about conservation.</p> <p>Discussion took place about the elements making up the proposal, with some members having knowledge of previous projects involving Donald Watson's house and garden. Concerns were expressed about whether this was an 'enthusiast's project' only, querying the community need and support for the proposals, and the number of people that would use the resultant facilities. Other members were supportive of the proposals, keen to better publicise the local artist to a wider audience. It was felt that the existing walk and art trail was operating well at present, with members feeling this had settled at the natural level of use. The nine governing criteria were assessed and it was felt that different elements did fit different criteria, and so if the Board was minded to develop the proposal, members asked that concerns regarding broader community engagement and use of the facilities be tackled through the process.</p>		
#GG31	Dalry Community Heritage and Regeneration Project	Dalry Community Council
<p>Members considered this project with the above #GG29 in mind, noting the similarity between the two sites. The two proposals were looked at in concert rather than competitively. Members were heartened by the evidence of joint working between the Community Council and the Town Hall. Members applauded the ambition of the proposal. This proposal was the more ambitious of the two, but drew in a number of other challenges such as multiple landowners etc. While both #GG29 and #GG31 were obviously both at very early stages, members agreed that they sought to achieve similar things, and therefore only one of the two ideas could really proceed. On the understanding that the two applicant organisations would work together and mindful of the strength of support given to #GG29 earlier in the meeting, members felt that if the Board were minded to develop #GG29 then the input and resources of #GG31 should be included in this. For both projects there was agreement amongst members about the high footfall on the site, the heritage assets that could be advertised and therefore the close fit with the criteria and opportunities for sustainable income sources.</p>		
#GG87	The Galloway Glens Experience	Southern Uplands Partnership
<p><<This application was added to the agenda of this meeting having been wrongly listed in another working group agenda>></p> <p>Ed Forrest declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Members felt this was a good fit with the criteria, championing and advertising what is available in the region. A query was raised as to whether this was trading on the private sector but after discussion; members felt this would complement the private sector. Members felt the project would have formal benefits (number of visitors, highlighting unique activities) but also a number of local benefits as it would introduce local providers of services to each other and build local networks. The project would use authentic businesses (many in the heritage sector) to grow and therefore provide employment opportunities locally.</p>		

6) Next Steps

- 6.1 It was stressed that all projects will be going to the Board for further consideration and working group members should direct any queries in the meantime to McNabb.
- 6.2 McNabb thanked members for their time. The meeting was drawn to a close at 16:45hrs.

3rd Meeting of the Landscape, Wildlife & Land Management Thematic Working Group

14th September 2016 @ 09:30hrs, Castle Douglas Town Hall.

Minutes

Attendees

Adrian Pringle	DGC - Landscape Architect
Andrew Jarrott	Forestry Commission Scotland
Anne Connick	SEPA (Part Attendance)
Callum Sinclair	Scottish Natural Heritage (Part attendance)
Chris Rollie	RSPB
Jackie Graham	Galloway Fisheries Trust
Karen Morley	DGC – Countryside Services
Karl Munday	National Trust for Scotland
McNabb Laurie	Galloway Glens Development Officer (Chair)
Oscar Yerburch	Barwillanty Estates
Peter Norman	DGC - Biodiversity Officer
Wendy Fenton	GSA Biosphere

1. Welcome

- 1.1 ML welcomed all to the meeting, with everyone introducing themselves to all present.
- 1.2 A number of apologies were noted, including Emily Taylor, chair of the group. McNabb Laurie would act as chair for purposes of this meeting.

2. Minutes from last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes from the May 2016 meeting had been published, as would these minutes in due course. If anyone had any queries, they could contact McNabb after this meeting.

3. Scheme Update + Aim of today's meeting

- 3.1 McNabb gave an overview of activities since the last meeting, this included significant publicity efforts up and down the project area to raise the profile of the scheme and also the commissioning of the studies.
- 3.2 McNabb stressed that projects supported through the Galloway Glens Scheme would come from two places, as a result of the more strategic studies that had been commissioned, OR from these expressions of interest.

- 3.3 It was clarified that all expressions of interest would reach the subsequent meeting of the board, and so today’s meeting was not saying ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to applications. The Partnership Board was keen to get the input from the working groups to assist in their decision making.
- 3.4 It was noted that this meeting had only received a portion of the 80+ expressions of interest received. It was hoped that these were, where possible, the project ideas that best aligned with the skills and interests of attendees.
- 3.5 Only at the Board meeting would an overview be taken of all project ideas received, the funding implications and the broader landscape scale approach.

4 Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 It was agreed that any direct conflicts of interest should be declared to the meeting when each project was being discussed. These would be noted for the minutes and by all attendees. The individual would then be able to answer any direct questions about the project but would take no part in subsequent discussions and or recommendations.

5 Expressions of Interest Received

- 5.4 The meeting worked through each presented project in turn, considering the proposal fully, the fit with the governing nine HLF criteria and any other comments that members had from experience in this sector.

#GG56	Muirdrochwood Community Woodland	Carsphairn Community Trust
<p>Members applauded the ambition of the applicant and it was a comparatively well-presented proposal, although at a remote site. Noting that the forestry was offered in three lots, members were more positively inclined towards the two smaller lots which had the stronger amenity value and better access. It was important not to focus on the purchase of the land as the project – the project was the benefits that would result for community access and for that reason, it was suggested that the proposed amenity improvements, estimated as £100,000, primarily on the two smaller plots, might be better aligned with the governing criteria of the GG Scheme. The Scottish Land Fund stood out as a potential funder for the land purchase.</p>		
#GG57	Loch Ken Community Woodland	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
<p>Acknowledging the prominent position of the proposed site, some discussion took place over whether this would improve the aesthetics of the side of the loch or not, with some support for the current tree cover. Use of the site for recreation was also queried, given the slope on the site. This project was felt to score stronger on the ‘people’ criteria than the ‘heritage’ angle. Queries were raised about potential destabilisation of the bank above the road. In summary, members were supportive of the project’s aims to open up the western side of the loch but rather than through a land purchase, this could perhaps be better addressed as part of a broader access project.</p>		

#GG58	Barhill Woods Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright Development Trust
<p>The site was known to members, with a relatively large population on the doorstep and a good view over the Bay. The proposed work would encourage more access and develop some facilities in the woodland. The project would score against the Scheme criteria in a similar manner to the other community woodland projects, and members felt that if the Board were inclined to develop the project then the history of the site should be acknowledged for visitors.</p>		
#GG59	Ringford Community Woodland	Tongland & Ringford CC
<p>It was noted that this project was outside the currently proposed project boundary but was still put forward for consideration as the boundary is subject to review during this development stage. It was acknowledged that costs were only indicative at this stage but members, in line with the above discussions surrounding other wood purchases, were inclined to think that purchase of land was expensive and was not as good a fit with the governing criteria as the subsequent work proposed. There may be more appropriate funding sources for this, such as the Scottish Land Fund. Members felt that if the Board were inclined to develop this proposal then the Galloway Glens input was better towards the resultant amenity improvements, rather than the purchase.</p>		
#GG60	Improving Access to local woodland footpaths	GCAT
<p>The site was known to members, who wanted to support the proactive landowner in his efforts to make the site more accessible. It was initially suggested that the 'heritage' was limited, but this was countered by the understanding that there are a number of SSSI designations on the woodland across the site and the unique views over the valley meant this was a good way to engage with the area's natural heritage. Discussion took place about the maintenance of the paths and this was felt to be key to the success of the project. If the Board was minded to develop this project then the volunteering angle should be developed and firmed up as much as possible.</p> <p>It was felt that this project would work well under a broader heading of access routes in the area.</p>		
#GG61	Loch Ken Circular Path	Loch Ken Management Advisory Committee
<p>Members were incredibly excited by this concept, which was unanimously supported. If this was undertaken, the results would benefit visitors and locals allowing much more engagement with the natural heritage of the area. This would fit well with the governing criteria but also support some of the more strategic challenges in the area, supporting tourism businesses, encouraging health and wellbeing and raising the profile of the whole area. That said, members were not blind to the challenges involved – with multiple landowners, the highly regulated hydro scheme and the existing road network. However members felt that the benefits of success were so strong that no stone should be left unturned in its pursuit.</p> <p>It was queried whether an initial feasibility study could be undertaken through the Scheme during this development stage, seeking initial engagement with landowners and route options.</p>		
#GG62	Access to Loch Ken Shore	Loch Ken Management Advisory Committee
<p>As with the circular path, this was strongly supported as a project idea, without being blind to the challenges faced. Members queried whether this could form part of the aforementioned feasibility study into the circular path.</p>		
#GG63	Path network restoration, redefine and creation	Castle Douglas Development Forum
<p>The stretches of pathway were limited in scope but would link up popular attractions in the area. Again, members were supportive of the projects aims and felt there was a good tie in with the Scheme criteria, particularly acknowledging the links this provided between heritage assets in the area. It was felt this could work underneath a broader heading of access and would hopefully be endorsed by the access audit that was planned. Ownership will obviously need to be established.</p>		
#GG64	Links across Loch Ken	Parton Community Council
<p>Along with the circular path, this concept of opening access along the Loch Ken Viaduct was really seized</p>		

upon by members, who felt this project would really put Loch Ken ‘on the map’. The potential for opening up access across the Loch would reconnect the Mossdale and Parton communities and, if part of the broader scheme, could link the Galloway Forest park with cycle users from Castle Douglas.

As with the Circular Path, members were not blind to the challenges of the Scheme. The viaduct was in private ownership – and indeed had only been prevented from being pulled down as a matter of course during the removal of the railway thanks to its private purchase at the time. The project would have to work for all parties involved. Other issues to consider included sustainability, liability and also prevention of anti-social/dangerous activities such as jumping into the loch. Members wanted the GG Scheme to explore every avenue on this project.

#GG65	New Galloway Long distance tracks	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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Seeking to open up the viaduct for access, this was obviously a duplication and therefore an endorsement of the discussions above. This only reiterated the need for this project to be explored further. The proposal would be pursued through the applications discussed above, in the first instance a feasibility study, and the broader access audit being undertaken. .

#GG66	New Galloway Local Path Development	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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Members agreed with the central sentiment of this proposal – that living in the ‘country’ doesn’t necessarily mean that there are loads of places to walk, and that established footpaths should be better advertised and publicised. The access audit being undertaken by the GG Scheme was felt to work towards addressing this and, coupled with any broader programme of work undertaken by the Scheme as a whole, would hope to progress this matter.

#GG67	New Galloway Town Park Access	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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Members were supportive of this project idea, especially if it could be linked to similar improvements in settlements across the Glenkens, however queries were raised about the definite need for the pathway improvements and whether funding opportunities lay elsewhere – through Council activities etc. If the Board were inclined to seek to develop the project further, user groups and activities that are currently prevented should be clarified. Queries were raised about the sustainability of the planted gardens, mindful of the council cuts in this area.

#GG68	Garroch Estates Path & Walled Garden	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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Members were heartened to see support being emphasised for the footpath elements of this project, the same as discussed above at #GG60. The pathways project idea would be pursued under that heading, as outlined above. Members felt less able to endorse the walled garden plans, unclear about the private ownership arrangements and the recent, ultimately unsuccessful, efforts to organise allotments in the town.

#GG69	Kirkcudbright Bay Views – revealing hidden stories through improved access and interpretation	Solway Firth Partnership
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This was felt to be a very strong application, and tied in well with the governing criteria. The project was able to demonstrate a large potential footfall along the path and this short length would tie in the longer distance route – this was the missing link. Members felt that this was effectively more than simple a pathway project, drawing on volunteer input, heritage interpretation and online support. Pedestrians currently had to walk along the road and this was preventing access and enjoyment to the ultimate source of the river system, one end of the proposed Galloway Glens project area. Points along here were felt to be one of the best views in Scotland and massively underappreciated.

#GG70	Loch Ken Laybys and Viewpoints	Loch Ken Management Advisory Committee
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Members were supportive of this project that sought to increase access to the natural heritage of the area, particularly Loch ken that was felt to be a currently underutilised asset. This project would not only provide facilities, but in a consistent, cohesive way to tie the area together. Members felt this was a good fit to the

criteria, with some significant natural heritage advantages as well as supporting the local economy. Ullswater was cited as an example of an area that has benefitted significantly from the opening up of viewpoints.

#GG71	Canoe Trail	Loch Ken Management Advisory Committee
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Mindful of the similarity of the proposals, this was progressed under #GG73

#GG72	Glen Kens Canoe Trail	Loch Ken Management Advisory Committee
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Mindful of the similarity of the proposals, this was progressed under #GG73

#GG73	Galloway Glens Canoe Trail	Crossmichael & District CC
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Members felt this was a bold and imaginative project, which would really develop an underutilised sector in the area. Anecdotally it was known that long distance canoe trails culminating in urban areas (as is proposed here to access Carlingwalk loch), resulting in local facilities and hospitality etc. are very rare and this would be a big draw. The queries to resolve centred on the use of the Carlingwalk Lane and the portage points. SNH would have to be closely involved in discussions surrounding the lane but the potential benefits of opening it up for use would be so strong in terms of both recreational use and re-engaging with this significant heritage feature. There was a lot of excitement about this project, which was felt to be a good fit with the criteria but also effective in supporting sustainable local communities.

#GG74	White Water kayaking in the Galloway Glens	D & G Council - Outdoor Activities
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As with #GG73 above, the White Water kayaking project was felt to be an ambitious and innovative project. A couple of members were able to attest to the popularity of the other sites that had scheduled releases and this was felt to be an effective way to draw more visitors into the region. It was queried whether the hydro scheme could offer any scheduled flows due to the 'on demand' use of the scheme, however the applicant had provided assurance that this was viable. Obviously Scottish Power's involvement and support would be key to this proposal but it was heartening that this was not the first one of its kind nationally.

The fit with the governing criteria was weaker than the Canoe Trail project, but there was such interest in the proposal, considered such a unique opportunity to make a facility of regional or even national significance, that members suggested that the Board consider developing the project further.

#GG75	Conservation of Red Squirrels	Glenkens Red Squirrel Group
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This applicant was known to a few members, who were able to speak positively about the committed group of volunteers that make up the group. Members felt this scored quite highly against the criteria due to the connection it created between people and their natural heritage. This was broader than simply trapping etc., but allowed people to engage in their natural heritage and support the protection of an iconic species.

A couple of queries were raised about the sustainability of the group's activities – i.e. does this activity have to keep happening to keep the Grey Squirrel population under control. While that might be the case, the short term benefits from the trapping were so significant and direct compared to other interventions that this was felt to be something that members of the general public could engage with. The local Red Squirrel population had been identified as a key community nationally and this project was felt to have the support of the general public. Cited costs, albeit only indicative, were felt to be high and if the board was minded to develop this then perhaps a smaller contribution would be appropriate.

#GG76	Greenland white-fronted Geese in the Galloway Glens	RSPB Scotland
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Chris Rollie declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Members were excited by this project, with a 'Unique selling point' for the area and a tangible and realistic project that could be undertaken. It was acknowledged that the population limiting factor might be in Greenland; however there were improvements that could be made locally, also raising the profile of this iconic local species.

The use of satellite tags allows a significant element of community engagement with the possibility of school classes adopting birds etc. It was noted that there was already a local study group and initial discussions with local landowners had been positive. This was felt to be a strong match with the criteria.

#GG77	Habitat creation and enhancement for black grouse	RSPB Scotland
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Chris Rollie declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. There are 13 identified Black Grouse leks in the GG area, and the Southern Uplands Population was adjudged to be significant nationally. Members were obviously keen to support the species, and the early support of FCS was noted, but it was felt that the benefit or engagement with people meant the criteria were not hit as strongly as the Geese proposal, with the focus much more on the Natural Heritage angle alone. If the Board were minded to seek to develop this proposal then it was suggested that the community engagement angle be developed.

#GG78	Ken-Dee Marshes nature reserve access and interpretation project	RSPB Scotland
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Chris Rollie declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Initial thoughts about this project were largely positive, although comments were made that the remit seemed a bit limited and it was queried whether the proposal was suitable ambitious. There is currently no real access to the reserve from the North, with only informal routes from the public car park and along the core path. This is home to one of the strongest populations of Willow Tit in UK and members were keen to support this declining species. The proposed new work was felt to be a good fit with the criteria and the only concerns raised were regarding the link to work undertaken by the HLF previously on the site and the need to differentiate between previous works and this proposal.

#GG79	Connecting Communities with Wildlife and Landscape	RSPB Scotland
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Chris Rollie declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. The Red Kite project was established 13 years ago and can be considered to be self-sustaining, drawing significant visitors and visitor spend into the area. This project sought to build on the work done to date and members acknowledged the success so far. Elements of this project tied in with the stopping points and viewpoints discussion previously in the meeting. Discussion took place over the project, with a number of views expressed – some supporting the efforts to engage the natural heritage with the local community and others seeking to clarify the impact red kites had on the local ecosystem. A couple of queries were raised about the added value that this project would provide beyond what is undoubtedly a popular attraction.

#GG80	Threave Nature Reserve	National Trust for Scotland
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Karl Munday declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Members were very excited by this project idea, considering it to be a strong fit with the criteria, supported further by the number of visitors to the site each year, the establish visitor infrastructure and the multiple benefits that could result beyond simply the wildlife dividend – particularly natural flood management benefits and a boost to tourism. This really had the opportunity to really get the maximum benefit from Threave Wetlands. As discussed above, it must be clear that the works proposed are separate to any HLF funded projects before but members were keen that the Board consider asking this project to develop. A couple of members were surprised the proposal was not bigger but it was clarified that there was the potential for further works to be undertaken above and beyond this proposal. It was noted that match funding might be available for this project from the applicant, supporting the project further.

#GG81	Poster to show how peatland management affects rivers	TBC
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It was noted that all work undertaken through the GG scheme would have to be tendered and so it was just the project idea that was being discussed at this time. Members liked this project, feeling it was a strong idea, although concern was raised about the conifer images in the draft proposal being dated and unrepresentative. It was suggested that if the GG Scheme did undertake a peatland project then this could

be considered part of that proposal to publicise the importance of the work.		
#GG82	Valuing peatlands as biocultural heritage	TBC
<p>Very similar to #GG81 above, it was noted that the work would have to be tendered formally. The Cultural Heritage angle to the project should not be overlooked, with recent archaeological pollen work in peatlands uncovering the impact of human planting and activities over the years. Members felt this project idea had merit and could, alongside #GG81, be undertaken as part of broader peatland work if deemed appropriate by the Board.</p>		
#GG83	Peatland Connections	Crichton Carbon Centre
<p>This project was clarified as having both a practical benefit on the area of improved peatland in the Galloway Forest Park and also the design of the decision making tool for use elsewhere when considering the question of whether a site should be reverted to peatland. Members felt that if this project was coupled with some broader, mass appeal consultation/community activities such as the aforementioned poster/art exhibition then it would be able to broaden the appeal of peatbogs and local communities could take ownership – fitting the governing criteria well. The project was seen by some as being so innovative and imaginative and ‘in vogue’ that it was likely to happen irrespective of GG input – raising the question of whether the funds are better targeted towards other projects. This was largely disputed however, and others felt it was a good thing for the GG Scheme to be associated with. If the board were minded to seek to develop this project idea, clarification should be sought on whether the tool should be licensed and the intellectual property rights.</p>		
#GG84	Protecting and improving the water environment of the Galloway Glens	SEPA
<p>Anne Connick declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. It was stressed that this project was liable to change and all costings should be taken as indicative. It was clarified that the work proposed was above and beyond any statutory responsibilities and was not due to take place as a matter of course. This project, focussing on water quality, was different from and yet complimented other proposals under consideration. Members felt that it tied in well with the GG Scheme’s overall focus on the river catchment. A key part of the project’s success would be in advertising and promoting the results, ensuring the progress made was acknowledged. The project scored well on the natural heritage angle, and reducing negative environmental effects.</p> <p>**After the meeting, the applicant withdrew the project from consideration due to the change in the Dee’s classification as a diffuse pollution source and therefore the statutory nature of all work in the valley**</p>		
#GG85	Black Water of Dee Restoration Project	Galloway Fisheries Trust
<p>Jackie Graham declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Members felt this was a tightly defined project and it was felt that this was a project that could make a lot of difference for relatively small amount of money. The proximity of the Raider’s Road increased the community access to and benefit from the proposal and also supported the volunteer input, which was applauded by members. Members felt able to score this project highly against the criteria due to the Heritage gains, the volunteering time and the new skills that would be learnt.</p>		
#GG86	Burns and Birds	Dalry Community Council
<p>Members supported this project’s aims, and it was noted that some of the activities – particularly the interpretative panels and footpaths – might work well under a broader heading as had been discussed earlier, also benefitting from the access audit that was being undertaken for the whole area. The Burns connection could be developed significantly to really provide a new tourism angle for Dalry and the surrounding area. Members scored this project highly and recommended that elements be considered under the broader headings of footpaths and interpretation work. The Swift tower was felt to be a strong element and again, could be looked at in connection with other species works across the project area.</p>		



6) Next Steps

- 6.1 It was stressed that all projects will be going to the Board for further consideration and working group members should direct any queries in the meantime to McNabb.
- 6.2 McNabb thanked members for their time in a long meeting. The meeting was drawn to a close at 12.50pm.

3rd Meeting of the Cultural & Built Heritage Thematic Working Group

15 September 2016 10:00hrs, Castle Douglas Town Hall

Minutes

Attendees

Alistair Livingston	Local History Enthusiast
Andrew Nicholson	DGC - Archaeologist
Anna Campbell	Carsphairn Heritage Group
Anne Ramsbottom	DGC – Museums Curator West
David Bartholomew	Minister/Local History Enthusiast (part attendance)
David Devereux	Local History Enthusiast (part attendance)
Iain Howie	Stewartry CVS (Chair)
John Malcolm	Historic Environment Scotland
Karen Morley	DGC – Countryside Services
Sir Malcolm Ross	Local History Enthusiast
McNabb Laurie	Galloway Glens Development Officer
Phil McMenemy	Gallery Owner/Artist
Richard Polley	National Trust for Scotland

1. Welcome

1.1 McNabb welcomed all to the meeting, with everyone introducing themselves to all present. Iain Howie was the group's designated chairman, therefore also sitting on the partnership board, but for simplicity it was agreed that McNabb would act as chair of this meeting.

2. Minutes from last meeting

2.1 The minutes from the 2nd meeting of the group, in May 2016, had been published on the Scheme website, as would minutes of this meeting in due course. The

3. Scheme Update

3.1 McNabb gave an overview of activities since the last meeting, this included significant publicity efforts up and down the project area to raise the profile of the scheme and also the commissioning of the studies.

3.2 McNabb stressed that projects supported through the Galloway Glens Scheme would come from two places, as a result of the more strategic studies that had been commissioned, OR from these expressions of interest.

- 3.3 It was clarified that all expressions of interest would reach the subsequent meeting of the board, and so today's meeting was not saying 'yes' or 'no' to applications. The Partnership Board was keen to get the input from the working groups to assist in their decision making.
- 3.4 It was noted that this meeting had only received a portion of the 80+ expressions of interest received. It was hoped that these were, where possible, the project ideas that best aligned with the skills and interests of attendees.
- 3.5 Only at the Board meeting would an overview be taken of all project ideas received, the funding implications and the broader landscape scale approach.

4 Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 It was agreed that any direct conflicts of interest should be declared to the meeting when each project was being discussed. These would be noted for the minutes and by all attendees. The individual would then be able to answer any direct questions about the project but would take no part in subsequent discussions and or recommendations.

5 Expressions of Interest Received

- 5.1 The meeting worked through each presented project in turn, considering the proposal fully, the fit with the governing nine HLF criteria and any other comments that members had from experience in this sector.

#GG32	Raiders Road deserted settlement sites	TBC
David Devereux declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. This proposal tied in with discussions had early on in the development of the GG Scheme about a community archaeology project. Members were strongly supportive of the scheme, feeling it was a great fit with the governing criteria, particularly the training of new heritage skills and giving people a better understanding of their heritage. Members applauded that it was put forward as a discrete proposal on three sites but noted that it could be increased or reduced to fit available budget. It was suggested that the ultimate proposal, if developed by the Board, should retain the connection to busy tourist sites to maximise engagement and the volunteering element should be supported, ensuring it is accessible to all – including those with no background in this subject. Members were aware of the number of deserted settlements locally and felt this project would raise their profile further.		
#GG33	Polmaddy & Pack Road	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
Discussion took place about the location of this project, which was felt to also fall into the Carsphairn parish. Members were grateful for the applicant putting this project forward as it caused considerable discussion. In the 1980s, the site was cleared, with a leaflet printed and interpretative panels installed. Recent visitors to the site felt that the current offering was adequate and while there was scope for improving the facilities, the site was meeting requirements – and presumably statutory responsibilities of		

the landowner. Much discussion took place and while members were keen to support work on the site, compared to other projects under consideration, this project was not felt to be a priority due to the levels of access and interpretation currently on the site. The site should be included in any broader GG Scheme-wide advertising or promotion of heritage assets.

#GG34	New Galloway Heritage Centre	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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This proposal had also been discussed at the *Community, Economy & Volunteering* working group meeting the day before. Members at this meeting were happy to endorse the other group's views that this was a worthwhile proposal, and there was sufficient heritage interest but concerns existed about obtaining additional space to host it. Members queried whether the Town Hall could host a pop up exhibition in the meantime and acknowledged discussions at the other meetings about potential 'heritage hubs' that would aim to make a route of local heritage attractions, also making better use of existing facilities. The potential for this approach could be discussed with the applicant if the Partnership Board were minded to develop the proposal.

#GG35	Tongueland Salmon Fishery – Ice House	Tongland & Ringford CC
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Members looked at #GG35 and #GG36 together and much discussion took place. The Tongland area was known to have a quite astounding local history, with a lot of stories to tell – from the Galloway Engineering Factory to the connection with Alan of Galloway and Tongland Abbey. Members were very keen to acknowledge and develop this through the Galloway Glens Scheme but concerns existed about whether the development of either of these houses was the best means of addressing this. Queries were raised about the access + car parking availability at the sites. Both buildings being in private ownership at present was also a challenge, increasing the project costs and members felt unable to reassure themselves about the level of support these projects had in the wider community. The outcome of either of these projects would result in a good fit with the governing criteria but, with reluctance, members felt unable to wholeheartedly recommend support for either of these proposals. Discussion continued on this topic with suggestions being put forward that efforts be made to reopen Tongland power station visitor centre – even on an irregular basis – and this could build evidence and momentum for a larger project, such as those proposed.

#GG36	Tongueland Salmon Fishery – Fish House	Tongland & Ringford CC
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See #GG35

#GG37	Loch Grannoch and its Lodge	TBC
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Some members were aware of the Grannoch Lodge and were able to speak positively about the site. Isolation was an issue and this reduced the number of people that could visit the site itself. This project sought to better understand the role of fishing and shooting in the area historically. Members were supportive of this principle but felt that when compared to other projects under consideration, there were proposals that were a better fit to the governing criteria. This project idea was useful to have received as the historic significance of shooting and fishing estates had not been considered so far in the scheme.

#GG38	Douglas Family Mausoleum Access and Restoration	Castle Douglas Community Council
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This was a proposal under discussion for a number of years now, and was known to a couple of members. The project proposal related to the first stage of the planned works, providing car parking at the site. A couple of queries were raised by members over whether parking was definitely required at the site or whether this could exacerbate conflict between road users and pedestrians on the back road. It was noted that this was the main circular walk from the town and well used at present. Some members felt that there was nothing stopping access at present and so if people were keen to visit the site, they could do so. Ultimately members felt the project had merit but other proposals under consideration were a better fit with the criteria.

#GG39	Balmaghie Sacred Landscape	Balmaghie Sacred Landscape Trust
<p>Sir Malcolm Ross declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. The church had been closed last year and was just about to come onto the market. Much discussion took place about this proposal and, while acknowledging challenges such as the relatively remote location, the lack of utilities in the church and the question of long term sustainability, there was much support from members for this project. The resulting project would be a good fit with the criteria and would prevent this very significant building from being lost from public hands. The project involved the purchase of the church and the church hall – and this was felt to be a very significant point as conversion of the hall to a house and subsequent rental would dramatically assist the sustainability of the site. The opportunities offered by the building were wide and could be broadened further from that proposed to act as an Archaeological study centre. The church does receive a number of visitors at present, despite being closed. Members were aware of the challenges facing the project but wanted to give it every chance of success. If Board members agreed and sought to develop the proposal then the business plan would obviously be a key part of that consideration.</p>		
#GG40	The Galloway Glens - exhibition	D & G Council - Arts & Museums
<p>Anne Ramsbottom declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. This proposed an exhibition in the Kirkcudbright Galleries to cover the Galloway Glens Scheme. Initially members thought the costs appeared quite high for a 3 month exhibition, but upon further discussion, and including rental costs of significant works, this was felt to be justified. It was clarified that the most popular exhibitions tended to be with mixed content, providing something for everyone. A concern was raised about whether this was something the state should be responsible for as a matter of course. Ultimately members were supportive of the proposal and suggested that this should be considered on a broader basis as part of a GG Scheme artistic programme.</p>		
#GG41	From Source to Sea: The Life Journey of the Ken/Dee River	TBC
<p>Phil McMenemy declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. This topic had been discussed extensively in the other two working groups, with support from the other meeting reiterated by members in this group for a lasting artistic legacy of the GG scheme – in the form of a ‘coffee table’ book. It was noted that the work would have to be formally procured and tendered and so it was just the project idea that was under discussion. Members were happy to lend their support for the proposal to consider the broader GG Scheme artistic legacy along the lines proposed in this suggestion.</p>		
#GG42	Tolbooth Tales: the story of Law and Order in The Stewartry	D & G Council - Arts & Museums
<p>Anne Ramsbottom declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. This project would develop the Tolbooth Museum for use after the Galleries had opened and it was clarified that this would be separate from the activities of both the Galleries and the Stewartry Museum. Tolbooths elsewhere (e.g. Inverary) were known to be popular attractions and a good method of teaching people of all ages about the history of the area. The Tolbooth was known to have a number of strong heritage stories to tell and the costs, although only indicative, were felt to be reasonable. Members were keen that the Tolbooth benefit from the Galleries rather than be negatively affected and this proposal, which was a strong fit with the GG Scheme criteria, was felt to be an opportunity to do that.</p>		
#GG43	The Treasures of the Dee Valley	D & G Council - Arts & Museums
<p>Anne Ramsbottom declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. It was clarified that there had been discussion about apps at the other two working group meetings also. This proposal, to make a cycling/driving route across the valley was largely supported by members but they were mindful of other similar proposals under consideration and were keen that the project not duplicate either other GG activities or arrangements already in place outside the GG scheme. When considering the overall principle of the project, making the heritage more accessible to visitors and locals alike, members</p>		

were strongly in favour and felt it was a good fit with the criteria.		
#GG44	GG Archaeological site info for App	Castle Douglas Development Forum
As above in #GG43, members were mindful that only the Board could see an overall picture of proposals under discussion and were mindful of duplication. Discussion took place about the strengths and weaknesses of apps. Ultimately members were supportive of their development but felt leaflets were still vital. Concerns over reception were noted but it would be a great legacy of the scheme if an app was developed locally, possibly leading to other work in this area and making 'heritage' more accessible to app users. It was noted that all projects would have to be publically procured and so it was the project idea that was being discussed. Apps were only as good as their content and therefore it was important the project was not too consultant driven and sustainability was considered. Members were keen to see the app discussion develop through the GG Scheme but mindful that an overall view should be taken rather than competing projects.		
#GG45	Archival Mapping of the Galloway Glens	Dumfries Archival Mapping Project
This project was known to have been fantastically successful in Nithsdale and members were very keen to support the organisation's move into the Stewartry. The maps are publically available after scanning but equally popular has been the engagement around the maps – talks etc. as DAMP raise the profile of their work. If the project was supported through the GG Scheme, the broader scheme would be able to use the images to support all projects supported. The project is known to have good contact with landowners and was considered to be a 'quick and easy' project to be supported, and a great fit with the criteria.		
#GG46	Public Historic Archive of Crossmichael & it's Inhabitants	Crossmichael & District CC
Members felt this was a strong application that fitted well with the criteria. – the only possible criticism was that in an effort to appeal to as many different angles as possible, the brief had slightly over reached itself. This project idea supported the general discussions that had been underway regarding 'heritage hubs' with a focus on a village's local history but undertaking some unified branding to link a number of different sites together into a trail. The applicant sought to make better use of their existing community buildings. The mentioned historical exhibitions already held were known to a couple of members and applauded for their popularity. It was suggested that the applicant agree which one of the three buildings would host the facility and explore further the pop up exhibition equipment available. It was commented that there was a lot of information being copied in the proposal and this would have to be edited down to become manageable to a visitor. It was recommended by members that the 'Gateway to the Glenkens' angle is not pursued due to the number of 'Gateways' that could develop and any confusion this could cause. It was also suggested that if the 'heritage hubs' idea is developed, that professional interpretation advice is procured for all sites included to allow the different groups to receive top quality advice – also helping with the cohesive branding.		
#GG47	Gaelic Place-Names of the Galloway Glens	TBC
This project idea initially split opinion, with some members keen that the proposal be developed as the etymology of place names informed a better understanding of the landscape and the results would be of value for years to come. Other members were concerned whether it fitted the overall scheme and whether it was appropriate to investigate Gaelic Place names and not others in the area – i.e. Scots or Scandinavian. The costs, while only indicative at this stage, were also felt to be high. After considerable discussion, members were supportive of the project idea and felt that it would be useful to do as part of the GG Scheme as a whole but on a broader basis (i.e. not just Gaelic names) and probably to a lesser extent in terms of cost. Members suggested that it could form part of the discussions in #GG41 , amongst others.		
#GG48	Forgotten Voices	Stewartry CVS
Iain Howie declared an interest and took no part in the discussion about the merit of the proposal. Members approved of the aim of the project and the use of volunteers to capture voices, particularly the		

Lowland Scots dialect, and the intergenerational activity. Members were relaxed about the previous work done in this sector as any duplication that might take place in this activity was still beneficial. The results acted as a time capsule and oral history is a new layer of heritage, only captured relatively recently thanks to technology. It was suggested that links be explored with the European Ethnological Research Centre, based at the Crichton. Overall, members were strongly supportive of the project – although the project title was not felt to be appropriate and should be something more optimistic and current.

#GG49	'Blue Plaque' new signage and wayfinding	Castle Douglas Development Forum
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Members felt this was a good idea, but were concerned about the conflict with the National Blue Plaque Scheme. It was suggested that if supported, it be extended beyond Castle Douglas to cover the whole Galloway Glens area. Queries were raised about whether this was at risk of duplicating trails already in existence and perhaps a decision could be made centrally within the GG Scheme about the trails and signage to be supported. Members did stress that it shouldn't be assumed that locals had knowledge of local heritage and this activity was only for visitors – often locals appreciated this as much as visitors. Signage from within Castle Douglas to the outlying areas was felt to be lacking. Ultimately, members felt that this idea would be covered in other activities, particularly #GG43, without any plaques having to be installed.

#GG50	New Galloway Conservation Area	Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)
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It was understood that the Council was undertaking a review of conservation areas at present and it was likely that this would address the challenge outlined in the proposal. Members agreed this was not a project that should be progressed through the GG Scheme but were very glad to hear this matter was being addressed by the Council as conservation plans were known to have been successful elsewhere.

#GG51	A History of the Glenkens	TBC
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Members queried whether there was a GG Scheme publication strategy, setting out the proposed publications that would result. This would be investigated. It was noted that the work would have to be publically tendered and so it was just the project idea that was being considered. Members were very supportive of the proposal, although suggesting that the GG Scheme book be broadened to cover the whole GG Scheme area. It was agreed that the historical book proposed did not overlap with a contemporary art book discussed in the meeting previously – indeed there was the potential to brand them as 'companion' books. Members expected that this would form part of the broader research and heritage strategy adopted by the GG Scheme as a whole. This project idea tied in well with the other discussions ongoing around recording and better highlighting war memorials in the Glenkens. Members supported the recording of the war memorial information and were keen that this work be aligned with the GG scheme wherever possible.

#GG52	Map of the Glenkens	Glenkens Story
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Members were supportive of the principle, and felt this should surely be included as part of the GG Scheme delivery stage, but thought needed to be given to where the map was hosted, how it would be maintained and updated. This would mesh well with a number of other ideas in discussion – members supported the assertion that this would “enhance most other projects devoted to the Glenkens”.

#GG53	Reconstructed Crannog	Castle Douglas Development Forum
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This proposal was known to a couple of members in its previous guise as a millennium project proposal. The crannog would act as a visitor attraction and a real link with the past, raising visitors' awareness of the area's early history. Unfortunately, the costs, although only indicative at this stage, were felt to be significantly underestimated. When this project was being pursued previously, and based on other examples, this was known to be a very expensive type of project to do and the permissions for its construction were extensive and virtually prohibitive. With genuine reluctance, members felt unable to strongly endorse the project due to the operational concerns that would be encountered. The mentioned

Loch Tay project was known to be successful but had been built away from an area of direct sensitivity and supported the national crannog centre.

#GG54	Drystane dyking competiton	SW Scotland branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain
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Project ideas **#GG54** and **#GG55** were considered simultaneously due to their similarity. Members were strongly supportive of these proposals, considering that dry stone dyking was an art form and obviously a heritage skill that has a real impact on the landscape. The significance of dyking in history was noted, with the local Levelling activity. Out of the two proposals, members felt the competition perhaps wasn't suitable for the GG Scheme to support and therefore the demonstration section of dyke was the most suitable for the scheme. While keen to support the project, members felt the Board, if minded to develop the proposal, seek to ensure the project did not simply target the 'leisure' dyker – often the middle class retired professional, and there was an employment focus where possible. This project was felt to be strong either as a standalone project or to complement the heritage skills study being commissioned.

#GG55	Drystane dykes of the Galloway Glens demonstration dyke	SW Scotland branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain
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See **#GG54**

6) Next Steps

- 6.1 It was stressed that all projects will be going to the Board for further consideration and working group members should direct any queries in the meantime to McNabb.
- 6.2 McNabb thanked members for their time in a long meeting. The meeting was drawn to a close at 12.30pm.