

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership – 1st Partnership Board Meeting

13 April 2016, 14:00hrs at Castle Douglas Town Hall

Partnership Board Attendees:

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| Chris Miles | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| David McNay | SEPA |
| Ed Forrest | Southern Upland Partnership |
| Graeme Dickie | Scottish Power |
| Helen Keron | Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) |
| John Raven | Historic Environment Scotland |
| Mary-Ann Smyth | Crichton Carbon Centre |
| Rob Soutar | Forestry Commission Scotland |
| Simon Fieldhouse | D&G Council, Countryside Service |
| Teresa Dougall | National Farmers' Union Scotland |

Partnership Board Apologies:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Christine Clarke | Third Sector First |
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Also In Attendance:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Karen Morley | D&G Council, Countryside Service |
| McNabb Laurie | Galloway Glens Development Officer |

1. Welcome & Apologies

- 1.1 Karen Morley welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting apologies had been received from Christine Clarke.

2. Introductions

- 2.1 Karen Morley introduced McNabb Laurie to all present, recently appointed as the Galloway Glens Development Officer.

3. Programme Background + Current Situation

- 3.1 McNabb Laurie gave a brief overview to the background and development of the Galloway Glens programme, culminating in the successful first stage application. The development stage was now underway (costing approximately £230,000) before the stage 2 application is submitted in Early Summer 2017. Stage 2, if successful, will

secure £2.7m of HLF funding. Match funding of approximately £2.5m is being targeted to give an overall programme budget of approx. £5.2 million.

- 3.2 The programme area is based on the Ken/Dee catchment, with some amendments to meet both HLF requirements and to match with Landscape Character types in the area.
- 3.3 The project governance was noted, with the Partnership Board overseeing the strategic direction of the project, supported by the Thematic Groups. It is currently proposed that chairs of the Thematic Groups be appointed and then sit also on the Partnership Board, providing a link between the two levels of governance.
- 3.4 The proposed programme branding was presented to the Board, with positive feedback received. This would be used throughout the project now to give a strong identity to the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership.
- 3.5 The communications strategy is currently being drafted to guide the communication activities of the project.

4. The Galloway Glens Partnership Board

Governance

- 4.1 McNabb Laurie gave an overview of the proposed governance model, with the Partnership Board providing overall strategic direction for the project. The thematic groups were a more informal meeting of local interest groups/experts to guide the project listing.
- 4.2 The Thematic Groups had their first meeting on the 11th of April, with the minutes having been circulated to the Partnership Board before the meeting.
- 4.3 The thematic groups meeting was adjudged to have gone well, with the focus on the challenges facing the heritage in the Galloway Glens area.

Membership of Board

- 4.4 The Thematic groups had appointed the following chairs to sit on the partnership board:
 - 4.4.1 Community, Economy & Volunteering: Lyndy Renwick, on an interim basis
 - 4.4.2 Cultural and Built Heritage: TBC

- 4.4.3 Landscape, Wildlife & Land Management: Emily Taylor
- 4.5 Work would get underway to appoint a Cultural and Built Heritage Chairperson and all three would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Partnership Board. **ACTION**
- 4.6 Otherwise the membership of the Partnership Board was approved.
- 4.7 Graeme Dickie advised that he was attending in place of Stuart Ferns to represent Scottish Power.

Partnership Agreement

- 4.8 McNabb Laurie introduced the issue of the partnership agreement, noting that it had been circulated to all attendees before the meeting and welcomed any comments. Having such an agreement in place was a requirement of the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 4.9 The responsibilities of partners was felt to be slightly too vague and should simply state the duties of the partners as being in support of the project, not necessarily any funding requirements at this stage – that would take place on a project by project basis.
- 4.10 It was also felt that some meeting procedural notes would be of assistance – i.e. how voting worked on issues being discussed etc.
- 4.11 A query was raised about the legal liability of partners and the amount of oversight/involvement that partners would have in the operational aspects of the Galloway Glens programme. While the partnership agreement did not involve the establishment of a separate legal entity, it was asked if this could be clarified.
- 4.12 It was noted that Dumfries & Galloway Council was listed as the ‘accountable body’ but it was felt to be helpful to clarify further what this involved.
- 4.13 It would also be helpful to outline the Chairman responsibilities as distinct from just a Partner.
- 4.14 McNabb Laurie thanked partners for their input on the partnership agreement and would work to incorporate these comments into Version 2 which would be circulated for consideration ASAP. **ACTION**
- 4.15 It was noted that the Partnership Agreement made reference to the HLF guidance – it was requested that this be circulated to partners for consideration. **ACTION**

Chair of Partnership Board

- 4.16 A discussion took place about whether a chairman should be appointed from within the partnership or externally. Partners felt there was merit to an external appointment, especially when using the chair as a project ‘champion’ or ‘figurehead’.
- 4.17 It was agreed the Chairman should be resident in the project area and comfortable being the ‘face’ of the partnership.
- 4.18 It was agreed that McNabb Laurie would circulate a short list of potential names for consideration and voting by partners **ACTION**
- 4.19 This topic would be considered further and a short list circulated around the partners for their comments and votes. It was hoped that the Chairman would be able to be invited to the next partnership meeting. **ACTION**

Review of Programme ‘Vision’

- 4.20 McNabb Laurie displayed the programme’s current vision to Partners. Feedback from HLF was that this was too broad and generic and should better relate to the local features of the project.
- 4.21 Comments were welcomed on the programme vision:
- ‘Energy’ should be emphasised as the uniting factor of landscape change – possibly ‘Energy for communities’
 - ‘People influencing landscape change’
 - Are we rewilding the area or not?
 - Includes factors like ‘beauty’ to prevent it becoming too scientific
 - The biosphere has a series of words to describe it, can they help?
 - A unique sense of ‘place’.
- 4.22 Helen Keron, Ed Forrest and Mary-Ann Smyth volunteered to attend a sub group of the partnership board to work on refining the vision. Other Partners thanked these volunteers for their offer of support. This sub group meeting would be arranged ASAP by McNabb Laurie and would report its outputs back to the next meeting. **ACTION**

Meeting Schedule

4.23 McNabb Laurie suggested **15th June 2016 at 2pm**. Rather than make any commitments to this, it was suggested that a Doodle poll be used to arrange a suitable time. **ACTION**

5. Proposed Programme

5.1 The next steps were discussed, with a number of above mentioned actions to be undertaken before the next Board meeting.

5.2 The Expression of Interest form was introduced to partners and would be circulated for information and onward distribution as partners wished **ACTION** – any queries raised should be pointed towards McNabb Laurie

5.3 It was stressed that as the development work gets underway, any opportunity to meet people to discuss the project would be welcomed. Please consider the Galloway Glens as an agenda item on any meetings you may have coming up in the area, we are keen to meet as many people as possible.

6. AOB

6.1 Mary-Ann Smyth wanted to record her congratulations on the work done so far, particularly the branding etc.

6.2 Mary-Ann Smyth mentioned the advertised walks in the area to raise the profile of the Galloway Glens project, and asked for feedback on these. This would be obtained from the ranger leading the walks.

6.3 Teresa Dougall mentioned upcoming attendance that NFU Scotland had at markets and the possibility of the Galloway Glens Project being part of this.

6.4 Teresa Dougall sought any project literature for her to circulate. It was agreed that once the vision had been agreed these could be drawn up.

6.5 Helen Keron suggested that the launch of the website, brand, appointment of chairman etc. could justify a more formal project launch. This was agreed to be a good idea and would be investigated further. **ACTION**

6.6 Helen Keron also mentioned that GCAT maintains a list of potential funders and this could be shared with the Galloway Glens project if required – this offer was welcomed with thanks and McNabb Laurie would be in touch after the meeting. **ACTION**

- 6.7 The possibility of community involvement in baseline information gathering was discussed, potentially assisting in the early stages.
- 6.8 It was noted that a farm was currently for sale in the Galloway Glens area at a site at risk of flooding. With the potential for an application to the Scottish Land Fund, it was queried whether this could hit project requirements? This would be investigated further.
- 6.9 Helen Keron mentioned the recently formed Dalry Community Properties Trust as a potential project partner for projects in the area.
- 6.10 McNabb Laurie agreed to circulate the slides from the day to all partners **ACTION**
- 6.11 There being no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

Outstanding Partnership Board Actions

| Action Ref | Issue | Who? |
|------------|---|------|
| 1.4.5 | Appoint Thematic Group Chairmen + Invite to Partnership board | ML |
| 1.4.14 | Incorporate amends to Partnership agreement and re-circulate | ML |
| 1.4.15 | Circulate HLF guidance referred to in the Partnership Agreement | ML |
| 1.4.18 | Partnership Chairperson suggestions to be circulated | ML |
| 1.4.19 | Invite chosen Chairperson to next Partnership Board | ML |
| 1.4.22 | Board Sub-group to meet to consider Programme vision | ML |
| 1.4.23 | Next Partnership board meeting to be arranged | ML |
| 1.5.2 | Expression of Interest form to be circulated amongst Partners | ML |
| 1.6.5 | Project 'Launch' to be investigated | ML |
| 1.6.6 | Seek GCAT's list of alternative funders | ML |
| 1.6.10 | Circulate slides from the Partnership Board meeting | ML |