

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership – 4th Partnership Board Meeting

06 October 2016, 10:00hrs at Castle Douglas Town Hall

Partnership Board Attendees:

Sir Alex Fergusson	Chairman
Chris Miles	Scottish Natural Heritage
Christine Clarke	Third Sector, Dumfries & Galloway
David McNay	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Ed Forrest	Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
Emily Taylor	Working Group Chair (<i>Landscape, Wildlife & Land Manag.</i>)
Helen Keron	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT)
Iain Howie	Working Group Chair (<i>Cultural & Built Heritage</i>)
John Dougan	Forestry Commission Scotland
John Raven	Historic Environment Scotland
Mary-Ann Smyth	Crichton Carbon Centre
Patsy Gilroy	D&G Council – Councillor

Apologies:

Graeme Dickie	Scottish Power
Lyndy Renwick	Working Group Chair (<i>Community, Economy & Volunteering</i>)
Teresa Dougall	National Farmers' Union, Scotland

Officers in Attendance:

Karen Morley	D&G Council, Countryside Service
McNabb Laurie	Galloway Glens Development Officer
Simon Fieldhouse	D&G Council, Countryside Service

1. Arrival – Informal introduction

- 1.1 Partnership Board members had a chance before the meeting to meet the new members

2. Welcome + Start of Meeting

- 2.1 McNabb Laurie introduced Sir Alex Fergusson to the meeting. Sir Alex would act as the Scheme Chairman going forward, chairing the Partnership Board meetings.
- 2.2 Sir Alex thanked members for inviting him to act as Scheme chairman, stating that he looked forward to working with all members of the Partnership Board to make a real difference to communities in the area.
- 2.3 Sir Alex also welcomed Iain Howie, as chair of the Cultural & Built Heritage Working Group, and Councillor Patsy Gilroy as the nominated Dumfries & Galloway Council Representative,

aware it was also their first meeting. Patsy Gilroy was nominated for the role at the Council's Economy, Environment & Infrastructure meeting on 13 September 2016.

- 2.4 Acknowledging the new members, all present introduced themselves to the meeting.
- 2.5 It was noted that Councillor Patsy Gilroy was the Aunt of the Scheme's development officer, McNabb Laurie. No conflicts of interest were envisaged but if any matters did arise then they would be made known to other members.
- 2.6 Apologies were noted from Graeme, Lyndy and Teresa.

3. Minutes of Last meeting (3rd meeting - 16 August 2016)

- 3.1 The minutes from the 3rd meeting of the Partnership Board were noted and approved as a fair record of the meeting. These would now be published on the Scheme website.
- 3.2 It was noted that due to the focus of this meeting on the expressions of interest received, where possible, any governance matters had been deferred until the next meeting.

4. Partnership Board Actions Table

- 4.1 The Actions Table was updated and attached to the bottom of these minutes.

5. Overview of Scheme

Development Stage

- 5.1 Just for clarity, McNabb Laurie gave an overview of the work undertaken to date in the development stage to date

Delivery Stage

- 5.2 Members noted the features of the delivery stage.
- 5.3 While the delivery stage would primarily focus on 5 years of activity, there was the potential to use the HLF funding towards a 'maintenance and management fund' to support work in years 5-10. Members felt this could be useful to address any sustainability concerns that may exist.

6. Recent Activity

Studies Commissioned

- 6.1 An update on the Studies being commissioned was provided.
- 6.2 It was noted that the Landscape Character Assessment + Heritage Audit had still not been commissioned, although this was scheduled imminently. Mindful of the significance of this document with the Stage 2 bid to HLF, Members sought assurances that this would be progressed as a priority.
- 6.3 Members asked that in future meetings the cost of the studies was included for information.
ACTION: Provide the study costings to future meetings.
- 6.4 It was noted that Natural Power had been recently appointed to work on the Natural Flood Management Feasibility Study. A couple of Partnership Board members noted their connection (through family) to Natural Power but this was not felt to be a material interest and members were reassured that the appointment of contractors was through a robust tender process, endorsed both by HLF and D&G Council.
- 6.5 The North of England Civic Trust (NECT) has been appointed to undertake the Heritage Skills study, with a view to identifying a skill/employment project that could be supported through the Scheme. NECT is going to be contacting individuals and agencies across the area. Members asked that this contact list be circulated in case there were any additional suggestions from members. **ACTION: The heritage skills study contact list be circulated around members for comment and possible addition**

Stewartry Area Committee August 2016 -meeting comments

- 6.6 Notes taken at the Stewartry Area Committee meeting held on 17 August in Dalry School were circulated to members and noted. This meeting had been arranged by D&G Council and members were very thankful for their efforts on behalf of the Scheme.
- 6.7 Generally it was felt that the issues raised through this meeting had been covered either through the strategic studies underway or the expressions of interest received, however members asked that this be developed and a formal 'mapping' exercise be undertaken to assure members that the issues had been picked up and also to reassure attendees of the meeting in question that their points were being taken on board. **ACTION: Issues raised at the**

Stewartry Area Committee meeting to be mapped against projects under consideration to ensure all points covered

- 6.8 A couple of members had been present at the Stewartry Area Committee meeting and concern was raised about the Crayfish issue in Loch Ken, a strong topic of discussion at the meeting being discussed, and the need for the Scheme to acknowledge and address these concerns.
- 6.9 Discussion took place on this point, acknowledging both national policies and realistic projects that could be undertaken. Members were assured that this was a primary focus of the Loch Ken Fishery Study which was currently underway. If there was a project that could be supported as a result of this study which would support biodiversity in the loch, with the potential reduction of crayfish, then it was known to have strong local support.
- 6.10 Members felt it was vital that the Scheme not ignore this issue as it represented a concern held by a significant portion of the local community. That said, this was a complex issue and it was important not to raise expectations that there was necessarily a simple solution.

September 2016 Working Group meetings

- 6.11 Members noted the minutes from the three September 2016 Working Group meetings.
- 6.12 Members wished to record their thanks to working group members for their time spent supporting the Scheme.

7. Project Development

- 7.1 Before discussing projects, the main content of the meeting, it was agreed that any Declarations of Interest in projects under consideration should be made to the meeting. As project proposals were very brief at this time and everything was subject to further development, members agreed it was not necessary to leave the meeting while the project was being discussed.

Strategic projects

- 7.2 The potential strategic projects that could result from studies underway were noted by members, as well as the suggested Community Heritage Grant Scheme which would run through the delivery stage.

Expressions of Interest - Overview

7.3 The Partnership Board members reviewed all 88 project ideas that had been received, noting:

- The fit with the governing nine HLF criteria;
- How they complimented or supported other project ideas; and
- The minutes from the working group meetings.

7.4 It was felt that every project idea received had merit and members were thankful to everyone who submitted a project idea.

7.5 Following much discussion, the list of projects to be progressed was agreed. A high level summary is in the following table, identifying project ideas that either **would** be developed with the input of Scheme staff and returned to a subsequent meeting, or **would not** be developed, perhaps being more suitable under other funding opportunities.

Ref	Title	To be developed?
GG01	Making the Artists' Footsteps project mobile and iPad friendly	N
GG02	On the Artist' Trail	Y
GG03	Galloway Glens - A dramatisation	N
GG04	Loch Ken Promotion	Y – To form part of the broader GG Brand and Promotion Group. Sustainability to be emphasised
GG05	Branding and Marketing Project and Cross Community Long Distance Path Scheme	Brand element to be explored further as a broader 'GG Brand and promotion' group. Footpaths to be part of the Access audit
GG06	New Galloway Heritage Centre	Y - To form part of 'Heritage Hubs' element? See #GG14
GG07	Digital app and platform review for GG use	N
GG08	Children of the Biosphere: A Seasonal Gallimaufry	Y – as part of the broader education/art programme
GG09	Outdoor Classrooms/Forest Schools	N
GG10	Biosphere Explorers	Y – as part of the broader education/art programme
GG11	Balmaclellan Regeneration Project	Y, to develop Biodiversity + Education angle
GG12	Balmaclellan Heritage Centre	N
GG13	Balmaclellan Community & Heritage Hub	Y - To form part of 'Heritage Hubs' element?
GG14	New Galloway Town Hall Development	N – although suggested through GG06
GG15	Community Engagement Officer, New Galloway	Y
GG16	Loch Ken Microhydro	N
GG17	Kenmure Castle	Y – on an exploratory basis. Access audit implications?
GG18	Composting Toilets	N – although considered for all projects
GG19	Kirkcudbright Dark Skies Visitor Centre	Y – seeking added assurance that this is tied into the Dark Sky Park rangers
GG20	Village Hall refurb/renew	N
GG21	Clerk-Maxwell 'light'	Y - To form part of 'Heritage Hubs' element?

GG22	The CatStrand – A GGLP Hub in the heart of the Glenkens	Y – but equivalent hubs in CD and Kirkcudbright to be included
GG23	Men's Shed	N
GG24	Galloway Glens - A soundscape	N
GG25	A New Creative Residency Bothy in Dumfries and Galloway	N
GG26	Ken Words - Linking Landscape and People	Y – as part of the broader education/art programme
GG27	Environmental Arts	N – but to be considered as part of the broader education project
GG28	'Welcome to... Our Place' - Creatively engaging community with place	Y – as part of the broader education/art programme
GG29	Dalry Heritage Project	Y - To form part of 'Heritage Hubs' element? (see #GG31)
GG30	Connecting people with their environment: creating enduring legacies	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG31	Dalry Community Heritage and Regeneration Project	Duplicate – See #GG29
GG32	Raiders Road deserted settlement sites	Y
GG33	Polmaddy & Pack Road	N
GG34	New Galloway Heritage Centre	Duplicate – See GG06
GG35	Tongueland Salmon Fishery – Ice House	N
GG36	Tongueland Salmon Fishery – Fish House	N – see GG35
GG37	Loch Grannoch and its Lodge	N
GG38	Douglas Family Mausoleum Access and Restoration	N
GG39	Balmaghie Sacred Landscape	Y – Not the purchase price.
GG40	The Galloway Glens - exhibition	Y – as part of the broader education/art programme. Touring location. Donald Watson elements?
GG41	From Source to Sea: The Life Journey of the Ken/Dee River	Y – Link to community or school groups. Forming part of the broader education/art programme.
GG42	Tolbooth Tales: the story of Law and Order in The Stewartry	Y
GG43	The Treasures of the Dee Valley	Y
GG44	GG Archaeological site info for App	Duplicate – See GG43
GG45	Archival Mapping of the Galloway Glens	Y
GG46	Public Historic Archive of Crossmichael & it's Inhabitants	Y - To form part of 'Heritage Hubs' element?
GG47	Gaelic Place-Names of the Galloway Glens	Y – To be broadened to include all place names. To benefit a range of other projects
GG48	Forgotten Voices	Y
GG49	Blue Plaque' new signage and wayfinding	N – but to form part of the broader branding/promotion working group
GG50	New Galloway Conservation Area	N
GG51	A History of the Glenkens	Y
GG52	Map of the Glenkens	Y – focus on ultimate host of map
GG53	Reconstructed Crannog	N
GG54	Drystane dyking competition	N
GG55	Drystane dykes of the Galloway Glens demonstration dyke	Y – as part of the broader education/art programme
GG56	Muirdrochwood Community Woodland	Y – None of the land acquisition costs, just the

		improvements on site. Visitor no. to be clarified.
GG57	Loch Ken Community Woodland	N – although access to site to be considered as part of the Access Audit
GG58	Barhill Woods Kirkcudbright	Y – supportive of proximity of large population and minimal land acquisition costs
GG59	Ringford Community Woodland	N
GG60	Improving Access to local woodland footpaths	Y (see #GG68) to form part of the broader access forum
GG61	Loch Ken Circular Path	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG62	Access to Loch Ken Shore	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG63	Path network restoration, redefine and creation	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG64	Links across Loch ken	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG65	New Galloway Long distance tracks	Duplicate - To be addressed through the Access Audit
GG66	New Galloway Local Path Development	To be addressed through the Access Audit
GG67	New Galloway Town Park Access	N
GG68	Garroch Estates Path & Walled Garden	Duplicate - See #GG60
GG69	Kirkcudbright Bay Views –improved access and interpretation	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG70	Loch Ken Laybys and Viewpoints	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG71	Canoe Trail	See #GG73
GG72	Glen Kens Canoe Trail	See #GG73
GG73	Galloway Glens Canoe Trail	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG74	White Water kayaking in the Galloway Glens	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG75	Conservation of Red Squirrels	Y – focussing the whole Galloway Glens area
GG76	Greenland white-fronted Geese in the Galloway Glens	Y
GG77	Habitat creation and enhancement for black grouse	Y – querying the need for a dedicated officer beyond existing staff
GG78	Ken-Dee Marshes nature reserve access and interpretation project	Y
GG79	Connecting Communities with Wildlife and Landscape	Y
GG80	Threave Nature Reserve	Y
GG81	Poster to show how peatland management affects rivers	Y
GG82	Valuing peatlands as biocultural heritage	Y – as part of the broader education/art programme
GG83	Peatland Connections	Y – with recommendation to develop the link to Forest Research and to identify potential, realistic uses of the resultant toolkit
GG84	Protecting and improving the water environment of Gall. Glens	N – Withdrawn by applicant following changes to Dee regulatory situation. Board members were keen to keep the potential for a water quality project under
GG85	Black Water of Dee Restoration Project	Y
GG86	Burns and Birds	Y, to form part of the broader access forum
GG87	The Galloway Glens Experience	Y
GG88	War memorials of the Glenkens - Book	Duplicate - See #GG51

7.6 Through discussion of the project ideas, the following broader headings were discussed which overarched the expressions of interest (subject to further amends):

- Accessing the Galloway Glens;
- Wildlife in the Galloway Glens;
- Land Management in the Galloway Glens;
- Heritage Hubs in the Galloway Glens;
- Art & Education in the Galloway Glens;
- Promotion & Branding of the Galloway Glens; and
- Understanding + Recording the Galloway Glens.

7.7 Other comments made through the above discussion included:

- A publication strategy should be used to co-ordinate the publications proposed through any of the above projects
- It was suggested that the education and art elements could justify a Community Education Officer with an element of disposable budget to run the art/education programme, bringing specific expertise
- Applicants should be tasked to persuade the Board in each case how the project fits the governing criteria
- The access projects shouldn't discharge any council responsibilities
- Projects with a tighter area of focus than the whole Galloway Glens area should have appropriate justification for this
- The Landscape Character Assessment will assist in the strategic overview of the area
- Generally, members felt the Scheme should not fund land or building purchase
- The GSA Biosphere is interested in many of the project ideas with the potential for rolling work out across the whole Biosphere subsequently.
- Discussion took place about the importance of books and printed materials in the 21st century – with some members favouring online approach.
- The cross over between projects should be exploited from now on – i.e. using heritage hubs to host the proposed exhibition etc.
- The promotion & branding element should consider how discrete projects, such as 'Glenkens' or 'Loch Ken' fit under the broader Galloway Glens heading

- 7.8 Ultimately it was agreed that the next stage of work should look to develop these project ideas but in a strategic way that drew together the different ideas into a more coherent suite of projects across the Galloway Glens area. Ideally this would maintain the ‘buy in’ from the project applicants but also incorporate a strategic approach.
- 7.9 It was asked that future meetings include a map of projects to provide reassurance on the geographical spread of projects. **ACTION: Projects to be mapped to show the spread across the Galloway Glens area**

Strategic Overview

- 7.10 Discussion took place about projects or sectors that were currently missing from the projects under consideration.
- It was suggested that the Employment and Training element of every project should be emphasised as this was one of the strongest legacy angles.
 - The Hydro scheme had not featured as a project – i.e. a hydro trail. It was suggested this be included in the proposed driving routes under consideration and the layby improvement projects.
 - It was also noted that there wasn’t a food or ‘heritage food’ project under consideration.
 - It was suggested that the delivery stage staff include a ‘land management officer’ to co-ordinate all contact with landowners from the different projects
 - The ‘Legacy’ of the Galloway Glens must be considered, from each project and perhaps with dedicated activity.
 - The ‘landscape’ emphasis should not be lost when looking at the individual project ideas.

Next Steps

- 7.11 Members noted the proposed work over the coming months.

8. Scheme Governance

Risk Register

8.1 Members noted the risk register

Development Stage Finance Overview

8.2 Members also noted the development finance review, reassured that they would receive fuller information at the next meeting

9. Partners' Updates / AOB

9.1 There was no other business.

10. Date & Time of Next Meeting

10.1 The next meeting proposed for 10th January 2017, from 10am until 4pm.

10.2 The Meeting was brought to a close at 13:15hrs

Outstanding Partnership Board Actions

Action Ref	Issue	Who?
2.5.3	Partnership Agreement to be signed by Partners	ML
3.6.7	Website statistics to include origin of traffic	ML
3.8.1	Budgeted & Actual expenditure figures to be provided to meetings	ML
3.9.4	Recording of Partnership Board attendance Attendee time to be investigated	ML
4.6.3	Include the prices of studies in future meetings	ML
4.6.5	The heritage skills study contact list be circulated around members for comment and possible addition	ML
4.6.7	Issues raised at the Stewartry Area Committee meeting to be mapped against projects under consideration to ensure all points covered	ML
4.7.9	Projects to be mapped to show the spread across the Galloway Glens area	ML