

## Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership – 7th Partnership Board Meeting

01 June 2017, 09:30hrs at Castle Douglas Town Hall

### Partnership Board Attendees:

Sir Alex Fergusson	Chairman
Teresa Dougall	National Farmers' Union, Scotland
David McNay	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Roddy Fairley	Scottish Natural Heritage
Lyndy Renwick	Working Group Chair ( <i>Community, Economy &amp; Volunteering</i> )
John Raven	Historic Environment Scotland
Graeme Dickie	Scottish Power
Emily Taylor	Working Group Chair ( <i>Landscape, Wildlife &amp; Land Management</i> )

### Apologies:

Christine Clarke	Third Sector, Dumfries & Galloway
Iain Howie	Working Group Chair ( <i>Cultural &amp; Built Heritage</i> )
Mary-Ann Smyth	Crichton Carbon Centre
John Dougan	Forestry Commission Scotland
Ed Forrest	Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
Patsy Gilroy	D&G Council – Councillor
Helen Keron	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT)

### Officers in Attendance:

Simon Fieldhouse	D&G Council, Environment Team
McNabb Laurie	Galloway Glens Development Officer (Minutes)
Karen Morley	D&G Council, Environment Team

## 1. Welcome + Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order.
- 1.2 A number of apologies had been noted but a number of absent members had sent comments and all had provided their apologies.
- 1.3 Particular welcome was given to Roddy Fairley, replacing Chris Miles as the SNH representative going forward.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes from the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved and would therefore be published on the scheme website accordingly.

### **3. Partnership Board Actions Table**

- 3.1 McNabb updated members on the actions outstanding and updated the table attached to the bottom of these minutes.

### **4. Governance**

#### **a. Local Authority Elections – May 2017**

- 4.1 Attendees recorded their congratulations to Patsy Gilroy for being re-elected and to Iain Howie for being elected as a D&G Councillor.
- 4.2 It was suggested that both remain on the Partnership Board, with Patsy as the formal D&G Council representative and Iain as the chair of the Cultural & Built Heritage Thematic Group. Both Patsy and Iain had expressed a wish to remain on the Partnership board. This was agreed as an interim position due to the approaching submission of the Stage 2 HLF application and the wish for partnership board membership to remain stable, but members were aware this would be subject to D&G Council Committee appointments & decisions in due course.

#### **b. Partnership Agreement**

- 4.3 John Raven advised that following legal advice within HES, it had been made clear that HES could not grant fund anything which they had a vested part in – raising a query about whether they were able to sign the previously circulated and agreed partnership agreement.
- 4.4 A number of possible solutions were discussed by members, the simplest being that the partnership agreement currently under review be clearly defined as covering the development phase of the scheme only. This was agreed unanimously.
- 4.5 The delivery stage agreement would have to acknowledge HES' position, perhaps designating HES as 'an associate' of the Galloway Glens Scheme.
- 4.6 John stressed that this in no way diluted HES' interest and support for the scheme but it was important not to rule out the opportunity for match funding from HES in the delivery stage.
- 4.7 With reassurance on this point, McNabb would now continue to seek written approval from all parties of the development phase partnership agreement.

#### **c. Risk Register**

- 4.8 McNabb circulated a copy of the risk register, giving members an overview of contents.

4.9 Members noted the risk register.

**d. Development Stage Finance Overview**

4.10 McNabb circulated a spreadsheet giving an overview of the development stage finances, welcoming any queries.

4.11 It was noted that there had been a delay in submitting the latest HLF claim, and were reassured by McNabb that this was in hand and would catch up shortly.

**e. Communications Update**

4.12 Members noted the ongoing communication activity.

4.13 Members noted that posters had been placed up and down the valley to highlight the scheme to those not online.

**5. Commissioned Studies**

**a) Access Audit & Projects**

5.1 ML provided a full update on access discussions to date and the work undertaken to prepare projects for the stage 2 submission.

**b) Landscape Character Assessment & Historic Environment Audit**

5.2 The report was still in draft as the consultant worked to incorporate comments raised through the review process.

5.3 Particular thanks were noted to HES who had contributed significantly to drafts.

5.4 The final version would be circulated around board members for information.

5.5 McNabb was working to ensure project suggestions were addressed and included where possible in the stage 2 bid.

**c) Education & Heritage Skills Programme**

5.6 McNabb had seen an early draft of the proposed activities under the programme which appeared fairly detailed and addressed the steering group's initial thoughts, however more detail was now required, and with more ambitious match fundraising targets.

5.7 One recommendation from the development work was that while it made sense to do a single 'Education & Skills Programme', it was unreasonable to try to find one person to oversee both elements of activity and so it had been recommended that it be overseen by two part time roles, one focussing on the education element, the other on the Skills and training element.

**d) Reintroduction of Arctic Charr to Loch Grannoch**

5.8 The study had been commissioned to explore the feasibility of reintroducing Arctic Charr to Loch Grannoch. With genuine regret, McNabb confirmed to members that the pH of the water was found to be too low for the reintroduction to be approved without ongoing concerns. Therefore this could not be a Galloway Glens project.

5.9 It was felt that the pH was increasing over time and so this did not rule out a reintroduction in the future, and the report itself was hoped to be a useful document for others interested in this field.

5.10 McNabb highlighted the 'citizen science' activities that been undertaken through the project, with groups from Kirkcudbright Academy that had gone up to the loch to help with habitat assessment and water testing.

**e) Loch Ken Fishery Study**

5.11 The study is still underway, and will run until August 2017. Emerging project ideas were discussed and were agreed to be under the strategic heading of 'Reinvigorating interest and usage of the loch'.

5.12 Match fishing activities particularly were being found to be a significant economic driver for the area.

5.13 Members agreed to reduce the funds earmarked for projects resulting from the study from £100,000 of GG funding to £50,000.

5.14 Galloway Fisheries Trust were holding a public event on 19<sup>th</sup> July, open to all, to discuss findings and the draft report. McNabb would circulate details of the event to the Board members for info **ACTION**

**f) Natural Flood Management**

- 5.15 Discussion took place about the draft report, which was aiming to be finalised over coming weeks.
- 5.16 The initial findings were that there was the opportunity for a natural flood management project but the cost of doing 100% of what could be done – not to mention the acceptability of the intervention to landowners – meant the Galloway Glens activity might be best targeted towards a ‘pilot’ or ‘demonstration’ project that focussed on measuring the impact of the works undertaken and could build local support for a broader approach.
- 5.17 McNabb was working closely with the consultants to finalise the report and would keep in touch with Board members on this.
- 5.18 It was suggested that contact be made with the Tweed Forum to establish how they had framed their initial project and their measurements of ‘success’. **ACTION**

**6. Delivery Stage**

**a) Budget Overview**

- 6.1 McNabb circulated the latest draft budget for the delivery stage of the scheme. This would absolutely not be the final version but gave board members and overview of proposals at present.
- 6.2 McNabb drew members’ attention to the increased staff costs following the recommendations of the Education & Skills programme design

**b) ‘Reserve’ list of project**

- 6.3 Discussion took place over the ‘reserve’ list of projects, agreeing this would be detailed further over coming months.
- 6.4 The list should include Loch Ken Fishery Study findings, access audit results and any natural flood management ‘additional measures.
- 6.5 Reviewing the list of projects under consideration, attention focussed on the Muirdrochwood Community Woodland project near Carsphairn. The project was known by members of the Board to be applying for funding for a feasibility study to purchase the land. The purchase price was still to be agreed between the community and the FCS. The

proposed GG intervention of £25,000 was towards the amenity & education improvements on the site.

- 6.6 Members were keen to support the community group's endeavours but, mindful of the challenge they faced and the variables still to be agreed, felt this project should be on the 'reserve' listing. Members were confident, considering the range of projects in the mix, that it would ultimately form part of the main scheme, that this was a good interim position.

**c) Heritage Small Grants Scheme**

- 6.7 McNabb presented the current proposed operation of the Heritage Small Grant Scheme, which had been allocated £100,000 over the whole delivery phase.
- 6.8 This incorporated comments raised at the last meeting and it was stressed that the operation of the scheme was within the Board's remit and so could be amended once launched based on take up.
- 6.9 Members approved of the current proposed criteria, decision making process and funding profile of projects, agreeing that it sought to be as 'light touch' as possible.
- 6.10 Feedback raised included:
- Small grants projects must be finished by the time overall scheme ends
  - Funding should be able to be used as 'seed funding' for projects, albeit with a timeframe
  - The Galloway Glens input must be acknowledged
  - Final decision rests with the management committee

**7. Broader Scheme Issues**

**a) Landscape Conservation Action Plan**

- 7.1 Drafting of the LCAP is now underway. Review process by Board discussed later in the meeting.

**b) HLF Meetings**

- 7.2 Members recorded their thanks to Ed Forrest for attending the Development Phase Mid-Point meeting in April, in Edinburgh.

7.3 Primary feedback from HLF was that the Scheme should not try to be too ambitious, particularly with overall scheme cost. This was being addressed.

7.4 McNabb was due to meet the HLF mentor again on 06<sup>th</sup> June.

**c) Galloway Hoard**

7.5 Members took this opportunity to discuss the recent activity surrounding the Hoard.

7.6 McNabb retained contact with the relevant parties within D&G Council to support any interpretation efforts on site etc.

**d) Other Landscape Partnerships**

7.7 McNabb & Karen had joined a site visit to the Coigach Assynt Living Landscape project, which had been very interesting

7.8 McNabb was in contact with the Cumnock & Doon Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme which was aiming to submit their stage one application in June 2017.

**e) D&G Council Committee – 20 June 2017**

7.9 Members noted that a summary of development phase activities and snapshot of the stage 2 application was being presented to D&G Council's June Economy, Environment & Infrastructure meeting

**f) Post Stage 2 Submission**

7.10 It was agreed that a meeting after the Stage 2 submission would be useful, both to keep momentum and also to hear back in more detail the findings of the studies undertaken in the development phase.

7.11 It was suggested that this be held perhaps at a project site and could mark the scheme's transition from 'development' to 'delivery'.

## 8 Next Steps

- 8.1 It was agreed that the proposed July meeting, the focus of which would be the review of the LCAP, would be conducted remotely by email to allow detailed review.
- 8.2 It was commented that all feedback to the draft in July should be sent as a 'reply all' so everyone could see all feedback being received.
- 8.3 The August meeting would be arranged through a doodle poll to allow final review of documentation.

## 9 AOB

- 9.1 The Chairman stressed the need to retain contact with project partners to make sure momentum wasn't lost either over the next couple of months or through the HLF assessment process.

## 10 Date & Time of Next Meeting

- 10.1 McNabb would circulate a Doodle poll ASAP to arrange the next meeting (on or around 06 August).
- 10.2 The Chair brought the meeting to a close at 12:00hrs.

### Outstanding Partnership Board Actions

Action Ref	Issue	Who?
5.4.3	Potential new working group members to be presented to the Board	ML
6.4.10	Clarify the proportion of Development Phase expenditure going to D&G businesses	ML
6.4.12	Consider the appointment of a Social Media consultant	ML
7.5.14	Circulate details of Loch Ken Fishery Study event	ML
7.5.18	Contact Tweed Forum re: Natural Flood Management	ML