

CAP Steering Group

Report of the meeting of Thurs 24th Feb 2022

First meeting of the newly-formed CAP Steering Group

This was the first meeting of the Group under the newly-agreed Terms of Reference, as a standalone group independent of the Glenkens and District Trust. It was noted that this was an important step and a useful evolution of the processes to date. There is now complete clarity in the role of the Group as the custodian of the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan, tasked both with ensuring that good progress is made against the current Themes and that the Action Plan remains relevant to the evolving needs of our communities through time.

It was also Helen Keron's first Steering Group meeting in her role as Executive Manager of GCAT, a role which includes a remit to ensure that the CAP priorities are delivered across the Glenkens and district.

The existing Steering Group members were encouraged by the number of applicants for the 5 remaining spaces on the Group, and looked forward to welcoming their new colleagues as soon as the application process was complete. It was acknowledged that Steering Group meetings may need to happen more often than quarterly in the short term, as the new members get up to speed and the Steering Group finds its feet in its new incarnation.

Current status of CAP priorities

Helen presented a report on the current status on the CAP priorities, which showed an encouraging number of applicants to the most recent GDT / Foundation Scotland / Blackcraig fund for district-wide projects that were directly in pursuit of CAP delivery. These are:

- An effective communication tool for the whole community (GCAT)
- A collaboration plan for assets and services across the area (Corsock Village Hall)
- A Youth Activities programme for 12-16 year olds (LING)
- A plan for collaborative production and distribution of local produce (Propagate)

The CAP Steering Group noted in particular the importance of an Asset Network as underpinning the success of many of the other priorities.

It was also noted that Themes 1 & 2 (A Connected Community and An Asset-Rich Community) were fairly well defined and naturally attracted a lot of community projects. Themes 3 & 4 (An Economically Flourishing Community and A Carbon Neutral Community) were less well defined and therefore attracting less grass-roots interest. This will be the focus of Helen's work over the next 3

months – in particular Childcare and supporting the transition of public and domestic buildings away from fossil fuel dependence.

Ring-fenced GCAT funds

The previous incarnation of the Steering Group, as a sub-committee of the Glenkens and District Trust, had ringfenced some funds to support GCAT in delivery of various aspects of the CAP. As Helen has gained clarity on the priorities and the current need for support, and in the context that Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd has recently agreed to make 4 years of Blackcraig Community Benefit funding available from May 2022, it was agreed that GDT would be informed that it could release almost all of these funds into the Blackcraig funding round currently underway as they were not required in the immediate future.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is critical for the success of the delivery of the CAP across the area. Helen is starting to engage with local organisations, and will be actively seeking to do more in the coming months. She is always available to attend committee / Board meetings of any local organisation that would like to know more about her role and the Community Action Plan.

Year Plan

An outline for CAP delivery and community engagement was discussed, and it was agreed that the focus for 2022 should be on delivering the existing CAP priorities. With this in mind, a CAP Summit that will report on progress to the communities will be planned for October / November 2022. It was agreed that the new Chair of the CAP SG, replacing Interim Chair Fiona Smith, should be in place before this Summit.

The CAP Forums, which will likely be thematic and based around existing and new areas of interest to the communities, will start in June 2022.

It was also noted that it is important not to lose sight of positioning ourselves for successful delivery of larger and more ambitious projects as and when more Community Benefit funds arrive in 2024+, but that that could be done in the background of 2022.