

# Report from Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group October 2022

We held a meeting of the CAP SG in Dalry Town Hall on 12 October 2022.

**Positive progress continues** and Helen provided a very full report on activities, progress and priorities. These are numerous but among the key items to note were:

- Interviews for the role of **Asset Network Facilitator** have now taken place. This one day a week role is important to support Town Hall and Village Hall committees across the area address key issues and share experiences and is a key activity highlighted in the Community Action Plan. We expect the successful candidate to be in role by mid-November.
- Greater Govanhill, another community organisation, has been appointed by GCAT to do the website design for the **Communication Hub** for the area and a kick off meeting will take place on 7 November. The beta version of the Hub should be available for consultation in early December.
- Unfortunately, GCAT's funding application to the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme (EIVRS) to create a role of an **Energy Ranger** was unsuccessful. Feedback has been received and another application will be made in January 2023
- An application has been made to the **Rural Communities Ideas into Action** fund for a feasibility study to create a costed roadmap for 11 public buildings in the area to move to a carbon neutral heating solution. It will also look at potential solutions for the two main forms of private housing in the area. This work will be provided to the building Management Committees to advise them what actions they could take and provide evidence to support capital funding applications. It will also provide information to individual homeowners about possible solutions. Natural Power Consultants produced a similar report for New Galloway Town Hall which they have found very valuable so, if the bid is successful, they will be appointed to do the work. The work will be completed by end March 2023.
- **The Youth Activities Programme** by Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) is going well with well over 20 young people attending some sessions in Dalry. LING and GCAT continue to work together on future plans for the provision of youth activities in the area.
- Helen and her team in GCAT continue to visit **Community Councils** and work with other groups across the area to support them in relation to their activities. Positive feedback has been received about the support received.

## Theme Networks

Work continues the **Land Use Network** and the **Net Zero Network**. Four days of support has been secured from Community Enterprise through their Accelerate programme to assist Helen develop the proposals and identify potential funding sources.

## Available Resources and prioritisation

The CAP SG discussed the currently available resources within GCAT and the work in hand and provided Helen and GCAT with guidance on priorities from the CAP SG perspective.

Helen has been spending considerable time working with the Lighting the Spark programme that is being held in the Glenkens in support of the South of Scotland Rural Land Use Partnership work but given her limited time and resources, the CAP SG suggested she should limit her time on this so that it did not adversely impact on other key CAP deliverables. **The priority in relation to Land Use is to develop a revision of the CAP to better reflect community wishes on land use.** Helen will use the output from the Lighting the Spark programme and other planned engagement events to develop a draft for discussion early next year.

The other priority will be to **focus on delivery of the projects already underway** and to arrange the events mentioned later.

This will **not** mean that the GCAT resources are not available for other CAP priorities and community efforts but is designed to assist in GCAT's prioritisation of effort.

The CAP SG also were briefed on the applications currently submitted by GCAT to fund their work to support the CAP going forward. The outcomes of these applications are likely to be known within this calendar year and, if successful, will enable more work to be resourced and delivered by GCAT. In the meantime, it is important to focus the available resources on the identified priorities. These priorities will be reviewed in January once the outcome of the funding applications are known

## Risks and Challenges

The CAP SG reviewed the potential risks to them fulfilling their purpose, the mitigating actions in place to address them and the early warning indicators that should be reviewed on a regular basis . There was a good discussion about these with a process to take this forward agreed.

## Events

The following events are being progressed by GCAT with partners to keep the Community Action Plan priorities visible to the wider communities:

- A housing forum in late November to report the results of the Housing Needs Assessment and to showcase what other communities have achieved with respect to housing.
- A Jobs Fair in early 2023, designed to show the opportunities that the pipeline of wind farm and forestry developments will offer, as well as existing opportunities to work in the Glenkens.

## AOCB

- Cycle Partnership Strategy

The work Loch Ken Trust is doing with respect to active travel plans was discussed and it was agreed that representation on the DG Active Travel Forum from the Glenkens should be

sought

- **Kirk closures.**

The group noted the good work being done by community groups in Parton and Crossmichael in relation to the potential closure of the kirks in these areas.

The next CAP Steering Group meeting will be held in January 2023