

Glendale Gateway Trust board meeting  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
7pm by Zoom

**Present:** Patrick Sheard, Julian Bales, Bill Eugster, Becci Murray, Shirley Mills, Cindy Thatcher- Wait, Tom Johnston, & Gemma Douglas.

1 **Apologies:** Mark Robson

2 **Declarations of Interest:** Patrick – local accommodation provider & Cindy– local accommodation provider and tenant of the GGT.  
Becci- Trustee of Northern Soul Kitchen & employee of Berwick Community Trust

3 **Membership applications:** GD to check Siobhan Younger has applied, and if Ruth Dickinson is already a member

GD

4 **Appointment of Trustees:**

Welcome to Becci Murray

Ruth Dickinson is interested. Should have more news on this for the next Board meeting

PS

5 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (held 24 August)**

**AGREED as true record**

6 **Matters Arising:**

a) **Charge on Mechanics Institute**

Loan has been repaid and we have asked our solicitor to remove the charge on the property.

TJ has had a lot of correspondence (with the solicitor) but is disappointed this is still outstanding. He will follow up.

TJ

b) **Small Grants Scheme**

No further questions.

7 **Report from CEO:**

Please see report circulated

TJ confirmed the extension of the furlough scheme will now make the probable year accounts more favourable- however he doesn't have any figures ready yet.

TJ

**Food Bank**

A Whatsapp group has been set up for members of the North Food Group to communicate via. The communication is really good.

A proportional number of food parcels are being sent out weekly in line with other local food banks.

Food requests are well responded to by the community. The food bank is well stocked.

Becci gave an update on the North Food Group. It has been established as a response to a request from NCC to put people on the ground and bring the provision of food and support together. The North Food Group comprises Amble, Alnwick, Bell View, Berwick & Wooler food banks.

She will put a document together to outline the additional wrap around services which Berwick food bank offer, for example budgeting and smart shopping.

BM

8 **AGM Arrangements:**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm

All reports to be distributed in written format in advance

It will be a 'parred down' AGM

There will be an opportunity for people to raise questions via Zoom

Both electronic and written invitations to be sent to members

RS

9 **Finance Update:**

JB-The 6 month actual figures were discussed at Policy. The only change (since those accounts were compiled) is to staffing arrangements.

Glendale Gateway Trust board meeting  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
7pm by Zoom

Income has been affected-but compensated by the furlough scheme and grants.  
Budget **APPROVED**

There was a discussion into the pros and cons of repaying the money raised via the bond scheme which raised £76,000 towards the Barclays conversion into social housing. PS commented the bond scheme is a real indication of community support, it gave us working capital to start the project, and enabled us to go to funders and tell them the community have been instrumental in helping us raise funds towards the project. It was **AGREED** we would write to all those who bought bonds and give them the opportunity for an early pay back.

TJ

JB noted there is £15,000 in the restricted fund pot for the food bank, £700 has been spent to date.

10 **Current Staffing Arrangements:**

This is included in Tom's report.  
To be reviewed as we go.

11 **Project Updates:**

1. Dark Skies:

Cindy and Shirley had a really good meeting with Duncan Wise (NNPA)  
There is a lot of information to work through.  
Duncan is going to send a meter to measure the dark sky quality.  
Shirley has circulated a plan looking at using the old first school site, funding etc.  
There is a dark sky accreditation we can work towards- and this can be used by other accommodation providers. CT-W is researching this for the Hostel.  
It would be useful to organise a GGT outing to Twice Brewed to experience one of their events. There is an event in December.

CT-  
W

Next Steps:

Visit the First School site  
SM will meet with TJ  
Measure the dark sky quality  
BE suggested we test the water with a pop-up event  
Speak to Steve Revell and Forest England

CT-  
W  
&  
SM

2. Barclays Food Hub:

PS- we have achieved a grant of £15K to carry out a feasibility study via the Architectural Heritage Fund. It can't be used on capital-but there is flexibility. It's good to have their support.  
Ventilation is a stumbling block to a restaurant. TJ has been in contact with a company in Edinburgh who can carry out a survey to establish whether ventilation is possible in the building. The cost would be less than £1000 and would give us an answer.

TJ

MR has been looking into local food producers and trying to draw up a reference panel of key people to involve in the project. He has had some good conversations with local businesses, some of whom are keen to be involved.

Next Steps:

To work out what we want from a feasibility study and work up bids from that.

TJ,  
MR  
PS,  
GD

Glendale Gateway Trust board meeting  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
7pm by Zoom

3. Town Centre Plan:

JB- circulated an extended brief at Policy. There isn't much to report.

It isn't something we can drive. It's about the reconfiguration of the High Street.

We need to catalyse this. We had a meeting with Stuart Fearn (NBS/ Govt town centre panel) Stuart had some useful contacts for the group to contact once it is established. He was also keen on a digital high street concept.

It will take some thought to get a group up and running, and to encourage people like Siobhan to keep working with local businesses.

Next Steps:

Formation of a group from within the community. A bottom up approach

Involve NCC/ North of Tyne Mayor

Talk to Tony Kirsop

4. Remote Learning Centre:

TJ-A funding application has been submitted but the decision has now been pushed back and going to before panel. Tony Kirsop can't give us a date when a decision will be made.

The floor of the room has been sound-proofed, and double glazed windows ordered.

20:17 Shirley Mills joined the meeting

TJ- We have had conversations with the library and health service regarding 'Attend Anywhere' consultations. These talks are progressing.

12 **Youth Hostel:**

Cindy left the meeting

Youth Hostel investment

JB- early in the pandemic a rent holiday was agreed. He and Tom met with Karl and Cindy in September to review their position and hear their views on the format of the Hostel for example non en-suite rooms.

COVID-19 led to them thinking about the format and what they would like to do with the accommodation.

TJ- Ian Mark, Savills has been involved looking at the technical aspects, and Karl has done some drawings.

Karl would like to create an en-suite in one of the bedrooms, and to open up one of the rooms in the corridor to become another en-suite.

TJ feels it is important we allow them to take ownership of this and let them progress with their plans.

JB added that money is put aside every year for designated funds. If we took no action, by the end of March 2021 there would approximately £20K in the pot for the Hostel.

TJ cautioned that an unexpected event such as re-roofing needs to be considered.

PS- we are being asked to authorise work of no more than £15,000. The aim is to bring it in at less than that by going direct to local tradespeople.

**AGREED**

**Meeting ended 20:30**

**Date of Next Meeting:** It was agreed to maintain the current format and proposed dates of future meetings.

2021 calendar to be circulated